



PHOTO: STAR
The auditorium of the Agriculturists' Institution, Bangladesh at Khamarbari in Tejgaon was ransacked after two groups of agriculturists were locked in a scuffle during the annual general meeting of the institution yesterday. Eight agriculturists were manhandled and the AGM was postponed.

'Set up independent crime investigation wing'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bureaucrats, representatives of donor agencies, human rights activists and legal experts yesterday recommended an independent crime investigation wing and permanent and non-political public prosecution service to improve the judicial system of the country.

They made the recommendations at a workshop on 'Strengthening of the Criminal Justice System and Police Reform' at the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) auditorium in the city. The workshop was organised by the Prime Minister's Office.

The participants said the country needs an effective and modern law enforcement agency to provide security to its people.

They also called for special measures to provide proper training to police, stop political influence on them and bring transparency and accountability in police administration.

Speaking at the workshop, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed said a permanent and independent public prosecution service should be set up for the accountability of the judicial system.

He said although the public prosecutors (PPs) are generally enrolled on the basis of their seniority and experience, their

appointments are still politically biased and they are employed purely on temporary basis.

State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Muhammad Shahjahan Omar said about one lakh Ansars should be deployed along with police to provide security to the people.

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury said the police are overburdened and carrying out their duties for over 16 hours a day. They also lack accommodation, transport and other facilities.

Prime minister's principal secretary Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, who moderated the workshop, said an action plan has been taken to reform the police force.