

# Rising Drug Addiction



**T**HE total number of drug addicts in Bangladesh has been estimated to be 2.5 million. Among them, youths aged 15-25 were the top users. According to a yearly report, six percent of drug users were children. In 2003 and 2004, the number dramatically increased to 13 percent and in 2005 and 2006, it rose to 17.87. Under privileged children are most likely to abuse drugs. Children ages 8-12 are used to selling illicit drugs.

In honour of International Day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, an anti drug campaign was held in Mymensingh by a number of youths which drew major attention of locals and officials. Drug use dramatically decreased in the last month in the area.

## Exam Results and Suicides

**T**HE enormous pressure placed on students every year during the SSC and HSC exams has given rise to a very alarming trend: suicide. Every year many young people unable to bear their parents reprimands and psychological abuse take refuge of such an extreme measure.

Four girls from the south-western districts committed suicide in the SSC examinations held under Jessore Education Board this year.

Jasmin Akhter, 16, who appeared at the examination from Pilot Secondary School in Satkhira Sadar upazila took poison and ended her life Thursday midnight. She failed in the SSC examination for the second year in a row.

Rashida Khatoon, 17, daughter of Inzar Ali Sarder of Basuntia village in Keshabpur upazila in Jessore, committed suicide by

hanging herself with a scarf in her bedroom on the same night. She had appeared at the SSC examination from Keshabpur Girls High School.

On Friday night, Chandana Khatoon, 18, daughter of Abu Bakr of Bijulia village in Shaikupa upazila in Magura, committed suicide by hanging. She had appeared at SSC examination four times.

Umme Tushila Akhter Meera, 17, daughter of Ashraful Huq of Kamalpur in Alomadanga upazila of Chuadanga, took her life by hanging herself Friday morning.

In a slightly different incident two students with GPA-5 in SSC examination committed suicide yesterday as they were rebuked by their parents for their alleged affair.

Faruq Hossain, 17, son of Md. Mozammel Hossain, and Ankhi Akhter, 16, daughter of Rafiqul Islam, were residents of

Halishahar Block-B residential area in the port city. They appeared at the SSC examination from Halishahar Housing Estate High School under Chittagong Education Board. Both got GPA-5.

After the results were out, Faruq went to Ankhi's residence with sweets Friday evening to convey his result and greet Ankhi for her success. Ankhi's parents scolded Faruq for his affair with their daughter.

Learning this, Faruq's parents also rebuked him. Reprimanded by both sides, emotionally charged Faruq entered his room at around 10pm and took poison.

He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where he died at around 3am.

When Ankhi got the news, she ended her life by hanging herself from a ceiling fan with a scarf in her room at around 7:30am.