

The Crux of Transnational Yaba- Trafficking Nexus in Bangladesh: Explaining the Reasons and Advocating Counter- Strategies

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Abstract—The paper examines regional patterns of synthetic drug Yaba trafficking as a major challenge in the governance system of Bangladesh. The heightened security threat has been recognized as one of the significant Transnational Organized Crimes (TOC) of Bangladesh since last few decades. Depending primarily on secondary literatures and expert interviews, this paper highlights such trafficking as an emerging source of regional instability and security threat. Bangladesh being both transit and destination country of South Asian and Southeast Asian Yaba trafficking network has been examined as a regional test case. A significant linkage of accessible Bangladesh-Myanmar Yaba trafficking routes with adjacent drug cartels of Golden Crescent, Golden Triangle and beyond has been traditionally highlighted as the prime reasons behind such instability. But the paper has argued about several alternative facilitators crucially indicating towards erroneous governance system revealing; capacity gap, networked syndicate, incompatible regional initiatives and involvement of authoritative officials to inflame the geo- strategic convenience. The paper further investigates overtime domestic as well as international law enforcement entities' failure to combat the accelerating challenge. Thereby, in countering the regionally interlinked crisis, this paper prescribes for a plausible regional law enforcement regime along with regional co-operation and domestic efficiency to escape an 'Yaba War' and to provide imperatives for future research.

Keywords— Transnational Organized Crime, Yaba Trafficking, Erroneous Governance System, Networked Syndicate and Regional Law Enforcement Regime.

I. INTRODUCTION

According to Annual Drug Reports published by Department of Narcotic Control, Ministry of Home Affairs of Bangladesh, it has been astonishingly unveiled that the use of 'Yaba' (mixture of methamphetamine and caffeine locally known as Yaba) has skyrocketed in the country by 1450 folds (144934%) over the past ten years. The report has provided data on the basis of 'seized yaba' or recovery drugs from 2008-2018 (Department of Narcotic Control, 2018) while it is pretty much persuasive that recorded drugs actually indicate way to less than the actual and untraced usages of illicit substances within an entity. Bangladesh which is evidently not a synthetic drug producing country has been tremendously vulnerable as both transit and destination country due to regional supply of Yaba mainly from

neighboring Myanmar posing intensifying security threat overtime.² Thereby „Yaba trafficking „nexus“ has been entitled here as a test case of regional patterns of Transnational Organized Crime (TOC)³ as a pivotal security threat and to weigh the effectiveness of our governance system to combat the nascent threat. The geo-strategic proximity of Bangladesh with global drug producing zones:

“Golden Triangle” and “Golden Crescent” and “rapid urbanization” are repeatedly highlighted in tracing the hidden causes of increase in Yaba production. But the paper argues on the basis of fact finding reports ,expert interviews and case studies that capacity gap, networked syndicate , incompatible regional governance initiative and interestingly government official involvement to be responsible behind such intensification. Overall, apparent fluctuations and flaws in the governance system have been identified to be one of the prime reasons behind contemporary uncontrolled Yaba trafficking trend in Bangladesh. This paper further argues that considering such veiled reasons, it is not possible to combat the problem alone with domestic or even global initiatives. Therefore, the paper prescribes for a regional layer co-operation and effective law enforcement regime to fill up the existing shortcomings as well as to combat the trafficking nexus.

II. CENTRAL RESEARCH QUESTION

In developing better scrutiny regarding the trends of Yaba trafficking, overt and covert reasons behind this nascent practice and the efficacy of existing governance frameworks regarding the protection of society two central research questions have been developed in this critical composition:

- How transnational Yaba trafficking emerges as a significant security threat in Bangladesh?
- Why counter responding transnational Yaba Trafficking seems challenging in Bangladesh?

III. RATIONALE AND SIGNIFICANCE

According to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the term 'illicit drug' refers to any of the substances listed in Schedule I-IV of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (The International Drug Control Convention, 1961) which can be either natural or

synthetic, may or may not have licit medical purpose but which are produced, trafficked or consumed illicitly. For Example: Opium, Cannabis, Heroin, Coca leaf, Cocaine, Methadone, Morphine, Methamphetamine (synthetic) etc. And this paper mainly focuses on synthetic drug ‘Yaba’ (mixture of methamphetamine and caffeine locally known as Yaba) which has noticeably replaced previously reigning natural drugs trafficking stream both globally and in Asia in the contemporary world. Statistics show that whereas, trafficking of popular natural drugs like heroin and Phensedyl has fallen in the recent years in Bangladesh, synthetic drug Yaba has been astonishingly accelerated both vertically and horizontally in the region in the last ten years.

