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POLICE ACTION IN SCBA POLLS  
HC refuses to order probe  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday refused to pass an order to conduct probe into the allegation against police of assaulting pro-BNP lawyers and forcing them to leave the polling centre on March 15, the first day of the two-day annual Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) election. Delivering order on a writ petition, the court observed that the allegations mentioned in the petition are involved with the questions of facts, which cannot be dealt with by this court. The allegations might be placed before any other forum if those are specific, said the HC bench of Justice Md Justice Md Khasruzzaman and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir.

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PRAYER TIMING

MARCH 30

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:45	12:45	4:45	6:20	7:45
JAMAAT 5:20	1:15	5:00	6:25	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MARCH	SEHRI	IFTAR
7	30		6:17
8	31	4:30	6:18
9	01	4:29	6:18

# Meth smuggling rose by 3 times in a year

## Reveals Annual Drug Report of Bangladesh

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

From 2021 to 2022, the seizure of crystal meth increased by three times. According to the Annual Drug Report of Bangladesh 2022, around 104 kilos of crystal meth were seized by all agencies last year, while the figure was 36 kilos in 2021. Law enforcers said the drugs mainly entered Bangladesh from Myanmar, and the major market for the meth -- also known as ice -- is Dhaka. Only 8 to 10 percent of the total smuggled narcotics is usually seized by law enforcers, and the remaining 90 percent flood the market. A similar scenario has been witnessed regarding Phensedyl, which mainly comes from India. Around 5.74 lakh bottles of Phensedyl were seized in 2021, but that number rose to 6.71 lakh in 2022, reveals the annual report. However, the report stated that the seizure of yaba decreased by 13.75 percent compared to 2021. Around 5.30 lakh yaba pills were seized in 2021, while it was 4.37 lakh in 2022.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal unveiled the annual report at the secretariat yesterday. Minister Asaduzzaman said the country is heading toward a deadly disaster as a good number of youths are attracted to these drugs. "Demand and supply go together. When demand rises, supply increases as well. We are reducing both demand and supply in this case."

Tanvir Momtaz, director (operation & intelligence) of the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), said the smuggling of yaba decreased as they have managed to identify the drug routes and smuggling techniques. "However, ice smuggling has increased as demand always remains high for new drugs among abusers," he said.

Regarding Phensedyl, Tanvir explained that it is also entering Bangladesh using new bottles and new names. "Compared to previous years, we have increased our drives by 1.5 times. Department of Narcotics conducted over 5,000 drives last year. This year, the number of drives already crossed 8,000," said the director. He said they are holding meetings with the

DRUG SEIZURES		2021	2022
	Meth	36 kg	104 kg
	Phensedyl	5.74 lakh bottles	6.71 lakh bottles
	Yaba	5.30 lakh pills	4.37 lakh pills
	Cannabis	86,000 kg	1.04 lakh kg

neighbouring country regarding the smuggling of narcotics and cooperating with each other in this regard. Among the drugs, the seizure of cannabis also increased by 33.07 percent in comparison to the previous year. Around 86,000 kilos of cannabis were seized in 2021. However, the amount rose to 1.04 lakh kilos in 2022.

**DHAKA: A MAJOR MARKET**  
Analysing the seizures of narcotics, the report found that Dhaka is the major market for such drugs. After Dhaka, the most drug-prone districts in the country are Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, Cumilla, Brahmanbaria, Narsingdi, Faridpur, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Tangail, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Natore, Pabna, Sirajganj, Bogura, Joypurhat, Dinajpur, Satkhira and Jashore. The maximum number of narcotics cases were also filed in Dhaka last year, which was 7,556, out of 25,654 cases countrywide, revealed the report.

'The new curriculum must be implemented'  
Says Dipu Moni  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Implementation of the new educational curriculum is a must to cope with the changing world and lead Bangladesh towards becoming a developed country, said Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday. The minister made the comments while inaugurating training programmes for headteachers and school teachers across the country, as part of the national curriculum-2022 expansion project. The National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Bangladesh (NCTB) and the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) jointly organised the programme at the capital's International Mother Language Institute. The minister also said a group of people with vested interests conspired against the government's decision to implement the new curriculum. "Some parties also use religion as a political tool and oppose the curriculum. But no one can stop us from implementing it," said Dipu Moni. The minister said

