



## **Sugar-coated methamphetamines target Thai kids**

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**BANGKOK (Aug 27, 2013):** Drug traffickers have created chocolate and strawberry-flavoured methamphetamines to attract the youth market in Thailand, media reports said Tuesday.

Anti-drug campaigners have warned parents about the latest marketing strategy for yaba, or "crazy drug" as methamphetamines are known in Thai, The Nation reported.

"We found that yaba makers are trying to change their product to meet the demands of targeted groups," said Viroj Verachai, director of the Princess Mother National Institute for Drug Abuse Treatment.

Methamphetamines are the most popular form of illicit drug in Thailand, with most of it reportedly sourced from laboratories in the lawless Shan state of neighbouring Myanmar. In its normal form, the stimulants have a bitter taste, which might discourage youths from taking the drug.

"These flavours help the users take the drug more easily, but it could severely affect their nervous systems," Viroj said of the new candy-coated pills. – *DPA*