TABLE I

Year	Seizure of Yaba
2008	36,543
2009	129,644
2010	812,716
2011	1,360,186
2012	1,951,392
2013	2,821,528
2014	6767338
2015	20000000
2016	29400000
2017	40000000
2018	53000000

Table 1: Alarming Increase of Yaba Seizure in Bangladesh: 2008-2018 (Department of Narcotic Control Bangladesh, 2018)

Yaba seizure has skyrocketed in the country by 1450 folds (144934%) over the past ten years. from 2008-2018. It can also be evident that, the scenario after 2013 remains way more alarming. Dhaka tribune reported that in the first three months of 2016, around 6.4 million tablets have been seized by the security forces in the Cox’s Bazar region only (Aziz, 2016).

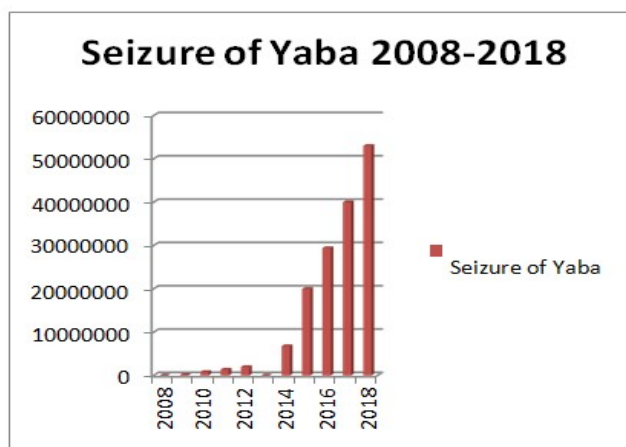


Fig 1: Yaba Acceleration from 2008-2018

Again, the overall seized and non-seized transaction rate will apparently ensure a shock therapy for the regional security experts as around 3 million Yaba tablets are entering Bangladesh everyday through 33 points from the Myanmar-Bangladesh border area (Dhaka Tribune, 2016). Thus, in the first one and a half decade of the 21st century synthetic drugs like Yaba dependence has emerged as a ‘game changer’ in the existing Asian drug trafficking equation. In the year of 2018, Yaba addicted people were traced to be 3 million which constitutes 3.1% of our entire population (Department of Narcotic Control Bangladesh, 2018). Apparently, the statistics is very much unnerving. South Asia had not been not long addressed as a significant drug affected zone until these recent scourges of cross-border synthetic drug trafficking acceleration which justifies the rationale to conduct the research in order to trace the reasons and to prescribe relevant solutions as well.

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This paper incorporates mainly secondary data collection method following qualitative research methodology. It has examined the trend of Yaba trafficking within a specific timeline in South-Asia and South-East Asia focusing on Bangladesh-Myanmar cross border trafficking mainly. To examine the regional pattern it has also focused on Thailand and Indian interlinked Yaba trafficking issues in the region. Several standard and authentic published and internet based materials such as books, magazines, news-papers, fact finding reports, official reports of concerned global and regional organizations such as: UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes) and DNC (Department of Narcotic Control, Bangladesh) has been carefully reviewed throughout this paper, To analyze from a deeper perspective along with popular Bangla and English National Dailies such as The Daily Star, Prothom Alo, The New Age, it has also relied on some Yaba –affected district wise local newspapers: such as The Daily Cox’s Bazar, The Daily Mathabhanga, Jhenidah News etc. An e-mail interview has been conducted with one of the serving officers of RAB wing who has been previously posted in Chattogram division with practical experience of dealing with Yaba syndicate there. And the paper has focused a specific timeline from 2006-2018 to analyze the growing trend of Yaba trafficking threat concerning to the prevailing political regimes in combating the challenge here.

V. EXISTING LITERATURE REVIEW

While venturing onto the terrain of Yaba trafficking literatures in South Asia, the most crucial relevance has been drawn that scholarly compositions have been rarely conducted on the issue. The paper mostly reviewed official reports, fact finding reports, newspaper editorials and a very few comprehensive drug based compositions.

