

# BUILD A DRUG-FREE WORLD

26th JUNE

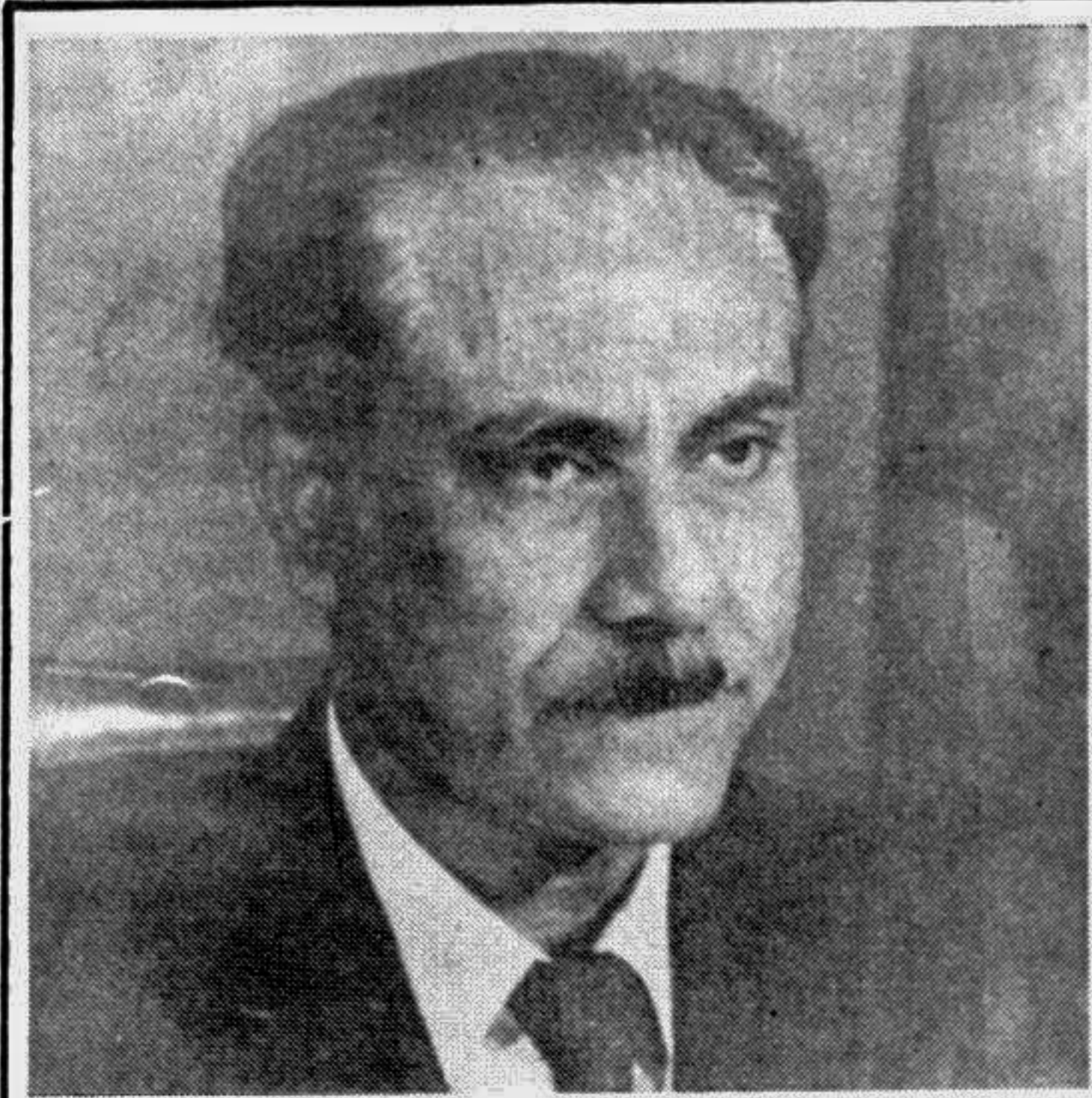


Department of Narcotics Control

Special Supplement

Planning & Design : Ad Empire

The Daily Star



## Message

The onward march of human civilisation is under a serious threat caused by the curse of drug abuse and its illicit trafficking. The objective before the International society is to take co-ordinated steps to resist the impending danger. At the initiative of the United Nations, all the countries and nations of the world have been working unitedly to achieve the goal. Bangladesh is an active partner in this united campaign.

The main purpose behind the observance of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and its Illicit Trafficking is to set in motion a social movement against drug abuse through associating the people with the programme.

I wish this Day a total success.

**Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed**  
President  
People's Republic of Bangladesh

## Message

This year, the theme for International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is a call to unite the world's youth. As we work towards the United Nations' goal of creating a drug-free world in the 21st century, it is young people who hold the key.

