

Annual Drug Report

Bangladesh, 2022



Central Drug Addiction Treatment Centre, Dhaka



Department of Narcotics Control
Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



ANNUAL
DRUG REPORT
BANGLADESH, 2022

Care in Crises

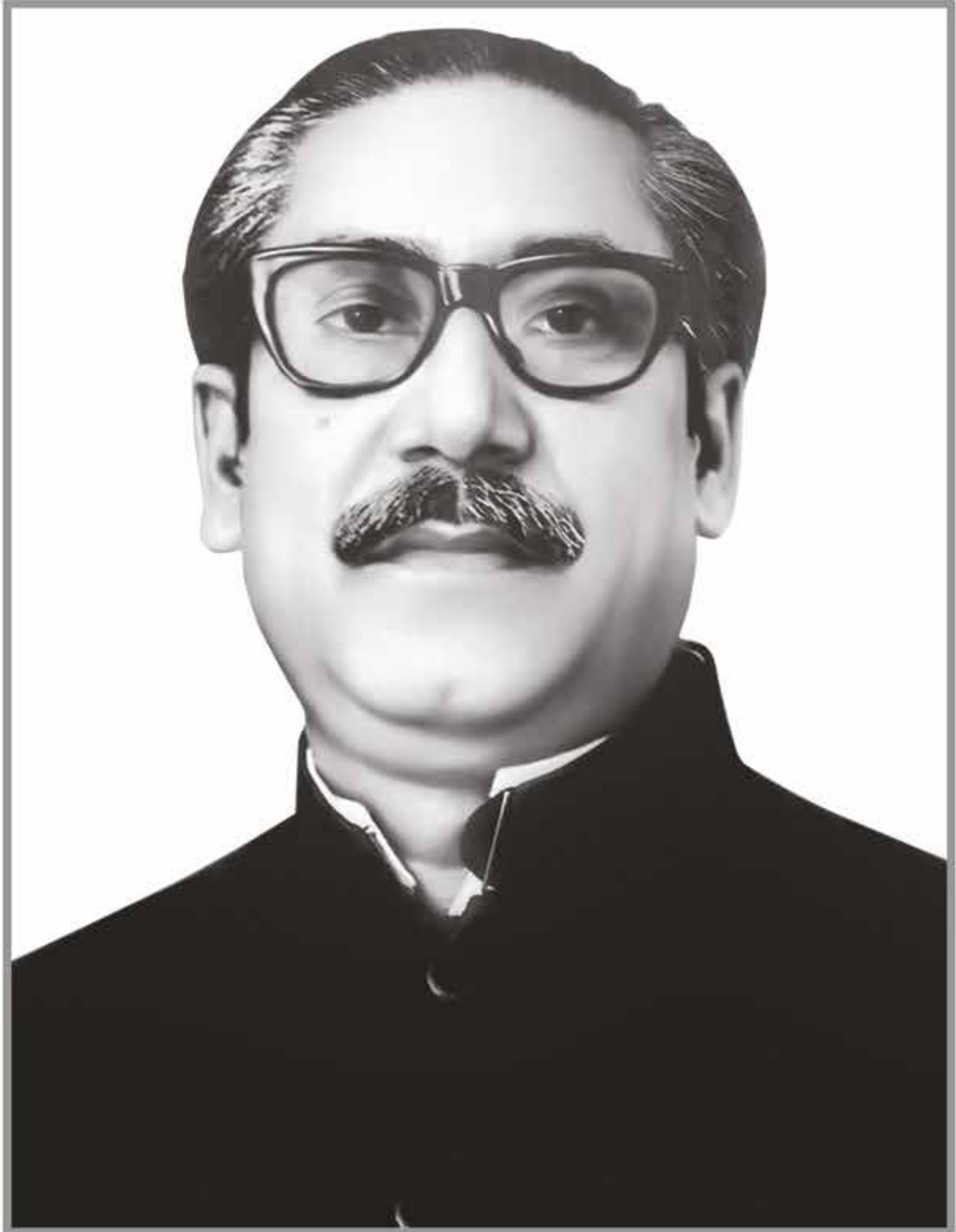
*Addressing drug challenges in
health and humanitarian crises*

Department of Narcotics Control

Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



SAY **NO** TO
DRUGS



Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman



Minister

Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh



MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) has taken initiative to publish an Annual Drug Report-2022 as before is, undoubtedly, a laudable step to make a picture of drug abuse prevalence of our country for the assessment of the magnitude of drug problems.

It is evident that drug-induced consequences have implicated more or less, or almost every country of this universe. Recently, an international media has made an astonishing coverage on interdiction of “drug super cartel” with seizing 30 tons of cocaine in Dubai by Europol with joint collaboration of different countries’ law enforcement agencies. This news carries a horrific signal for every nation. It is because that drug poses heinous threats to peace, security and good governs and dampens the prosperity, economy and health system immensely of a country or territory and it is true that Bangladesh is not a remote island. Even though our country is not drug producer but geographical location puts it at the heart of three major Asian drug producing/trade zones as the Golden Wedge, the Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent. This, unfortunately, makes the country vulnerable as huge drugs are trafficked from neighboring country, especially from Myanmar.

Global connectivity and advancement of technologies fuel/make the easy availability of drugs. In line with this, new drugs are recently intercepted by LEAs. At this backdrop, international drug traffickers are rapidly shifting their methods and techniques at all stages ranging from manufacturing to distribution end to circumvent the law enforcement interdiction. Strengthening and expanding capacity building of LEA is very crucial using tech-based and data- driven investigative tools in a bid to clamp down the alarming flow of drug menace.

It is a new phenomenon that people especially young people, due to advancement of technologies, most of all are receiving countless information every day through social media and too often that perplex them to make responsible choice. This situation is too precarious for young to fall victim of drug abuse. Bangladesh is now enjoying demographic dividend that means the majority of population are young that leads immensely to keep upbeat of our emerging economy. Now it is time for all of us to pay plenty of attention to our beloved youngsters to refrain them from illicit substance use.

We cannot push our people in the grip of worst drug menace. Our honorable Prime Minister has declared “zero tolerance” against drugs to save our young generation as well as our nation at any cost. As part of this, the Narcotics Control Act has been amended, major rules and strategies readdressed to face the emerging challenges of drug scourge. In addition, DNC has launched a laudable and conclusive initiative: Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) countrywide to sensitize and mobilize all walks of life against narco-crime. And also, for drug dependence remedy, a guidelines: National Guidelines for the Management of Substance Use Disorders, Bangladesh has been prepared (draft), this will open a new horizon to get easy access in treatment arena.

To sum up, drug problem is, of course, a deep-rooted and crosscutting issue. No alternatives except integrated and innovative approaches are needed to uproot these hazards. Anyway, publishing annual drug report is somewhat a painstaking and tedious process but adventurous. Those who rendered their efforts and talents for publishing this, I appreciate them. Let us fight against drugs that leads to build “Smart Bangladesh” by 2041.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu.

Long Live Bangladesh.

Asaduzzaman Khan, MP



Secretary

Security Services Division
Ministry of Home Affairs

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

MESSAGE

I feel immense pleasure to know that the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) is going to unveil the Annual Drug Report of Bangladesh, 2022. This Report reflects upon the ventures and achievements accomplished by this organization including other law enforcing agencies of the country. It also outlines some pragmatic steps to achieve excellence in combating drug trafficking in the days to come.

The very legal foundation of fighting against illicit drugs is enshrined in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh which is one of the best constitutions in the world. To materialize the spirit of the constitution, the Narcotics Control Act, 1990 was enacted in 1990 and subsequently it was replaced by enactment titled "the Narcotics Control Act, 2018 (amended, 2020)" to counter a wide range of new illicit drugs.

It is quite pertinent to mention that our Honourable Prime Minister declared zero tolerance against drugs and all law enforcing agencies are working accordingly. All law enforcers are trying their extreme maximum to prevent the sordid situations of drug scourge with iron hand. Alongside applying the conventional techniques in anti-drug drives, DNC personnel are equipped with sophisticated technologies to bring the drug dealers under law. The government is also escalating anti-drug campaigns among the communities to inject the sense of awareness on detrimental effects of drugs. Beside the Government entities, the NGOs and the civil societies are playing a crucial role in sensitizing mass people. A series of measures have been taken providing treatment facilities for the drug dependent people to reintegrate the drug use disorders in the mainstream of society. I strongly believe that the stakeholders will find this Annual Report profoundly beneficial and useful to portray the nature and trends of drug trafficking as well as roles played to rein the problem.

I would like to offer my cordial thanks to all the members of Law enforcing agencies for their unremitting efforts to combat drug menace. I highly appreciate Editorial Board of the Annual Drug Report of Bangladesh, 2022 for their tremendous workloads in making the Report.

Md. Abdullah Al Masud Chowdhury



Director General

Department of Narcotics Control
Security Services Division
Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Foreward

Like every nation of the planet Bangladesh is also facing the serious hurdle of drug trafficking. It is a great curse for the entire human race. Illicit finance by drug trafficking and related criminal activities cause social degradation and make family life miserable in any country. Drug abuse is causing social unrest and criminal tendencies as well as serious impediments to human resource development.

At present our major concern is the influx of Amphetamine type stimulants (ATS), commonly known as Yaba. A new dimension of ATS, the crystal methamphetamine (Crystal meth) is also appeared in the scene. The Department of Narcotics Control and all concerned law enforcing agencies are continuing to conduct operations to recover illegal drugs smuggled into Bangladesh and to arrest and prosecute criminals.

Honorable Prime Minister of The government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina has declared 'Zero tolerance' against drug menace. Article 3.6 of the National Parliament Election Manifesto calls for the continuation of the 'zero tolerance' approach and ongoing operation as well as campaign against drugs. It also mandated to increase government –funded correctional facilities for the rehabilitation of drug dependents. It also underscores increasing government funding for private drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation centers. Steps have already been taken to implement it and grants are being given to private drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation centers every year. In addition, the government has taken various activities to prevent the influx of drugs and reduce drug addiction. The government emphasized to implement the goals 3.5.1 and 3.5.2 of the SDGs for the realization of the Vision 2041.

Government of Bangladesh had focused on reaping the benefit of 'Demographic Window of Opportunity to achieve 'Demographic Dividend' for further social and economic development. As the majority of the population is between 15-40 years of age, there is a great opportunity to capitalize this potential to further economic and social gains. However, drug abuse is one of the major barriers to this opportunity. Therefore, we need to develop a concerted effort to combat the threats of drugs in the country.

The related public and private organizations are conducting anti-drugs programs to reduce the demand for drugs by developing the conscience, morals and values of people at all levels. They are endeavoring to create mass awareness and social mobilization against drugs at family, neighborhood and society. The Department of Narcotics Control is doing multi-faceted initiatives including providing treatment and rehabilitation services to bring the drug addicts back to a healthy and normal life.

The Department of Narcotics Control has been publishing the Annual Drug Report of Bangladesh on regular basis. This report is prepared on the basis of data regarding drug control from the concerned law enforcement agencies including Department of Narcotics Control and related NGOs. We tried to focus on the scenario of domestic efforts and transnational engagement in combating drug menace from analytical point of view. We also attempted to display an integrated approach called Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) covering Supply Reduction, Demand Reduction and Harm Reduction programs to prevent the threat of drug penetration.

I believe, the Annual Report of Bangladesh, 2022 will be useful in undertaking the policy and necessary action to counter the drug problem robustly.

In the end, I would like to convey my heartiest thanks and gratitude to all concerned officials of DNC who have made such gigantic efforts to accomplish the task of publishing this Annual Drug Report of Bangladesh, 2022.

Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan

Editorial Board

Advisor



Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan
Director General
Department of Narcotics Control

Convener



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Additional Director General
Department of Narcotics Control

Editor



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Deputy Director
(Preventive Education)
Department of Narcotics Control

Member Secretary

Publisher

- ◆ Department of Narcotics Control
41, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000,
E-mail : dg@dnc.gov.bd
Website : www.dnc.gov.bd

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Design & Planning

- ◆ **Mr. Md. Manjurul Islam**
Deputy Director (Preventive Education)
Department of Narcotics Control

Printing & Publication

- ◆ **Panguchi Enterprise**
Cell : 01716 839396, 01711 991211
Email: panguchicg1983@gmail.com



Additional Director General
Department of Narcotics Control



Acknowledgement

Illicit drug poses a serious threat to peace, prosperity, health and security worldwide and it also distorts the fabrics of the whole society. No nation of the planet is safe from the scourge of drugs. Bangladesh is situated close to two major drug producing and trafficking belts: the Golden Crescent and the Golden Triangle. It is hard to deny that such geographical location is by far responsible for drug inflows into our soil. Beyond that, the rapid expansion of global connectivity, edging up of advanced technology and after all the hybridization or blending of on_ and off-line life made this discomfort more severe. This unhygienic issue is escalating across the country as well as around the globe due to illicit gains. It is very important to iron out this menace to build a drug-free nation for our next generation.

The Department of Narcotics Control has been publishing Annual Drug Report of Bangladesh regularly since 2010. The Annual Drug Report of Bangladesh, 2022 has been published focusing the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependent people and demand reduction programs. This report also provides the control mechanism of Precursor Chemicals and the coordinated action plan against Pharmaceuticals Drugs abused and New psychoactive Substances (NPS) which are the emerging threats to the young generation of the country.

As a convener of editorial board of Annual Drug Report of Bangladesh, 2022, I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to the honorable minister of the Ministry of Home Affairs for his valuable command and support that helped us to publish this report. Words are not enough to express my thanks to honorable secretary of Security Services Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs for his direction and guidance throughout the process.

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to honorable Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control for his relentless endeavor and guidance to make it a success. All the members of editorial board have shown their commitment and dedication towards performing their assigned responsibilities. This task would not have been properly possible without their arduous efforts.

At Last I want to conclude with heartfelt congratulations to all the members of DNC for their cooperation for the publication of Annual Drug Report of Bangladesh, 2022.

Md. Azizul Islam

Executive Summary

The East and South- East Asia region is encountering a major challenge in the continued illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and misuse of synthetic drugs, in particular methamphetamine and its derivatives. Cross-border organized drug trafficking syndicates in this region are using increasingly ever-shifting methods and techniques to run drug trafficking safely through their extensive networks in source, transit and destination countries. These strategies have expanded the reach and scale of synthetic drugs, pre-precursor, precursor and designer precursor chemicals to sprawl drug menace every country in this region. Bangladesh, however, is not a remote island in this region. Unfortunately, regional connectivity, shared border, easy communication and mobile payment system are badly plaguing our country to drugs, creating huge demand for drugs, causing untold sufferings in rural and urban areas, most victims are youngsters.

Drugs are trafficked into our country from our neighboring countries. Our Honourable Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina declared "Zero Tolerance" against drugs. All law enforcing agencies of the country are working to materialize the "Zero Tolerance" approach declared by Our Honourable Prime Minister.

To stop drug trafficking, all law enforcing agencies including Department of Narcotics Control is trying their utmost. It is well known to the law enforcing agencies that the drug dealers are changing their modus operandi continuously. When traditional routes are unearthed by the law enforcing agencies, drug traffickers are tend to use new routes. Organized crime groups devise new and innovative techniques to traffic drugs from source to destination. Many of the areas where illicit drugs have been landed suffer from porous borders, which is a key challenge for law enforcement seeking to make interdictions effectively. From the emergence of pandemic covid-19, the traditional offline crimes are gradually moved to crime on the internet. Although the criminal scripts are shifting to online, the basic social architecture of crime remains unmoved. The hybridization of on- and off-line life impacts immensely the tendency of illicit drug traffickers to expand their drug markets. ICT facilitated drug trafficking and payment systems: contactless communication, dark net, crypto currency, digital and mode of fund transfer etc. developed a new criminological horizon.

As per provision of the Narcotics Control Act, 2018, any chemical required to test in connection with any provision of narcotics control Act, 2018, is to be done in the chemical laboratory and the report of this laboratory may be used as evidence in any proceeding in any Court in Bangladesh. This laboratory mainly performs the chemical test of the all drugs seized by any law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh. Moreover, it also tests the raw materials used in chemical industries or pharmaceutical industries for compliance of any provision of this act. Both qualitative & quantitative analysis can be done in this laboratory though it is facing some difficulties. The government of Bangladesh has established four chemical laboratories in the division level including Chattogram, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Barisal. The laboratories are enriched with modern and sophisticated equipment. Among the chemical laboratories mentioned above, Chattogram chemical laboratory is functioning from October, 2022. Other three laboratories will start their testing activities within very soon.

Demand and supply of drugs are closely related with each other. If the demand of drugs reduces, the supply will fall down and vice versa. At present, Bangladesh is giving highly importance on increasing public awareness side to side supply reduction for this purpose. Creating awareness among the people is an enormous task which encompasses people of all classes and professions to raise awareness against drugs.

Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) recently formulated Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) to comply with the decisions taken at the inter-ministerial meeting to implement the 'Zero Tolerance' policy against drug offence declared in the 2018 election manifesto of the present government. Officers of all concerned departments and agencies, teachers of schools, colleges, Madrasas at union and ward level, chairmen, members including local leaders, journalists, civil society etc have been involved through organizing workshops round the year in 8 divisions, 64 districts and 457 upazilas of the country. The Department of Narcotics Control has taken steps to finalize the Comprehensive Action Plan after scrutinizing the recommendations received through all the workshops. Software for monitoring the implementation of the Comprehensive Action Plan has been developed and all concerned have been trained in its use.

Treatment service for the people suffering from substance use disorder, the Government of Bangladesh provide through Central Drug Addiction Treatment Center (CTC) in Dhaka (124 bed) and three regional treatment centers Rajshahi (25 bed), Chattogram (25 bed) and Khulna (25 bed). To establish a quality tertiary care service for substance use disorder, a project to build a 13 storied treatment and rehabilitation complex at Central Drug Addiction Treatment Center (CTC) premises is on process. In addition, the government has planned to establish six treatment and rehabilitation centers with facilities of 200 beds in 7 divisional headquarters. Furthermore, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, for treatment of substance use disorder there are 30 beds in Mental hospital, Pabna and 50 beds at National Institute of Mental Health, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh, issued 21 new licenses for private treatment centers in between January to December 2022. In total there are 354 private drug addiction treatment centers are working on various aspects of harm reduction in Bangladesh. In 2022, the Department of Narcotics Control distributed BDT 150,00,000 among 40 non-government treatment and rehabilitation center to enhance their treatment quality and increase capacity .

The Narcotics Control Act, 2018 controls the all precursor chemicals regulated by the international community, but only eight precursors like Acetone(C₃H₆O), Toluene (C₇H₈), Acetic Anhydride (C₄H₄O₃), Potassium permanganate (KMnO₄), Ephedrine (C₁₀H₁₅NO), Methyl Ethyl Ketone (C₄H₈O), Hydrochloric acid (HCl), and Sulphuric acid(H₂SO₄) are imported for industrial purposes. These are mostly used in pharmaceuticals, garments, textiles, paints, plastics, adhesive, coating, dyeing, and agro-based industries.

The capacity of DNC and other law enforcement agencies had been expanded in terms of transportation, employees and facilities to cut the chain of extensive network of drug traffickers. The facilities of airports, seaports and land ports have all been increased. The inspection of local pharmacies and controlled drugs outlets has been intensified. A technical session for clinicians was held to restrict the prescription of these medications. DNC has undertaken a number of NPS training programs as part of its capacity-building operations for law enforcement agencies and transportation-related personnel. As a result, no attempt to penetrate NPS has succeeded at any time or in any form. With the collaboration of the mass community, drug pharmacists, physicians, and other national and international authorities, the Department of Narcotic Control has been able to successfully monitor and regulate the overall situation. For the first time plant-based NPS Khat was seized in Bangladesh in 2018. A total of 4.5 metric tons of Khat was seized at Dhaka and Chattagram airports, a considerable amount of LSD and MDMA were seized in 2019. Phenethylamine, an organic substance, was seized in 2020. In the year 2021, psilocybin mushrooms were seized. In 2022, DOB and Kratom plants were also seized. Because the method of operation is similar to that of an ATS, locally made tapentadol HCl is abused instead of an ATS.

Narco-crime is increased globally as drug traffickers are using sophisticated equipments and tools to avoid law enforcement's vigilance to make hassle-free shipment of drugs from source to destination. To curb and dismantle the drug traffickers stronghold, it is indispensable to furnish tech-based advanced training facilities for DNC personnel. For this purpose, DNC is providing necessary investigative logistics and setting up a yearly calendar with programme contents and curriculum.

