## VOICES ... Young People Speak Out

# Dead Hot, Just to be Cool Doping to be a Hero

Towheed Feroze tells the true story of sweet girl who died in the clutches of drugs

ANIA comes from a privileged background." Her father is a successiul businessman, her mother is a professor of a very reputable college in Dhaka. Both her parents are well educated. Tania belongs to the upper-class. She is one of the thing new. She does not fortunate few.

nished house which has all to be quite monotonous. the necessary modern amenities. Her residence is situated at a very posh locality. Tania can afford the luxury of thrills and sensation it prehaving a Video in her own room. She is doing her A levels, naturally in one of the best English medium schools in Dhaka. Her father keeps daughter, and as a result, she gets outstanding grades in her exams - her every need is cautiously looked after by her parents. She usually does not encounter the complications faced by girls from

middle-class families.

Tania is not tamiliar with the tribulations of life. Going to school, hanging out with friends, going to parties and concerts, watching movies that's all she does. But one day she gets bored with all this. Her soul wants somederive any pleasure from life She lives in a well fur- any more. She finds her life

Then one day she finds two of her friends talking about marijuana and the sents. Her friends tell her that marijuana threats illusions and fills the takers heart with uncontrolled exuberance. They also tell her the best tutors for his that drugs makes a person appear "cool". Tired and sick with her dull and prosaic life Tania takes marijuana. That was just the beginning. Gradually she becomes a drug addict.

She also starts taking other addictive substances.

Later on, she also starts encouraging her other friends to take drugs. She tells them that "if you want to be cool and experience the charming aspect of life then take drugs". But after few years. Tania starts to get the re-

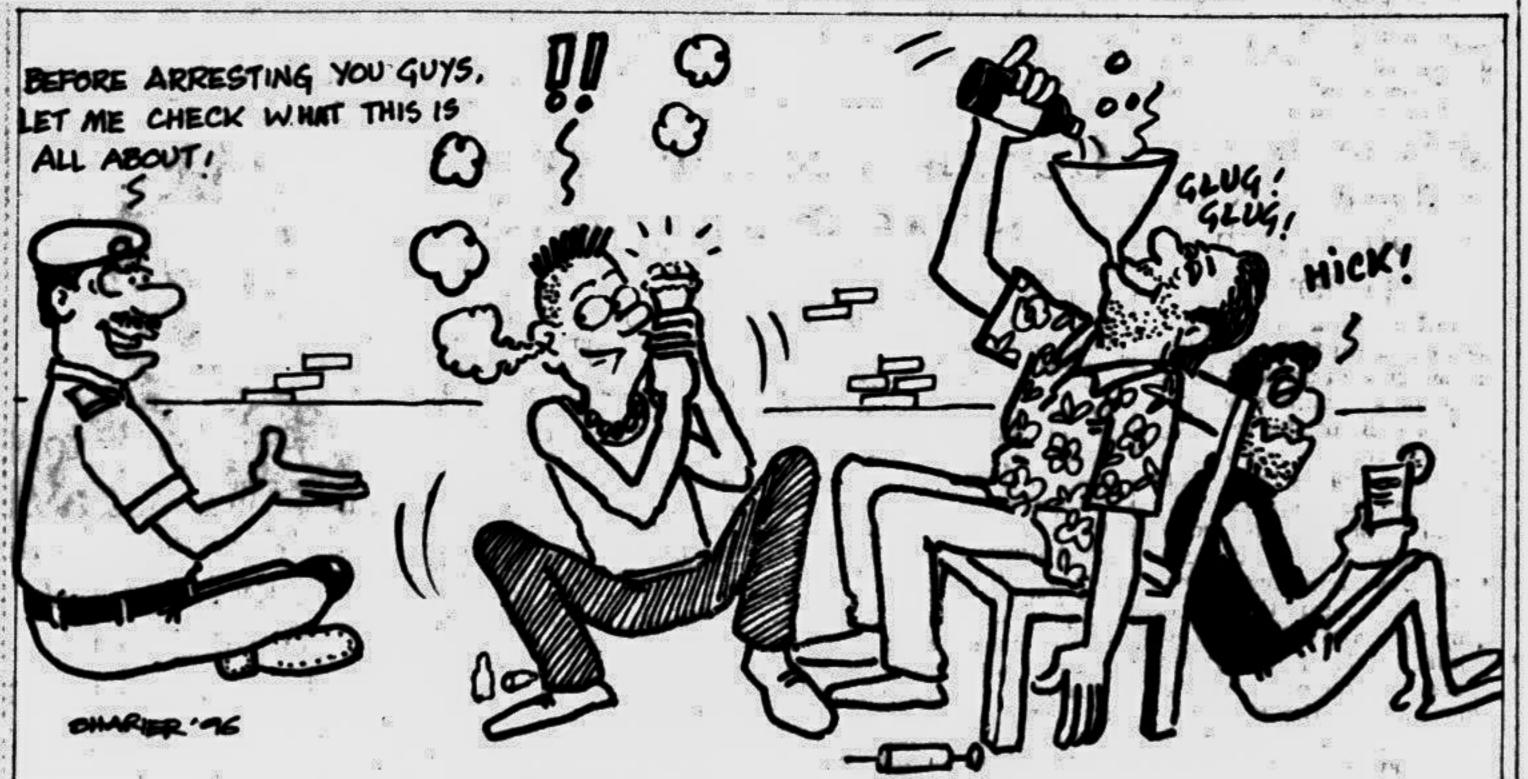
One day, she collapses in her class-room. She is rushed to the hospital and the doctors proclaimed her dead. The cause: excess (in-take) of