Youth's desire to experiment is essential to the survival of human-kind. A natural curiosity about the world produces new generations of thinkers, artists, scientists and world leaders. But that natural curiosity is seized upon for deadly exploitation by drug dealers. Although the majority of young people do not use drugs, they are vulnerable to images of drugs as being somehow artistic or "cool". This is just wrong. We must help young people understand that there is nothing glamorous about using drugs-as a look at any long-term drug user will tell you; that drugs do not create an escape to a better life-as the life of any drug addict will tell you. It pains me to hear of young people who think they have found a friend in drugs after being separated from their families or feeling in some way lost in the world. Yet committed young people have saved thousands of their peers by showing them a way out: a sense of security, belonging and renewed passion of life.

Earlier this month, political leaders met in New York for the General Assembly Special Session Countering the World Drug Problem. They made a commitment to mobilizing their Governments and civil societies towards

eliminating or reducing significantly both the supply and consumption of illegal drugs by the year 2008.

During the session, young people also had an opportunity to share their ideas on how we can work towards a drug-free tomorrow.

Representatives from drug abuse prevention fora held this spring in Paris and Banff, Canada, presented me with a *Charter of Youth for a Twenty-First Century Free of Drugs and The Vision from Banff*, a guide to prevention strategies for other young people all over the globe. At the authors' request, I have circulated both documents to the leaders of all Member States.

The work of almost 200 young people from 24 countries working on the front lines of drug control, the *Vision states*: "We want our leaders to join together with us in taking action to prevent drug abuse among young people".

"Not only can nations help each other to treat drug addiction and to stop drug trafficking from violating our human rights, they can also provide young people with opportunities to become involved with drug abuse prevention programmes." It is that kind of spirit which makes today's theme so relevant. Let us make the most of this resource. Let us recognize that our future depends upon it.

**Kofi Annan**  
Secretary General  
United Nations

## Drug Scenario in Bangladesh

**Nazmul Ahsan Chowdhury**  
Director General  
Department of Narcotics Control

Bangladesh is a South Asian Country. The geographical location has rendered the country vulnerable to drug trafficking, because Bangladesh lies between the Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent, the two largest opium producing areas in the world.

### 2. Existing system of Control : Legal Measures:

**a) Control of medicinal Drugs:**  
To encounter the drug problem, the Govt. of Bangladesh has enacted a new Law called the "Narcotics Control Act, 1990".

This law provides for regulation of legal medicinal drugs (both narcotics and psychotropic).

The law also imposes control over manufacture and import of chemicals (used in the preparation of legal medicinal drugs) with a view to intercepting any diversion or smuggling of these substances in the country.

### b) Illicit drug trafficking:

To fight illicit drug trafficking, the law provides for death penalty for certain level of offences relating to hard drugs like cocaine, opium, heroin, opium derivatives, cannabis, hashish, and similar type of narcotic drugs.  
Apart from death penalty or life imprisonment, the law provides for imprisonment for a minimum term of six months to the maximum of 15 years depending on the nature and gravity of the narcotics related offences.

The existing law also provides for examination of bank accounts and prohibition of transfer of property of the persons involved or suspected to be involved in drug-related offences in the country.

### C. Law enforcement Agencies involved:

To fulfil the objectives of the new law, the Govt. has established the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), the nodal agency which deals with all issues relating to drug problem.

The law has also empowered the Police, the BDR, the Coast Guard and the Customs to detect, seize illicit drugs and arrest persons involved in drug offences.

### 3. Govt. initiatives:

The Govt. of Bangladesh has taken several steps on the basis of the following strategies:

- i) Supply reduction approach;
- ii) Demand reduction initiatives;
- iii) Multi-disciplinary approach;
- iv) International approach;

**Supply Reduction:**  
The law has empowered the DNC to conduct search and operation to interdict drug trafficking.

An intelligence wing has been set up in the Department of Narcotics

Control (DNC) to collect, collate and disseminate information on illicit drug trafficking in the country.

**Demand Reduction:**  
Our Govt. is trying to reduce the demand for drugs in two ways:

- a) by disseminating preventive education and
- b) by providing treatment facilities to the drug addicts.

With a view to disseminating preventive education among the people, particularly the young generations who are the easy victims to drug abuse and addiction, the Department of Narcotics Control has been equipped with a separate wing called "Preventive Education

and Research and publications".

**Treatment Approach:**  
The Govt. has so far established four treatment centres for the drug addicts at four Divisional Headquarters, namely, Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna.

**Forensic Laboratory:**  
The Govt. has taken steps to set up a forensic laboratory in Dhaka for providing chemical examination of all seized narcotic substances as well as for providing forensic services to all law enforcement agencies which are enforcing drug laws.

### 4. International Co-operation:



## Message

Abuse of drugs and narcotic substances poses a serious threat to families and societies in all countries of the world. It has assumed such a serious dimension that every nation has become deeply concerned about the problem.

The complexity of the whole problem has forced all countries of the world to take unified and coordinated steps to effectively fight this evil which is eating away the vitals of many nations.

The seriousness and concern of the world community have been amply demonstrated when the U.N. General Assembly held a special session on 'World Drug Problem' from June 8 through June 10, 1998 at the U.N. Headquarters in New York.

Almost all the leading countries were represented at political level by heads of state, government or by senior ministers. We fully support this effort by the world community to fight the abuse of drug. The observance of the International Day against abuse of drug and illicit trafficking of drugs reaffirms our commitment and demonstrates our resolve to fight this menace unitedly with the world community.