Pursuant to the section 68 of the Narcotics Control Act, 2018, four highly authoritative committees were formed to fulfill the purpose of this act which is to control drug trafficking and drug abuse as well as to make awareness regarding adverse effects of drug among the mass people all over the country. With the help of these committees, the DNC as nodal agency as well as coordinating body has been working impeccably along with ministries, other law enforcement agencies, government and non-government offices to combat against drug trafficking and substance use. All the concerned agencies are working together coordinately to achieve the same goals to root out this drug menace from our society as well as from our country. Keeping this spirit in mind, the DNC has been call upon and sitting a half yearly and yearly meeting with the committees since the Act in force to save our golden young generation from the drug aggression across the country. The officials of DNC as well as law enforcement agencies are always dedicated to implement of these committee's directions.

As drug trafficking is a global problem, international communities are trying to resolve it. Various international bodies like: Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC), Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), Colombo Plan, The Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) etc are interdicting drug dealings. Under such circumstances Bangladesh maintains international connectivity with those organizations to gear up anti-drug activities.





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Our Vision
To Build Drug Addiction Free Bangladesh

Country overview: Bangladesh perspective

Drug problem is continuing to have a grave impact on the world community, causing immense sufferings ranging from individuals to state concerns, especially, putting a pressure upon health system, crippling the development, creating multiple setbacks and escalating security system. In addition, illicit financial flows related to drug trafficking and their impact on development and security has posed vulnerability by growing global connectivity in terms of money transfer, financial innovation and cutting-edge technology, the threat of illicit financial flows has increased exponentially.

Drug-induced ravages around the world are considering an issue that has pre-occupied all attentions. Radically changing society exacerbates the social fabrics deeply that effects human mind and behavioral pattern. This situation is fueling acutely for breeding ground to generate drug abuse and disorder. Most people in wealthy countries are suffering in mental health problem and substance abuse disorder.

The East and South- East Asia region is encountering a major challenge in the continued illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and misuse of synthetic drugs, in particular methamphetamine and its derivatives. Cross-border organized drug trafficking syndicates in this region are using ever-shifting methods and techniques to run drug trafficking safely through their extensive networks in source, transit and destination countries. These strategies have expanded the reach and scale of synthetic drugs, pre-precursor, precursor and designer precursor chemicals to sprawl drug menace every country in this region.

Bangladesh, however, is not a remote island in this region. Unfortunately, regional connectivity, shared border, easy communication and mobile payment system are badly plaguing our country to drugs, creating huge demand for drugs, causing untold sufferings in rural and urban areas.

Though Bangladesh is enjoying demographic dividend but youngsters are becoming the victims of drugs that weaken the hope of reaping the potential outcome of this opportunity. Illicit drug trafficking is increasingly continuing from our neighboring countries, Myanmar and India to Bangladesh and everyday huge volume of drugs are seized by drug law enforcement entities.

Bangladesh government has taken "Zero Tolerance" policy to curb the drug menace pursuant to the Narcotics Control Act, 2018 (Amended-2020). Despite diverse challenges to deter drug scourge, DNC has taken bolster initiatives to put down the drug trafficking and its related financial flows at any cost. It is indispensable to mobilize all stakeholders of the society against drug trafficking. As part of this, Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) has launched a countrywide campaign program to implement "Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP)" comprising all stakeholders ranging from grass root level to top- tire. In addition, the motivational anti-drug activities are continuing with participation of non-government and volunteer organizations along with government organizations. It is observed that Bangladesh is deadly affected by the grip

of drug abuse and its consequences that influence on development, health system, security, economy and

good governance. Over the past two decades, an increasing trend of drug abuse is continuing.

Table 1: Statistics on Divisional wise Number of Cases and Seizure of Drugs by the DNC in 2022
(Source DNC Database)

Name of Office	Heroin (kg)		Codeine (Phensedyl)			Cannabis (kg)		Buprenorphine (Ampoule)		ATS (Yaba) (pcs)		Crystal meth (ICE) (kg)	
	case	seizure	case	Seizure		case	seizure	case	seizure	case	seizure	case	seizure
				Bottle	Loose								
Divisional Narcotics Control Office, Dhaka	677	4,094	84	3872	4	4448	2442,648	154	21374	1603	828347	37	2.105
Divisional Narcotics Control Office, Mymensingh	194	1,345	-	6	-	693	164,774	23	1314	109	8062	-	-
Divisional Narcotics Control Office, Chattogram	-	-	78	3954	2	1957	3707,841	-	-	1368	3340675	3	3.808
Divisional Narcotics Control Office, Rajshahi	1017	4,453	198	6460	4.86	2167	1107,601	140	20512	340	46015	-	-
Divisional Narcotics Control Office, Rangpur	168	0,962	280	12003	8.1	1320	1041,499	112	13964	328	68050	1	0.005
Divisional Narcotics Control Office, Khulna	134	0,481	218	4971	200	1947	427,484	83	11314	385	42635	-	-
Divisional Narcotics Control Office, Barisal	5	0,012	4	58	-	487	107,467	3	212	94	17212	4	0.008
Divisional Narcotics Control Office, Sylhet	-	-	4	99	-	729	377,508	-	-	205	30926	-	-
Divisional Narcotics Control Office, Intelligence Wing	130	2,032	36	944	-	388	312,215	13	19567	322	529858	-	0.556

Division wise case statistics in 2022 by DNC

Division	Number of case	Case Percentage (%)
Dhaka	7556	29.45
Chattogram	3748	14.60
Rajshahi	4541	17.70
Khulna	3305	12.88
Rangpur	2735	10.66
Barishal	619	2.41
Sylhet	1077	4.19
Mymensingh	1133	4.41
Intelligence	940	3.66
Total=	25654	100



Table 2: Statistics on the seizure of drugs by all agencies in Bangladesh

Name of Drugs	Name of The Year				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Name of Drugs	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Heroin (in kg)	451.506	323.279	210.438	441.221	298.656
Codeine Preparation (Bottle)	715529	976663	1007977	574301	671950
Codeine (loose) (in liter)	539.95	1831.05	129.4	106.608	278.46
Cannabis (in Kg)	60295.124	32657.699	50078.549	86696.281	104308.144
Cocaine	272	1	3.893	1.55	4.57
ATS (Yaba) Ps	53048548	30446328	36381017	53073665	43726967
Crystal Meth (ICE)	-	-	-	36.794	104.76
Buprenorphine (Ampoule)	128708	41236	124608	113070	192884
Total No. of cases	119878	124098	85718	93190	92909
Total No. of Accused	161323	162847	113543	122152	114886

Table 3: Seizures of Money, Vehicles etc. by DNC in Connection with Drug Offences

Name of Article Seized	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Sale Proceeds of Drugs (BDT)	9019095	8513832	5901537	5936175	11672284
Car (Number)	23	14	21	31	29
Truck/Covered Van (Number)	11	5	5	9	10
Auto Rickshaw (Number)	15	11	18	44	22
Bus (Number)	3	1	3	3	2
Arms (Number)	9	7	5	5	9
Bullet (Number)	34	42	33	81	8
Mobile Phone (Number)	308	332	202	187	480

1.1 Current Drug Scenario with Significant Cases:

Even though Bangladesh is not a drug producer, but it is caught in a narco-triangle as geography puts it at the heart of three major world renowned drug producing areas: The Golden Triangle, the golden Crescent and the Golden wedge. This topography, strategically, makes the country in precarious position for drug availability and consumption. Bangladesh has land-locked border by three sides with India covering four thousands one hundred fifty six kilometers long

border area. Bangladesh has also shared 208 km land border and 621 km water boundary border with Myanmar at the south east area. Through this border line, huge amount of drugs are penetrating and creates vulnerability for drug trafficking. In addition, this route is being used as major supply chain for amphetamine (yaba) from Myanmar to Bangladesh. The Golden Triangle refers to the mountainous a remote drug producing regions of northeastern Myanmar, northern Thailand and northwestern Lao PDR, is predominantly triggering drug menace that causes enormous sufferings

in this region. An increasing number of drugs, in particular amphetamine (ATS), crystal meth are trafficking into Bangladesh through this border area from Myanmar. In 2020, 36381017 pill yaba were seized by law enforcement agencies, in 2021 the number of yaba pill was 53073665 pcs and in 2022, 45868569 pcs. A massive influx of yaba is flowing alarmingly in this region and beyond.

Amphetamines with its analogues and other drugs have been spread at every corner of the country, almost rife. Urban areas, in particular marketplace, slums, parks, streets, educational institutions, crowded places, open spaces even in the recreational centers are aggravated by drug prevalence. The existence of drug abuse in rural and remote areas is significantly visible. Bordering areas encompassing thirty two districts are also vulnerable. In short, all segments of society are badly affected by this menace. Mostly youngsters are becoming hooked by yaba spree. Some perverted young, mostly from well-off family, are switching to upgrade version or new drugs. These drugs are made available using rapidly evolving technology and communication system. However, in Bangladesh, the most prevalent drug is still cannabis, followed by amphetamine, heroine and codeine based syrup. According to the seizure of 2022 analysis, the major drug market is Dhaka. The most drug-prone districts are: Cox's Bazar, Chottogram, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Narshingdi, Faridpur, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Tangail, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Natore, Pabna, Sirajgong, Bogra, Joypurhat, Dinajpur, Satkhira, Jessore.

Significant Cases intercepted by DNC in 2022.

3 kg Cocaine seized from Palton, Dhaka on 10 February, 2022. The raid conducted by DNC Dhaka.

100000 pcs Yaba (Amphetamine based Tablet), 1 kg Crystal Methamphetamine (ICE), Fishing boat seized from Teknaf, Cox's Bazar on 24 March, 2022. The raid conducted by DNC Teknaf Special Zone.

1 kg Crystal Methamphetamine (ICE) seized from Ukhya, Cox's Bazar on 3 August, 2022. The raid conducted by DNC Teknaf Special Zone.

30000 pcs Yaba (Amphetamine based Tablet) seized from Teknaf, Cox's Bazar on 9 December, 2022. The raid conducted by DNC Teknaf special zone.

23200 pcs Yaba (Amphetamine based Tablet) seized from Kafrul, Dhaka on 10 February, 2022. The raid conducted by DNC Dhaka.

177 kg Cannabis with a Pick Up seized from Cumilla Adarsha Sadar on 18 April, 2022. The raid conducted by DNC Cumilla.

115 kg Cannabis, 1 Private car seized from Brahmanbaria on 04 April, 2022. The raid conducted by DNC Brahmanbaria.

100 kg Cannabis with a Private car seized from Bijoy Nagar on 30 July, 2022. The raid conducted by DNC Brahmanbaria.

170000 pcs Yaba (Amphetamine based Tablet) seized from Teknaf, Cox's Bazar on 16 August, 2022. The raid conducted jointly by DNC Teknaf Special Zone and Coast Guard in the Bay of Bengal.

1 kg Heroine seized from Godagari, Rajshahi on 30 September, 2022. The raid conducted by DNC Rajshahi.

503 Bottles Escuf (Codeine based preparation) seized from Bijoy Nagar on 13 April, 2022. The raid conducted by DNC Brahmanbaria.

340 Bottles Phensedyl (Codeine based preparation) seized from Chandpur Sadar on 11 May, 2022. The raid conducted by DNC Chandpur.

33000 pcs Yaba (Amphetamine based Tablet) seized from Uttara, Dhaka on 26 October, 2022. The raid conducted by DNC Dhaka.

48 kg Cannabis, 1 Covered van, 4 Mobile set seized from Dhaka on 29 December, 2022. The raid conducted by DNC Dhaka.

35000 Cannabis plants seized from Khagrachari on 05 December, 2022. The raid conducted by DNC Khagrachari and other law enforcement agencies.

30000 pcs Yaba (Amphetamine based Tablet) seized from Teknaf, Cox's Bazar on 09 December, 2022. The raid conducted by DNC Teknaf Special Zone.

17700 ampule of Buprenorphine seized from kotoali, Mymensingh on 12 November, 2022. The raid conducted by DNC Mymensingh Intelligence Zone.

Yaba

Yaba is a combination of a number of stimulants-methamphetamine and caffeine. The 'crazy medicine' Yaba is Cheap, potent and highly addictive synthetic drug. Yaba is in tablet form. There are many different versions of yaba and the most common are pink, orange, reddish or white in color. Abusers commonly smoke the drug using tinfoil, though it can be ingested



orally or crushed and snorted. Among yaba is currently the most abusing drugs used in Bangladesh. Most of the yaba is produced in clandestine laboratories located at China-Myanmar border of Shan and Cochain states and nearer to the border of Myanmar-Bangladesh. The river Naaf and the coastal area of Bangladesh-Myanmar border are the most critical places for the inflow of Yaba from Myanmar to Bangladesh.

In Bangladesh, the detection of cases and seizure of Yaba decreased during 2022. During 2021 & 2022, the seizure of Yaba was 53073665 & 45868569 tablets respectively. The ratio of decrease in 2022 is 13.75% in comparison with last year. According to the case filed by the DNC, 29.45% cases are detected at Dhaka Zone, 4.41% at Mymensing Zone, 14.60% at Chattogram Zone, 17.70% at Rajshahi Zone, 10.68% at Rangpur Zone, 12.88% at Khulna Zone, 2.41% at Barisal Zone, 44.19% at Sylhet Zone, 3.66% of case was detected by intelligence wing of DNC in all over the country.

The seizures of Yaba were made 16.86% at Dhaka Zone, 0.16% at Mymensing Zone, 68.01% at Chattogram Zone, 0.93% at Rajshahi Zone, 1.38% at Rangpur Zone, 0.86% at Khulna Zone, 0.35% at Barisal Zone & 0.62% at Sylhet Zone. 10.78% of seizure was made by intelligence wing of DNC in all over the country. More than 68% of the seizure of Yaba was made at Chattogram because border of Cox's Bazar of Chattogram Zone is the route of smuggling Yaba into Bangladesh.

Heroin

The semi-synthetic opioid drug heroin is a highly addictive drug. In its pure form, heroin is a fine, white, bitter-tasting powder that dissolves in water. Street heroin may come in the form of a white powder, a brown and sometimes grainy substance or a dark brown sticky gum. Heroin is smoked or snorted up the nose.

According to the cases of Heroin, the ratio of the detection of Heroin cases were 29.51% in Dhaka Zone, 8.34% at Mymensing Zone, 43.34% in Rajshahi Zone, 7.22% at Rangpur Zone, 0.2% at Barishal Zone & 5.76% in Khulna Zone. 5.59% of case was detected by intelligence wing of DNC in all over the country.

The seizures of Heroin were 30.59% in Dhaka Zone, 10.05% at Mymensing Zone, 33.27% in Rajshahi Zone, 7.18% at Rangpur Zone, 0.02% at Chattogram, 0.08% at Barishal & 3.59% in Khulna Zone. 15.18% of seizure was made by intelligence wing of DNC in all over the

country. Therefore, it appears that Rajshahi Zone has the highest prevalence of detection and seizure of Heroin. The 2nd prevalence of heroin is at Dhaka Zone.

Codeine (Phensedyl)

Codeine is an opioid pain reliever. It is used to treat mild to moderately severe pain. It is also used combined with other medications to reduce coughing. It is not intended for long-term use. Codeine is derived from the poppy plant, *Papaver somniferum*. A small amount of ingested codeine is converted to morphine in the body. Codeine increases tolerance to pain, reducing existing discomfort. In addition to decreasing pain, codeine also causes sedation, drowsiness, and respiratory depression.

According to the statistics of the cases and seizures of Phensedyl, 9.31% cases were detected in Dhaka zone, 8.64% in Chattogram Zone, 21.95% in Rajshahi Zone, 31.04% in Rangpur Zone, 24.16% in Khulna Zone, 0.44% in Barisal Zone & 0.44% in Sylhet Zone. 3.99% of case was detected by intelligence wing of DNC in all over the country.

In case of seizure, it was 11.96% in Dhaka Zone, 0.01% in Mymensingh zone, 12.21% in Chattogram Zone, 19.95% in Rajshahi Zone, 37.08% in Rangpur Zone, 15.35% in Khulna Zone, 0.17% in Barisal Zone & 0.30% in Sylhet Zone. 2.91% of seizure was made by intelligence wing of DNC in all over the country.

Cannabis

Cannabis is a plant-based drug. This drug refers to the leaves and flowering portions of cannabis. Cannabis is typically smoked. In various parts of the world, different preparations of the cannabis plant are eaten or fumes from the ignited plant material are inhaled. Cannabis is one of the most widely abused drugs in the world. It is a psychoactive drug from the Cannabis plant used primarily for medical or recreational purposes. It grows wild in many of the tropical and temperate areas of the world. The main active ingredients in cannabis are cannabidiol and delta-9 tetrahydro-cannabinol, commonly known as THC. Cannabis refers to a group of three plants with psychoactive properties, known as Cannabis sativa, Cannabis indica, and Cannabis ruderalis.

Consumption of Cannabis is traditional in Bangladesh. Cannabis has been used for recreational, religious, spiritual, and medicinal purposes. The



prevalence of cannabis is higher than any other drugs in Bangladesh. Cannabis comprises 55.51% of all the cases detected by the DNC during 2022. In question of detection of cannabis cases Dhaka Zone comprises 31.46%, Mymensing Zone comprises 4.90%, Chattogram Zone comprises 13.84%, Rajshahi Zone comprises 15.32%, Rangpur Zone comprises 9.33%, Khulna Zone comprises 13.77%, Barisal Zone comprises 3.44% & Sylhet Zone comprises 5.15%. 2.74% of case was detected by intelligence wing of DNC in all over the country.

The seizures of cannabis are 25.21% in Dhaka Zone, 1.70% in Mymensingh Zone, 38.26% in Chattogram Zone, 11.43% in Rajshahi Zone, 10.74% in Rangpur Zone, 4.41% in Khulna Zone, 1.10% in Barisal Zone and 3.89% in Sylhet Zone. 3.22% of seizure was made by intelligence wing of DNC in all over the country. Most of the country's cannabis is smuggled through eastern border- Cumilla, Brahmanbaria and it is mainly for Dhaka.

Buprenorphine

Buprenorphine ($C_{29}H_{41}NO_4$) is an opioid medication used to treat pain and opioid addiction. It is a semi-synthetic opioid derived from thebaine. Buprenorphine tablets are approved for use in adults to treat opioid dependence, injections are used to manage severe pain in adults and children ages 2 years and older and patches are used in adults to manage severe pain that needs continuous, long-term treatment with an opioid.

The prevalence of Buprenorphine is comparatively less than cannabis, Phensedyl, Heroin and alcohol. It appears from the Table-1 that 29.16% of the cases of Buprenorphine are detected in Dhaka Zone, 4.35% in Mymensingh Zone, 26.51% in Rajshahi Zone, 21.21% in Rangpur Zone, 15.71% in Khulna Zone, 0.56% in Barishal & 2.46% of case was detected by intelligence wing of DNC in all over the country.

According to the seizure, it has been observed that 24.21% of the Buprenorphine are seized in Dhaka Zone 1.48% in Mymensingh Zone, 23.24% in Rajshahi Zone, 15.82% in Rangpur Zone, 12.81% in Khulna Zone, 0.24% in Barishal Zone & 22.17% in Intelligence. There was no Case & Seizure of Buprenorphine reported in Barisal, Sylhet zone in 2022. According to the above data of case, Rajshahi is the highest prevalence area of Buprenorphine.

1.2 Recent Trend of Drug Abuse

The landscape of drug trafficking and its abuse is continuing through varied phases with emerging mode of new drugs and locations. Over the last few years, due to impact of globalization and rapid evolution of technology, drug problem has created multifaceted setbacks in all strata of society in terms of individual, family across the country and beyond. The evolution of drugs until 1980, a handful drugs were consumed including cannabis, liquor, Tari, etc. These drugs were used as traditional and ritual practices in different occasion by certain quarters in Bangladesh. Cannabis was sold in Government registered shops to earned revenue. In 1988, Cannabis was banned officially, Heroin switched and spread even wider in the drug market. Few years later another drug, codeine based syrup, trafficked into Bangladesh from India. Primarily it was used as cough syrup but within a short span of time, this drug was overdosed and even abused hugely in urban and rural areas as a popular drug. It even reigned as a most prevalent drug until 2000. In combination with; heroin was also abused moderately at that time. At early 2000s, synthetic drugs yaba (ATS) infiltrated into Bangladesh from Myanmar.