This account is based on a real-life story only the name has been changed. Now many of us will refuse to believe this story. A Bengali girl taking drugs to be cool? A Bengali girl taking drugs to fight boredom? That is inconceivable! But how many of us know what kids from affluent families do to amuse themselves?

A good number of boys and girls especially from wealthy families abuse drugs just to

appear cool and for the fun of it. For these children I have a question: "Do you have any idea of what you are doing? Just for a few moments of shallow delight you are placing yourselves in a death trap. You do not need drugs to be smart, you do not need drugs to be cool, you do not need drugs to enhance your personality and least of all you do not need drugs to fight boredom. Fight boredom by doing something creative and contribute to the development of

your country. Drugs will give you temporary pleasure, but in the long. run it will jeopardise your existence. Drugs will drain out the life in you. It will transform you into a zombie. You will be just a burden on the society. So, think twice before taking drugs. Surely you don't want to live your life in utter misery for just a few cool comments from your friends.



SN'T it ironical that so much money is spent to create AIDS awareness among the people but so little is done to create a little awareness among the people against the fatal drug -Phensidyl. Phensidyl has now become the major drug in Bangladesh. Every day thousands of bottles of this cough syrup are entering Bangladesh — thanks to the deliberate indifference of our neighbouring country. The youths of Bangladesh have become captives in the hands of this evil monster.

The Phensidyl situation has reached alarming proportions. In Dhaka city alone there are about 25 Phensidyl dens operating - at ease of course. Needless to say that the whole of northern Bengal is under the influence of this addictive narcotic. The young generation or, to be precise, the next generation upon whom the future and prosperity of this unfortunate country rests has become totally dependant on this drug. Phensidyl has the dubious distinction of being the king of drugs. The sensation it presents is tempting and out of this world.

Addicts like to refer to this drug as "feelings". But the disastrous aspect is that most of the addicts are not familiar with the after-effects of their so-called "feelings" drug. This feeling is the prime cause for their physical and mental destruction. The situation is desperate but no one seems a bit bothered about it. Despite the increase of Phensidyl addicts, neither the government, nor the so-

## A Syrupy Monster

cial organisations have taken any concrete measures to create. Paensidyl awareness among the masses. Most people are quite ignorant of the adverse effects of its. It is this writer's belief that if a comprehensive programme. is taken then the common people would have the opportunity to learn about the negative aspects of Phensidyl and consequently the number of addicts would decrease. But to wait for some social organisation to take the initiative would be foolish.

Therefore, I have taken the liberty to present some important facts about this drug. We are constantly plagued by different questions regarding this narcotic. What are the reasons behind the popularity of this drug? Can this drug cause severe damage to one's physical wellbeing? What happens if this drug is taken regularly? These questions and many others have remained unanswered. I shall try my best to provide some answers for the above mentioned questions. Now, let us look at some important points regarding this fatal drug.

