



Textiles and Jute Adviser Brig Genl (Retd) Dr M Sakhawat Hossain attends a seminar as a special guest in the capital on Saturday. PHOTO: COURTESY

NSU's SIPG organises seminar on reforms to ensure pro-people policing services

Daily Sun Report, Dhaka

The South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at North South University recently organised a seminar on "Proposal for the Formation of a Police Commission and Other Reforms to Ensure Pro-People Policing Services," as part of its ongoing research initiatives addressing pressing national issues.

The seminar focused on SIPG's recent position paper, developed in response to the needs identified in the aftermath of the July revolution, said a press release.

Textiles and Jute Adviser Brigadier General (Retd) Dr M Sakhawat Hossain attended the event as a special guest.

Sakhawat Hussain emphasised the urgency of the proposed reforms and the potential impact of a youth-inclusive approach to policing.

He further said, "After the 8th of August, I spoke with members of the police. They expressed their desire to be under a commission; they did not want to be politicised. Therefore, I believe that the formation of a police commission is of utmost importance to change the current image of the police. I also think that police recruitment should fall under the jurisdiction of the police commission."

Professor Sk Tawfique M Haque, director of SIPG at North South University, moderated the seminar by highlighting the necessity of police reforms and the potential role of youth, particularly students, in this trans-

formative process.

Dr Md Rizwanul Islam and Dr Ishrat Zakia Sultana delivered the seminar's keynote presentations, outlining a potential roadmap for reform and a structured framework for establishing a police commission.

They emphasised the importance of community engagement in creating a truly pro-people policing service.

The speakers also highlighted findings from a recent SIPG survey, which revealed a significant lack of public trust in the police, with only 11% of respondents indicating confidence in the force.

The proposal further underscored the importance of students playing an active role in these reform initiatives, thereby facilitating a closer alignment between policing and community service. Rizwanul Islam also noted that, rather than utilising a three-tier recruitment process, a two-tier recruitment system would be more effective for assessing the capabilities of young recruits.

Bobby Hajjaj, the founder and chairman of the National Democratic Movement, expressed support for the proposal to form a police commission, stating that such a move would facilitate the decentralization of power and the depoliticization of law enforcement.

Additionally, Baharul Alam, retired additional inspector general of Bangladesh Police, remarked, "I welcome the position of revising the three-step recruitment process. I believe that this will enhance the bonding among police members."