It is observed that high-rate drug abuse continues among young people. In particular, students are mostly falling victims, which damage their academic performance and keep them off attendance at schools, colleges and Universities. Multi-pronged factors are involved, among them most leading factors are peer pressure and curiosity. In addition, easy availability of drugs, mental stress, psychological and family disorder, social disintegration, lack of proper parenting, corporate culture, social media, global connectivity etc. Furthermore, unemployment, slum dwellers are also factors for spreading drug abuse and trafficking in our society.

Drug abuse scenario:

In 2022, data shows that seizure of yaba decreased by 13.75% compared to previous year. According to data, the number of yaba patient took treatment is 12756. While In 2022, data shows that seizure of heroin decreased by 23.33% compared to previous year, According to data, the number of heroin patient took treatment is 1438. Similarly, the seizure of cannabis increased 33.07% in comparison with 2021 and the number of cannabis depended patient received



treatment is 8459. At the same time, the seizure of codeine in the period of 2022 increased 22.94% compared to previous year and 5629 patients were admitted to hospitals for treatment in same year. Finally, the seizure of injecting drug is on the rise sharply, accounting for 90.59% in 2022 and the number of patient is 915.

Yaba (ATS)

According to the data the seizure of Yaba decreased in 2022 accounting for 13.58% in comparison with last year. While the number of Yaba-induced patients admitted for treatment shows a negative correlation, it increased 20.97% during 2022 with respect to 2021.



Figure 1 : Yaba Seizure

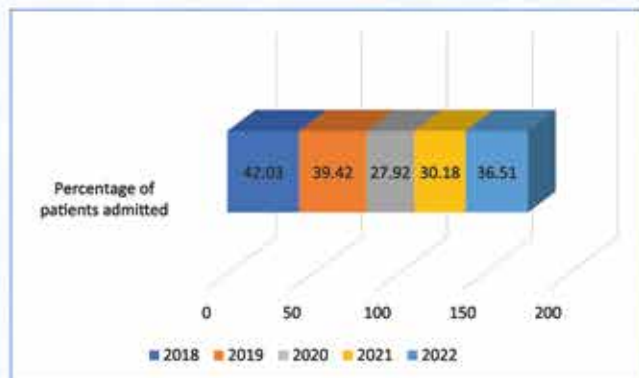


Figure 2 : Patients admitted to the Central Drug Addiction Treatment Center, Dhaka to get treatment services for Yaba addiction

Heroin is very addictive. Many people who take it develop a use disorder. Heroin flooded the drug market in 1980s. According to the number of patients admitted for treatment of drug, the number of treatment seekers for heroin addiction decreased 8.10% in 2022 in comparison with the previous year.

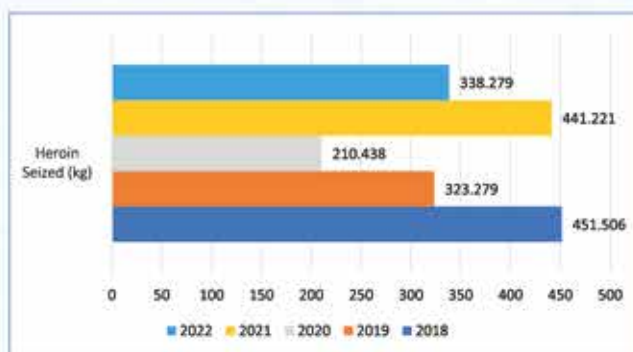


Figure 3: Seizure of heroin by all law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh

During the year 2022 the amount of seizure of heroin by all law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh was 338.279 kg and decreased 23.33% in comparison with the last year.

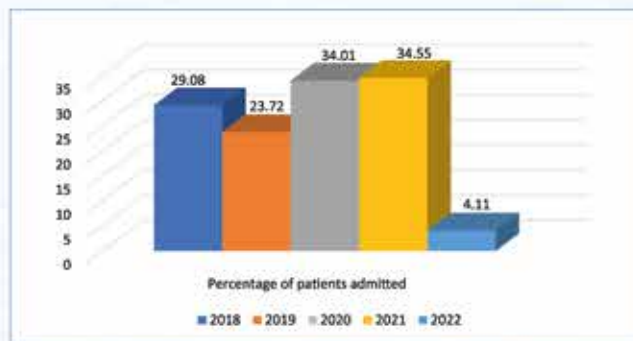


Figure 4: Patients admitted to the Central Drug Addiction Treatment Center, Dhaka to get treatment services for heroin addiction

Codeine based syrup- Phensedyl

The statistics of seizure of phensedyl during the period 2018-2022 shows a moderate upward trend with exception in 2021. According to the data from treatment services, the number of treatment seekers for Phensedyl addiction has continued with fluctuation until 2021 but it shows a big jump in 2022.

The seizures of Phensedyl by all agencies in Bangladesh from 2018 to 2022 are as following:

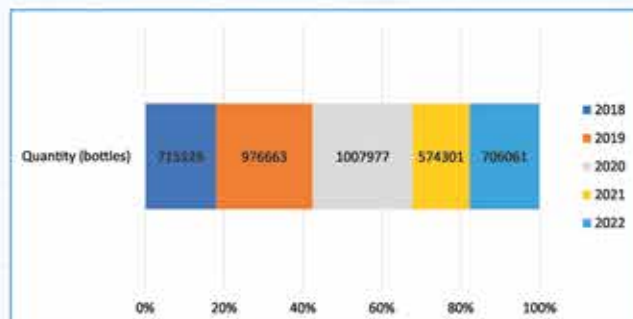


Figure 5: Seizure of Phensedyl (Bottles) by all law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh



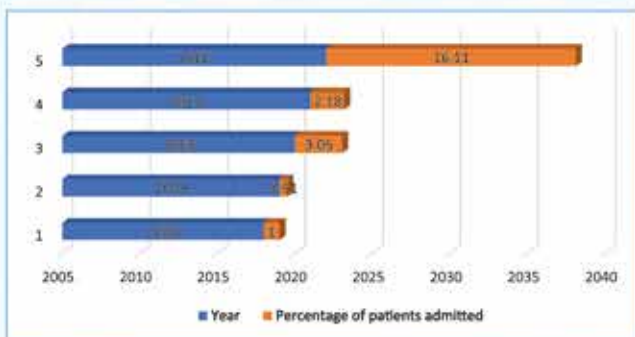


Figure 6: Patients admitted to the Central Drug Addiction Treatment Center, Dhaka to get treatment services for Phensedyl addiction

Cannabis

Cannabis is being trafficked to Bangladesh through North eastern and eastern states of India, particularly Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tripura, and Manipur. A vast amount of cannabis is being trafficked into Bangladesh through the borders of Cumilla and Brahmanbaria districts of Bangladesh.

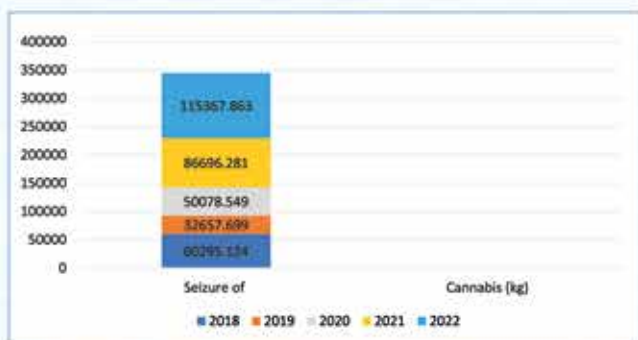


Figure 7: Seizure of cannabis by all law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh

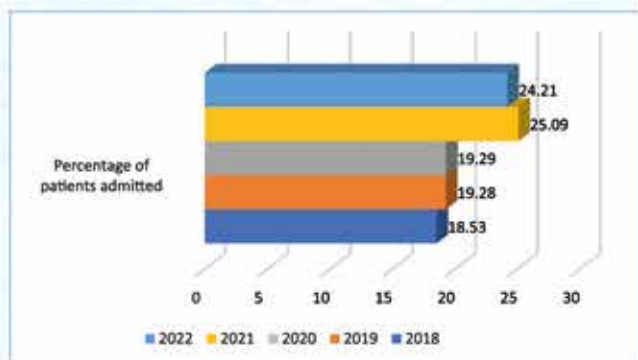


Figure 8: Patients admitted to the Central Drug Addiction Treatment Center, Dhaka to get treatment services for Cannabis addiction

According to the case statistics of the seizures of cannabis by all agencies in Bangladesh from 2018 to 2022, it increased with fluctuation until 2020 and it increased significantly from 2020 to 2022. According to the data from treatment services, the number of

treatment seekers for Cannabis addiction is almost stable until 2020 but it had a sharp increase in 2021 and slightly decreased in 2022 compared to 2021. The statistics of the seizures of cannabis from 2018 to 2022 show that the seizure of cannabis had increased gradually from 2019 and reached its peak in 2022, though the seizure of 2018 was much more higher than 2019.

Buprenorphine

Among the most problematic drug users are those who inject drugs. Injecting drug users have risk of infection as viral hepatitis and AIDS as consequence of the use of unsterilized needle. The most commonly injected drug is Buprenorphine which commonly known by the trade name Tidigesic, Bunojesic, Lupijesic, Tunojesic etc and those items injected intravenous in combination with sedatives, tranquilizers and antihistamine.



Figure 9: Seizure of Buprenorphine (Ampoules)

According to the data from treatment services, the number of treatment seekers for Buprenorphine addiction is decreasing gradually. While the data of seizure of Buprenorphine, saw a fluctuation trend. In 2022, it increased 90.59% sharply in comparison with the previous year.

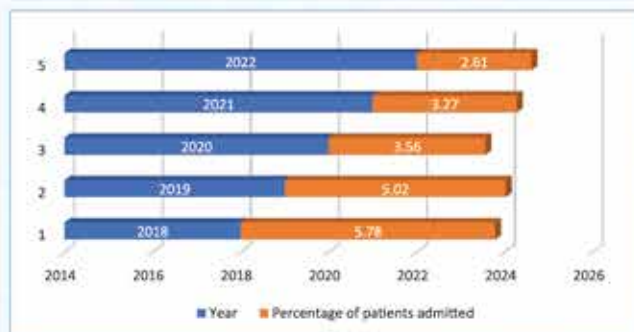


Figure 10: Patients admitted to the Central Drug Addiction Treatment Center, Dhaka to get treatment services for Buprenorphine addiction



1.3 Market Analysis of Drugs:

Though Bangladesh does not belong any drug production, manufacturing or cultivation outlets but it has emerging potentiality for drug consumption as its demographic pattern, shows that major portion of total population are youngsters, age group ranging from 15 to 64 years. Even though this pattern is considered as the golden period to exploit the opportunity of demographic dividend but its other side contains a risk area for drug abuse. It is noteworthy that international organized drug syndicates are exploring and locating drug consumption prone area in any part of the globe. That plays the lead role as Bangladesh is facing tremendous challenges to curb the massive influx of illicit drugs trafficked from neighboring countries. Another factor is that technology is now, the key driver to expand and diversify the range of drugs and drug markets dynamic. Recently DNC and other law enforcing agencies intercepted new drugs as DoB, magic mushroom, kratom with varied figure and new areas are using drug trafficking route and selling spots by passing vigilance of law enforcement agencies. Patuakhali, Borguna, especially coastal belt, are using as safe passage for drug trafficking. Potential supply-driven expansion of drug markets are posing a big threat, in particular markets for methamphetamine (ATS) followed by cannabis, are extending beyond usual areas, almost every part of our country. While online drug markets are crossing threshold as it continues to grow its domain, creating whats app group that connects drug sellers and users. It is considering a popular trading platform because of its anonymous transaction mode and reduced risk of interception. Most drugs are abused in urban areas, in particular major cities and metropolitan areas. The biggest drug market is considered as Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, a densely populous city in the world, dwelling more than twenty million people with 10% of the total population and almost 50% of the urban population of the country remains the highest prevalence of all types of drugs, followed by Chattogram, Rajshahi and Khulna. Cannabis enter into Bangladesh territory through the east and north east border from India and Yaba (ATS) influx through south east border from Myanmar and the movement of maximum quantities of drugs is Dhaka-bound. The entry-gate price of drugs at border area continues to increase exponentially, depending on its forward movement. That means, the more the drug moves forward, the more the price is higher. One yaba pill is sold in retail market in Dhaka at almost five to eight times higher than bordering area, similar for cannabis

and other drugs. The other drugs mainly heroin, codeine based preparation (Phensedyl), tapentadol tablet, buprenorphine injection enter into Bangladesh crossing west and north-west borders from India. The volume of drug market in terms of availability of drugs and financial transaction is increasing owing to advancement of new financial services (mobile payment system), update information and communication technologies.

Porous bordering areas are very much vulnerable for drug trafficking, this indication leads to figure out easily the extent of illicit drugs and its related financial flows as 50% districts of Bangladesh are shared with borders.

Analyzing the data of recent seizure shows that the most drug-prone areas are: Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Mymensingh, Chattogram, Cumilla, Sylhet, Brahmanbaria, Cox's Bazar, Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Chapai Nawabganj, Joypurhat, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Khulna Satkhira, Jessore. As Chattogram Metropolitan area and Cox's Bazar are very much nearer to Myanmar trafficking route, the prevalence of yaba, therefore, is higher. It is negative correlation that even though Dhaka is the biggest markets of yaba in Bangladesh but its volume of seizure is well below.

In Rajshahi zone, heroin is the highest prevalence of drugs that depicts in data but the number of consumer of heroin in Rajshahi is less than Dhaka. The heroin is smuggled from Lalgola, India to Rajshahi and then destined for Dhaka.

Phensedyl is mainly the codeine-based preparation that occupies the third-highest prevalence drug now; previously it was top-dominating drug, trafficked from India. The big markets of phensedyl are Jessore, Dinajpur, Bogura, Brahmanbaria, Cumilla Rajshahi, Kushtia. The Biggest phensedyl market is at Dhaka. This drug, once it was used to cough syrup, is smuggled in different trade names, such as Corex, Codilab, Escuf, Nelco, Codocof, Parvo-cof, Ikon-XP etc. The major portion of this drug is being traded by Pharmaceutical companies at the vicinity of the indo-Bangla bordering areas of West Bengal and Eastern part of India.

Cannabis, the most widely abused drug, is trafficked to Dhaka, the main cannabis market in Bangladesh. The other big markets are Kishorgonj, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Chattogram Metro, Cumilla, Brahmanbaria, Noakhali, Kurigram, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar and Rangpur. Major

portion of the cannabis seized in the country is sourced from India and Nepal.

Analyzing data refers to that Chuadanga becomes the highest prevalence of Buprenorphine. The second highest market is at Dhaka metropolitan area and other big markets are Bogura, Chapainawabgang, Natore and Dinajpur.

1.4 Extent of drug Supply Abuse:

Bangladesh is not drug producing country but massive influx of illicit drugs are trafficked from neighboring countries due to close proximity to the noted drug producing region. The availability and use of drugs remain high in this area as previous year. Cannabis is by far the most prevalent drug. It is sourced from neighboring country India through north-east and eastern border, in particular Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tripura and Manipur. Every year, a bulk amount of cannabis is trafficked into Bangladesh through the border of Kurigram, Cumilla and Brahmanbaria districts. Assessing the seizure of cannabis by all enforcement agencies from 2018 to 2022, it shows that the trend of cannabis trafficking and abuse alarmingly increasing, in particular in 2022, the cannabis seizure is two times higher than 2020.

The 2nd most prevalent deadly drug, yaba (ATS) originates from Myanmar rapidly spreading in every nook and corner, pushing young generation in vulnerability.

Yaba is one of the most abused drug, hundreds of thousands of people are getting victims in Bangladesh. China-Myanmar border of Shan and Cochain states and inside border of Myanmar as opposed to Bangladesh become breeding sites comprising huge clandestine laboratories for producing yaba. The coastal belt of Myanmar-Bangladesh border and shared Naaf River are the most turmoil places for the inflow of Yaba from Myanmar to Bangladesh.

Crystal Methamphetamine (Ice) is a highly potent stimulant drug which appeared in varied form as powder or a shiny Crystal. It is now trafficking from Myanmar with bulk figure at highly increasing trend. One thing is noticeable that in 2021, the seizure of crystal meth was 36.79 kg, but in 2022, the seizure was 113.33 kg. This is a big leap of crystal meth. This is probably due to the fact that crystal meth is highly potent than yaba. This leads to divert attention

extensively of drug users to crystal meth. Moreover, since 2009, yaba has been dominating with spiraling mode of demand until 2021. A peak of yaba seizure was reported in 2021. The total amount of yaba seizure in 2021 is 53073665 pcs and 45868569 pcs in 2022.

Analyzing Data of the detection of cases and seizures of Yaba, during the period 2018-2022, with the exception of yaba and heroin, over all quantities of drug seizure in 2022 have increased.

a) Interception of yaba (ATS) increased continuously from 2009 to 2014 with moderate pace and then increased sharply until 2021 but in 2022, yaba seizure declined. Average size of the seizure of yaba per case ranges from 3000 pcs to 10000 at Teknaf, 2500 to 10000 at Cox's bazaar, 1000 to 5000 at Chattogram and 200 to 5000 at Dhaka in 2022. The largest seizure in a single case of yaba is 170000 Pcs at Teknaf in 2022.

b) Average size of the seizure of Cannabis per case ranges from 02 kg to 100 kg in Barhmanbaria, 02 kg to 70 kg in Cumilla and 01 kg to 20 kg in chandpur. The largest seizure in a single case of cannabis is 115 kg at kosba in Brahmanbaria in 2022.

c) The average size of seizure of heroin per case ranges from 20 gm to 150 gm at Rajshahi. The largest seizure in a single case of heroin is 1.50 kg at kotwali in Mymensingh in 2022.

d) The average size of seizure of codein based preparation 20 to 250 Bottles at Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Takurgaon, Khulna, Satkhira, Kushtia Barishal, Bogra, Rajbari and Magura. The largest seizure in a single case of Phensedyl is 540 Bottle at Bogra in 2022.

e) The average size of seizure of Injection based preparation 300 to 1000 Bottles at Chuadanga, Tangail and Joypurhat. The largest seizure in a single case of Injection is 17700 ampule at Mymensingh in 2022.

The supply of buprenorphine injection is on the rise. It is particularly, trafficking through North-west border from India. The size of the seizure may vary due to trafficking, modus operendi and depending on law enforcement's vigilance.

The modes of transportation used by drug traffickers remain unchanged over the last decades with some exceptions, trafficking by road and rail is the most



typical mode of transportation used by traffickers. Also traffickers use sometimes air. The mode of transportation used and concealment method is very innovative and ever-changing. In particular, Yaba is trafficked from Myanmar into Bangladesh border in the vicinity of Teknaf. The bulk figure of yaba consignment is divided into multiple segments depending on risk of interception of law enforcement, roll to destination points (Dhaka or elsewhere). When mode interception focuses on high vigilance by enforcement, drug trafficker, sometimes, uses carrier (both men and women) who swallow the yaba pill upto 5000 in their stomach to carry for reaching target places by passing vigilance. The another way of trafficking is maritime remains the least common mode of transportation but this means of way are used between Myanmar and Bangladesh-Naf river and adjacent areas of coastal belt of the Bay of Bengal. It could be mention that emergence of new trafficking route and hub point is surfaced as eastern and south-east border entry points are beefed up by law enforcement. Now traffickers are taking alternative ways-southern the Bay of Bengal and Patuakhali coastal area a newly emerged tourist hot spot.

1.5 New Challenges- Dark net:

New Challenges-Dark net:

Drug trafficking and its related illicit financial flow are crippling the country's development and prosperity, notably health, economy and social security concerns. It is also worth noting that drug traffickers prefer to deal their proceeds of crime through anonymous transactions and identity theft. These lead to take the advantages of dark net by drug traffickers. Currently dark net based criminal activities have become a pressing issue to combat for the law enforcement across the world. It is considered that keeping privacy and anonymity of customer/ vendors are two characteristics which make the dark net a popular platform for drug traffickers to launder proceeds of criminal activities in terms of illicit drug-trade money.