Phensidyl is an opium in liquid form. After taking this syrup, it takes about half an hour for this drug to start working, and within an hour a tremendous feeling of joy and delight takes over the mind and soul. Some addicts also take sugarcane juice or tea with excess sugar with a view to consolidate the effect

The main advantage of this drug is that this drug does not create any abnormal symptoms. For example, if alcohol is taken an odour can be detected, if cannabis is taken the eyes become red and a person under the influence of cannabis behaves in an abnormal way. But after taking Phensidyl, one does not have red eyes, nor does

ce the popularity of this drug. Let me be a little more specific. In this society when a boy passes his adolescence. he becomes somewhat reserved in his behaviour. It is actually expected from him. No more joking around, no more laughing, no more playing childish pranks. Now a young boy of 21 is expected to act like an adult, he has to talk little, make serious observations. Well, he has to put on a new mood. Under the influence of phensidyl this act can be put on in an excel-

one behave abnormally. Hen-

lent way. Phensidyl can play a great role in transforming a lively blithe, carefree young boy into a weird or a reserved creature. The reasons mentioned above are few of the main reasons for the popularity of this syrup.

Now let us look into the dark side of this drug. Let us find out about the after effects of this drug.

a. At first every sip is pure music. A tremendous feeling of joy forms inside. Retaining that reserved mood, one can experience ultimate bliss inside. But gradually the feeling of joy passes away. After a year, it no longer provides any pleasure, on the contrary the body becomes dependant on this drug. Then a person has to take it in order to survive.

a. Due to tremendous intake of sweets a person starts gaining weight. Gradually the person develops diabetes and other ailments.

c. Phensidyl very slowly destroys the brain cells.

d. In order to get the best feeling out of phensidyl one has to smoke at least 10 to 15 digarettes per hour. So many cigarettes smoken within such a short time weakens one's body, adversely affects one's lungs.

e. Phensidyl destroys the sexual potency of a person.

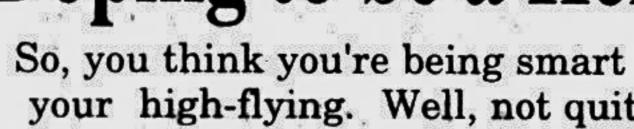
f. At one stage a person becomes so dependant on this drug that without taking it he fails to function prop-

g. Phensidyl **drains** out the last bit of strength from a person. As a result, the person becomes weak and emaciated.

h. Under the influence of Phensidyl a person develops the habit of lying. In view of the above men-

tioned points, we can say without any inhibition that phensidyl or "dail" (as it is known among the addicts) is a monster in disguise of a syrup. This monster seems to be determined to destroy our youths. I earnestly believe and hope that the information given in this write-up will work as a deterrent and encourage many addicts to renounce Phensidyl forever.

**Towheed Feroze** 



So, you think you're being smart by your high-flying. Well, not quite, writes Sajid Rizwan Matin

HERE has been a lot of research and a good number of articles printed consulting the reason of taking dopes - why people go into drugs, why they give themselves up in booze and ale and similar stuff. However it is known to everybody that the teenagers are the ones who get addicted mostly. And thanks to our socially concerned people that they also have managed to find out what drove these teenagers towards their own destruction by adopting a habit of taking drugs and later getting addicted. But what seems the problem is that there is not much concern of eliminating the routes to this reasons. The police were active in quite a number of operations and reviled loads of drugs, where most of the items were Phensidyl - which is better known as Dail and Heroine, as witnesses would

These are some good things that our police have done among their continuing failure and drastic actions, but it merely covers up the crime circle that brings in these drugs in our country. So it is very easy for a person to get hold of any kind of drugs, as the markets where the drugs are sold are very secure and hardly raided by the authority. It is not like that they do not know about the markets; they know, they pretty well know about nearly everything, where drugs are sold, how they enter the country and who are running these business, yet for some unknown reason nobody is doing nothing about it. As a result, a teenager can grab on some dopes and booze very easily without much fear of getting caught. Now to get to the point: why are these youths getting addicted? The lifestyle of the west-

ern world is constantly criticised by our moral citizens every now and then, they don't have any moral values, people say, most of them

come from a broken family. it's no wonder that they get into drugs. They blame their social behaviour. However, our critics perhaps did not realise that this has happened to our country, too. It should be cleared at this point to avoid misunderstanding that everything in this article refers to the city life. Keeping that in mind if anyone runs a research through the schools, colleges to find out the modern teenage life the facts certainly would horrify him or her. The students can be divided into some groups each containing a type.

dents who are more interested in study, they do things that are described to be honest, they are the saint-type. There is another averagetype, they are the only ones enjoying the life. These are the two groups in which doping does not exist. Students outside these groups are the bad-type. They have almost nothing to offer as they cannot keep up with classes and scarcely have anything attractive in them. So they become hungry for some exposure and try to get some attention by being the rough boy. That's how they get messed up with drugs, violence and obscenity.

