

Rab must move

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particularly when it was allegedly used as a political tool.

"Such misuse reached its peak during the tenure of the previous fascist regime," he said. "Rab must never again be allowed to serve political interests."

However, he noted that in recent times, Rab has played a proactive role in maintaining law and order, apprehending criminals, recovering illegal firearms, and conducting anti-narcotics drives.

Rab Director General (Grade I) AKM Shahidur Rahman delivered the welcome address at the event. Army Chief General Waker Uz Zaman and Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam also attended the event, alongside senior officials from the military and civil administration.

A documentary on Rab's activities was screened at the ceremony. The adviser also cut a cake to mark the anniversary.

The Rab has long been accused of violating human rights. In 2021, the US imposed sanctions on the Rab and six former top officials of the agency

over reports of gross rights violations.

Earlier, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in its fact-finding report on the July uprising, recommended disbanding the force, citing serious human rights violations and abuses.

According to Rab officials, a draft of the Rab Law-2024 is being prepared to ensure accountability within the force.

On May 12, during a meeting of the Advisory Council Committee on Law and Order at the home ministry, a committee was formed under the leadership of Lt Gen (retd) Abdul Hafiz, special assistant to the chief adviser, with several force chiefs as members to oversee the restructuring of the Rab.

The committee has also been authorised to co-opt other members if needed.

PRAYER TIMING

MAY 22

Fazr Zhor Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-40 8-00

JAMAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-45 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

12 villages

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As a result, nearby villages -- including Brahmakathi, Baladianga, Byasdanga, Ramchandrapur, Sujapur, Maguradanga, Khatiakhali, Rajan Garbarkeri, Panchabakababarsi, Kornodarpur, Barena and Magurkuli -- are flooded every monsoon.

"Since the Boro harvest has been completed, it is now an ideal time to excavate the canal before the monsoon begins in full swing. If the Bangladesh Water Development Board does not act now, we will face flooding yet again, like every year," said Rafiqul Islam, a resident of Byasdanga village.

Master Saifullah of Maguradanga village echoed him. According to BWDB sources, excavation work on the canal is expected to begin shortly.

Contacted, Suman Shikder, sub-divisional engineer of BWDB in Keshabpur upazila, said re-excavating the canal is of high priority.

"We will begin the work very soon. Additionally, we plan to excavate another 1.35-kilometre stretch of the old canal in the Goralia Beel area," he added.

Reform commissions

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other recent commissions were also formed in the same top down manner, with individuals favoured by those in charge.

Referring to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, he said, "He needs to understand that this country is not just made up of a few elites inside Dhaka. Society here is much bigger."

Addressing the debate surrounding the commission's proposal to recognise sex workers, Farhad said the issue remains highly contested within feminist circles.

Some view sex work as inherently violent and want it abolished. Others argue that without legal recognition, these women remain marginalised and without protection.

Quoting Islamic principles, he said, "If a woman takes up sex work out of economic necessity, the blame is not on her. It is on those in the community -- especially religious leaders -- who failed to support her."

He called for respectful and constructive discussions. "Let us not use

language that contradicts Islamic values. We must negotiate, debate, and build understanding, not take the issue in a harmful direction."

Child psychologist Sultana Razia said discrimination against women begins in the family and continues throughout life. "Even in childhood, girls face restrictions on clothing, food, play, and freedom of expression. This affects their confidence and self-worth."

"If we don't understand our own dignity and rights, and change our mindset, we cannot claim or protect them," she said, adding that real change must begin with self-awareness, education, and cultural reform.

Jamaat-e-Islami Central Executive Committee member Nurul Islam Bulbul called for the formation of a new commission that includes representation from all groups.

Primeasia University Assistant Professor AR Khan, Dhaka Union of Journalists President Shahidul Islam, and rights activist Sharmin Sultana Chaity also spoke at the programme.

Skills, not certificates

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universities to take on research roles. "Let the intellectuals do the research. You can't do both a job and proper research at the same time. Government and private universities can take part in research. How to utilise the youth -- that itself is a topic for research."