Internet based connectivity and rapidly evolution of online platforms has created myriad opportunities for drug traffickers and drug users because of its high degree of anonymity and less likely risks of law

enforcement vigilance. Drug buying and selling on the internet can occur at different layers in terms of clear web, deep web and dark web. Drug traffickers and drug users shift these platforms frequently assessing potential risks and difficulties. It is worth knowing that through the clear web only 4% ordinary internet users are performing their activities using search engines like Google, Yahoo, etc but within the deep web, dark net is formed which is completely concealed. Most criminal transactions are conducted through dark net.

Bangladesh has started digital transaction using internet facilities in all banking and financial institutions. Even though, it is considered a land mark development for quick and secured transactions in the financial sector. But, on the other hand, this initiation is sheer a potential challenge to shift for using dark net. Because digital money transaction is a primary stage to move to the high way of web linkage include clear web, deep web and dark web.

Challenges:

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) like other law enforcement agency as ACC, CID is authorized as investigative agency to investigate the Money Laundering (ML) crime derived from drug related predicate offence. DNC has already initiated to investigate the drug-induced financial crime. As of now, three ML cases have been filed and some are under inquiry pursuant to The Money Laundering Preventive Law, 2012(amended 2015). Owing to emerging global connectivity and advent of digital money transaction, combating ML crime and nefarious activities, DNC along with other law enforcement agencies tends to face some sort of risks as follows:

a. Law enforcement agencies will face with respect to regulation of the dark net due to its encryption technique and anonymity.

B. Collection of empirical evidence and records of financial illegitimate activities will be hampered in ML case investigation.

C. The trends of current financial transaction on the dark net show a shift towards smaller market places from larger one.

Drug Law Enforcement

Geographically Bangladesh is located between two active drug producing zones. Those are “The Golden Crescent” and “The Golden Triangle”. This geographical proximity made our country vulnerable for drugs inflow. Drugs are trafficked into our country from our neighboring countries. Bangladesh shares 4156 kilometers (km) land border with India by three sides (West, North & East). We also share 271 km border (land +river) with Myanmar. Besides, Bangladesh shares 558 (km) marine border with Myanmar. The porousness of border made our drives against drug difficult. Our Honourable Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina declared “Zero Tolerance” against drugs. All law enforcing agencies of the country are working to materialize the “Zero Tolerance” approach declared by Our Honourable Prime Minister.

Organizational Set up

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), Bangladesh started its journey in 1990 with a few number of personnel. Initially a number of 1274 manpower were approved in favour of DNC which have elevated now up to 3059. The Director General lies at the top of the hierarchy of the department while Additional Director General is seated immediate after the Director General. Four directors and one additional director are helping the Director General at head office. Eight additional directors are seated at divisional offices for coordinating the field level activities properly. In sixty four districts, DNC has official set up for the smooth operation where Deputy Directors or Assistant Directors are discharging their duties. Besides, eight divisional

intelligence offices are engaged to watchdog the drug trends and guide the operational force to bring the drug criminal fraternity under law. The Central Chemical Laboratory of DNC was established in 2000 under the Department of Narcotics Control. The lab goes in operation in the year of 2001. The Central Chemical Laboratory plays a significant role in establishing the accusation by analyzing the sample of seized substances effectively. The report made by the Chief Chemical Examiner and chemical examiners is treated as evidence in the court of law. DNC also poses the holistic gesture in providing treatment to the drug dependent people. The Central Drug Addiction Treatment Centre (CTC) and Three Divisional Drug Addiction Treatment Centre are established for ensuring medication for the substance used disorders.

Legal Status

In most of the countries of the world, constitution is regarded as the womb of making laws and all laws are framed according to this supreme legislation. Bangladesh also belongs to such universal norms. The constitution of the Peoples’ Republic of Bangladesh is the highest law of the land. The fundamental building blocks of anti-narcotics law are embedded in constitution. With the very spirit of the constitution, the Narcotics Control Act, 1990 was enacted in 1990 and subsequently it was replaced by enactment titled “the Narcotics Control Act, 2018 (amended, 2020)” to counter changed atmosphere of drug dealing. This piece of legal instrument is a special law. The following laws are applied to finally dispose a criminal case filed under



the Narcotics Control Act, 2018 (amended, 2020):

1. The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1898
2. The Penal Code, 1860
3. The Evidence Act, 1872
4. The Children Act, 2013
5. The Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012
6. The Digital Security Act, 2018

Search, Seizure and Arrest

Section 22 & 54 of the Narcotics Control Act, 2018 (amended, 2020) focus on the application of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 in the matter of Search, Seizure, arrest, filing case, investigation, issuance of warrant, attachment, forfeiture, trial and appeal. In case of making search, the members of raiding team conduct search with the presence of two or more local inhabitants. The team makes a seizure list of contrabands (narcotics) and other instrumentalities if they think that those are relevant to prove the guilt of accused. When illicit drugs are seized from the possession or under the control of the accused, the team members arrest the accused and file ezahar. Subsequently the ezahar is reduced to writing in prescribed form in the police station under pertinent sections of the Narcotics Control Act, 2018 (amended, 2020). We do follow the provisions of the code of criminal procedure, 1898 properly in arresting any accused keeping in mind the human rights of the accused.

Investigation

Investigation has the paramount importance to unveil the truth of an incident and to help the court of law for successful completion of trial. After lodging the First Information Report (FIR) to the police station, as soon as possible the authority appoints investigating officer (IO) of the case. There is a time frame to complete the investigation. Two scenarios are to be discussed on it. In the case, where the accused is caught red handed in violation of the provision of the mentioned Act, the investigating officer has to end the investigation within 30 working days whereas the time frame goes up to 60 working days in a situation where the accused is fugitive. Where the accused are intermingling, the tenure remains as 60 working days. In

default of the stipulated 30 and 60 working days, the investigating officer will get another 15 working days to close the investigation. In such a situation the IO has to explain the cause of not accomplishing the investigation to his/her superior authority or to the court.

Prosecution and Trial

In our judicial system, the public prosecutor is responsible to conduct the case on behalf of the state. Each criminal case is opened by the public prosecutor by describing the charge brought against the accused by narrating the evidences to prove the guilt of the accused. As the burden of proof goes to the state in a criminal case, the public prosecutor has to play the holistic role to ensure the fair trial. There is a provision of disposal of the case within a stipulated time. Generally the cases filed under the Narcotics Control Act, 2018 (amended, 2020) have to be disposed in 90 working days and this time will be extended more 45 days in default. At the very first stage the court may discharge the accused if it finds no sufficient ground in committing the offence by the accused. Besides this, after taking the evidences, examining the accused and hearing the prosecution and defense if the court thinks that the offence was not committed, the accused shall be acquitted. The accused is awarded conviction only when the court is sanguine about the commission of offence by hearing arguments, considering facts and laws. The aggrieved party may proceed to appeal within 30 working days of declaration of judgment.

Operation of Mobile Court on Drugs

In our country, mobile court plays a vital role in trying an offence summarily. Mobile court drives make demonstration among the community as it awards conviction on the spot depending on the confessional statement of the accused. The Mobile Court Act, 2009 is the legal foundation for conducting mobile court. The main spirit behind the legislation is to prevent the offender from committing an offence. This Act nailed down the areas of crimes that can be conducted under it. Typically, the petty offences, the offences for the violation of which the punishment may go up to 2 years. The distinguished feature of the Mobile Court Act, 2009 is awarding punishment so quickly on the eye of the mobile court. If anyone is aggrieved by the decision of the mobile court, he or she may go for appeal.



Inter-Agency Cooperation

As per the provision of the Narcotics Control Act, 2018 (amended, 2020) the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) plays the role of a nodal agency to conduct drug related issues in Bangladesh. Section 23 of the said Act also empowers Bangladesh Police, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), Bangladesh Coastguard and Bangladesh Customs including the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) to conduct raid, search, seizures and as well as to file cases of drug related offences. All these law enforcing agencies are working relentlessly to prevent the influx of illicit drugs. Being nodal agency the Department of Narcotics Control maintaining coordination with other law enforcing agencies of the land. DNC collect all data related to the drives, cases, arrested accused and the quantity of seized drugs to analyze and overall drug scenario of the country. DNC has the connectivity with international organization involved guide lining and alerting to counter drug dealings. DNC disseminates such information to the other stakeholders to tackle the situation properly. DNC arranges trainings, seminars, symposia etc. on newly emerged drugs to identify and aware the law enforcing agencies so that they can address the matter effectively. Sometimes it convenes meetings with other law enforcement entities to bolster anti-drug initiatives. To coordinate the anti-drug efforts more vibrantly three high level committees were formed in 2015 by Honourable Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Strategic Committee was framed headed by Principal Secretary of PMO. Director General, Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) plays role as the member secretary of this committee.

Modus Operandi of Drug Traffickers

It is well known to the law enforcing agencies that the drug dealers are changing their modus operandi continuously. If mass used routes are unearthed by the law enforcing agencies, drug traffickers are tend to innovate new routes. Organized crime groups devise new and innovative techniques to traffic drugs from source to destination. Many of the areas where illicit drugs have been landed suffer from porous borders, which is a key challenge for law enforcement seeking to make interdictions effectively. Drug traffickers use the porousness of border as opportunity to transfer the drug consignment. A further challenge that faces the law enforcement agencies is the maritime boundary using boats can shift landing points between countries.

From the emergence of pandemic covid-19, the traditional offline crimes are gradually moved to crime on the internet. Although the criminal scripts are shifting to online, the basic social architecture of crime remains unmoved. The hybridization of on- and off-line life impacts immensely the tendency of illicit drug traffickers to expand their drug markets. ICT facilitated drug trafficking and payment systems: contactless communication, dark net, crypto currency, digital mode of fund transfer etc. developed a new criminological horizon.

Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) of Drug Trafficking and Information Sharing

Organized crime has been defined as 'illegal activities, conducted by groups or networks acting in concert, by engaging in violence, corruption or related activities in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or material benefit'. Transnational organized crime occurs when these activities, or these groups or networks, operate in two or more countries.

Transnational organized crime can take many forms and is constantly evolving. The groups and networks involved are fluid, and channels for trafficking one commodity are often used for others. Some of the typical activities carried out by transnational criminal organizations are trafficking in humans, arms, drugs, minerals, and wildlife; production and trade of counterfeit goods; fraud and extortion; money laundering and cybercrime.

Globalization, digitization, and other advances in technology are further changing the nature of illicit drug markets and the Modus operandi of transnational organized crime, recently including the emerging use of cryptocurrencies that make illicit financial flows harder to trace. Illicit drug trafficking is one of the vital components of transnational organized crime (TOC) as it perpetrates money laundering, terrorist financing, arms smuggling, etc. In a word, the TOC of drug trafficking can be termed as a 'Crime Multiplier'.

Transnational organized crime, and especially its association with drug trafficking, is an outright threat to the Government of Bangladesh and the society of our country for the following reasons:

- The lives lost or ruined by drugs or during criminal confrontations are not only a constant and high cost for a demographically uprising population, but directly or



indirectly represent an economic gain for dangerous actors who challenge the authority of the state, and the law, from beyond its borders.

-The economic resources generated by organized crime and drug trafficking are directly and deliberately used for destabilizing the society, the political system, the administration, and the economy of a country. The corresponding effects are: 'pax mafiosa', destruction of democratic/liberal values, corruption, money laundering, and the infiltration of legitimate businesses.

-The transnational networks, created and sustained by this combination, attack territorial integrity both within and at the borders of our country. Whenever organized crime controls an area, transnational organized crime has free access and law enforcement finds a 'no-go' area or is anyhow ineffective. These areas, also called 'grey zones', are unfortunately found in many countries. But thanks to The government and law enforcement agencies for their constant efforts that no such zone exists in Bangladesh.

Drug Trafficking

The production and use of opiates and marijuana have a long history in the South Asian region, but the main opiate problem in the 21st century involves the more refined form of the drug: heroin. In addition, methamphetamine has been a threat in parts of South and South-East Asia for decades (in the form of yaba tablets), but crystal methamphetamine has recently grown greatly in popularity. Virtually every country in the region is affected by it and Bangladesh is no exception. Codeine-based Syrups, Buprenorphine, Tapentadol, LSD, DMT, MDMA, Magic Mushroom etc. are also being trafficked inside Bangladesh. Bangladesh is not a narcotic-producing country and therefore all these items come to Bangladesh from abroad; mostly from India and Myanmar, two cross-border countries of Bangladesh. Some of these items come from western Europe and South-East Asian countries through parcel courier services.

Therefore, in this age of rapid globalization, crimes like drug trafficking and money laundering where two or more countries are involved intelligence sharing among countries to counterfeit these crimes is a must, and as a nodal narcotics control agency of Bangladesh Department of Narcotics Control under the supervision of Ministry of Home Affairs working tirelessly with the

counterpart of other countries and also with UN bodies like UNODC and INCB.

Transnational co-operation to combat illegal drugs:

Bangladesh is a signatory country of three UN conventions and the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) was established in 1990 following those conventions and incorporating the conventions in the Narcotics Control Act- 1990. So, from the very beginning of this department, it is working with different national and international agencies and organizations.

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of the USA which is one of the most prominent agencies against narcotics and psychotropic substances trafficking around the globe, Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) has close contact with DEA. DEA provides training to the DNC officers' for their capacity building.

DNC has also participated in various transnational intelligence sharing operations with INCB and most recently from 20 November, 2022 to 18 December, 2022 have participated in operation "KNOCKOUT".

Information sharing with Regional Bodies:

The 7th meeting of The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Sub-group was held on 7-9 December 2022 at Chiang Rai, Thailand. The member states of BIMSTEC including Bangladesh are continuing to formulate a short-term, medium-term and long-term Action Plan for the member states to solve the drug addiction problem in the region.

Under bilateral agreements with India and Myanmar to curb drug trafficking so far Bangladesh has participated 7 bilateral meetings with India and 5 with Myanmar. Bangladesh has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Iran to tackle the illicit drug problem. Bangladesh took part the conference on Interaction and Confidence building measures in Asia (CICA) In Iran. The Tehran conference adopted ten points statement including Emphasizing the need for expansion of cooperation including the sharing of intelligence and experiences in the fields of detection, seizure and combating precursor diversion within the framework of bilateral and multilateral projects and programs including structures attributed to INCB;

A cooperative nexus has been established between the Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh and The Supreme Prosecutors Office (SPO), Republic of Korea. The Supreme Prosecutors Office (SPO) has provided modern technology and vehicles to enhance the capacity of DNC as the nodal agency for drug control in Bangladesh. Technical assistance project titled "The Illicit Drug Eradication and Advance Management through IT (I DREAM it)" is ongoing in collaboration with KOICA to make DNC's services online.

Bangladesh has close partnerships on drug abuse prevention and control with the Colombo plan for cooperative, economic, and social development in Asia and the Pacific and 19 countries including China, Myanmar, and the SAARC member states. Those partnerships involve the exchange of information and technical assistance.

Bangladesh and India have close cooperation mechanisms for law enforcement and illicit drug control, including regular meetings at the political and technical levels. The two countries have instances to share

information on drug trafficking on a real-time basis and assist one another in the investigation of drug cases. Bangladesh has an effective and integrated joint border management approach with India.

In the present era of globalization, to maintain peace, and prevent drug trafficking or TOC all around the globe, it is necessary to work against it as a collective unit. The intelligence unit of DNC is working accordingly with utmost sincerity and dedication with other intelligence organizations around the world.

Despite not being a drug producing country, Bangladesh is being used as a drug trafficking route and is being horribly affected by drugs, only because of its geographical location. As it is transnational organized crime (TOC), therefore it is not possible for Bangladesh to prevent this TOC alone. Bangladesh thinks that all countries and related organizations should come forward to prevent this transnational organized crime. In this regard, Bangladesh has always extended its hand of cooperation.

Demand Reduction: Massive Awareness Campaign as well as Role of NGO's regarding Drug Prevention

Bangladesh is known as the role model of development in the world today and the 'rising tiger' of economic growth in the Southeast Asia. The current government aims to make Bangladesh a developed nation by 2041. Besides, Bangladesh is enjoying the demographic dividend and is now passing through a golden age in terms of population. The working population (age group of 15 to 59 years) is now 68% of the total population. Such a demographic golden age comes only once in the fortunes of a nation which lasts for about 30-35 years. Bangladesh is trying to reach the level of developed countries by utilizing the population, but one of the major challenges and obstacles in achieving expected goals is 'drug abuse'. In order to protect the youth community as well as the nation from drug abuse, it is very much essential to conduct the activities to reduce the demand of drugs.

Demand reduction is the strategy to tackle down drug menace throughout the country which involves extensive preventative education programmes aim to diminish the demand for drugs within the country. Section 6(E) of the newly enacted Narcotics Control Act, 2018 (Amended 2020) mandates the activities on preventive education and anti-drug campaign to generate public awareness against harmful effects of drugs. Preventive education, Research and Publication wing of the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) conducts demand reduction programmes round the year.

Anti-drug awareness activities in various sectors

Demand and supply of drugs are closely related with each other. If the demand of drugs reduces, the

supply will fall down and vice versa. At present, Bangladesh is giving highly importance on increasing public awareness side to side supply reduction for this purpose. Creating awareness among the people is an enormous task which encompasses people of all classes and professions to raise their voice awareness against drugs.

The activities are conducted for awareness building are as follows:

- Printing and distribution of anti-drug posters
- Printing and distribution of anti-drug leaflets
- Printing and distribution of anti-drug stickers
- Preparation and distribution of anti-drug festoons
- Writing on the wall
- Anti drug sports and cultural activities
- Anti-drug class lectures / discussions in educational institutions.
- Formation of anti-drug committees at educational institutions
- Distribution of scale / geometry boxes containing harmful aspects of drugs in human body
- Production and promotion of anti drug documentaries, short films.
- Anti drug campaign in prison
- Uploading the activities on drug related crime and anti-drug awareness campaign conducted everyday across the country on Facebook page and Facebook live page;
- Forming anti-drug voluntary committees in every upazila to create awareness regarding the

adverse effect of drugs among the mass people.

- Production and promotion of anti drug TVC and TV talk shows etc
- Distribution of LED Billboard, KIOSK etc

The Department of Narcotics Control has been using popular social media as an important platform for anti-drug campaign as it attracts people from all walks of life, especially the youth, who are heavily involved in

social media and also the victim of drugs. Therefore, with the aim of creating public awareness, provide information, videos and pictures of anti-narcotics activities are being disseminated through the Face book page from August, 2015. People can express their opinions, views, experiences and suggestions through the face book page of the DNC which is easily noticed by the authorities and other people connected with Face book. Social Media and internet based activities are connecting large number of people who can aware themselves from drug related education.

Statistics on preventive and awareness programmes

Task	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Production & Distribution of Anti- Drug Posters	157785	164236	--	--	--	32,775	37039
Distribution of Anti-Drug Leaflets	9,47,570	8,70,549	14,20,000	2,65,000	--	18,00,000	255973
Distribution of Anti-Narcotics Stickers	75,131	8,000	--	9,500	10000	41,180	107660
Distribution of Souvenir	2,000	2,600	2,200	3,000	--	3,000	2000
Anti-Narcotics Discussion Meetings	6,607	7,261	8,898	4,475	2,483	6,169	5580
Anti- Narcotics Class Lecture at Schools and Colleges	1,469	2,460	5,447	15,735	1,670	3,849	1797
Forming of Anti- Drug committee in Educational Institutions	8,335	1,872	1,941	2,200	560	178	
Creating Mentors in Educational Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	2611
Anti- Drug Discussion Meetings in Prison	-	-	-	272	74	236	101
Anti- Drug TVC Campaign	-	-	1482	846	161	220	237
Anti Drug TV Talk Show	-	-	-	20	20	24	25
Anti- Drug Advertisement in Print Media	-	-	-	81	28	18	185
Anti-Drug TV Scroll in Electronic Media	-	-	-	-	-	-	230

Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP)

Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) recently launched Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) to comply with the-

- Decisions taken at the inter-ministerial meeting to implement the 'Zero Tolerance' policy against drug offence declared in the 2018 election manifesto of the present government.
- Decision of the meeting held in the Cabinet Division on 18 August 2021, to identify the drug offenders and routes used to traffic drugs, to conduct raid and search on the basis of real-time information sharing against drug traffickers.
- In order to implement the commitment of the present government about the creation of treatment opportunities and facilities for substance abusers to render service at the door steps of the citizens.
- Finalizing Action plan by conducting workshops with concerned persons at division, district and

upazila level for implementation of the above activities and monitoring through Apps.