Drugs are related with crimes. As the rough boy tries to overcome his enemies, that is the other rough boys, by fighting and tricking, he slowly turns into a mastaan. Afterwards it becomes his first thought to dominate everybody and force them to abide by him. He wishes to be a senior to all, to be some kind of a Don, and to build up a reputation he has to smoke, drink, take drugs. Eventually, he finds himself attracted to it and finally ends up being an addict. During his throne he gains control over other kids and as they hang out together, he without knowing, persuades them to addiction. Later, it becomes a pres-

There is a group of stu-

tige issue, the one who can out-drink the others or can take more shots is the one who gets all the praises. It resembles weakness, if he cannot stand these things. And a hero can never be weak, he shows supremacy in everything, in power, in fights, in girls, in alcohol, in drugs. Everything he does is fascinating, — his love affairs, enemy raids, gambling, mugging, teasing — everything must awe the other kids. making himself distinguished, not coward like the others. And before he knows it, he is committing even bigger crimes. He gets addicted, he turns other people addicted; his heroic dreams are fulfilled, but his future is blackened. This might sound like a

KILL ME, PLEASE,

DYLE WASTED ...

CAN'T STAND SEEING

fantasy writing, but it actually is one of my own observations, an example of the

heroes out in the streets, his path to power and death. There are obviously a lot to get addicted. But they have bad company, the descent

other reasons for a teenager to know a way to get drugs, people would say, that's how they get them. But then again, how did their companions marked as bad happen to be in drugs at the first place? The descent people keep silent.

A doping hero is destroyed and another thousand heroes replace him. How long would it take to change them from doping heroes to a social human being? Their life time, may be. What we expect now is that the proper steps be taken, it would mean not only to stop drug trafficking, but also to prevent a doping hero being

## Take Phensidyle and be Damned?

Tanvir Ahmed points out the intoxicants the youths use

F we make a move with the problems of the youth, the bluish luster intoxicants, which is spreading day by day, will make us bound to work on it. At least it will make us bound to think about it. That's why we are going to try to invent the connection between the youth and the intoxicants they use.

In Bangladesh you'll find various kinds of drugs: heroine, pathedrine, morphine, hemp, opium, charas etc. But our teenagers generally take heroine, pathedrine, hemp, opium etc. as drugs. Besides, a medicine prescribed by the doctors once for cold, is now used as drug.

Only a few guys in our country usually take heroine, pathedrine and cocaine for these being costly and rare. So to the addicted youths, these drugs are not so attrac-

The drug opium is very popular to a number of addicts. They like to take it mixed with tea. There is a tea-stall near a famous government college in Dhaka where you'll find this bloody type of tea. Besides there is a usage of drinking this type of tea in many educational institutes and in many halls of resident. About drinking such type of tea a student humorously commented: "Drinking this type of tea becomes nectar in taste before amorous and after the Chhakamicine (!!!)".

Besides these drugs, a great number of young people use hemp for intoxication. Many people say that the habit of taking drugs has increased after the independence among the youth. They also point out frustration as a reason of using drugs. But no matter when did this habit has appeared, it is sure that hemp is used by the addicted guys from the very beginning.

Hemp is basically a tobacco-type thing. The smoke of this tobacco create hallucination in the human mind. In Bangladesh one can take hemp in two ways.

