

Immense power, little application

NHRC not doing enough to protect victims of rights violation; HC says the rights body's "negligence" is frustrating

BISHAKHA DEVNATH

Contrary to popular belief, the National Human Rights Commission is armed with ample power to help ensure justice and even compensation for victims of rights violation. But the nation's rights custodian hardly ever uses its power to protect these victims, many of whom are people outside the power circle with no one else to support them.

NHRC officials say they cannot act with full force since they lack "executive power" while the public often view the rights body as a "toothless" organisation.

But legal experts and rights activists say the commission has enough power, but it either does not know how it should go about its job or it is reluctant to do something that could embarrass the government.

The alleged abuse of domestic help Khadiza Akhter by her employer in the capital's Mirpur is a case in point. On December 6, 2013, police rescued her from her employers' house and had her admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with

injuries on different parts of her body.

Police, however, did not file any case and the alleged torturer was never brought to justice.

NHRC DOING TOO LITTLE

Following newspaper reports on Khadiza's "abuse", Children's Charity Bangladesh Foundation brought her case to the NHRC on December 10, 2013, seeking appropriate action against police for not filing a criminal case against her employer.

Under the 2009 law, the NHRC could launch a probe into the allegation, issue a show-cause notice to police, summon police and home ministry officials, recommend legal action against the police officer(s) and also ask the government to give Khadiza compensation of an amount it deems appropriate.

But the commission did none of these. What it did though was an exchange of letters for one year, which is nothing but formalities.

First, the commission sought a report from the police on the action taken about the abuse allegation. In response, police said they took none as

NHRC sitting on draft rules for a decade

Facing problems in upholding human rights in its absence

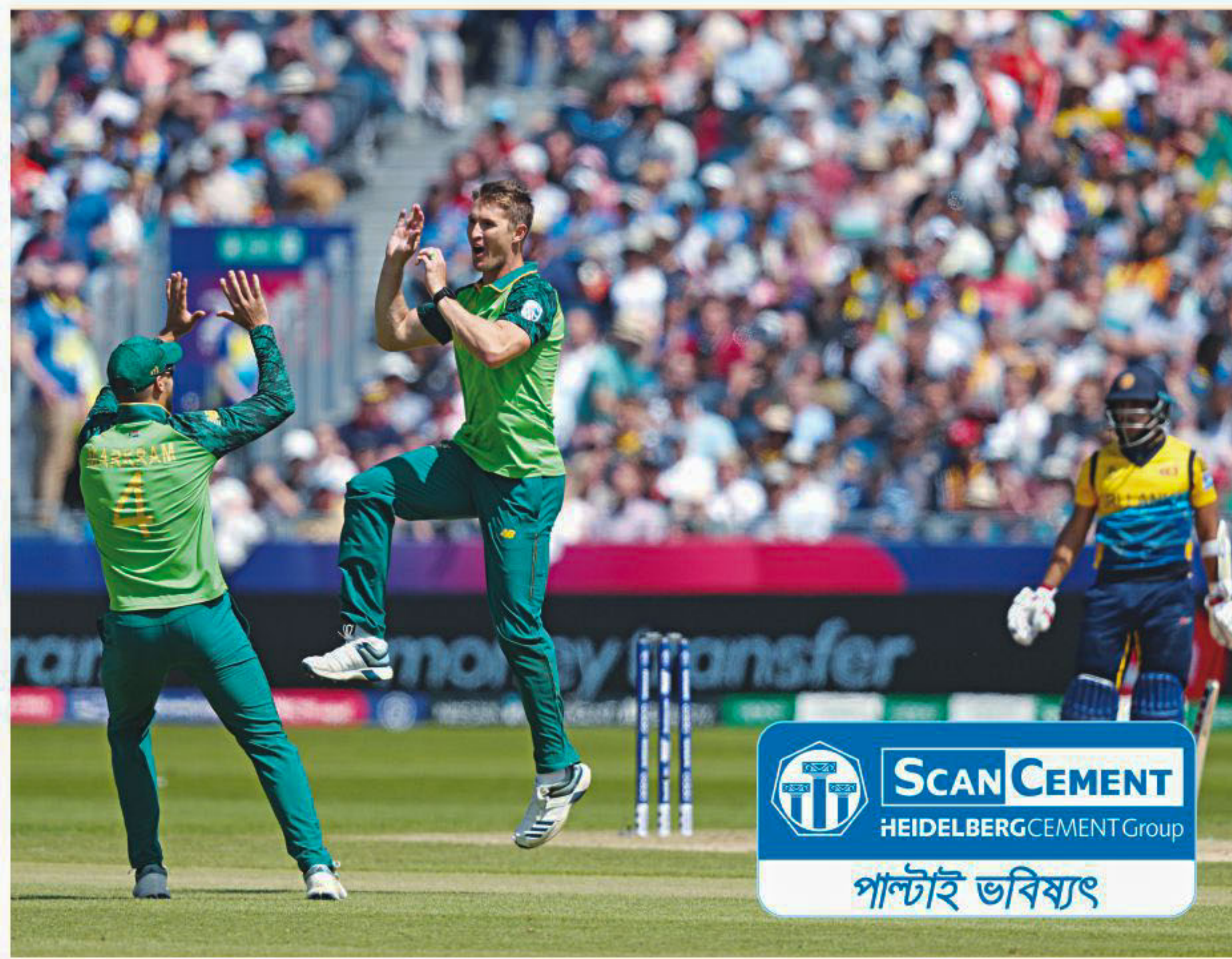
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Even after a decade spent discussing, drafting and re-drafting, the National Human Rights Commission has not yet formulated a set of rules, which is supposed to outline the detailed procedure of how it will address human rights violations.