Aim & Objectives of the CAP

- To create awareness among people of all walks of life across the country and to build strong social movement / resistance against drugs.
- Creation of anti-drug attitude among all including students.
- Organizing concerned citizens against drugs to raise voice against drug offenders.
- To identify drug traffickers and take strict legal action to reduce their social influence and prestige.
- Identifying drug addicts across the country and providing treatment.
- To take initiative to control drug crime through mutual communication and coordination of all government and non-government officials and employees.



Honourable Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, MP addressed as chief guest in the workshop on Comprehensive Action Plan of Dhaka Division held at Hotel Intercontinental, Dhaka on February 28, 2022.



Honourable Minister, Ministry of Land Mr. Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, MP gave his speech as chief guest in the workshop on Comprehensive Action Plan of Chattragram Division held at Parjatan Motel, Chattragram on March 15, 2022.

- To build drug free Bangladesh with the participation of people of all classes and professions.

Action plan to reduce drug demand:

According to the concept of comprehensive action plan, ward of the union parishad, municipality and City



Honourable Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mr. A. H. M. Khairuzzaman Liton addressed as chief guest in the workshop on Comprehensive Action Plan of Rajshahi Division held at Grand River View Hotel, Rajshahi on March 29, 2022.





Participants of the workshop on Comprehensive Action Plan of Rajshahi Division held at Grand River View Hotel, Rajshahi on March 29, 2022.

Corporation will be the grass-root level unit for drug reduction activities at field level. Involving every ward

anti-drug activities will be continued throughout the year. The person nominated by the Ward



Honourable Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry Mr. Amir Hosen Amu addressed as chief guest in the workshop on Comprehensive Action Plan of Barisal Division held at Grand Park Hotel, Barisal on May 22, 2022.



Honourable Minister, Ministry of Planning Mr. MA Mannan, MP spoke as chief guest in the workshop on Comprehensive Action Plan of Sylhet Division held at Rose View Hotel, Sylhet on March 13, 2022.

Councilor/Member/ Union Parishad Chairman or the concerned government or non-government officials in a ward will be in charge of implementing the anti-drug action plan in a ward. Implementing entity will submit the details about each program to Union Parishad Chairman. The Chairman of the Union Parishad will submit details and comprehensive report to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer on awareness building activities of the said Union through apps.

Similarly the Upazila Nirbahi Officer or his nominee will compile the details about the programmes conducted by all union parishad under the said upazila and send reports to the Deputy Commissioner as per the information table of the upazila.

Month, date and time will be specified for implementation of anti-drug public awareness activities at ward level. Information of the total implemented



Honourable Minister, Ministry of Commerce Mr. Tipu Munshi, MP addressed as chief guest in the workshop on Comprehensive Action Plan of Rangpur Division held at Parjatan Motel on June 1, 2022



Honourable State Minister of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs Mr. K M Khalid, MP gave his speech as chief guest in the workshop on Comprehensive Action Plan of Mymensingh Division held at Auditorium of Zilla Parishad on August 16, 2022.

programs at the Union, Upazila and District level would be included in the prescribed table on monthly basis.

Action plan to reduce drug supply:

In the age of modern information technology, drug traffickers continue to smuggle and trade new types of drugs by adopting new methods. The strategy of the drug business is constantly changing. The new drug aggression as well as the involvement of people of different classes and professions in the drug business is making the situation worsen. In order to protect the youth and the nation from the scourge of drugs, a joint operation comprising all the law enforcement agencies

including the Department of Narcotics Control is being conducted against drug traffickers. To perform this activity, the following procedures have been developed in the Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) which will be monitored through apps.

- Identification of spots where drugs are available
- Identification of drug smuggling routes

Action plan relating to harm reduction:

According to SDG 3.5.1, the Department of Narcotics Control is functioning under the Security Services Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs as the



Honourable Secretary, Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Md. Abdullah Al Masud Chowdhury addressed as special guest in the workshop on Comprehensive Action Plan of Mymensingh Division held at Auditorium of Zilla Parishad on August 16, 2022.



Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan spoke as special guest in the workshop on Comprehensive Action Plan of Mymensingh Division held at Auditorium of Zilla Parishad on August 16, 2022.

lead ministry which is responsible for the treatment of drug addicts. It is important to bring a large number of drug addicts back into the mainstream of society through treatment. But due to lack of adequate number of drug addiction treatment professionals and infrastructural facilities, the treatment activities of drug addicts are being severely hampered. Due to this reason, in the action plan, drug addiction treatment activities have been started from the community level.

- Identifying the substances user at the community level;
- Assess the level of addiction of drugs of an individual's and provide first aid or counseling subject to mild, moderate and severe.
- Divide into four stages, namely, community, primary, secondary and tertiary; first aid, referral,

specialist treatment, relapse prevention, rehabilitation process need to be provided.

Workshops on Comprehensive Action Plan were held at the divisional, districts and Upazila level:

Workshop on Comprehensive Action Plan of Dhaka Division was held at Hotel Intercontinental on February 28, 2022 which was presided over by Dhaka Divisional Commissioner.

Hon'able Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, MP was present as chief guest where the then Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, Deputy Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament and former Md. Shamsul Haque Tuku, MP & former Secretary of Security Services Division of Ministry of Home Affairs Md. Mokabbir Hossain were present as special guests.



Honourable Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, MP announced the auspicious opening of the day-long program by blowing balloons on the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 2022.





On the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Honourable Home Minister visited the stall and observed the drug detection test system, 2022.

Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police and officials of various Ministries, Departments and Organizations including the BGB, Health Department, Coast Guard, Local Government, Education Department and Department of Social Services of all districts of Dhaka Division were present in the said workshop. Divisional level Comprehensive Action Plan workshops were held in the chair of concerned Divisional Commissioners in Sylhet on March 13, Chattogram on March 15, Rajshahi on March 29, Barisal on May 22, Khulna on May 29, Rangpur on June 1 and Mymensingh on August 16 respectively in the year of 2022. Honorable Ministers of various Ministries participated as chief guests in the divisional workshops. Secretary of Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs and Director General, Department of Narcotics Control participated as special guests in the workshop at each divisional level. Officers of concerned departments and agencies, teachers of schools, colleges, Madrasas at union and ward level, chairmen, members including local leaders, journalists, civil society etc have been involved in the workshops throughout the year which were arranged in 8 divisions, 64 districts and 457 upazilas of the country. The Department of Narcotics Control has taken steps to finalize the Comprehensive Action Plan after scrutinizing the recommendations received through all the workshops. Software for monitoring the implementation of the Comprehensive Action Plan has been developed and all concerned have been trained in its use.

Observance of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking:

DNC observes International Day against Drug Abuse



Anti-narcotics short film campaign through caravan on International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 2022.

and Illicit Trafficking on 26th June, in each year. On the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, a human chain program was held at the South East side of Ramna Park on 26 June 2022 at 8 am at the national level. At 10 am, a discussion meeting and prize distribution ceremony was organized at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

Honorable Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, MP was present as chief guest in the meeting and former honorable Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Shamsul Haque Tuku, MP and Honorable Secretary of Security Services Division of Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Md. Mokabbir Hossain were present as special guests.

To observe the day, writing and drawing competition was held in Bangladesh Shishu Academy with the participation of children and teenagers. On the occasion of the day, supplements were published in national dailies and souvenirs and annual drug report were revealed.

Apart from this, on June 26, 2022, an anti-drug program was aired on BTV and various private TV channels. The theme of the day is broadcast on BTV, to promote it through mobile phone messages. The main roads of Dhaka city were decorated with festoons and billboards with anti-drug slogans and the theme of the day.

Various anti-drug programs were organized at the district and upazila levels like; anti-drug rallies, discussion meetings, painting competitions, anti-drug road plays, distribution of anti-drug leaflets and stickers at various public places, anti-drug cultural events and



Honourable Home Minister Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, MP addressed as the chief guest at the anti-narcotics discussion on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 2022.

screening of anti-drug short films at important places etc.

Formation of Committees

Different committees have been formed by the government from national to upazila level to control supply and demand of drugs.

1. National Narcotics control Advisory Committee: The committee consists of 23 members. Honourable Home Minister of the government is the chairman of the committee and Director General, Department of Narcotics Control is the member secretary of this committee. This committee formulate anti-drug related work plan and implement this issue.

2. National Anti-drug committee: This committee comprises of 51 members, Honourable Home Minister and Honourable chairman of Parliamentary standing committee, Ministry of Home Affairs are the advisors of the committee. Secretary, Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs is the chair and Director General, Department of Narcotics Control is the

member secretary of this committee. This committee evaluates the activities of drug abuse, prevention and public awareness campaign two times in a year.

3. District Narcotics Control and Publicity Committee: This committee consists of 34 members. Honourable Members of Parliament of district is the advisor of the committee. District commissioner is the head of this committee. Deputy Director/Assistant Director of DNC is the member Secretary of the committee. This committee coordinates anti-drug activities and reviews the overall narcotics control situation of district in every month.

4. Upazilla Narcotics Control and Publicity Committee: This committee comprises of 22 members. The Honourable members of Parliament and upazilla parishad chairman are the advisors of the committee. Upazilla Nirbahi Officer is the head of the committee. Upazilla Secondary Education Officer is the member Secretary of this committee. This committee undertakes and implements drug abuse prevention and public awareness activities at upazilla level.



Participants in anti-drug discussion meeting on the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 2022.

Role of NGO's regarding Drug Prevention

A range of civil society organizations (CSOs) such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs), networks of existing organizations i.e SONJOG, NARCOB, private drug treatment centers engaged in demand reduction activities and policy advocacy. CSOs are important providers of established and innovative services for those that use illicit drugs. They are uniquely placed to give voice to communities impacted by drug use and drug policies. NGOs and other voluntary groups are good at developing innovative approaches based on a realistic picture of what is actually needed; and civil society reaches the most vulnerable groups and has valuable information on how they are best helped.

During this reporting period the civil society undertook numerous drug prevention activities at National and Local Level. This brief report follows, ways of reducing drug demand in Bangladesh.

Since last 27 years BYFC has been working for the betterment of adolescents, youths and their families with a vision to transforming lives to build society. The organization has been awarded for ten times by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Department of

Narcotic Control as the most influential organization for building awareness against the drug abuse. During the year 2022 BYFC accomplished the following activities to prevent and protect the adolescents, youths and their families from the devastation of the drug use: BYFC building awareness against drug abusers through different kinds of Prevention Activities like: Schools, College & Madrasa based awareness programs, drug awareness poster, rally, door to door program, awareness for the guardians, community advocacy, seminars, workshops, film show, tea stall awareness etc.

Throughout the reporting year, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has conducted a total of 1440 counseling services, and 354 psychosocial educations on different issues. International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and World AIDS day were also observed by DAM through organizing rallies and attending Government seminars and discussions. Mental Health day, 2022 was also observed through discussion meetings, webinars, family education meetings, rallies and TV shows. Through the observance of National and International days, tremendous awareness was created among the mass population. Awareness programs at

Navy Anchorage School in Dhaka, Ananda Mohan



Honourable Minister of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament and former Chairman of the Parliamentary standing committee on Home Affairs Md. Shamsul Haque Tuku and former Secretary of Security Services Division of Home Ministry Md. Mokabbir Hosen, Director General (In charge) of DNC Md. Azizul Islam along with the awardees in Drawing Competition, Essay Competition, Anti-Drug Activities among NGOs marking the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 2022.



Honourable Secretary, Security Services Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Md. Abdullah Al Masud Chowdhury spoke as the Chief guest at the anti-narcotics discussion meeting aimed at increasing public awareness to prevent drug abuse in Rajshahi.





Honourable Director General, Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Buiyan spoke as the special guest at the anti-narcotics discussion meeting aimed at increasing public awareness to prevent drug abuse in Rajshahi.

School at Mymensingh, Tala Govt. College at Satkhira and North South University at Dhaka was also conducted through which cognition about substance use was created among the adolescents, caregivers and staff members of the institutions.

Counseling manuals and other manuals regarding mental health and drug treatment were also developed by DAM and training was conducted in prisons among the officials in these regards. The female drug treatment center of DAM also organized International Women's Day, 2022 with the participation of in-house patients and recoveries by organizing a cultural show. On 1 November, 2022, Youth for Health and Well Being of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector and North South University jointly organized an awareness seminar on mental health. Moreover, on the occasion of the International Recovery Month DAM organized a Reunion ceremony on October 27, 2022 at the Auditorium of DAM. Director General of Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) Mr Abdul Wahab Buiyan was present as the chief guest in the program.

Civil society organizations like Athena BD, DAM and Face book live sessions were conducted on physical,

mental health issues, SUD prevention.

Last 16 April 2022 Saturday, the annual general meeting of drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation center network 'SONJOG' was held at Royal Bengal Restaurant in Mirpur. A 21-member Executive Council was constituted for the working year 2022-23 along with the review of biennial activities in the Annual General Meeting.

To celebrate the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2022, SONJOG (Network of Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres) organized a discussion on "Stop Drug Abuse, Build a Healthy Life" at the Department of Narcotics Control Auditorium on Thursday, June 30, 2022. Former State Minister and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Home Affairs, Deputy Speaker Mr. Shamsul Haque Tuku, MP, was present as the chief guest in the discussion meeting. Professor Arup Ratan Chowdhury, founder president of MANAS and Dr. Shoibur Reza Chowdhury, Chief Consultant of Central Drug Treatment Center were present as special guests. Resident Psychiatrist of Central Drug Treatment Center Dr. Raihanul Islam was present as a speaker in the event.



The participants of anti-narcotics discussion meeting aimed at increasing public awareness to prevent drug abuse in Rajshahi.



Honourable Secretary, Security Services Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Md. Abdullah Al Masud Chowdhury & Director General of DNC Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan is with the officers of Rajshahi division of DNC.



Honourable Deputy Speaker of the Parliament and former Chairman of the Parliamentary standing committee on Home Affairs Md. Shamsul Haque Tuku addressed in the anti-drug discussion meeting organized by Sonjog.

The meeting was presided over by Director General (In-Charge) Department of Narcotics Control Mr. Azizul Islam.

Private drug treatment center Promises Medical Ltd and Civil Society Organization MANAS are organizing TV program on drug prevention and treatment issue in different times. In these TV program the prevailing drug situation of the country particularly anti-drug activities is discussed. Through these TV program drug problem is widely disseminated and mass people become aware on this issue in great extend.

International Recovery Month educates others about recovery from mental health, substance use and co-occurring disorders, the effectiveness of treatment and recovery support services, and that recovery is possible. Ahsania Mission drug Treatment Centers has observed the Recovery Month on 30th September 2021 through various programs like tree plantation, discussion meeting, live webinar etc.

Private drug treatment center SADOR and DAM has organized day long recovery get-together program in Gazipur. Moreover, Bangladesh Regional Convention of Narcotics Anonymous (BRCNA) was held from 28 to 29 October, 2022 at Cox's Bazar.

On 15 December 2022, winter clothing was distributed to 12 drug users living on the streets under the initiative of BARACA Men's Drop-in Center and on September 24, 2022, seminar was held to reduce drug demand and harm, treatment and rehabilitation of society under BARACA-SDDDB project.

Caritas Bangladesh implements a project titled Economic Reintegration of drug recoveries in Bangladesh (BERDR).

The objective of the project is improvement of livelihood and living standard of the drug recoveries (past addicts) and their families and communities. In the financial year 2021-2022, most of the activities have



Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan addressed as chief guest in the anti-drug discussion meeting organized by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) on International Recovery day, 2022.

been performed and percentage rate of 82 % to 102%. The project achieved 100% of maximum target. But social groups' meetings achieved only 82%. Under the project, 46 clients have been referred to Rehab centers for better treatment with minimal cost, provided small financial assistance to 65 (female: 33) recoveries clients for income- generating activities (IGA), detected 10,858

drug users (female 5,280) through 39 different hot spots and 36 link points and outreach, 1,799 drug users (female 743) have been enlisted in three DICs under the SMILE project in Chattogram, 203 drug users (female 108) which is 11.28% have been recovered and among them 117 (female 63) have been mainstreamed, 37% of clients (4,040 clients) have received DICs services



Honourable Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control (In-charge) Mr. Md. Azizul Islam addressed as chief guest in the anti-drug discussion meeting organized by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 2022.



Anti-drug discussion meeting with the Family members of the drug addicts.



Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) provided Memento to the Honourable Director General of Department of Narcotics Control (In-charge) Mr. Md. Azizul Islam on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 2022.

(food, treatment, showering, cloth washing, etc.) 19,796 times, 57 female clients received handicraft & sewing training, 479 clients (female 301) referred to different service providers (GO & NGOs clinic/hospitals), arrangement of job placement for 08 (female:3) recovery clients, 200 clients (female 160) referred to different service providers (GO & NGOs clinic/hospitals), visiting 63 families of recoveries to provide backup support and prevent relapse, provided small financial assistance to 33 (female: 17) recoveries clients for income generating activities (IGA) etc for economic integration of drug recoveries. The project has built good relationship and strong linkage with the GO-NGO service providers to refer and help the beneficiaries receive support services. The community involvements in project activities, DIC management, school campaigns, etc. are very effective methods to raise mass awareness. The project has brought greater change among the communities and they are gradually becoming united to protect their children from drugs.



Youth Against Drugs School & College Based Awareness Program on Drug Use Organized by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM)

Caritas Chattogram also observed the 26th June, the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 2022 with befitting manner in collaboration with Department of Narcotics Control, Chattogram.

As a result of drug abuse and illegal trafficking, the bondage of social environment is being weakened. Due to the increase in drug abuse, the overall development activities including public health, economy, education system, law and order are facing threats. As a part of the young society is addicted to drugs, they are involved in various anti-social activities; their intellectual power is being destroyed. To save the young from consuming drugs, it is necessary to ensure a drug-free environment. It is possible to build a drug addiction-free Bangladesh by building a collective movement against drugs at all levels, starting from the family, and through the implementation of the Comprehensive Action Plan.

Harm reduction

INTRODUCTION:

Harm reduction refers to policies, programmes and practices that aim to minimize negative health, social and legal impacts associated with substance abuse, drug policies and drug laws. Harm reduction focuses on positive change through working with people without judgement, coercion, discrimination, or requiring that they must have to stop using substances as a precondition of support.

Thus the primary goal of harm reduction is to save lives and protect the health of both people who use substances and their communities from HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C, mental health disorders, and chronic conditions like cancer and lung disease as well economic and social negative consequences. There are also overarching aims like preventing transmission of blood-borne or sexually transmitted infections (STIs), discouraging the use of shared needles or equipment, and decreasing the number of overdose deaths. Some of the best-known harm reduction tools include: opioid substitution therapy (OST), methadone maintenance therapy, free syringe service programs, naloxone kits and training, sterile injection or smoking equipment etc.

Other harm reduction objectives include decreasing the stigma associated with addiction, increasing education on safer substance use, encouraging protected sex, and connecting people who use substances with health and social services or support groups.

Harm reduction also comprises addiction facilities,

support groups, and medical services, including wound care, vaccinations, and COVID-19 masks. Sex education, STI testing and treatment, condoms, and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) are other critical harm reduction tools and services.

In the context of Bangladesh harm reduction interventions for People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) have been operating since 1998. Following a comprehensive approach of harm reduction (WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS, 2012), Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST), free distribution of sterile needles/syringes and condoms, peer education using information, education and communication (EC), Behavior Change Communication (BCC), HIV testing and counseling, STI management (ASP, 2016), ART for HIV positive PWID and referral for TB are all presently being deployed (Azim et al., 2008). In addition under harm reduction there are treatment facilities (inpatient and outpatient based detoxification, outpatient service), echo training to develop service provider in substance use disorder management, psycho-education for family member's and drop in centers etc. Overall harm reduction activities in Bangladesh is described below under the title of treatment facilities, echo training and opioid substitution therapy (OST) in Bangladesh.

TREATMENT FACILITIES:

Treatment service for the people suffering from substance use disorder, the Government of Bangladesh provide through Central Drug Addiction Treatment Center (CTC) in Dhaka (124 bed) and three regional treatment centers Rajshahi (25 bed), Chittagong (25



bed) and Khuina (25 bed). The bed capacity of Central Drug Addiction Treatment Center (CTC) is 124 where 90 beds for adult male, 10 beds for children and adolescents and 24 more beds for female are allocated. To establish a quality tertiary care service for substance use disorder a project to build a 13 storied treatment and rehabilitation complex at Central Drug Addiction Treatment Center (CTC) premises is on process.