Firstly: one can set the tobacco inside a bud and then smoke it. The other one is to take hemp's smoke through a cheroot. But nowadays one can take hemp by using cigarettes recently made with a mixing of natural tobacco and hemp. Each of these recent inventions cost 5 to 10 taka

The cigarettes are now very familiar and it's also very easy to get. That's why many hemp addicts can take it even at the public places. Many people take it even at

the stadiums during a game. Samad is a teenage boy of 16 or 17. He was taking hemp during the half time of a football match. I asked him tactfully the reason of his taking hemp. Then he answered very cheerfully: "I am only trying to get my nerves excited for the rest of the

time." Many young addicts use the bud. But the cheroot is not so famous for having Many hemp addicts like to have cigarettes of hemp made by themselves. And we

can find this type of people at

the Ramna Park and the

Suhrawardy Udyan. Almost every aristocratic, semi-aristocratic and nonaristocratic areas of the capital has the Phensidyle selling like hot cakes. Generally, a full bottle costs 120 taka and a half costs 60 to 70 taka. It also sells in the quantity of

quarter of a bottle. As it is easily available, the number of Phensidyle addicts is increasing day by day. And besides the boys, we get girls' troupe also in this tribe. Most of these young guys are the children of aristocratic families. Now the question that arises in our mind is: why they are getting so dependent on this intoxicant?

Actually, it is a very complicated question. In many cases, it is true that the inattention of the parents towards the children is the reason. Many people point out the social frustration which is spreading by degrees among the young as the reason. And it is also true that many teenagers and youths get in this circle of intoxication, influenced by their friends.

I, again, questioned a pretty 20-year-old girl. She is also from a very high class family (!!) and she lives at Uttara and she takes Phensidyle regularly. Her comment about taking Phensidyle was : "If the boys can take Phensidyle then the girls can also do so. In the times of equality, what sort of question is this?"

I found the guys in a market of Phensidyle at Golapbag and I became scared to ask. them about the money they spend for it.

After that I talked with Mr Shafiq who is at the Agriculture University of Bangladesh in Mymensingh. He was in Dhaka for a short vacation. He was once upon a time a very addicted person. He was addicted to Phensidyle. But right now he is rather well

I asked him the reason as to why he took Phensidyle. He informed me that he fell

than yesterdays.

in the trap of Phensidyle, influenced by some of his friends. Then he threw light on the reason behind rejecting Phensidyle: "By taking Phensidyle boys or girls never go drunk. They get only little bit hallucinated and that's why the sleep goes deeper and deeper. So, for sleeping too much my studies became very loose at the stage of first year. Besides it was very expensive. So, for the sake of studies and expenses I gave up Phensidyle from my life for ever. "Then I asked him, for

how long you took Phensidyle?" He replied that he had taken Phensidyle for two years. I said earlier that Phen-

sidyle is available in our city. But it is mostly found at Golapbag, Kamalapur, Sayedabad, Nilkhet, Azimpur, Lalbag, Mirpur, Gabtali, Rampura and many other places. And I also found the Phensidyle and the hemp are a strong reason behind all these of hijacking incidents. As the members of the semiaristocratic and non-aristocratic families fail to manage the money for their drugs. they hijack other people and thus they manage the money And most of the teenage hijackers are addicted drugs.

And this way the circle of the drugs getting larger and larger. The future leaders of our country are getting into darkness and becoming dumb. The fashion of taking drugs is increasing day by day



as the fashion design of the youth has increased so much.

We have to take steps for destroying this circle of intoxicants at once, otherwise it will be too late for us to save our nation. I don't want to see such a catastrophe; do

## COLLEGE CORRIDOR

**New System, New Worry** 

A few months ago the Education Department of our country introduced a new system. In this new system the coming HSC exams will be taken under one board instead of the prevailing four-board system. Previously the question-setting and checking of answer shits were different so the candidates of 1996 of different boards have taken their preparation on their own board's way. Many candidates think that they were given a little time to prepare for the exams under new system. In this regard, they have made a press conference on January 1.

#### BDF's New Body

Debate is one of the most popular extra-curricular activities in schools and colleges. To promote and make it more popular Bangladesh Debate Federation has been working for five years. The Federation is run by a elected body which is elected by the member clubs. The election for 4th executive committee was held at 24 December last year at Vigarunnissa Noon College. Ex Secretary General and popular TV presenter Abdun Noor Tushar was the election commissioner. The members of newly-elected body of Bangladesh Debate Federation are Shamsul Kabir Babu (president). Samiul Islam Emon (vice president). Taslum Chowdhury (vice president). Imran Khan (secretary general). Mahboob Elahee (assistant secretary generally). Md Anis (prog secretary). Tanur Ahmed Bappy (press and publication secretary), Sadat Mannan (international secretary), Anupam Das (office and information secretary) Sudip Ranjan Dev (treasurer) Tazin Shadid and Meer Ikramul Bashar Jhilon (workshop secretary).