The task of fighting the problem of drug cannot be performed effectively by the Government alone. Parents, guardians, teachers, doctors, journalists, social workers, the communication media, political leaders, NGO's and all conscious citizens of the country should come forward and work unitedly against this social evil.

On the occasion of the 'International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking', I appeal to our citizens to join hands for waging a social war against Drug-abuse.

Joi Bangla  
Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh live forever.

**Rafiqul Islam, B.U.,M.P.**  
Minister  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Government of the People's  
Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh has ratified the UN Conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988 on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substances and their illicit trafficking. Bangladesh has also ratified the regional SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic substances, 1990.

A bilateral agreement was signed with the USA for technical assistance to strengthen drug enforcement operations. A good number of communication equipments have been received under this agreement.

We have also concluded a bilateral agreement with Myanmar in the field of drug enforcement and drug control.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Iran on the prevention of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was signed in 1995.

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) maintains liaison on a regular basis with INCB, CND and the UNDCP in regard to fulfilment of the obligations of the International Treaties.

The DNC also maintains a close working relation particularly in the field of training and orientation with the Colombo Plan Secretariat, ESCAP and DEA of the USA.

The Department of Narcotics Control is now implementing a five-year (1994-99) Master plan for Drug Abuse Control with assistance from the UNDCP. The Master Plan has been divided into three sectoral projects.

- i) Law enforcement and legal assistance
- ii) Preventive education and information
- iii) Treatment and rehabilitation.

It is expected that this Master Plan, on its completion, would substantially strengthen our ongoing efforts to combat drug problem in the country.

**Conclusion:**  
Drug problem is such a big problem that mere enforcement of law cannot adequately address this problem. As such the entire nation has to rise to this occasion and unitedly fight against it.



## Message

I am happy to learn that the International Anti Drug Abuse and Trafficking Day is being observed in Bangladesh with due importance on 26 June 1998, as elsewhere in the world.

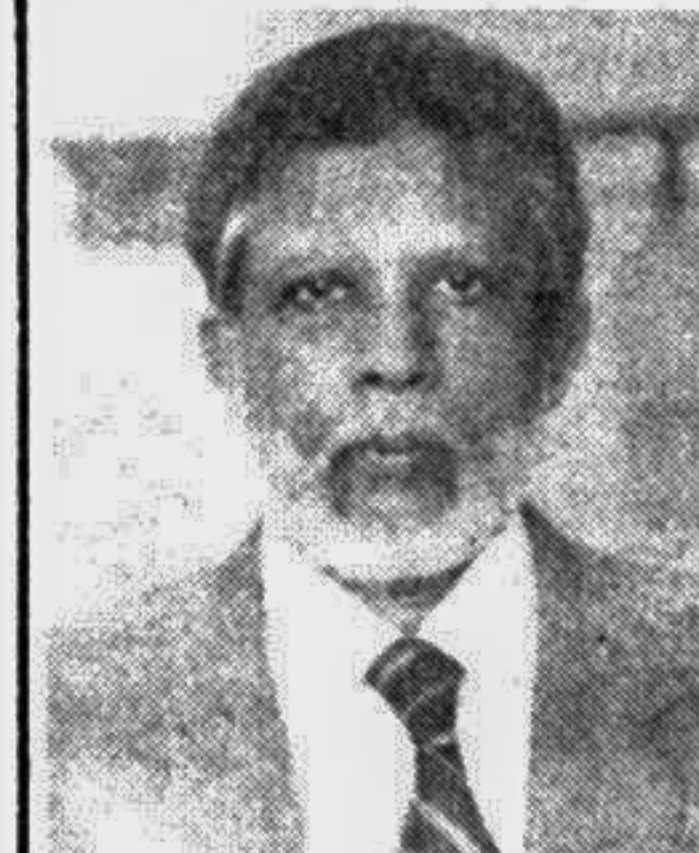
Drug abuse has been alarmingly increasing throughout the world. The menace, a threat to the society and the civilisation, is not confined to any particular nation or country. The entire global society, responding to the call of the United Nations, is therefore, determined to combat the menace collectively.

It is our conviction that, every citizen of the country should be integrated with the programme and build up a social movement through coordinated resistance to check the abuse of drug.

Let us all work together in checking the abuse of drug and build a drug free, healthy and beautiful world for our posterity.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever

**Sheikh Hasina**  
Prime Minister  
Government of the People's  
Republic of Bangladesh



## Message

Today is the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Economic development depends upon socio-political stability. But the number of social-crimes is increasing alarmingly with increase in the number of drug addicts in Bangla-

desh. In fact abuse of drug hampers economic development. Therefore the present government is firmly committed to create a healthy environment in the country, free from drugs and drug related crimes. Abuse of drug and trafficking in drug is an international problem. It is possible to build a drug free environment only through national, regional and international efforts. Let us pledge on this Day to build a drug-free world.

**Safiur Rahman**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Government of the  
People's Republic of  
Bangladesh

Courtesy :

As part of our commitment to the community,  
we would like to congratulate the authorities  
for their dedication towards success.



THE PAN PACIFIC SONARGAON

Dhaka