A. *Annual Drugs Report 2016 and Annual Drugs Report 2013*

- National Narcotic experts has opined several factors to be responsible behind Yaba trafficking acceleration such as- geographical location, close proximity of drug producing zones, transit use of the country for international drug trafficking etc (Taleb, 2013)
- Rapid urbanization and use of internet and IT, lack of social awareness etc and Local Rohingya people involvement in Cox’s Bazar has also been highlighted (Department of Narcotic Control, 2016).

B. *Executive Summary: Bangladesh*

- Bangladesh is a transit country for synthetic drugs produced in the Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent.
- National Drug Control framework should be concretized as well as international co-operation should be strengthened (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2005)

C. *Routes of Drugs Trafficking*

- Routes and alternative routes are significant to explore. Yaba comes to Bangladesh from Myanmar via Teknaf.

While sometimes it also enters from Feni as an alternative route (Azad, 2013).

VI. PERSISTING RESEARCH GAP

Firstly, there remains a significant lack of available research and literatures about the threatening issue. Again, the existing ones are too conventional. Most of the literatures follow the same pattern of tracing the responsible reasons behind Yaba trafficking. Allusive routes, mal- development, value system, transformation have been repeatedly cited. In terms of policy prescription again domestic intelligence and global co-operation are some well known prescriptions. However, this paper argues with evidenced data that responsible reasons of such emerging threat closely relate with capacity gap and erroneous governance system, authoritative official’s involvement, networked syndicate and lack of regional efforts. The networked syndicate behind Yaba trafficking is not only composed of cartel syndicate (such as falcons, hutment, lieutenants and drug lords), producer, regional agent and consumers but also mid-agents, profit sharer, facilitator, big fish business tycoons and sometimes themselves the individuals who are entrusted to regulate the imbalances.

VII. CONVENTIONAL WISDOM AND ALTERNATIVE EXPLANATION

Conventional wisdom explores South-Asian and South- East Asian geo-strategic significance as the prime reason behind Yaba explosion in the region. Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) has identified the geo strategic vulnerability of

Bangladesh to be one of the prime reasons behind expanding Yaba trafficking in the region. Based on existing literatures and expert opinions it is being repeatedly argues that the Yaba or ‘Madness Drug’ crisis has been emerged as a thriving sub-systemic security threat due to significantly geo –strategic importance as profit making zones along with-

- The routes are less expensive
- Easy access to transport
- Rapid urbanization and access to internet.
- There persists ample scopes of camouflage and concealment in the course of carrying the ‘Madness drug’ from source to destination as

Again, it employs about countering the prominent threat with law enforcement efficiency both at domestic and international level.

- More effective domestic policing and
- International co-operation

Narcotics control officials say various Myanmar separatist groups produce yaba at 37 factories located in the Shan state (the number is increasing over the years) which shares borders border with China, Laos, and Thailand and smuggle them to different countries including Bangladesh & Middle East. Again, more than 500 Rohingya yaba smugglers and over 1,000 mules (carrying yaba through rectum) entered Bangladesh after Myanmar launched a crackdown in late August 2017 (Dhaka Tribune, 2017). Thereby, although exact statistics remain confidential due to secrecy but the impact of geographical proximity with Myanmar border can easily be assumed.

TABLE II

Year	Number of Factories in Myanmar
2008	17
2014	37
2018	49

Table II: Sharp Acceleration of Yaba Factories in Myanmar (Department of Narcotic Control Bangladesh, 2018)

Bangladesh has participated in multi-dimensional bilateral-regional as well as global initiatives to com bat the cob-webbed drug trap since last couple of decades. According to Bazlur Rahman, Director General (DG) of the narcotics control directorate-all the law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh including Police, BGB, RAB, Coast Guard and Ansar are working diligently to combat the drug menace in Bangladesh. But however, in practice the trafficking alarm is emerging in a more gigantic manner in the recent years.

Whereas, based on practical and concurrent evidences alternative explanation has tried to dive a bit deeper. Alternative explanations do not completely reject the conventional wisdom but has investigated some other in-depth crux regarding the issue. Geo-strategic location is

constant and it is apparent that South –Asian trafficking routes have been prone to Yaba trafficking both at regional and global level. But it is to be noted that routes are constant and Yaba trafficking is noticeably increasing using the same routes eventually posing gigantic security threat. Thereby, alternative explanation has explored some other responsible factors facilitating the madness trading in the contemporary world.