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MAN BEATEN TO DEATH  
Bring the perpetrators to book  
Relatives, locals demand  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Relatives and locals yesterday demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the people, including two Ansar members, accused of beating a man to death on suspicion of him being a thief at the capital's Shishu Hospital on March 26. They held an hour-long human chain under the banner of "Locals of Adarshanagar Mirpur-II" at the capital's Jatiya Press Club, where they demanded capital punishment for the perpetrators. Meanwhile, police arrested three persons, including a shopkeeper and two ambulance helpers, in connection with the killing, said Utpal Barua, officer-in-charge of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station. Some Ansar men allegedly beat Md Mamun, 32, a tea-stall owner residing in Pallabi area, to death on March 26. The victim's elder brother Masud Rana filed a murder case the following day. Addressing the human chain, Rahima Begum, wife of the victim, accused Ansar members Hira and Mahbub of being the masterminds behind her husband's killing and claimed that police excluded the two from their investigation. She asserted, "The two accused Ansar members are still at large. Even the following day, the two were found discharging duties at the hospital, which means that police are keeping them out of their investigation." Additionally, she demanded compensation from the authorities concerned for her family losing the breadwinner. In response to the allegation of theft, Rahima claimed that her husband was innocent. The victim's younger brother Mohammad Munna said that those who apprehended his brother handed him over to Ansar members

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TRUE SPIRIT OF TOGETHERNESS... With smiles on their faces, the children at Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage come together every day to prepare iftar, creating a heart-warming scene of unity and cooperation. These children may have lost their families, but they have found a new family at the orphanage, filled with love and support. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## IFTAR AT AN ORPHANAGE

# Ramadan made special for the children

HELEMUL ALAM

It was a warm Wednesday evening, and the clock struck 5:15pm at the Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage located in Dhaka's Azimpur. A small group of orphaned children gathered in a room of the Haji Rafique Bhaban, preparing to break their day-long fast with a mixture of iftar items called Muri Makha. As they peeled cucumbers, cut tomatoes and washed the ingredients, their hearts were filled with enthusiasm and eagerness to participate in the preparation of iftar. After preparing the mixtures, they divided themselves into two groups and shared the bowls of Piaju, beguni, chickpea, pulled rice, and tomatoes. It was a daily routine for them, and they looked forward to it with joy in their hearts. The orphanage authorities also provided different kinds of fruits, making sure the children had a healthy and nutritious meal. Six rooms on the second floor of the three-storey building, Kazi Rafique Bhaban, housed male students who were now staying at the orphanage. Every day, iftar preparation went on in four out of six

rooms, said Mohammad Arif, an 11th grader. "In our room, eleven of us, from class one to HSC candidates, are living together," said Md Shourav Islam, a fifth-grader. The orphanage had been established in 1909, and it was now home to 136 students, 71 females and 63 males, according to Md Mahmudul Ehsan, the assistant superintendent of the orphanage. Ehsan further explained that the children admitted to the orphanage ranged from six years to nine years and had no parents to take care of them. The authorities provided them with all kinds of support from food to education until they reached 18 years of age, and all the money came from different donors, government grants, and the orphanage's properties. As the children gathered around to break their fast, some of them shared their thoughts and emotions. For Md Yasin, a grade three student who had been living at the orphanage for the last year, it was a different and nice experience, but he still missed his mother dearly. "I loved staying with my mother, and breaking fast with her was very


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Devotees participate in Ashtami Snan ritual

SAURAV HOSSAIN SIAM, Narayanganj

Thousands of Hindu devotees yesterday performed Ashtami Snan, a ritual of bathing in the holy waters of the Brahmaputra at Langalbandh in Narayanganj. Devotees from all over Bangladesh as well as from different countries like India, Nepal and Bhutan joined the religious function. According to Hindu mythology, taking a dip in the river during a specific lunar period purifies sins and earns religious merit. The Ashtami Snan ritual is celebrated on the eighth day of the lunar month, which falls in the Bengali month of Chaitra. This year's bathing time began on Tuesday at 9:18pm and ended at 10:47pm yesterday, according to the Hindu Tithi. The event drew at least one million people, according to Saroj Kumar

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(1940 – 2023)

# WE MOURN

## Nur-E-Alam Siddique

The former Member of Parliament  
The convener of Swadhin Bangla  
Kendriya Chhatra Sangram Parishad  
Founder Chairman of Doreen Group

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