The statutory body runs under the National Human Rights Commission Act-2009, but the law does not specify how it should mediate or investigate complaints of rights violations. Different sets of rules give these specifics, complementing the act.

Immediately after its inception in 2010, the commission started the process of drafting two sets of rules -- one for appointing a mediator or councillor to conduct mediation and conciliation, and the other for

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South Africa pacer Dwayne Pretorius scalped three wickets to help restrict Sri Lanka to 203 runs in a World Cup encounter yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

পদ্মা সেতুর

মূল কাঠামোতে ব্যবহৃত হচ্ছে শুধুমাত্র

স্ক্যানসিমেন্ট

জিভিসিহ পুরো বাড়ি তৈরিতেই ব্যবহার করুন স্ক্যান সিমেন্ট মজবুত থেকে আপনার বাড়ির ভবিষ্যৎ

South Africa dent Sri Lanka's hopes

AFP, Chester-Le-Street

Hashim Amla and Faf du Plessis powered South Africa to a nine-wicket victory over Sri Lanka on Friday, dealing a huge blow to the Asian side's hopes of reaching the World Cup semifinals.

Amla (80) and captain Du Plessis (96) put on an unbeaten 175 for the second wicket as South Africa cruised to victory in the 38th over, finishing on 206 for one.

Sri Lanka were struggling after defeats to New Zealand and Australia and two washouts before reviving their World Cup chances with a shock win against hosts England last week.

But, with six points from seven games, the 1996 champions have now slipped behind England, Bangladesh and Pakistan in the race to qualify from the round-robin phase.

"It feels like it's a long time coming," said Du Plessis, whose side were already out of contention for the semi-finals before the match.

"It feels bittersweet, it doesn't feel like it means too much," he added.

"But the basics of batting were shown today. We've not had guys bat long and build big partnerships. One big partnership and everything

looks much easier."

Sri Lanka's batting let them down against an inspired South African pace attack led by recalled seamer Dwayne Pretorius, who returned figures of 3-25 from his 10 overs.

"It was a tough wicket," said Pretorius. "We just had to be disciplined and luckily that plays into my game plan."

"I think everyone backed each other well and that was probably our most disciplined performance of the tournament so far."

"The wicket looks slightly slow with a big outfield. Good cricket shots, good partnerships and running hard will be key."

Playing for pride, South Africa rarely put a foot wrong after electing to field first in Chester-le-Street, bowling out Sri Lanka for 203 in the 50th over.

Chris Morris also finished with three wickets while pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada took two.

Sri Lanka had a disastrous start to their innings when skipper Dimuth Karunaratne was caught at slip by Du Plessis off the first ball of the match, delivered by Rabada.

Kusal Perera and Avishka Fernando batted positively to take the score to 67 for one in the 10th over before

Fernando (30) mistimed a shot, sending the ball steeping into the air before it was taken by Du Plessis.

Perera (30) was next to go, chopping a Pretorius delivery onto his stumps as Sri Lanka slipped to 72-3 in the 12th over.

Angelo Mathews was bowled by Morris for 11 and Kusal Mendis departed for 23.

A swarm of bees briefly interrupted play towards the end of the innings, forcing the players and umpires to lie flat on the ground.