- Capacity Gap in law enforcement agencies
- Networked and potential Yaba syndicates. Transnational narcotic-networks is persisting here.
- Partial involvement or Overlooking tendency of local law enforcement agencies
- Involvement of authoritative officials and local powerful leaders
- Fluctuated and erroneous governance system
- Interlinked with both legal and illegal migration
- Unprecedented and naïve camouflage strategies and cob-webbed syndicates trying to manufacture Yaba tablets inside the country after purchasing raw materials from Myanmar and not being able to be regulated by the local government. And to counter the thriving problem it advocates for –
- Adopting a new but effective regional law enforcement initiative as the prevailing are not responding in the expected manner.
- Restructuring a transparent and responsible governance system in order to match the regional initiative.

- Yaba is smuggled into the country through some 45-50 points along the borders with the two neighboring countries: mainly Myanmar and somewhat India. Among all the routes the most vulnerable situation for drug trafficking continues on Hill tracts of Dinajpur, Jhenaidaha, Shatkhira, Rajshahi, Benapole ,Chowgachha of Jessore, and Teknaf of Cox’s Bazar.
- Among the trafficking routes, the vast forests and terrain areas of hill tracts and the Bangladeshi, Myanmar and Thai Fishing Trawlers are being safely used for trafficking Yaba into Bangladesh.

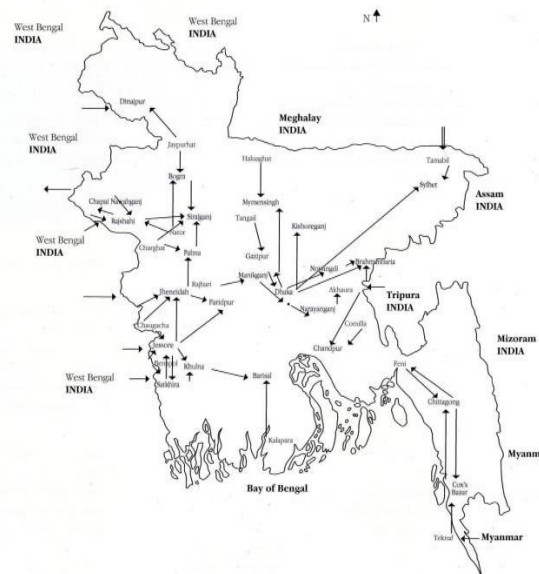


Fig II: Bangladesh-Myanmar Yaba Trafficking Routes (Azad, 2013)

TABLE III

Bangladesh is a signatory to all the three UN Conventions on Narcotics Drugs.
Single Convention on Narcotics Drugs in 1961 Convention on Psychotropic Substances in 1971
UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in 1988.
SAARC Convention on Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in 1990
Bangladesh signed agreement for mutual cooperation with Myanmar in 1994, Iran in 1995 and with India in 2006.
And Bangladesh Myanmar Bilateral agreement to share narcotic information at strategic and operational level May 5-7, 2015.

TABLE III: Existing Anti-Narcotic Initiatives to combat drugs trafficking in South Asia (Department of Narcotic Control, 2016)

VIII. CENTRAL RESEARCH FINDING

Several accessible routes is persisting here to advance Yaba trafficking and Bangladesh is primarily being used as mainly destination but also as a transit country here. There remain two major transnational drug trafficking routes interlinked with the region that are being used to smuggle a huge amount of Yaba and other illicit drugs around the world every year profiteering millions of dollars.

A. Main Routes

B. Alternative Routes

- Instead of using the previous route Teknaf from Myanmar through the Naf River, the drug peddlers now use new routes from the bordering areas of Feni and Comilla from Myanmar through India’s Tripura state while sometimes the peddlers also uses Teknaf route. And another alternative route for Yaba trafficking is Ishwardi.
- Yaba produced in North Myanmar, Laos and Thailand is generally trafficked into foreign countries through Calcutta, Madras and Mumbai routes of India.
- The Golden Triangle: It overlaps the mountains of four countries of Southeast Asia – Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand. Golden Triangle ends in Canada via Myanmar, Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Middle East, South and South Eastern Europe, Western Europe and USA through air, land and sea ways
- The Golden Crescent: The other route also ends in Canada via Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Europe and USA. It overlaps three nations, Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.

- The DNC also marked another Yaba Trafficking route which passes through India, Bangladesh, Middle East, Indian Ocean, Europe, USA and Canada.
- But the International drug barons and the Mafia network also find Bangladesh as a safe and alternate trafficking route when the Indian and Myanmar routes become risky.
- Routes are interlinked with other forms of trafficking and by road, air and water routes are also used for trafficking of drugs. So, Bangladesh is being both a destination and transit country in term of regional Yaba trafficking.

