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[Front Page](#)

Make 'crossfire', torture in police custody punishable offence

Speakers tell consultative meeting

[Unb, Cox's Bazar](#)

Participants at a consultative meeting on the proposed police reform ordinance in Cox's Bazar yesterday said 'crossfire' and inhuman torture in police custody should be made punishable offence.

About a hundred people drawn from different sections of the society took part in the meeting, presided over by Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police at Chittagong Range AKM Shahidul Haq.

The meeting was part of similar meetings across the country which aim at assimilating popular views into the proposed reforms.

Scores of people have been killed in crossfire since March, 2004.

Most of the participants viewed that 'crossfire' is against the existing laws and religion also does not permit this.

They held that the political party in power would tend to take advantage of 'crossfire' if the practice is not made a punishable offence.

Similarly, torture of the accused on remand in a bid to extract confessional statement as desired by the police should also be made punishable offence.

The participants also suggested revoking Section 54 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). They said detention under the Special Powers Act violates the basic rights of the people guaranteed by the constitution.

They lauded the government move to reform the age-old police law and called for making the police force friendly to the people.