



No alternative to implementing proposed police ordn: IGP

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The inspector general of police, Nur Mohammad, has said there is no alternative to implementing the proposed Bangladesh Police Ordinance-2007 to make the police more transparent, professional and accountable to the people.

He made the remark at a seminar on 'Necessity of Reform of the Police Act for National Development', organised by Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad at the Bangladesh Economic Association auditorium in Dhaka Saturday morning.

Former adviser to the caretaker government ASM Shahjahan presented the keynote paper at the seminar, chaired by parishad chairman and BEA president Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad.

IGP Nur Mohammad said the country's police force was functioning under the outdated Police Act-1861 enacted during the British colonial days, where there was no place for such words as community, democracy, constitution, media and human rights.

'This act needs to be reformed and updated immediately,' he said adding that in the proposed police ordinance everything was available. The police chief said: 'Let's move forward for implementation of the proposed Police Ordinance... to remove the gap between people and police... enable police to become friend of people instead of a source of panic.'

In his keynote address, former adviser to the caretaker government ASM Shahjahan said the Police Act-1861 was enacted four years after the Sepoy Mutiny to clamp down on any sort of demonstration. 'This act is very good for exercising control, not for service and development.'

He said: 'This police act was the main weapon of the politicians. By using it, they could transfer or terminate any police officials... on many occasions in the past, police were used as the musclemen of the government.'

Shahjahan, also a former secretary of the government and ex-IGP, said the police should be allowed to function independently and impartially for greater interest of the country and its development.

He criticised the interim government for not implementing the proposed Police Ordinance. 'We don't know why they didn't implement it. This government has implemented many ordinances without consultation,' he said.

Shahjahan urged the government to implement the proposed police ordinance before handing over power to an elected government.

'If it fails to implement the ordinance that would be the greatest failure of the

government,' he said. 'If it (proposed police ordinance) is implemented then police stations will be treated as the symbol of safety and security.'