C. Networked Syndicate:

The routes of Yaba Trafficking are significantly important behind spreading craziness. But the entire procedure needs much more involvement. This has been indicated as a networked syndicate here. Producer country produces the drug, local agents pass them onto cross-border trafficking zone, drugs are trafficked and then again a fair portion comes to the capital. The process is complex and involves multiple layer agents, profit-maker, manufacturer, powerful business tycoon, local gangsters, sex workers and finally the users. It is like a cob-web and thereby needs multiple layer investigation. If we consider the major Yaba-trafficking routes of Bangladesh with a few years' data then the networked scenario might become apparent.

TABLE IV

Region	Border Crossing Country	Border Crossing Points
Eastern and Northern	Myanmar: Naf River	Teknaf of Cox's Bazar

Eastern and Northern	India West Bengal	Jheneidah
Eastern and Northern	Myanmar :Bay of Bengal	Chittagong
Eastern and Northern	India: Tripura	Feni
Eastern and Northern	India: West Bengal	Dinajpur

Table IV: The major Yaba Smuggling Route as per the borders (Azad, 2013)

D. Involvement of Authoritative Officials:

A simple profile analysis has been conducted regarding the Yaba-trafficking network and operations in the concerned five regions in past few years based on secondary literatures. Chiefly, national and local daily news papers have been analyzed to trace the reasons. Due to time constraints, a random sample selection procedure has been adopted .Again, a confidential e-mail interview had been conducted with one of the former RAB (Rapid Action Battalion) senior official (who had been posted in Chittagong for several years) where he has revealed some significant information about local Yaba syndicates and its active operations. Finally, involvement of several authoritative officials including former and ruling party Members of Parliaments (MPs), business tycoons and political leaders have been revealed to rule the chain of command as Yaba King/ Yaba lords or chief patrons. As a result, security forces are either being themselves unwilling or being unable to consumption and transaction both horizontally as well as vertically in the contemporary era

Table V

Border Crossing Points	Alleged Yaba-Godfather/ Big Fish	Designation	Arrested / Reported
Teknaf of Cox's Bazar	Abdur Rahman Bodi along with his 3 owned and 3 step brothers and 24 other relatives.	Member of Parliament (MP) of the ruling Party	Exposed in 2016 (The Daily Prothom Alo, 2016)
	Jahed Hossain Jaku	Awami Swechchasebak League President , Teknaf & co-fellow of Mr. Bodi	Killed in 2014 (Dhaka Tribune, 2014)
	Mohammad Rashed	Former Member of Parliament Professor Mohammad Ali's son	2014 (Dhaka Tribune, 2014)
	Noor Hossain	Upazila Juba League general secretary and chairman	2014 (Dhaka Tribune, 2014)
	Zafar Ahmed and his son Moshtaq Ahmed	Former chairman of Teknaf union and ruling party political leader	2014 (Dhaka Tribune, 2014)
Jheneidah	Sabdul Mondol	Ruling Party cohort	Killed in a gun-fight in 2018 (The Daily Star , 2018)

Feni	Sub Inspector Mahfujur Rahman was captured with 7 lac Yaba Tablets	Sub- Inspector of Special Branch, Bangladesh	Arrested in 2015 (Daily Shomokal,2015)
Capital Dhaka	Amir Hossain and his wife	Opposition Party BNP Leader	2016 (Bangladesh Protidin, 2016)
Chattogram	Tinku Das	Opposition Party Leader of Chattogram	Arrested in 2018 (The Daily Prothom Alo, 2018)

Table V: A snapshot view of the finding reveals a glimpse of erroneous governance system (self compilation using secondary data)

Abdur Rahman’s involvement with Rohingya and Ukha ethnic communities had been revealed to be a part of Yaba networking. The Directorate of Narcotics Control has drawn up a list of 1200 Yaba dealers (The Daily Star, 2016). And though the list is confidential but it has been revealed that among them majority are Bangladeshi nationals and a noticeable number of ruling and former opposition party members have been involved or somewhat have sustained the Yaba trend with huge profiteering (The Dhaka Tribune, 2016).

