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SHAH CEMENT

Public trust in cops eroding

Their involvement in crimes like custodial deaths, disappearances is to blame, say academics, activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People are gradually losing their trust and confidence in law enforcement agencies due to their "continued involvement in criminal activities," including custodial deaths and disappearance of detainees, rights activists, academics and lawyers have said.

Speaking at a programme yesterday, they said law enforcers should be held accountable to uphold the rule of law.

The Citizen Platform Committee for the Protection of Fundamental Rights organised the discussion on "Rule of Law and the Role of Law Enforcement Agencies" at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital.

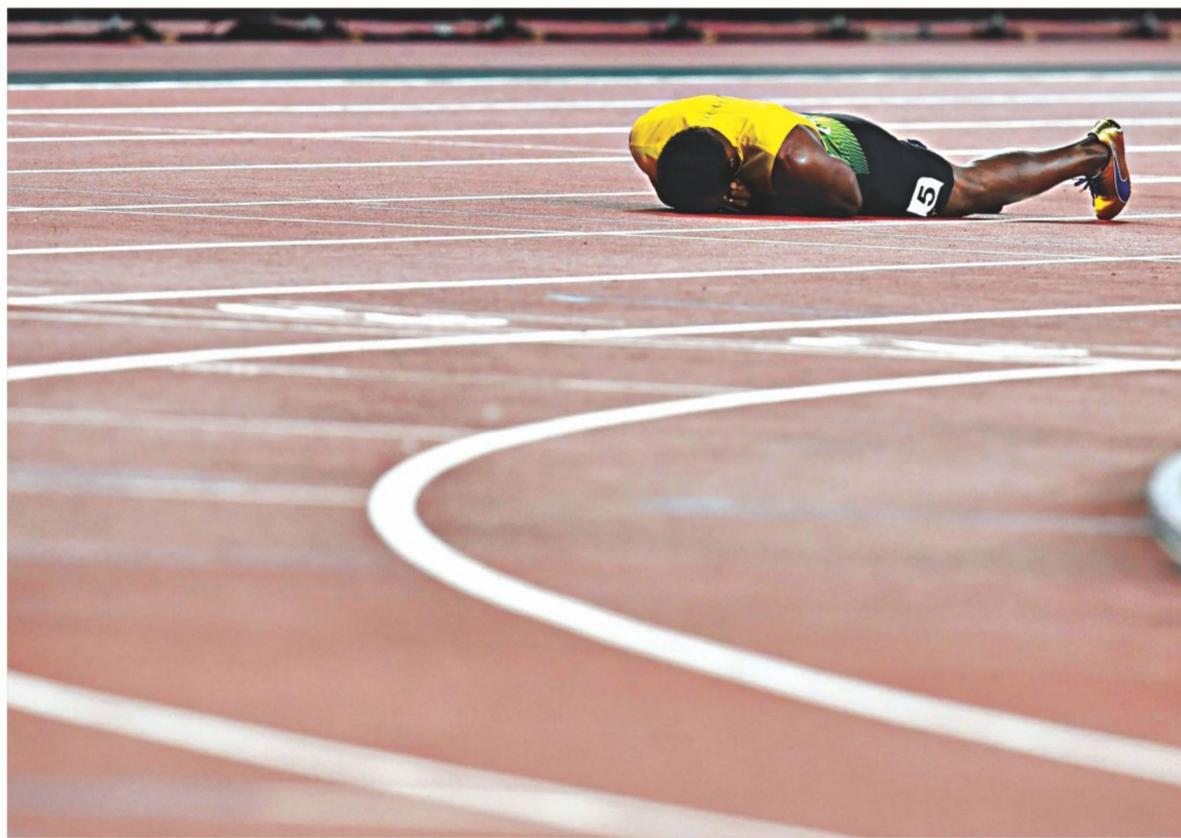
Participants stressed the need for ensuring good democratic practices to check arbitrariness and breaches by law enforcement agencies.

Prof Ridwanul Hoque, who teaches law at Dhaka University, said the rule of law demanded that every government agency be held accountable for their misconduct or breach of law.

"But the demand for setting up an institution, like an independent commission, to investigate allegations of breaches by law enforcement agencies has long remained pending and unattended in the country," he said, delivering the keynote speech.

In the present context of Bangladesh, the rising practice of torture, detention without warrant for interrogation and inquiry and refusal to register complaints of serious crimes

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Usain Bolt lies face down on the track. The greatest sprinter of all-time failed to end his career on top as he would have wanted. The Jamaican injured himself and pulled up on the last leg of the 4x100m relay at the World Athletics Championships in London yesterday. His final competitive race ends in tears. Great Britain claimed gold, USA took silver and Japan claimed bronze.

PHOTO: AFP



The man who planted a tree every day since he was 12 dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Abdul Samad Sheikh, the rickshaw-puller who made planting trees his life's mission, died of post-surgery complications in the early hours yesterday.

He was 60.

Samad made it his duty to plant at least one tree a day since he was 12, often spending the little money he earned by pulling rickshaws.

On its 26th founding anniversary, The Daily Star in February this year honoured this nature lover, who has been known as "Tree Samad" in his community. Upon receiving the accolade with grace, Samad shot his famous remark: "How

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Surgery on Muktamoni 'successful'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A week after doctors found a tumour in an artery of her arm, Muktamoni



yesterday underwent a successful surgery at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

Nearly three kilograms of tumour was removed from her right hand, Samanta Lal Sen, coordinator of DMCH's Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit, told The Daily Star.