In addition, the government has planned to establish six treatment and rehabilitation centers with facilities of 200 beds in 7 divisional headquarters. Furthermore, under Ministry of Health, for treatment of substance use disorder there are 30 beds in Mental hospital, Pabna and 50 beds at National Institute of Mental Health, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Besides, the services provided by the government, there are NGO's and private treatment services for the people with substance use disorder. Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh, issued 21 new licenses for private treatment centers in between January to

December 2022. In total there are 354 private drug addiction treatment centers are working on various aspects of harm reduction in Bangladesh.

To enhance treatment quality and increase capacity of non-government treatment and rehabilitation center and NGO's in 2019. Government donation rules for non-government treatment and rehabilitation center was approved by the ministry of state. In 2022, the Department of Narcotics Control distributed BDT 150,00,000 (1.5 crore) among 40 non-government treatment and rehabilitation center.

Patterns and trends of substance use in a tertiary care treatment facility under department of Narcotics control, Bangladesh

Socio demographic data obtained from Central Drug Addiction Treatment Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh from 2017 to 2022 on admitted patients was analyzed and presented below:

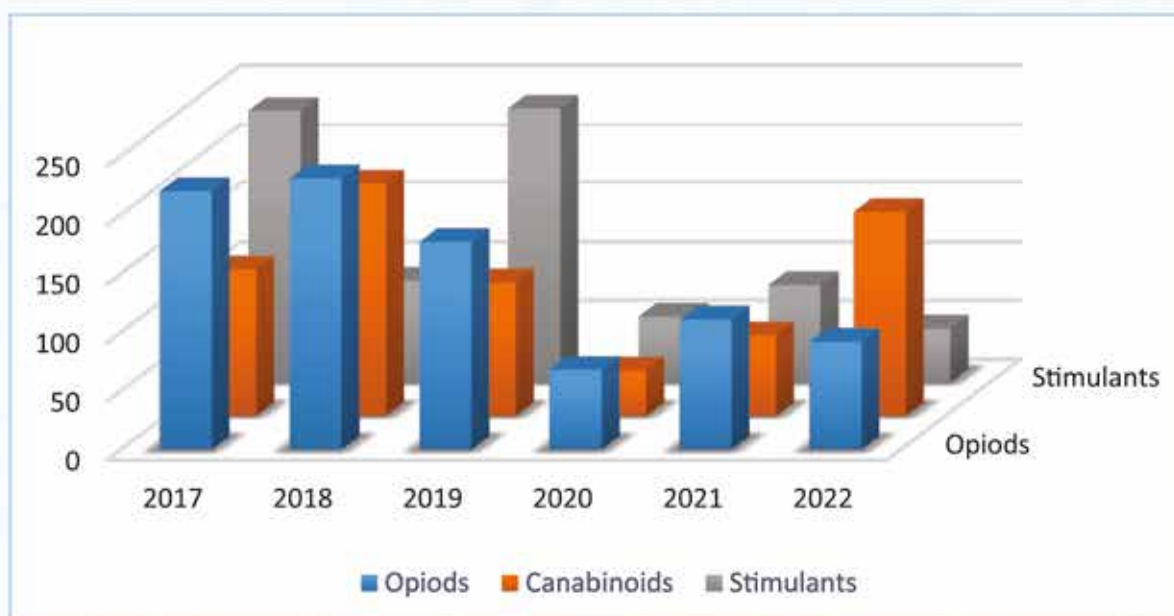


Figure I : Three main substances used patients admitted in central drug addiction treatment center, Dhaka, Bangladesh from 2017 to 2022.

The above mentioned figure shows that cannabis used was the highest followed by opiods in 2022. The users of stimulants used by patients decreased in 2022 than the previous year whereas the number of cannabis uers had a steady rise in 2022 in comparison to 2021. On the other hand, the users of opiods slightly decreased in 2022 compared to 2021.

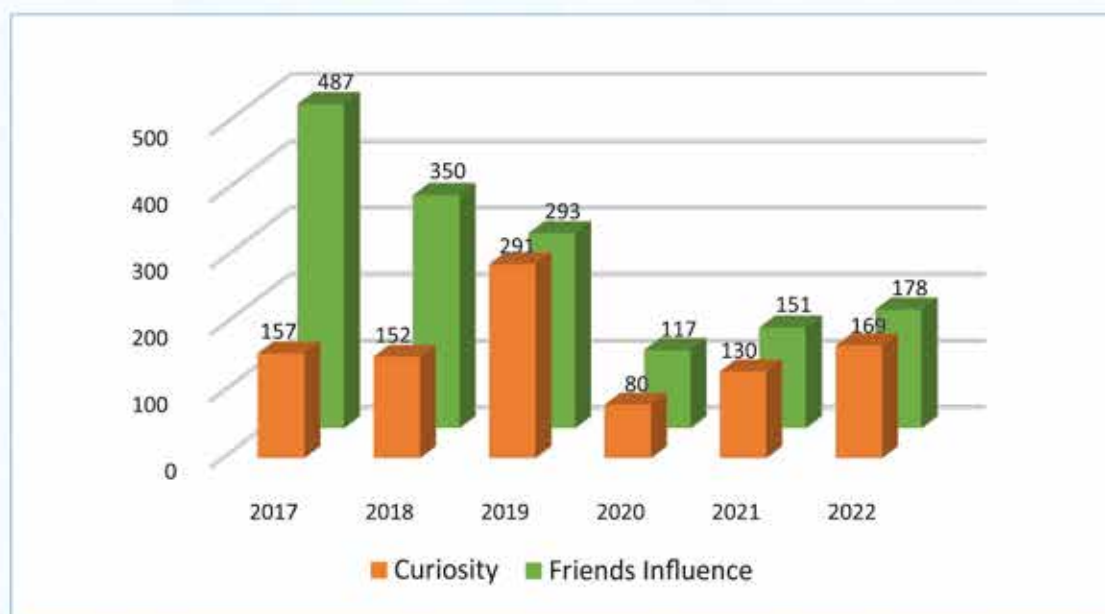


Figure II : Distribution of patients by most frequent primary reason for substance use from 2017 to 2022.

The above figure shows that between the two leading causes for substances used, the friends influence is all time higher than curiosity. So guardians should put alert for the selection of friends of their children. Parents need to keep vigilance about their children movement- to whom, where and how they pass their time with their friends.

Table-I: Distribution of patients by age group in central drug addiction treatment center, Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2022

Age (Years)	Number of Patients (%)				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Up to 15	17 (3.39%)	26 (4.44%)	9(4.57%)	6 (2.18%)	24 (6.94%)
16-20	113(22.51%)	134 (22.70%)	134 (17.26%)	35 (12.73%)	58 (16.76%)
21-25	100 (19.92%)	98 (16.72%)	51(25.89%)	60 (21.82%)	71 (20.52%)
26-30	93 (18.53%)	125 (21.16%)	34(17.26%)	62 (22.55%)	53 (15.32%)
31-35	83 (16.53%)	72 (12.29%)	30(15.23%)	44 (16.00%)	49 (14.16%)
36-40	44 (8.77%)	66 (11.26%)	17 (8.63%)	38 (13.82%)	39 (11.27%)
41-45	23 (4.58%)	24 (4.10%)	6 (3.05%)	16 (5.82%)	29 (8.38%)
46-50	19 (3.78%)	30 (5.12%)	12 (6.09%)	10 (3.64%)	10 (2.89%)
51>	8 (1.23%)	10 (1.99%)	13 (2.22%)	4 (1.45%)	13 (3.76%)
Total	795(100%)	502 (100%)	206 (100%)	275 (100%)	346(100%)

Table I shows that 16-45 year age group includes most of the sample where 21-25 year age group shares highest in 2022.

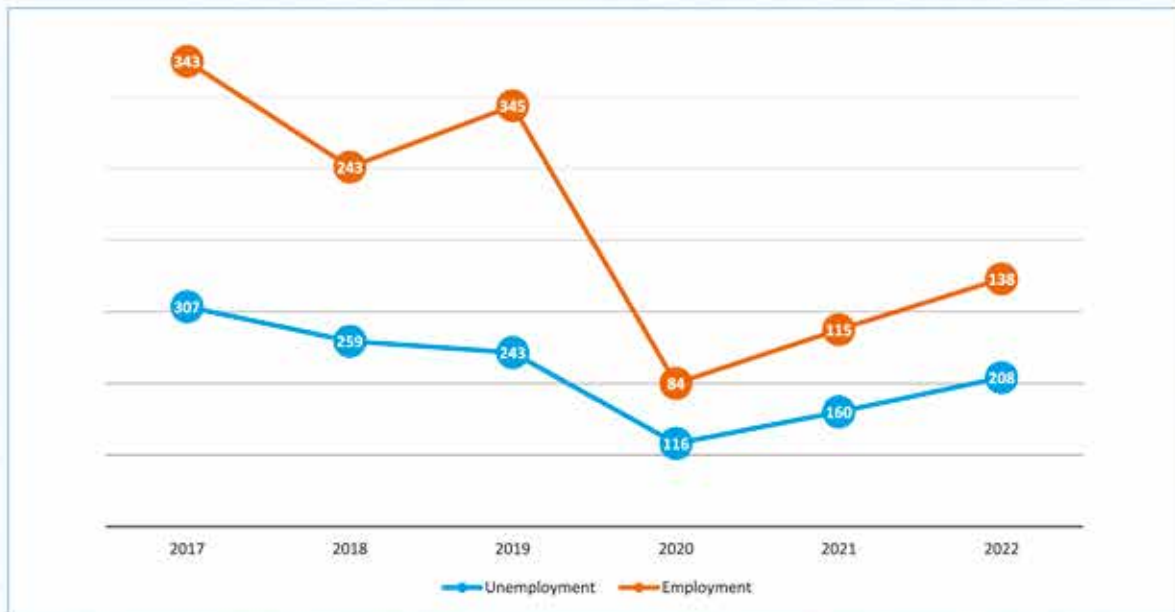


Figure III: Patients by Occupation among patients admitted in central drug addiction treatment center, Dhaka, Bangladesh from 2017 to 2022.

Figure –III shows that among the respondent unemployment was higher than employment in 2022, which was nearly same as 2021.

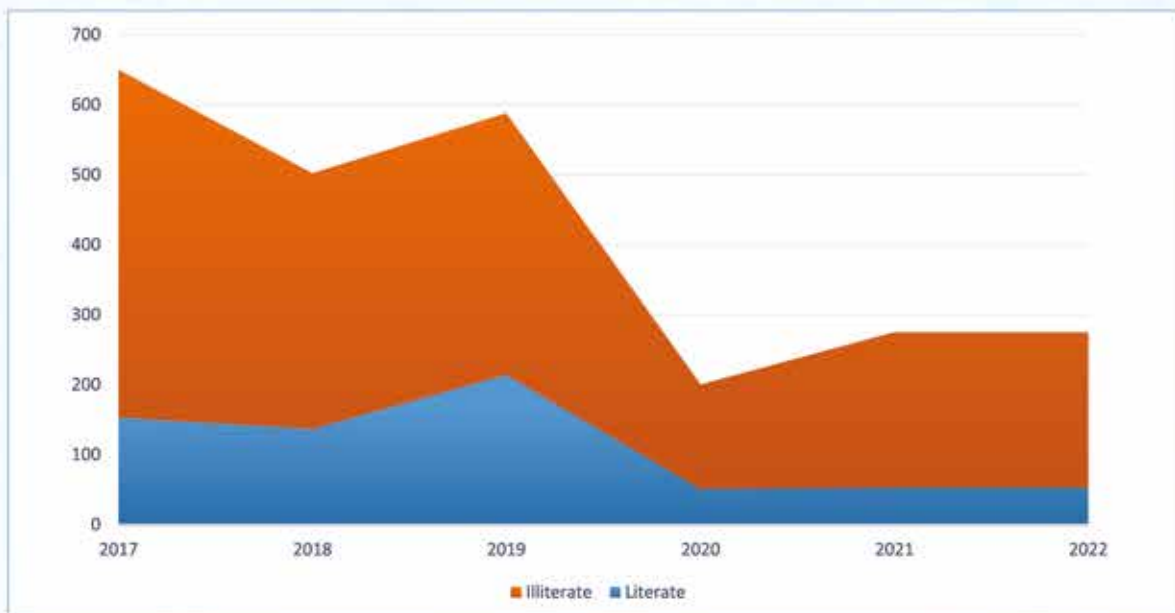


Figure-IV: Distribution of Patients by literacy among patients admitted in central drug addiction treatment center, Dhaka, Bangladesh from 2017 to 2022.

Figure-IV shows literacy status of the patients. It represents that most of substance use disorder patients were illiterate.

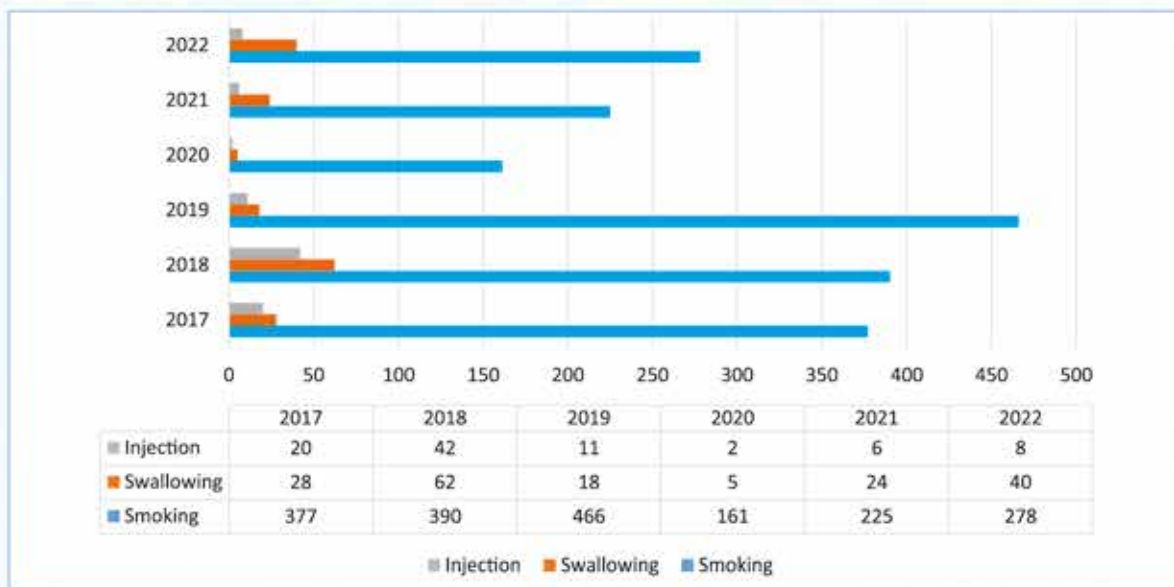


Figure-V: Distribution of Patients by Route of Administration of substances from 2017 to 2022.

Figure-V shows Route of Administration of substances in Bangladesh. It represents that smoking is the most common route of drug administration followed by swallowing and then nasal route.

ECHO TRAINING:

Central Drug Addiction Treatment Centre supported by Department of Narcotic Control, Bangladesh conducted 3 (three) echo training

programme on universal treatment curriculum in 2022. 100 participants from different background (psychiatrist, doctor, clinical psychologist, psychologist, nurse, recovering addict, clinic owner, etc.) were trained on the above-mentioned curricula.



Director General of DNC Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan addressed to the participants in the 56th UTC training programme inaugural session held on 25 September- 06 October, 2022 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



PSYCHO EDUCATION FOR FAMILY MEMBERS:

In the treatment and rehabilitation programme of substance use disorder, role of family is relatively unique in comparison to other psychiatric disorder. Family groups can be very challenging but also immensely powerful and effective. Counselling programme for the family members of patients has been taken by the Central Drug Addiction Treatment Center (CTC) to train them about their co-dependent behaviour, expected role and way to help the patients to prevent relapse. These psycho education sessions conducted according to a semi structured outline to achieve and maintain recovery for both patient and their caregiver, delivered as 4 week programme where anyone who missed a session could catch up if he/she just joined the missed session which will be repeated on next month. Each session conducted by chief consultant, resident psychiatrist, rehabilitation officer, occupational therapist, matron (junior) with support from social welfare department. From March, 2020 due to covid-19 pandemic as several health related prohibition including special leave and not to arrange any mass gathering was declared thereby psycho education for family members was postponed, but it restarted from September, 2022.

OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY (OST) IN BANGLADESH

Among various drugs, opioid dependence is considered a substantial problem worldwide (Yin W et

al., 2015). Injecting drug use is a global phenomenon, documented in at least 158 of the world's countries and territories (Cook C et al., 2008). PWID faces some of the most severe health consequences associated with drug use. Almost 12 million people worldwide inject drugs, of whom one in eight (1.6 million) are living with HIV, and more than half (6.1 million) are living with hepatitis C (UNODC 2017).

Opioid substitution therapy (OST) is an effective, evidence-based intervention recommended by WHO and other United Nations agencies to prevent HIV transmission among opioid injectors and to treat drug dependence. It involves the administration of a long-acting opioid drug to an opioid-dependent person, usually by a non-parenteral route of administration, for the therapeutic purposes of preventing or substantially reducing the injection of illicit opioids such as heroin. Its goal is to improve the health status and psychological and social wellbeing of the opiate-dependent person.

OST refers most commonly to methadone or buprenorphine and their various forms. When methadone is used for substitution of harmful opioid, it is called Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT). OST in the treatment of opioid dependence is effective in reducing illicit opioid use and injection frequency (hence the transmission of HIV and hepatitis B and C). It also increases safe injection practices, reduces engagement in illegal introduction activities, reduces the likelihood of incarceration and increases the likelihood of employment. All these factors together mean that OST



OST clinic at Central Drug Addiction Treatment Centre under the Department of Narcotics Control, Dhaka, Bangladesh



Honourable Secretary of Security Services Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Md. Abdullah Al Masud Chowdhury spoke as the chief guest in the workshop organized to finalize the draft of "National Guidelines for the Management Substance Use Disorders (SUD)" for the treatment of drug addicts on 14 November, 2022.



Director General of DNC Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan spoke as the chairman in the workshop organized to finalize the draft of "National Guidelines for the Management Substance Use Disorders (SUDs)" for the treatment of drug addicts on 14 November, 2022.



Participants of the workshop organized to finalize the draft of "National Guidelines for the Management Substance Use Disorders (SUD)" for the treatment of drug addicts on 14 November, 2022.

stabilizes patients' lives, providing substantial benefits for patients, their families, and the broader community. In 2016, 80 countries and territories implement MMT including 15 countries in Asia.

Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) Clinics Operating in Bangladesh

OST in Bangladesh using methadone for the People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) was pioneered by icddr,b in 2010 along with the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). icddr,b has been directly implementing OST since 2010 under the supervision and monitoring of the AIDS/STD Program (ASP), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Government of Bangladesh.

The estimated number of PWID in Bangladesh is 33,067 according to the ASP size estimation study conducted in 2016. At present, approximately 3200 PWID are receiving OST services from 17 OST clinics throughout Bangladesh, operated by icddr,b, CARE Bangladesh, and APOSH. OST clinics primarily aim to provide methadone to PWID in a medically supervised condition where doctors, nurses, counsellors and consultant psychiatrists are available. In addition to

methadone provision, the clinics provided free general medical services with lab investigations and medicines, urine testing for illicit substance use (opioids, sedatives, methamphetamine), individual, group or family counselling sessions, complicated case referrals to hospitals, NGOs, etc. General medical treatment, wound infection, leg ulcers is provided by a registered physician along with medications. Also, HIV testing services (HTS) are available, and there is a system in place to refer people to care and support who are diagnosed as HIV positive, i.e. at government ART centers. Counselling officers also provide individual counselling sessions and operate weekly group discussion meetings as part of a behavior change communication strategy.

OST services during covid-19 outbreak and take home dose

As methadone needs to be taken daily, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) recommends provision of take-home dose to the OST clients during the lockdown situation as clients cannot visit the OST clinics daily. Clients were provided with take home doses, especially for those who are elderly with COPD, DM, HTN, HIV, TB; clients living far away, female clients, already taking home dose. As per UNODC guideline 7-14 days take home dose was provided.