Previously such list of 103 drug peddlers was prepared and among them only 13 were Myanmar nations. Thereby, the tendency to grossly blame the Rohingya community should have to be revised (The Daily Sun, 2013). Intelligence source claim that these networked syndicate comprised of both criminals and leaders and this syndicate has actually sustained the accelerating Yaba trafficking in the country.

E. Business Tycoon’ and Local Agents like ‘Yaba Shundori Nikita’:

The case of Purbani Bank Managing Director Mahabubul Haque Joynal and his Yaba Peddler girlfriend Nikita adds another interesting dimension of networked syndicate. Nikita was initially married to a BNP political leader Shohrab while she was having extra –marital affair with a Korean drug peddler. Through the Korean individual she got engaged with Mr Joynal and both started to lead an extra-ordinary luxurious life .However, on March 4, 2007 they both were arrested with millions of illicit products and money (The Daily Star,2007). Thus, the structure of cartels & the syndicated networked and local agents like falcons & hitmens should cautiously be identified to reach to the lords. The deployment of ‘female agents’ is a common practice in drug cartel chain to transfer information or avoiding risks. Involvement of female dealers & lords like Yaba Shundori Nikita, poppy, Rehana (died in 2018) & their chaining strategies needs to be monitored cautiously. *Capacity Gap and Incomplete*

Regional Initiative:

Bangladesh applies all the universal techniques of drug control, the supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction in light of the real time situation as practiced all over the world. But to justify all his claims about perfections it has revealed that ‘Yaba Trafficking is actually being more threatening’.

Table VI

Year (BGB & BGF= Border Guard Force)	Agenda of Bi-lateral Flag Meeting	Outcome
2011	Shutting down Burmese Factories	No agreement from Myanmar
2015	Creating a Regional Unit like SAARCOPOL that will solely deal with trafficking symbolizing Europol	Shared agreement for intelligence sharing but no agreement about SAARCOPOL or any regional drug trafficking unit has been signed.
2017	Involvement of sudden crackdown of Rohingya People in Yaba Trafficking	No agreement or no conclusion about Rohingya involvement.
2018	Accelerated Number of Factories	No Agreement from Myanmar.
2019	Immediate Measure Needed	No substantive agreement

Table VI: The attempted areas of co-operation to combat the Yaba threats in recent years (The Daily Star, 2019)

But ironically, Dhaka tribune reported that in the first three months of 2016, around 6.4 million tablets have been seized by the security forces in the Cox’s Bazar region only (Aziz, 2016). This scenario proves that drugs trafficking are still continuing and in fact accelerating. This is also clearly indicting that there persists an apparent cavity in domestic capacity building and existing global and regional initiatives are also proving to be ineffective in this case.

F. Combating with naïve trafficking strategies :

The cob-webbed network is being much more notorious and strategic in these contemporary epoc. Security forces need to be much more meticulous. Regular captives are there even cases like carrying drugs through body parts, jackfruits, socks, inner outfits & so on. It will need much more media coverage & social awareness to encounter against it. The nexus between massive influx of Rohingya people and subsequent acceleration of Yaba seizure needs to be nurtured cautiously to avoid the risks of severity. As more than 500 Rohingya yaba smugglers and over 1,000 mules (carrying yaba within rectum: using plastic bags they eat it first, then they bring them out with their stools) entered Bangladesh after Myanmar launched a crackdown in late August 2017, so after that the

trend of skyrocketing Yaba seizure needs to be control by growing awareness regarding the movement, involvement & mixture of Rohingya refugees with common people along with tactics like –

- a. Carrying Yaba in Rectums/ Yaba mules
- b. Carrying Yaba in Inner Organs
- c. Carrying Yaba in Shoes
- d. Piercing body parts & carrying Yaba
- e. Within fruits like jackfruit, coconut etc.

Case Study: A Rohingya child named Afsar was asked to swallow a small capsule-like bundle containing 50-60 yaba tablets. The 12-year old swallowed around 30 bundles and carried the contraband drugs in his stomach during his journey from Teknaf to Dhaka. During the trip he was not allowed to eat anything. Upon reaching Dhaka, he was given a medicine and the bundles of yaba pills came out of his rectum with his stools. The yaba was then sold to drug dealers. Afsar's uncle Selim Mollah also brought many yaba pills to Dhaka in a similar way (Dhaka Tribune, 2019).