Presiding over the event, CPD Executive Director Fahmida Khatun said the current education system is failing to meet labour market demands.

"Higher education and university-level learning have little practical use, and the market has no real demand for them. This is leading to a rise in educated unemployment. The more educated someone is, the more likely they are to be unemployed -- mainly because many don't want to accept just any job," she said.

She also pointed to the widespread obsession with government jobs, especially

the BCS, as a factor.

"Instead of chasing conventional, comfortable jobs, the youth need to embrace alternative career paths," she added.

AKM Fahim Mashroor, CEO of bdjobs.com, said the main issue is not just unemployment but a mismatch between what graduates are trained for and what the economy needs.

"In the last 10-15 years, the number of graduates entering the job market has tripled, but the economy can't absorb them," he said.

"We're sending low-skilled workers abroad while failing to export surplus graduates who could take on higher value roles in caregiving, hospitality, and communications-based sectors," he added.

Mashroor called for skilled migration and overseas graduate employment to be treated as national priorities, backed by financing and

training.

Sadia Haque, CEO and co-founder of ShareTrip Limited, said informal job sectors like freelancing must be formalised to properly reflect youth engagement and job creation in national policies.

Syed Nasim Manzoor, managing director of Apex Footwear Limited, said the youth must be willing to step out of their comfort zones and consider careers in manufacturing and applied skills instead of only white-collar jobs.

He said Bangladesh should shift from certificate-based education to skills-based learning, particularly in industrial design, visual merchandising, and sustainability.

Alif Rudaba, additional secretary of the National Skills Development Authority, and Shahir Chowdhury, founder and CEO of Shikho, also spoke at the event.

Dhaka in touch with Delhi

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The plan was made a week before the murder. Nayem Ahmed, the ringleader, promised the group he would find and lure a photographer, said police officials.

They searched Facebook pages and contacted Nurul Islam, an event photographer. Claiming to be organising a wedding, they hired him and paid him Tk 500 in advance.

On the evening of May 16, Nurul, a resident of Motijheel AGB Colony, and his assistant Emon arrived at Sankar bus stand in West Dhanmondi, where Nayem received them.

Pretending to take them to the wedding venue, he led them onto a battery-run rickshaw and headed toward the Jafraab area.

Around 8:00pm, as they

reached a house named "Kshaniakalay" in Rishipara, a group of youths suddenly blocked the rickshaw.

Frightened, Emon managed to flee. As the attackers tried to grab Nurul's camera bag, he resisted. When he refused to hand it over, they attacked him with sharp weapons, leaving him critically injured. The attackers then fled with the cameras and the bag.

The nine other arrestees

are Shahin Akanda

alias Shahim,

Shahena Chowkidar,

Rahim Sarker,

Nayan Ahmed,

Ridoy Madbar,

Abdur Razzak,

Anwar Hossain,

and Arman.

Osman Gani, brother of the victim, said they heard the police had arrested the accused. "We demand fair trial and justice," he added.

On the issue of land

port restrictions, Hossain said the commerce adviser is reviewing India's recent move to halt imports of readymade garments and several listed goods from Bangladesh through land ports.

"We are looking into the matter carefully," he said.

Earlier this month,

India reportedly imposed a ban on the import of all kinds of RMG products and selected processed foods from Bangladesh through its land borders, citing administrative reasons.

The move has raised concerns among exporters and trade bodies in Dhaka.

On February 11, 2012, at their rented apartment in Dhaka's West Rajabazar.

After the killings, eight suspects -- Kamrul Islam alias Arun, Abu Sayeed, Rafiqul Islam, Bakul Miah, Masum Mintu, Palash Rudra Paul, Anamul Haque alias Humayun Kabir, and Tanvir Rahman Khan -- were arrested. Tanvir and Palash are now out of jail, while the others are behind bars.

Meanwhile, investigators

have so far spoken to over 70 people, said a PBI official, requesting anonymity.

The agency also

interrogated six individuals

-- sacked army official

Ziaul Ahsan, former

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Rahman, ex-justice AHM

Shamsuddin Chowdhury

Manik, former navy officer

Mohammad Sohail, and

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