Veteran paceman Lasith Malinga struck in the fifth over of South Africa's innings, bowling Quinton de Kock for 15, but it only proved a minor hiccup.

Amla and Du Plessis took control as they mixed the right dose of caution and aggression to blunt the opposition attack.

"We needed to take wickets to stand a chance of winning and build pressure," said Karunaratne. "We've got to think about that going forward -- how we can build pressure and create mistakes."

South Africa will sign off with a final league match against Australia.

Sri Lanka have two more games -- against West Indies on July 1 and India on July 6.

BRUTAL KILLING IN BARGUNA

Cops identify 13 attackers

Red alert issued at international airports, land and river ports to prevent them from fleeing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police have identified 13 people involved in the killing of Rifat Sharif in broad daylight in Barguna on Wednesday and issued red alert at all international airports, and land and river ports across the country to prevent them from fleeing.

Though the law enforcers detained three suspects, the two prime accused -- Sabbir Hossain Nayan and Rifat Farajee -- are still at large.

Meanwhile, screenshots of a Facebook messenger conversation between several suspects surfaced on social media yesterday. The screenshots showed that the suspects, who are members of the Facebook messenger group named "007", hatched a murder plot.

They were asking each other to gather at the college around 9:00am. One of the group members asked another to bring along a machete.

Contacted, Maruf Hossain, superintendent of police in Barguna, said they heard about the screenshots and were verifying those.

Around 10:30am on Wednesday, Nayan and Farajee attacked 25-year-old Rifat, who used to provide internet service, with sharp weapons in front of Barguna Government College when Rifat and his wife Ayesha



Rifat Sharif

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'SHOOTOUTS' Two brothers among three dead

STAR REPORT

Three men, including two siblings, were killed in two "gunfights" with members of Border Guard Bangladesh and police in Cox's Bazar and Cumilla early yesterday.

In Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar, two siblings -- Abdur Rahman, 28, and Abdus Salam, 26 -- were killed in a "gunfight" with police, reported UNB.

ABS Doha, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Model Police Station, said the duo was wanted in several cases including a murder. Police arrested them on Thursday.

Later, a team of police, along with the criminals, conducted a drive in Hinla Girls' High School hill around 1:00am to recover arms, he claimed.

As soon as they appeared in the hill area, a group of criminals opened fire, forcing them to retaliate. At one point of the "gunfight", the two siblings were caught in the

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PM'S CHINA VISIT Dhaka wants stronger role of Beijing on Rohingya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is expecting Beijing, a close ally of Myanmar, to play a more effective role in addressing the Rohingya crisis as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits China from July 1-5.

"We hope Rohingya issue will get prominence during her visit. We have high hopes to see progress in this regard," Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen said at a press briefing at his ministry yesterday.

Foreign Minister Momen, PM's Adviser on Private Industry and

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Mahmudullah plays waiting game

EKUSH TAPADER

Bangladesh batsman Mahmudullah Riyad was seen limping when he came out of the team hotel with his son to join Mushfiqur Rahim, who was waiting for him in a car, before leaving for Jummah prayers in Birmingham yesterday.

Still a day remains on the sanctioned five-day break for the Tigers. Bangladesh ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and opener Tamim Iqbal are yet to return from London while skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Mehedi Hasan Miraz are also enjoying the break.

However, Mahmudullah and Mushfiqur stayed back in the hotel and did not even leave their rooms if not for any important

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Built ahead of the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup, these sculptures of cricketers in Chattogram city's Nimtala Biswa Road area are falling to pieces for lack of maintenance. The photo was taken this week.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Police plan to rehabilitate ex-militants

Over 100 to get assistance in an effort to prevent them from going back to the path of militancy

SHARIFUL ISLAM and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The counterterrorism unit of police will provide assistance to over 100 former militants or their families to keep them away from the path of militancy.

The officials will begin with rehabilitating five former militants next week.

The five convicted leaders and activists of the mainstream JMB were recently released from prison. They were arrested before and after the 2005 series bomb attacks.

Family members of three other JMB militants, who are still in jail, have also been selected for awarding financial help so that militant outfits cannot recruit them with financial assistance, said Monirul Islam, chief of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit of police.

Saiful Islam, deputy commissioner of the unit, said, "For the rehabilitation, we would raise funds so that they can start small businesses."

The families facing serious financial hardships are being chosen, he added.

The initiative is part of a plan to establish a terrorism and international crime prevention centre of police.

"We will provide them with vocational or special trainings in such a manner that they may become experts in a certain field and do good for our society," Saiful told

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