IX. PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION OR SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- If Yaba trafficking eventually increases (either vertically or horizontally) in a region, then concerned governance system/ law enforcement agencies will not remain enough capable to provide regional security.
 - a. Domestic and global law enforcement remaining fruitless here
 - b. There remains capacity gap and it poses significant security threat in the region.
- If existing national and global law enforcement and intelligence agencies are unable or unwilling to combat regional security threat, then it will require a plausible regional law enforcement initiative.
 - c. The problem is regionally intertwined and thereby cannot be solved by single actor
 - d. Regional Narcotic based law enforcement can be a plausible solution

X. THEORETICAL IMPLICATION

The theoretical implication of this paper remains skeptic about the capability of existing governance as well as law enforcement and intelligence agencies of South Asia to combat drugs trafficking as a transnational organized crime and to ensure security and stability in the region. Thereby drawing essence from eloquent scholar Stephen D. Krasner's 'International Regime Theory' (Krasner, 1983), the paper argues for generating more effective rules, norms and procedures in the specific issue are of drugs trafficking in the sub-systemic level to produce in turn stability and security in national and systemic level.

XI. POLICY IMPLICATION

It is apparent that existing domestic and international governance system, law enforcement and intelligence agencies have failed significantly to regulate the threatening extent of Yaba- trafficking as a transnational security threat. Thereby, to escape the vulnerability of 'drug war', it is mandatory to adopt some alternative initiatives. The paper has incorporated two major policy prescriptions composed of several implementation strategies in order to better implement and effectively apply counter narcotic strategies in South Asia in the contemporary world.

A. Bridging Capability Gap:

To meet up the domestic flaws of governance and capacity gap following prescriptions can be considered.

- Transparency in governance and power allocation to local leaders.
- Better Surveillance and enforcement of law.
- Countering new strategies to combat camouflage.
- Utmost use of Technology to fight against trafficking.
- Targeted areas and consumers would be kept under surveillance.
- Bilateral flag meetings and domestic efficiencies are required time to time.

A. Plausible Regional Initiative:

Along with national governance restructuring, significant sub-systemic level regional initiatives would fully harness the combating operation against the madness drug.

- A layer of regional formal law enforcement agency
- Strategic co-operation among regional victim countries to pacify the crisis and to ensure a win- win situation for both.
- More credible intelligence sharing among regional actors.
- Non-formal meeting among regional law enforcement officials to meet up capacity gaps.

XII. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The sky-rocketing acceleration of yaba trafficking has challenged the regional security equation of South-Asia and South-East Asia into a complex dimension in this contemporary decade. Bangladesh being both a transit as well as destination country has become one of the worst victims of the networked syndicate of the cob-web of this mighty drug. But in order to combat the nascent threat , analyzing the issue from a mainstream perspective is no more being plausible to deal with. The concerns regarding to geographical proximity and international co- operation through conventions and summits tend to prove 'paper-tigers' confining with paper works. Bilateral meetings and media coverage of captive and seizure news also prevail to be utopian. This paper alternatively unfolds that, unless the hidden dots of the cob-web are not being revealed, combating trafficking nexus will remain to be nothing but just an illusion. However, if we dive

a bit deeper regarding the entire cob-web of the narcotic world, then we will be able to analyze that the entire dimension of trafficking is buckled up with a mighty networked syndicate, access to drugs, drug cartels and their geographical proximity, reality of source, transit and destination countries, drug lords, business tycoons, local agents, political parties, erroneous governance system etc. The combat against war on drug is not limited within geography, proximity, organizational military or coercive solutions only. The red alert zones of Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent, the mighty drug cartels, super human tycoon drug lords, drug agents like Yaba Shundori Nikita, law enforcement agencies are considered to be significant components of the illicit drug chain. To exert combat against war on drug we need to connect all these dots through an effective governance system both locally and regionally to encounter against the lucrative syndicate of drug chain and their gigantic economic and political significance all over the world. The lack of effective law enforcement agencies like SAARCOPOL involvement of ruling regimes, the ultra-smart methods like carrying drugs through internal organs etc. all need to be understood within the complex cob-web of drug and trafficking syndicate. As ruling party officials (no matter which party is in power) mostly enjoy fair share so it is rational not to execute a vigorous domestic attempt to wipe the crux of Yaba trafficking out all on a sudden. Thereby, the prescribed plausible option would be a layer of regional co-operation and more effective national and sub-systemic level governance initiatives to pacify the crisis which will be able to deal with the each segregated dots of this networked syndicate. And only then, we can aspire to have a substantial result out of the prevailing global war on drug worldwide.

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