



Cops to undergo basic training because they fall for the same 'gunfight' trick

OSAMA RAHMAN

Law enforcers in the country are getting ready to retrain themselves on the basics of being a cop after falling for the same trick which leads to a gunfight resulting in the death of the prime accused, and hence almost always a cold lead.

In the last five months, 170 deaths have occurred in what newspapers call "so-called" shootouts because they do not think the cops are being honest.

Of these 170, although they have taken place in different areas of the country, the versions of events are the same. They arrest the prime suspect. He leads them to others. They go to the others always after 2:00am. The people they want to arrest "sense their presence". They shoot first. Cops shoot back. Miraculously only the prime accused gets shot and dies. No one else is ever hurt. The custodial death also

never counts.

Because of so many of these events, the retraining programme is being started.

"I don't understand how they always follow the prime accused to where he takes them in the dead of night. I also don't know how these trained cops are always detected. And I don't know how they manage to only shoot the person who was in their custody, obviously unarmed, and no one else. It's as if they weren't trained at all," chief of police Chief Keef said.

Because of this, he added, the police needed some retraining. "I don't want accusations of police brutality flying around because of a few incompetent cops. This isn't the time," the chief said.

Part of the training will also be filing complaints properly. There have been numerous instances

where police have refused to register general diaries, especially during possible rape cases.

"We are not sure what rape is," a cop, under the condition of anonymity said. "Some are just prostitutes," he added although no one had asked him to incriminate himself further.

Police will also undergo training to solve cases, something they have found notoriously difficult to do unless of course it was political.

Furthermore, an awareness campaign will be conducted in conjunction with the training process. The campaign will be titled "There is no police brutality here", pretty straightforward stuff.

"We are going to promote only police officers with a clean image from now on," Chief Keef said, as if that was not something that should have always been done.



Brown gaze doesn't sell: Tourism centre declares after "Love True Dhaka" campaign

LUBNAN KHALEESI



Beiman Airlines, the country's flag bearer, teamed up with a local artist's Instagram page to promote the "real Dhaka" in order to attract the weirdest of the tourist bunch -- the ones who like *chai* tea.

Their first few promotions were instantly panned as pandering to an exoticised version of the country's capital, for which they quickly turned towards realism. And that is when it all fell apart.

The gritty depictions resulted in even some Dhaka residents opting to leave the city they had never loved to begin with.

"I always went by artistic impressions of our city on Instagram to understand what Dhaka really looks like. And now this campaign has shown me the truth," Simran Sultana, who has never left the tristate area nor seen any of Dhaka's rivers, said.

After the new artworks were posted, many

prospective tourists also cancelled their flight tickets to Dhaka. "This was supposed to be a city of rivers. All these images show are sand-filled rivers, encroachers everywhere, dead fish and boats stuck in areas which seem to suddenly have ran out of water. I am never visiting this country, where the servers of *chai* tea don't even wear masks," one commentator on Beiman Airlines' Facebook page said.

Following the grand failure of the campaign, the tourism centre decided to cancel it and issued a stern warning against pandering to the brown gaze.

"The brown gaze doesn't sell. The brown gaze only lands upon problems," Tourism Officer Hakimullah said.

"Can I also be real for a minute? This entire campaign is the result of listening to opposing voices who don't understand what marketing

is. It is the greatest tool of our time and those working for it are the real frontline workers," the officer said.

"Also, we have pretty much sold everything else to other countries, so why not?"

Activist Tahmina Rahman, who had been outraged with the previous campaign, expressed satisfaction with the new one.

"Yes, from a marketing point of view it may not have been great, but perhaps it's time to turn to more ethical ways of selling things. This is Dhaka. And oftentimes its current predicament is the direct result of the wrong gaze falling upon it. Perhaps, we would be wiser to not invite more of those," she said, always maintaining a steady, calm tone for some reason.

Lubnan Khaleesi is all about food for gains now. Snacks are old news and so is eating after 8pm.

How often do you eat?: VC asks students while announcing tuition cuts

AZMIN AZRAN

In a video message shared with students over TikTok, Vice Chancellor of Basindhara University, Professor Dr Md Fatiul Islam, PhD, MSc, BEd, MFeel, RTruth, announced that tuitions for the fall semester will be slashed by 20 percent. In the video, where the monocle and moustache effect was used (with the Wu-Tang Clan's C.R.E.A.M. playing in the background), Dr Md Fatiul showed off his grasp of fractions by saying that it was only fair that a fifth of the tuition be cut as the university has only been providing a 10th of what the students have been paying for.

In a press conference later held on Zoom, the VC expressed gratitude to medical workers who are actively combatting the coronavirus. A BDT 527 stipend (per annum) was announced for the children of medical workers who have lost their lives in this crisis. According to a press release provided to the media, "Basindhara University is committed to helping families who have made the supreme sacrifice for us. Students will need to provide original copies of a birth certificate, a death certificate, an insurance report that proves the cause of death, along with a picture of the dead body to claim the stipend."

When reporters asked about the tuition fee reduction, Dr Md Fatiul said he was concerned about the financial future of the university. "This 20 percent cut is going to make it difficult for us to pay the faculty members and the staff, and to maintain the quality

of education. I will have to send my daughter to study here at Basindhara University instead of the Memorial University of Newfoundland like the rest of her rich friends; we are very concerned about her," the VC said, as his daughter mistakenly walked into the frame, made a rude hand gesture, and walked away.

On the matter of what he'd say to students dissatisfied with the tuition cut, Dr Md Fatiul said, "I'd be obliged to ask these students about how often they eat. I've been told that many students who say the tuition fee is too high end up having three entire meals a day, and a snack! Maybe if they had two meals a day and got rid of the snack, they wouldn't be so poor."

Ignoring the uncomfortable looks of the reporters, the VC continued, "I'm not sure if poor people should be getting higher education. A policy of 'trickle-down education' could be viable for Bangladesh, where so many poor people are scurrying around. If we provide education only to the rich, they can then impart that education to the people who work for them. Like my daughter, who taught the house help how to read and write. It's good that she isn't going to Newfoundland, she can keep teaching them."

The VC concluded the press conference with a stark warning to students. "Those who fail to pay the tuition fees on time will be handed over to the police, and tried under civil laws. We are running a business... a university here, not a charity."



A Satireday staffer pretending to be a university student so we can have a relevant picture for this report.

PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO