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DHAKA: More than 100 alleged drug dealers have been killed and thousands held in Bangladesh in the past fortnight in a Philippines-style narcotics crackdown, raising concerns of extrajudicial killings.

Police said 10 more alleged traffickers were gunned down in the early hours on Monday, some in

shootouts with police and others in so-called gang wars.

A total of 102 suspected traffickers have been killed since Bangladesh launched an aggressive war on drugs to smash the surging trade of "yaba", a cheap pill combining methamphetamine and caffeine.

"This war will continue until we

bring it under complete control," Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said.

About 12,000 accused dealers have been arrested and tried in special courts since the crackdown began on May 15, with many handed jail sentences of seven days to six months.

Khan said there was "no question" that those killed were drug dealers, despite allegations by rights groups that innocent people had died.

But the National Human Rights Commission this week expressed "grave concern" at the mounting death toll and sounded the alarm over alleged extrajudicial killings. – AFP