After the two-hour-long surgery around 8:45pm, the 12-year-old girl was moved to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the unit, he said.

When she regained consciousness, Muktamoni told doctors that she was

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Tone down rhetoric

China asks Trump amid war of words between US and North Korea; Japan deploys missile defence

AFP, Beijing

Chinese leader Xi Jinping yesterday urged US President Donald Trump to avoid rhetoric that could inflame tensions with North Korea as an escalating war of words raised global alarm.

Xi made the plea in a phone call hours after Trump ramped up his warnings to Pyongyang, saying the Stalinist regime would "truly regret" taking hostile action against the United States.

The White House said in a statement that the two leaders "agreed North Korea must stop provocative and escalatory behaviour" and that they are both committed to the denuclearisation of the peninsula.

But the Chinese foreign ministry said Xi urged Trump to avoid "words and deeds" that would "exacerbate" the already-tense situation, exercise restraint and seek a political settlement.

Trump has been engaged all week in verbal sparring with the North over its weapons and missile programmes, as US media

reported Pyongyang has successfully miniaturised a nuclear warhead.

The Republican billionaire has progressively ramped up the tone throughout the week and on Friday declared that the US military is "locked and loaded."

In a call with Guam Governor Eddie Calvo on Friday, Trump said the US military is prepared to "ensure the safety and security of the people of Guam" in response to Pyongyang's plans to launch missiles towards the Pacific territory.

Japanese media said Tokyo was deploying its Patriot missile defence system following Pyongyang's threat to fire ballistic missiles over the country towards Guam.

In another move that could further fan the flames, satellite photos posted by defence expert Joseph Bermudez suggested that North Korea could be preparing for fresh submarine-based ballistic missile tests.

Trump had earlier brandished a threat of unleashing "fire and fury" on Pyongyang.

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DB officer, 2 others shot in Jurain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A senior assistant commissioner of the Detective Branch of police and two others were shot when unknown assailants opened fire to escape arrest in the capital's Jurain last night.

AC Rahul Patwari is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital for his wound to the abdomen.

Belal Hossain Mridul, a police informant, was shot in the left leg while Selim, a driver sipping tea nearby, was hit in the back.

Jesmin Nahar, a resident surgeon of DMCH told The Daily Star at 12:15am today that they would conduct a surgery to remove the bullet from Rahul's abdomen.

After visiting Rahul at the hospital, Dhaka Metropolitan Police

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Indian boy who sees through mind's eye



AGENCIES

Scientific evidence shows that when a person loses their sense of sight, the other four senses are enhanced, allowing them to be more aware of their surroundings even if they can't see them. 17-year-old Jeet Trivedi is not blind, but he claims that he doesn't need his eyes to perform tasks like driving, reading or even passing thread through a needle, after training his other senses to a superhuman level.

Jeet Trivedi is a controversial figure in India. There are those who see him as a real-life Daredevil, who can function as a normal human being without using his eyes, while others consider him and his mind training teacher, Bharat Patel, as frauds trying to make money by using deceitful tricks. To be honest, it's hard to believe that someone

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Needles stuck under nails of 8-yr-old

2 teachers held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police yesterday arrested two female teachers of a madrasa in Gournadi for whipping an eight-year-old student 160 times and inserting needles under her nails allegedly for stealing Tk 100.

Officer-in-Charge Manirul Islam of Gournadi Police Station said Renu

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 13

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-41 8-00

JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-44 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

2 killed in clash over mosque committee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Maulvibazar

Two villagers were killed and about fifty others injured in a clash over forming a committee to run a local mosque in Habiganj's Bahubal upazila yesterday morning.

Matin Mia, 50, and Abdul Kabir, 50, died of injuries on the scene as two groups of villagers attacked each other with sharp weapons and sticks at Mukkandi village about 7:00am, police said.

The groups quarreled on Friday following Juma prayer over appointing the Imam of a mosque and forming the management committee, locals said.

Yesterday's clash could be a consequence of that quarrel, Mazharul Islam, officer-in-charge of Bahubal Police Station, told The Daily Star, adding that they are trying to arrest the culprits.

Raselur Rahman, assistant superintendent

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A few very large bulls are hosed down with cool water at Anwar City Agrovet in Keraniganj at the outskirts of the capital yesterday. The farm says their animals cost anywhere from Tk 1 lakh to Tk 10 lakh. Farmers are busy preparing for the hectic Eid-ul-Azha cattle business with the festival only weeks away.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

GABTOLI CATTLE MARKET Anomalies taking toll on traders

Lessee of the market charges more than double the official toll

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Irregularities are rife at Gabtoli cattle market as its lessee has been collecting additional charges from meat traders and renting out shops to small traders inside the market illegally.

The Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), who leases out the market, seems to have no control over the property with the same individual winning the lease for the market for 12 consecutive years and making illegal money.

The DNCC estate department has apparently been helping the lessee continue such illegal activities by not taking punitive actions against it.

According to an estimate of meat traders, around 1,000 cattle are traded at the market every day.

The corporation has fixed charges for each cow and buffalo at Tk 100 and Tk 150 respectively. But many traders alleged that the lessee, Lutfur Rahman, has been charging them up to Tk 400, pushing meat prices up in city markets.

Going beyond his jurisdiction, Lutfur has set up over 100 shops in the city's lone permanent cattle market and has been earning money in rent.

"The lessee is making money with the help of some unscrupulous officials of the city corporation," alleged Robiul Alam, acting general secretary of Dhaka Metropolitan Meat Merchant Association.

Visiting the market twice recently, this correspondent found that people collecting additional charges from meat traders.

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