Clients receiving methadone from a MMT clinic in Dhaka



Take home dose in a sealed graduated container

Way Forward About OST Services in Bangladesh

To estimate number of PWID in Bangladesh last size estimation study conducted nearly 6 years back in 2016 means that available data is now old and needs to be reevaluated. Also, the geographical locations of the drug users and the pattern of drug use may have changed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Considering these factors, a new size estimation of the PWID is warranted so that according to the new estimation, the OST programme can be contemplated. The coverage of existing OST programmes in Bangladesh is low in comparison with the other Asian neighbours. Scaling up and long-term sustainability of the OST programme in Bangladesh is possible which requires collective efforts of the different Ministries/Departments of the Government and the International Organizations.

Through the continuous support from DNC and ASP, the OST programme will scale up further to ensure full coverage of all the PWID in Bangladesh in the coming years and will be able to stem the spread of the deadly HIV in to the mass population.

Incorporating harm reduction in generic national health care delivery system can reduce negative effects on health and social wellbeing due to use of alcohol, other substances, and related behaviors. Accepting and understanding of substance abuse as a health issue instead of viewing as phenomena caused by individual psychological (or moral) deficiencies or legal situation, harm reduction views substance abuse collectively. Existing criminalization of the persons with substance use disorder undermines their ability to control his/her own substance use, sets the stage for collateral damages and worked as a barrier to the pathway of care as well achieve and maintain recovery.

Although till date wide continuum of services and initiatives required for effective harm reduction service unmet, certain initiatives evolving at different government and non-government level of Bangladesh which inspire us that in near future we may add more evidence based options for harm reduction and met the international standard of treatment and rehabilitation of patient with substance use disorder.

Management of Precursor Chemicals in Bangladesh

Based on the origin/source, abused substances are natural, semi-synthetic and synthetic type. Semi synthetic drugs are produced subjecting natural drugs to some chemical process. Synthetic drugs are solely produced by some chemical substances. Amphetamine Type Stimulant (ATS) the first growing abusing drugs all over the world is a popular synthetic drug.

At present one of the biggest challenges facing mankind is curbing the production of synthetic drugs, especially ATS. Precursor control is a strategy to control the production of synthetic drugs. The main challenge of precursor chemicals is that these are frequently used in the illicit production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances vis a vis has legitimate use in different industries. Precursors used in the production of drugs are sourced from legal trade channel through illegal diversion. Unless diversion, precursors are legal substance. Bangladesh follows the international guideline to control precursors. We are an active partner of multilateral precursor control initiatives of three operations like 'Operation Topaz', Operation Purple and Operation Prism designed for three precursors such as Acetic Anhydride, Potassium permanganate and Pseudo ephedrine respectively.

Drug trafficking and abuse are the evil deed of human being. The root cause of drug menace is its illegal production. According to UNODC report, Global drug trafficking is estimated to be worth about \$300 billion. If the manufacture and use of the precursor chemicals are regulated properly to prevent their

diversion for illegal use, the illegal drug production will cut down remarkably.

The unique challenges posed by the control of the precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of methamphetamine have been become a major focus of chemical control efforts as it is the most abusing drug in the world. The main precursor required for methamphetamine is ephedrine and Pseudoephedrine. Traffickers obtained them in bulk, diverted from legal channel and also extract from pharmaceutical preparations collecting from retail shops.

In Bangladesh Pseudoephedrine was used as raw material to manufacture pharmaceuticals preparations. But apprehending the diversion and abuse, any operation of pseudoephedrine like import, use, distribution of pseudoephedrine based cold medicine is prohibited and dosages form of pseudoephedrine based medicine declared illegal by the government of Bangladesh from March 2017 as a cautionary step to stop the abuse of it. The registration of all dosage forms of pseudoephedrine based medicine is declared ineffective in Bangladesh by the Director General of Drug Administration. As a result, at present permission for the import of pseudoephedrine and production of pseudoephedrine based medicine is stopped.

Diversion control initiatives of precursor chemicals in Bangladesh:

Bangladesh is not substantially a precursor chemical producing country but the closest neighbor of



a major precursor chemical producing country, India and one of the largest ATS (yaba) producing country, Myanmar. Media and intelligence reports reveal that pseudo ephedrine the precursor of methamphetamine trafficked from India to Myanmar. The geographical location of Bangladesh is in between the two largest opium producing zone the Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent. So, Bangladesh gives highest importance on the operations, movement & diversion of precursor chemicals.

The Narcotics Control Act, 2018 is the principal drug control law in Bangladesh that provides for stringent punishment for the offences of drugs and precursor chemicals, as precursors are declared A-class drugs in Bangladesh. Section 9(3) of the Narcotics Control Act, 2018 is the main tool to control and supervise the production, processing, possession, import, export, purchase, sale, transportation, and storage of precursor chemicals. If anyone does the above mentioned any activity without licenses/permit is treated as a punishable offense. After getting the application from any organization or an individual for the license/permit to import, export, processing, sale, use, storage etc, a thorough investigation is conducted by an officer of the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC). The investigator collect necessary documents about the applicants, in some cases taken clearance from the authority concern, assessed the requirement of precursors and submit a report to the authority. After analyzing the report and other documents required to get license/permit, the authority issues license/permit. The allocated annual quota of precursors is re-assessed every year, if it is required. For every import, an inspection and assessment and import clearance is required from the DNC. The imported consignments are also inspected and verified by DNC officials just after arrival and sale, processing or uses are also monitored in the same way.

In case of import of precursor chemicals, the exporting country issues Pre-Export Notification (PEN) to the Department of Narcotics Control to confirm about the authenticity of the importer pursuant to the UN Convention 1988.

Due to geographic location, in between two major drug producing zone 'The Golden Crescent and The Golden Triangle' and neighbour of one of the largest precursor producing country India, Bangladesh is vulnerable to diversion of precursor chemicals. But for

strong supervision and legal obligation not a single incident of diversion of precursors occurred.

Though the Narcotics Control Act, 2018 controls the all precursor chemicals regulated by the international community, but only eight precursors like Acetone (C_3H_6O), Toluene (C_7H_8), Acetic Anhydride ($C_4H_4O_3$), Potassium permanganate ($KMnO_4$), Ephedrine ($C_{10}H_{15}NO$), Methyl Ethyl Ketone (C_4H_8O), Hydrochloric acid (HCl), and Sulphuric acid (H_2SO_4) are imported for industrial purposes. These are mostly used in pharmaceuticals, garments, textiles, paints, plastics, adhesive, coating, dyeing, and agro-based industries.

Licenses of precursor chemicals issued from the Department of Narcotics Control as follows:

Import	Retail	Production & Processing	User	Total
122	46	42	50	260

Comparative analysis of Annual Quota & Import of precursor chemicals in Bangladesh:

Acetone (C_3H_6O):

The import of Acetone in the last 4 years is as follows:

Annual quota MT	Import MT			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
10755.32	1400.543	1072.651	1365.415	2079.67

Statistics reveals that trend of importation of acetone is increasing sharply. In 2022, both the annual quota and import of acetone increased compare to 2021. In 2022 annual quota increased 7.49% and import increased 52.31% from 2021.

Toluene (C_7H_8): Toluene is used solvent in adhesive, paint and coating industry. Import of Toluene in the last 4 years is as follows:

Annual quota MT	Import MT			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
15099.807	4818.46	4355.758	5004.505	6620.24



The import statement infers that import of toluene is in rising trend in last the three years and 32.29% increases in 2022 compare to 2021. In the same time, annual quota of toluene is increased 1447.94 MT, 10.61% higher than 2021.

Methyl Ethyl Ketone (C₄H₈O):

The import of Methyl Ethyl Ketone in the last 4 years is as follows:

Annual quota MT	Import MT			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
5754.465	1064.916	1435.462	1164.734	1822.298

Data indicates that the demand of MEK is increasing gradually increase in Bangladesh. Import of MEK is 56.46% higher in 2022 than 2021.

Potassium permanganate (KMnO₄):

The import of Potassium permanganate in the last 4 years is as follows:

Annual quota MT	Import MT			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
3957.25	797	2715.005	1191.432	1532.8

The above statistics shows that the import of potassium permanganate decreased 43.54% in 2022 from 2020 whereas 28.66% higher than 2021.

Ephedrine (C₁₀H₁₅NO):

Ephedrine is a raw material of cough suppressing medicines and cold medicine. At present import of ephedrine is discouraged by apprehending misuse of it.

The import of ephedrine hydrochloride in the last 4 years is as follows:

Annual quota kg	Import kg			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
100	99	70	--	--

Over the last two years, no import permission of ephedrine was issued from the Department of Narcotics Control, the appropriate authority to control the import and export of precursor chemicals in Bangladesh.

Acetic Anhydride (C₄H₄O₃): Import of Acetic Anhydride in the last 4 years is as follows:

Annual quota MT	Import MT			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
4428.75	2124	3194.996	2791.035	2535.75

Above mentioned statistics indicates that the import of Acetic Anhydride is in descending trend from 2020 to 2022. In 2022 it is dropped 9.14% from 2021.

Due to strong correlation among the precursors and drugs, there is a slogan in the drug control regime is that " No chemical, no drugs". So, to save the mankind from the curse of drugs, it is necessary to regulate the manufacture and diversion of precursor chemicals and also to ensure the flow of precursor chemicals for legitimate use in the industrial sectors.

References:

1. Department of Narcotics Control
2. Precursor Control Training manual.

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

Bangladesh, like many other countries, has been affected by the use of new psychoactive substances (NPS). Bangladesh has reported the seizure of several NPS, including synthetic cannabinoids, cathinones, and benzodiazepines. The DNC has increased its efforts to prevent the import and distribution of NPS and has conducted awareness campaigns to educate the public about the dangers of these substances. Additionally, the government has enacted laws to criminalize the production, sale, and use of NPS, and has worked with international partners to combat the global trade of these substances.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), NPS are defined as the substances which are not controlled by the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs or the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, but which may pose a public health threat. Although several NPS were initially synthesized decades ago, the phrase "new" refers to chemicals that have only recently become commercially available. It does not necessarily refer to new inventions. As per UNODC Early Warning Advisory (EWA) system, the main eleven substance groups of NPS are as follows:



According to the report of the UNODC NPS have spreaded over 134 countries and territories in the world. More than 1,124 substances have been reported to the UNODC Early Warning Advisory (EWA) on NPS by Governments, laboratories, and partner organization.

As per UNODC Early Warning Advisory (EWA) system, the main eleven substance groups of NPS are as follows:

(1) Aminoindanes

The aminoindanes show bronchodilating and analgesic properties. They have both ambivalent characters as the empathogenic and entactogenic effects, such as MDMA compounds have been marketed as NPS.

(2) Synthetic cannabinoids

Synthetic cannabinoids substances usually consisted of plant mixtures with little psychoactive effects. Since 2004, however, the composition of these herbal products seems to have substantially changed to include potent new psychoactive compounds known as synthetic cannabinoids

(3) Synthetic cathinones

Synthetic cathinones are β -keto phenethylamines and chemically similar to amphetamine and methamphetamine. Cathinone, the principal active ingredient in the leaves of the khat plant. For the first time plant-based NPS Khat was detected in Bangladesh in 2018.

(4) Phencyclidine-type substances

Phencyclidine-type substances show structural similarity to phencyclidine (PCP) and ketamine and are classified as arylcyclohexylamines. PCP was first synthesized in the 1950s.

(5) Phenethylamines

Phenethylamines have psychoactive and stimulant effects and include amphetamine, methamphetamine and MDMA, all of which are controlled under the 1971 Convention. Phenethylamine, an organic substance, was seized in 2020 in Chattogram.

(6) Piperazines

Since some piperazines had been considered by pharmaceutical corporations as potential medicinal agents but were never released on the market, they have been referred to as "failed pharmaceuticals." Although other piperazine compounds have also been identified, 1-benzylpiperazine (BZP) is one piperazine that has been frequently utilized as NPS.

(7) Plant-based substances

The khat shrub (*Catha edulis*), a member of the Celastraceae family, is a native of the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa. Khat chewing is a common social practice in the local populations. The psychoactive effects resulting from the release of cathinone and cathine alkaloids after chewing of khat are well-documented.

(8) Tryptamines

Tryptamine and its derivatives that have been reported as NPS are indolealkylamine molecules. The majority of naturally occurring tryptamines are psychedelic hallucinogens found in plants, fungi, and animals, while some of them are neurotransmitters.

(9) Benzodiazepines

A benzene ring and a diazepine ring combine to form the molecular core of benzodiazepines, a class of psychotropic medicines. As depressants—drugs which lower brain activity—they are prescribed to treat conditions such as anxiety, insomnia, and seizures.

(10) Fentanyl analogues

Fentanyl is a very strong synthetic narcotic primarily used to ease the suffering of patients with chronic pain and palliative care. Since the 1990s, the drug has been used as analgesic medicines. The drug is 50-100 times more potent than morphin.

(11) Other substances

NPS substances in this category are structurally diverse and do not fit into the categories mentioned above for example, 1,3-dimethylamylamine (DMAA). These substances have a variety of pharmacological effects, including: Traditional hallucinogens



(psychedelics), which mediate certain serotonin-receptor actions and cause hallucinations.

The use of NPS is often linked to health problems. In general, side effects of NPS range from seizures to agitation, aggression, acute psychosis as well as potential development of dependence. NPS users have frequently been hospitalized with severe intoxications. Safety data on toxicity and carcinogenic potential of many NPS are not available or very limited, and information on long-term adverse effects or risks are still largely unknown. Purity and composition of products containing NPS are often not known, which places users at high risk as evidenced by hospital emergency admissions and deaths associated with NPS, often including cases of poly-substance use.

The substances controlled under the international drug conventions produce psychoactive effects through a handful of pharmacological mechanisms. These include

- interactions with opioid receptor and inhibitory neurotransmitters;
- activation of the cannabinoid receptor type 1 (CB1);
- action of the neurotransmitter gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) at the GABAA receptor to produce, for example, sedative, hypnotic and anxiolytic effects;
- modulation of the levels and actions of the monoamine neurotransmitters dopamine, epinephrine and serotonin;
- action as an N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonist;
- action which mediates specific serotonin receptor activities.

Based upon the effects, the majority of new psychoactive substances can be divided into six main groups, as follows:

1. Stimulants: Substances act on central nervous system and stimulates the CNS by mediating the actions of dopamine, norepinephrine and serotonin, resulting in a range of effects. As for example phenethylamines, cathinones, aminoindanes and piperazines. Moreover Substances mimic the effects of traditional drugs such as cocaine, amphetamine, methamphetamine and ecstasy also are the stimulants.

2. Synthetic opioids: A chemically diverse group of substances like fentanyls, derivatives of opiates which are central nervous system depressants. They bear structural features that allow binding to specific opioid receptors, resulting in morphine-like effects e.g. analgesia.

3. Synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists: These substances bear structural features that allow binding to one of the known cannabinoid receptors and produce effects similar to those of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the only known psychoactive component in cannabis.

4. Dissociative: These substances form a class of hallucinogens which modulate effects at the N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor in the brain and produce feelings of detachment and dissociation from self and the environment. Substances in this group include the controlled substance phencyclidine (PCP) and ketamine.

5. Classic hallucinogens: A chemically diverse group of substances like ring-substituted phenethyl amines, tryptamines and lysergamides which mediate specific serotonin-receptor activities and produces hallucinations. Substances in these groups mimic the effects of traditional drugs such as 2C-B, LSD and DMT but may also possess residual stimulant activity.

6. Sedatives/Hypnotics: Substances in this group are central nervous system depressants, with actions derived from their activation of receptors in the GABA receptor complex in the brain. They mimic the effects of substances under international control such as the benzodiazepines diazepam and alprazolam.

The use and abuse of NPS have rapidly expanded globally in the last decade. Bangladesh has not been an exception, and the country has seen the emergence of NPS abuse since 2018.

The government of Bangladesh has taken a proactive approach to tackle the growing problem of NPS abuse. The authorities have implemented a complete action plan in accordance with guidelines, which has resulted in the seizure of various NPS substances. For instance, in 2018, the country's law enforcement agencies seized 4.5 metric tons of plant-based NPS Khat at Dhaka and Chattogram airports. In 2019, a considerable amount of LSD and MDMA were seized. In 2021, psilocybin mushrooms were seized.



More recently, in 2022, DOB and Kratom plants were also seized. These seizures demonstrate the government's commitment to tackling the NPS problem in the country.

The Department of Narcotic Control in Bangladesh has collaborated with various stakeholders, including drug pharmacists, physicians, and other national and international authorities, to monitor and regulate the overall situation. The capacity of law enforcement agencies and transportation employees has also expanded to prevent any attempt to penetrate NPS. The use and promotion of locally made tapentadol HCl,

which is similar to ATS, are also regulated.

The growing problem of NPS abuse in Bangladesh is a cause for concern, and the government has taken steps to address this issue. The implementation of a complete action plan, increased monitoring and regulation, and collaboration with stakeholders have resulted in successful seizures of various NPS substances. However, continued efforts are required to prevent the abuse of NPS in the country. It is essential to raise awareness and educate the public about the dangers of NPS abuse and the importance of adhering to regulations related to controlled drugs.

Forensic Analysis of Drugs in Chemical (Forensic) Laboratory



Forensic drug analysis represents a number of related disciplines aimed to assist for detection and interpretation of drugs/ poisons for medico-legal purposes. The need for forensic drug analysis is not only restricted for coronial work; it can also be used to determine the existence of drugs in hospitalized patients as well as seized drugs by the law enforcement authorities. Drugs facilitate crimes like accident during driving through poisoning or sedation. Drugs are also used to boost up the performance in human (i.e. drugs in sport). Forensic laboratories must have the necessary instruments, accreditation and sufficient number of expertise manpower who are able to conduct systematic analysis of drug.

Central chemical Laboratory, Dhaka a premier forensic institution in Bangladesh was established 3rd July 2001 in order to comply the provision of section 50 of the Narcotics Control Act, 1990 & also the section 62 of the newly enacted Narcotics Control Act, 2018. The location of the said laboratory is at 174, Distillery Road, Gandaria, Dhaka-1204. Narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances in Bangladesh is controlled under the Narcotics Control Act, 2018. The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) is the leading agency is mandated to deal with drugs related issues in Bangladesh. Besides, the DNC; Bangladesh police, Rapid Action Battalion, Bangladesh coast Guard, Border Guard Bangladesh and Bangladesh Customs have been empowered to execute the drug laws enforcement activities. The task of combating drug trafficking is complex and sophisticated because of it has association with other crimes like corruption, tax evasion, money

laundering, violence, extortion, terrorism etc. The laboratory undertakes scientific examination of the seized goods involves with drugs related crime forwarded by the different Courts. It is the specialized and designated laboratory for analyzing narcotics drugs, psychotropic substance and precursor chemical as well as controlled pharmaceutical drugs in Bangladesh. Increasing abuse of pharmaceutical drugs, containing controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (here in after referred as NDPS) is becoming a public health issue in South Asia. Abuse of Pharmaceutical drugs is increasing among drug users in the region. The abuse of certain prescription drugs like opioids, depresses the central nervous system (CNS), and stimulants—can lead to various harms associated with its abuse. So, it is very much essential to invest more resources to unearth the nature and extent of this issue, in order to formulate the appropriate future policy related to pharmaceutical drug control measures and find out the reasons for changing the trend.

The Central Chemical Laboratory maintains all records of requests for analysis and the particular items of evidence sending by the requesting agencies. One laboratory assistant is dedicated to receive the evidences sending by the authority concerned for testing and numbering the evidences (ID number) and preserved it along with all papers order of court/request letter.

As per provision of the Narcotics Control Act, 2018, any chemical required to test in connection with any provision of narcotics control Act, 2018 is to be done in this laboratory and the report of this laboratory may be



used as evidence in any proceeding in any Court in Bangladesh. This laboratory mainly performs the chemical test of the all drugs seized by any law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh. Moreover, it also tests the raw materials used in chemical industries or pharmaceutical industries for compliance of any provision of this act.

Both qualitative & quantitative analysis can be done in this laboratory though it is facing some difficulties.



Figure 1: Sample of Crystal Meth in the Forensic Laboratory of DNC.

At present Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) in the form of tablet called Yaba and crystal meth (Ice) create a great problem for Bangladesh. The young force is the victim of it. Data from law enforcement agencies, indicates drug cartels are manufacturing large quantities of methamphetamine in nondescript towns and villages in Myanmar. Methamphetamine is the most widely abused synthetic drug produced in Myanmar. It is used across all genders, ages, and socio-economic levels. Amphetamine Types Stimulants (ATS) has high rate of addiction, low rate of sustained recovery, and is relatively inexpensive to manufacture. Commonly abused synthetic drug, 'Yaba' (illegally manufactured pills containing methamphetamine) is our major concern. Young people are displaying a preference for these types of drugs because rather than sedative users; they have strong social dis-inhibitive and energy releasing components.

The Central Chemical Laboratory also examines the drugs and raw materials of any distillery and also the raw materials of chemical industries or pharmaceuticals industries, licensed under the NCA, 2018 for compliance of any provision of this Act.

Statistics of Chemical analysis of all agencies in 2022

Serial No.	Name of the Month	Positive Report	Negative Report	Total Report
1.	January	1912	-	1912
2.	February	1913	-	1913
3.	March	2151	-	2151
4.	April	1917	-	1917
5.	May	1695	-	1695
6.	June	2006	-	2006
7.	July	1762	-	1762
8.	August	2204	-	2204
9.	September	2257	-	2257
10.	October	2482	-	2482
11.	November	2052	-	2052
12.	December	1751	-	1751
	Total	24102	-	24102

After receiving the samples of seized substances, Chemical Examiners keep those evidences in their own locker till date of conducting the analyses. Completing the analysis examiners submit their analysis reports to the Chief Chemical Examiner. Having ended the analysis, the rest of the samples are preserved and subsequently

disposed by following the government rules. All records of the chain of custody have been documented in black and white. The number of evidences conducted analysis in this laboratory is increasing every year but manpower is not increasing accordingly.

Agency wise Chemical analysis from 2018 to 2022 by Forensic Lab.

Division of DNC & Others	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	+Ve	-Ve	+Ve	-Ve	+Ve	-Ve	+Ve	-Ve	+Ve	-Ve
Dhaka Division	6798	00	2998	00	2051	00	2351	00	4289	00
Khulna Division	3305		1528		908		908		1288	
Rajshahi Division	2115		1861		1105		1105		1918	
Chattogram Division	2685		2191		1929		2070		2455	
Barisal Division	1338		108		419		419		537	
Rangpur Division	1133		200		850		850		1556	
Sylhet Division	1027		116		595		595		791	
Mymensing Division	1089		113		287		287		517	
Bangladesh Police	31022		7361		8361		10132			
Others	933		243		425		625		619	
Total	51445	00	37322	00	15930	00	17571	00	24102	00

By the courtesy of UNODC, Central Chemical laboratory procures and distributes Drug Detection kits and precursor detection kits to the drug law enforcement agencies across the country. These kits are user friendly and description of the procedure of testing of suspected materials 'on the spot' is written in native language so that even, non-technical drug law enforcement officials can use it easily during conducting anti-drug operations. The government of Bangladesh

has established four chemical laboratories in the division level including Chattogram, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Barisal. The laboratories are enriched with advanced and sophisticated equipment. Among the chemical laboratories mentioned above, Chattogram chemical laboratory is functioning from October, 2022. Other three laboratories are going to be started their testing activities within very soon.



Enhancement of Capacity Building of the Department of Narcotics Control



Narco-crime is increased globally as drug traffickers are using sophisticated equipment and tool to avoid law enforcement's vigilance to make hassle-free shipment of illegal drugs from source to destination. To control the drug situation prevailed in Bangladesh, it is urgent to provide advanced level training to the DNC personnel, to set up specialized wings with well-trained officials, to establish infrastructure with vehicle and equipments etc;

a) Training:

To curb and dismantle the drug traffickers stronghold, it is indispensable to furnish tech-based advanced training facilities for drug law enforcement officials including DNC personnel. For this purpose, it requires advanced training complex with updated facilities. Providing necessary investigative logistics and setting up a yearly calendar with programme contents and curriculum. These are:

i) Basic Narcotics Training Course focus on drug identification, types of informants, operational planning, Conducting drives, search, seizure, arrest, investigation, execution of warrant, and so on. It also includes Training on Tactical Drug Operations,

ii) Safety and Planning, Narcotics Crime Operations Practices, Effective Techniques of conducting operations and making search, & Drug Trends and Patterns, Interview, Interrogation iii) Techniques and Statement Analysis, Basic Counseling Skills and Substance Abuse Interventions, Precursor Chemical Control, Narcotic Drugs (Pethidine, morphine, fentanyl etc.).

Foundation Training and Basic Law Training cover the legal instruments like:

Narcotics Control Act, 2018 and rules made under this Act

The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1898

The Penal Code, 1860

The Evidence Act, 1872

The Children Act, 2013

The Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012

Laws related to land and Financial Laws and regulations (PPA-2206, PPR2008, e-GP, Delegation of Financial power etc. for officers);

Advanced anti-narcotic trainings focus on drug cartels, money laundering prevention, counter illicit financial flows, complex conspiracy investigations, and Training on Cyber Crime, Digital Forensics, Dark Web, Deep Web and Cyber Incident Response; Forensic Science, Drug and Medicinal Chemistry and Crime Scene Investigation; Prevention of Commercial Fraud, Money Laundering & Cryptocurrencies; 4IR, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics.

This training course will be designed with need-based module to transfer knowledge among DNC officers how to identify, target, infiltrate, and prosecute drug organizations that go undetected.



b) Manpower:

To face the emerging challenges of narco-crimes, specialized wings to be set up with well-trained manpower.

Separate office in all metropolitan area; Strong Research wing for extensive research on narcotics and related issues; International Wing, Cyber Crime Wing, Money laundering Wing; Strong Intelligence Wing (with proper training and equipment), Telecom Unit etc. Inclusion of more manpower (Director, Additional Director & other enforcement employees) also needed to strengthen the capacity of DNC officials.

c) Infrastructure and Communication:

Infrastructure development is the key to achieve the vision of DNC. It is, therefore, urgently needed to establish infrastructure, vehicle and equipment like: Training Academy, Forensic Labs with modern equipment, Government Drug Addiction Treatment Centre in all Division and most of the populous Districts, Dope Testing Laboratory in all districts, Drug Testing Laboratory in all divisions and greater districts, Own Office Building for all offices, Drug Museum, Library etc.

It is also needful to increase logistics support for DNC like: 2 or more double cabin pick up for every district office to conduct raid, search and seizure, vans for promotional activities, wireless set for enforcement

personnel and ambulances for all treatment centers to fight against drug menace effectively.

d) Modern Equipment for Combating Drugs:

Advanced Technology and sophisticated equipments are part and parcel to address the challenges evolved from drug related offences. To combat the challenges, we have taken a project which is under process to equip our hands by getting following items:

- High-tech scanner for drug scanning (For all sea, air and land port)
- Hand Held Drug detector
- Mobile Tracker (Local)
- Metal Detector
- Mobile Phone Jammer
- Fire- Arms
- Modern Drug Detecting Equipment's for Drug Testing Laboratory
- Bullet Proof Jacket and
- Helmet for all enforcement employees.

DNC desires to play its role with very success in the days to come by materializing the development activities taken in hands. It will be very possible to make drug-free Bangladesh, by putting our whole hearted efforts together.

National and International Coordination

National Coordination:

Pursuant to the section 68 of the Narcotics Control Act, 2018, four highly authoritative committees were formed to fulfill the purpose of this act which is to control drug trafficking and drug abuse as well as to

make awareness regarding adverse effects of drug among the mass people all over the country. The Committees are –

1. The National Narcotics Advisory Committee;
2. The National Anti-drug Committee;



Honourable Secretary, Security Services Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Md. Abdullah Al Masud Chowdhury paid a visit in the Department of Narcotics Control and received memento from Director General, Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Buiyan



Honourable Secretary, Security Services Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Md. Abdullah Al Masud Chowdhury addressed to the high officials of the Department of Narcotics Control.

3. The District Narcotics Control and Publicity Committee;
4. The Upazilla Narcotics Control and Publicity Committee

With the help of these committees, the DNC as nodal agency as well as coordinating body has been working impeccably along with ministries, other law enforcement agencies, government and non-government offices to combat against drug trafficking and substance use. We are working together coordinately to achieve the same goals to root out this drug menace from our society as well as from our country. Keeping this spirit in mind, the DNC has been called upon and sitting a half yearly and yearly meeting with the above mentioned committees since the Act in force to save our golden young generation from the drug aggression across the country. The DNC's all officials are always dedicated to implement of these committee's directions.

The National Narcotics Control Advisory Committee:

The committee consists of 23 members, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs is the chairman and Director General; Department of Narcotics Control is working as the member secretary of this committee. This committee provides advices to formulate anti-drug plan.

The National Anti-drug Committee:

This committee comprises of 51 members, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs and Honorable Chairman of the Parliamentary standing committee on Ministry of Home Affairs are the advisors of the committee. Secretary, Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs is the Chairperson and Director General, Department of Narcotics Control is the member secretary of the committee. Representatives from different Ministries, law enforcement officials and members of the civil society are the members of the



Honourable Secretary, Security Services Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Md. Abdullah Al Masud Chowdhury gave instructions to the high officials of the Department of Narcotics Control.

committee. This committee sits together two times in a year to evaluate drug abuse situation, prevention and anti-drug awareness campaign.

The District Narcotics Control and Publicity Committee:

This committee constitutes of 34 members including public representatives, government officials, NGO's representatives and member of civil society headed by the Deputy Commissioner. Honorable Members of the Parliament and Chairman of Zilla Parishad are the advisors of the committee. Deputy Director of the Department of Narcotics Control is the member Secretary of the Committee. This Committee co-ordinates anti-drug activities and evaluates the overall narcotics control scenario of district in every month.

Upazilla Narcotics Control and Publicity Committee:

This committee constitutes of 22 members. Upazilla

committee has formed headed by Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO). The Honorable Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Upazilla Parishad are the advisors of the committee. Upazilla's Secondary Education Officer is the member secretary of this committee. Head of educational institutions, religious leader, public representatives from Union parishad and municipality and journalist are the members of the committee. This Committee undertakes and implements drug abuse prevention and anti-drug awareness activities in upazilla level.

International Coordination for Countering Drug Menace

Bangladesh shares 4156 km borders with India and 208 km land border and 621 km water boundary border with Myanmar. Illicit drugs are penetrated into our country from our two neighboring countries India and Myanmar. At present our major concern is Amphetamine Type Stimulates (ATS), commonly known as YABA which is sourced from Myanmar. Beside this, Codeine (Phensedyl), Cannabis, Heroine and Synthetic Opioid (commonly known as injecting drugs) are



The delegation members of Bangladesh side in the 5th Bilateral Meeting (Virtual) between DNC, Bangladesh & CCDAC, Myanmar held in 15 September, 2022

trafficked into Bangladesh from India. It is quite pertinent to mention that geographically Bangladesh is situated between two active drug producing belts; the "Golden Crescent" and "Golden Triangle" that poses drug vulnerabilities in our soil. As drug trafficking is a global problem, international communities are trying to resolve it. Various international bodies like: Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC), Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), Colombo Plan, The Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) etc are interdicting drug dealings. Under such circumstances Bangladesh maintains international connectivity to gear up anti-drug activities.

International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)

The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) was born by the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954. Bangladesh persuades the principles and guidelines framed by INCB. INCB fixed quota of precursor chemicals and prescribed drugs used for

medication. The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) the leading agency to deal with narcotics related matters allocate the requirement of narcotics drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals yearly. INCB alerts DNC time to time and DNC take necessary actions. DNC complies the various instructions made by INCB to boost up anti-drug drives.

Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), India

NCB is the Nodal Narcotics Control body of India. Drug problem is common problem for both Bangladesh and India. Bangladesh shares 4156 km land border with India. Using the long porous land border, Cannabis, Heroin, Codeine (Phensedyl) and Injecting drugs are trafficked into Bangladesh from India. In 2006 Bangladesh and India made an agreement on countering Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. 7 bilateral meetings between DNC and NCB were held after the signing of the agreement. The Latest bilateral meeting was held virtually on 27 October 2021. Our friendly neighbor India showed positive gesture in curbing drug trafficking.



Honourable the then Japanese Ambassador H.E. Ito Naoki, Mr Joshua Arteta Gonzalez, Associate Programme Officer, GMCP UNODC met with Director General of DNC Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan on 09 October, 2022

Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), Myanmar

Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) is the Narcotics Control Organization of Myanmar. Bangladesh is sharing a long land and water boundary with Myanmar. At present our major concern is Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) are coming in the form of tablet and crystal (ice). In each year huge quantity of YABA is seized by the law enforcing agencies. YABA is trafficked into Bangladesh from Myanmar. A

bilateral agreement was signed between Bangladesh and Myanmar in 1994 to address the drug related issues. Since then 5 bilateral meetings between DNC, Bangladesh and CCDAC, Myanmar were held. During every meeting DNC raised the existing drug problems of the country and Myanmar side heard those issues passionately. They promise a bunch of decision but result is not the same/accordingly. THE 5th bilateral meeting (virtual) between DNC, Bangladesh and CCDAC, Myanmar held on 15 September, 2022.



Representative of UNODC met with Director General of the DNC on 09 March, 2022



A team of Royal Canadian police met with the Director General of DNC on 29 September, 2022

United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC)

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) started its journey in 1997. After its establishment it performed a variety of plays strong roles to address drug problem all over the world. Bangladesh also took some opportunities from UNODC is an active partner of Bangladesh to address to solve drug problems. UNODC extended its hand to strengthen the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), Bangladesh in the following areas:

UNODC provided established a computer lab with 10 computers sets and installed 01 server and computer accessories for conducting Computer Based Training (CBT) at DNC premises Headquarter in 2012. It provided Computer Based Training (CBT) for DNC and other law enforcement officials. More than 100 DNC and drug law enforcement personnel received Computer Based training on identification of narcotic drugs during conducting search and also, to assess risk during raids. It provided law enforcement training for 67 DNC officials in 2022. It provided 1 Fourier Transform Infrared (FT-IR) for testing drugs for forensic lab to test narcotic items. It provided 4 sea boats (speed boats) to conduct

anti-narcotic drive in maritime zone. It provided 60 kit boxes to DNC, Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Customs to test narcotic drugs. It took an initiative to establish jetty at Teknaf.

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

DEA is the Narcotics Control Authority of the USA. A Memorandum of Co-operation (MoC) was signed in 2013 between Ministry of Home Affairs and DEA. DEA provides intelligence and training facilities to DNC. With the intelligence of DEA, DNC seized some consignment of Cocaine and "KHAT" (Plant based drugs).

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional platform. This organization was founded on 6th June, 1997. Currently it has seven members (Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand). It has six Sub-Groups, one is responsible for countering drug menace in the region titled; BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor





Meeting of Director General of the DNC Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan with Ms Ekaterina Kolykhalova, Programme Manager, UNODC HQ on 29 September, 2022

Chemical. This platform convenes meeting periodically and adopt time-befitting decisions to fight against narcotic drugs and Psychotropic substances. BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemical arranged 06 Meetings in member states.

Colombo Plan

The Colombo Plan is another regional organization that began its journey on 1 July, 1951. The Colombo Plan has six permanent programmes. Drug Advisory Programme (DAP) is one of six programmes of Colombo Plan, renders its service in drug demand reduction. Colombo plan assists DNC in treatment activities. It provides International Standard Treatment Curricula for Drug Addiction Treatment Professionals named "Universal Treatment Curriculum". A good number of people were trained on this curriculum to create skilled drugs addiction treatment professionals.

The Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA)

(HONLEA) is subsidiary bodies of the Commission

on Narcotic Drugs (CND). It operates its functions regionally. HONLEA Asia and the Pacific is responsible for operating its activities in Asian Countries. It convenes meeting annually. Generally the Member States of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is a member or associate member of this initiative. In every meeting, HONLEA identifies some key areas of problems and adopts some pragmatic steps to fight drug menace robustly.

Supreme Prosecutors' Office (SPO)

The Supreme Prosecutors' Office of the Republic of Korea (SPO) is a governmental prosecutor organization in South Korea. This organization is working under the administrative control of the Ministry of Justice. SPO expended its cooperative hand in the field of technical assistance. It provided some digital equipment for DNC (Desktop, Cars, awareness van with LED screen). A project titled "I DREAM IT" launched with the help of SPO financed by KOICA to generate digital database for the DNC. Besides, Bangladesh maintains close communication with Interpol and JAICA.

Photo Gallery



Honourable Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan paid tributes to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing a wreath at his grave at Tungipara in Gopalganj on 27 August, 2022.



Honourable Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan offered prayers at the mausoleum of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Photo Gallery



Honourable Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, MP spoke as the chief guest at the check distribution ceremony of the government financial grant for improving the quality of private drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation centers.



Honourable Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, MP is distributing cheque for government financial grants for quality improvement of private drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation centers.

Photo Gallery



Honourable chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Industries Mr. Amir Hosen Amu, MP received Memento from Barisal Divisional Commissioner Mr. Md. Amin Ul Ahsan.



Honourable Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan signed the visitors' book at the Tungipara Mausoleum Complex.

Photo Gallery



The 3rd meeting of the National Narcotics Control Advisory Committee held in the chair of Honourable Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, MP. Honourable Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP addressed in the meeting.



Honourable Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, MP addressed as the Chairman in the 3rd meeting of The Chairman of the National Narcotics Control Advisory Committee.

Photo Gallery



Honourable Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Buhiyan chaired in the 5th Bilateral Meeting (Virtual) between DNC, Bangladesh & CCDAC, Myanmar held in 15 September, 2022



Honourable Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Buhiyan addressed in the 5th Bilateral Meeting (Virtual) between DNC, Bangladesh & CCDAC, Myanmar held in 15 September, 2022

Photo Gallery



The then Japanese Ambassador H.E. Ito Naoki addressed in the handover ceremony of Drug testing Kits on 9 October, 2022.



Honourable Director General, Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Buiyan, Japanese Ambassador H.E. Ito Naoki and representative of UNODC were attended in the handover ceremony of Drug testing Kits on 9 October, 2022.

Photo Gallery



Honourable Director General, Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh received the Drug testing Kits from Ambassador of Japan and representative of UNODC on 9 October, 2022.



Honourable Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan attended as chief guest in the discussion meeting on the 73rd Birth Anniversary of the eldest son of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the shining symbol of eternal youth, the valiant freedom fighter Martyr Sheikh Kamal.

Photo Gallery



Meeting of UNODC representatives with the Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Buihyan held on 08 November, 2022



Honourable Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Buihyan spoke as chief guest in the discussion meeting on the occasion of the 92nd Birth Anniversary of Bangamata Sheikh Fojilatunnesa Mujib on August 8, 2022

Photo Gallery



Honourable Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan paid tributes by placing a wreath to the portrait of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of 47th Martyrdom Anniversary and National Mourning Day 2022.



Honourable Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan spoke as chief guest in the discussion meeting on the occasion of 47th Martyrdom Anniversary of the great architect of Independence, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Mourning Day 2022.

Photo Gallery



The Participants in the discussion meeting on the occasion of 47th Martyrdom Anniversary of the great architect of Independence, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Mourning Day 2022.



Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control of Bangladesh Mr. Md.Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan addressed the MoU Signing Ceremony between Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh and Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy on 20 December, 2022.

Photo Gallery



MoU Signing Ceremony between Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh and Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy held on 20 December, 2022.



Honourable Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan addressed as chief guest in the discussion meeting on the 59th Birth Anniversary of the youngest son of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Martyr Sheikh Russel.

Photo Gallery



Honourable Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan distributed crest to the winner in quiz competition marking the 59th Birth Anniversary of the youngest son of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Martyr Sheikh Russel.



Honourable Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control, Bangladesh Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan distributed crest to the winner in quiz competition marking the 59th Birth Anniversary of the youngest son of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Martyr Sheikh Russel.

Photo Gallery



170000 pcs Yaba (Amphetamine based Tablet) seized from Teknaf, Cox's Bazar on 16 August, 2022. The raid conducted jointly by Teknaf Special Zone of DNC and Coast Guard in the Bay of Bengal.



200 gm Crystal Methamphetamine (ICE) and 11200 pcs Methamphetamine (Yaba) Seized by a team of Dhaka Metro Politon (North) of DNC on 23 July, 2022

**“Our Vision is to Build
Drug Addiction Free Bangladesh”**



Department of Narcotics Control
Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs
41, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.
www.dnc.gov.bd