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Police place 10 suggestions to raise skills

UNB, Dhaka

High officials of Bangladesh Police yesterday put forward 10 suggestions to Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina for building the police as a modern and highly skilled force.

At the opening ceremony of the Bangladesh Police Week-2009 at the Prime Minister's Office, the high-ranking police officials assured that each member of the department will put in their best efforts to help ensure good governance eradicating militancy, terrorism and all crimes.

They also urged the government to take some steps immediately to make that happen.

The suggestions and demands placed by the officers are: increasing allocation to training and remuneration, incorporating latest technologies, increasing workforce in the department especially in the Special Branch (SB), formulating and regularly updating deputation schedule,

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PM pledges to beef up police to fight terror

Police Week begins

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the police would be effectively armed with modern technologies and increased manpower, including more female members, to make the cops more capable of combating terrorism and militancy.

Declaring the opening of Bangladesh Police Week-2009 at a function at the Prime Minister's Office, she also urged the police department to launch social counselling among the commoners to create public opinion against the spread of militancy and other forms of terrorism.

"In many cases, it is found that terrorists are using more modern technologies than the law enforcers'. Hence, modern technologies will be incorporated in the police department and workforce will be increased," she said addressing the police top brass on the occasion.

Following a demand from the police officers, the PM further said the government would explore the possibility of forming a modern separate cell or unit



like the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the USA and other skilled units of various countries to infuse dynamism into investigation and the combat against the criminal acts.

The premier mooted the idea of a new investigation outfit on a par with the investigative policing of the modern world at a time when her new government had to commission the services of

FBI and Scotland Yard trying to break the case of terrible mutiny at the BDR headquarters.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun, Cabinet Secretary M Abdul Aziz, Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder and Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad also spoke on the occasion.

Sheikh Hasina said the government would do everything, including increasing allocation, for making the police department well-equipped and well-trained.

Responding to another demand of the police officers, the prime minister said forming several separate units like Marine Police, Industrial Zone Police is seriously needed.

Unveiling further plans she said, "The government will consider the possibility of setting up more police lines in the city's Mirpur, Demra and other surrounding areas."

Hasina also assured them of removing the accommodation crisis and increasing risk allowances for the police force.

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Tk 155cr scheme to train, rehabilitate disabled persons

National Disability Day today

FARHANA URMEE

The government has, for the first time ever, launched a five-year programme involving Tk 155 crore to train and rehabilitate the disabled in the country.

This programme, funded by World Bank, has been effective from January 28 this year after the agreement with the bank was signed on December 28 last year.

It will be implemented in collaboration with different Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) at field level across the country by April 28.

Under this programme, titled 'Promotion of Services and Opportunities to the Disabled Persons of Bangladesh', the government aims to treat disability as a development issue, raise awareness about it among policymakers and legislators and make existing laws and policies friendly to Persons with Disability (PWD).

This programme would also provide services to PWDs, especially rehabilitation to disabled women, and education for them.

According to World Health Organisation, about 1.5 crore or 10 percent of the total population is disabled in Bangladesh. Of them, more than seven percent are physically disabled and the remaining intellectually challenged.

"The government is trying to rehabilitate PWDs with trainings, assistance and development programmes through the National Foundation for Development of Disabled Persons (NFDDP)," Social Welfare Ministry Secretary Begum Kamrunnessa Khanam said.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

Bill seeks lawmakers' authority over UZ parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on the LGRD ministry yesterday placed its report on the scrutiny of a bill with recommendations for giving lawmakers massive authority over upazila parishads in their constituencies.

Once the recommendations are included in the bill meant to reintroduce the now-defunct Upazila Parishad Act 1998, the lawmakers will get more power as parishad advisers than they had under the 1998 act itself.

The Upazila Parishad Act 1998 just said that lawmakers will be advisers of upazila parishads in their constituencies and the parishads will seek their suggestions.

But in addition to reintroducing the previous provision, the parliamentary body has recommended inclusion of new provisions that make mandatory for the parishads

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

BB mulls stimulus for recession-hit industries

May offer scope for loan rescheduling without down payment

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh Bank may give industries affected by the global economic meltdown an opportunity to reschedule their loans without any down payment under the recession benefits the government is considering for these industries.

Presently rescheduling requires 10-50 percent down payment on the overdue loan.

If the opportunity for rescheduling loans on easy terms is introduced, rules of the Central Credit Information Bureau will also not have to be relaxed.

Export-oriented industries like the ready-made garment, frozen food and jute sectors have demanded cash incentives and benefits

regarding utility bills in the face of the global recession.

Sources in the finance ministry and the central bank said they are primarily going to take steps so that affected industries do not face any difficulty in getting loan.

Bangladesh Bank will start talks very soon with commercial banks regarding rescheduling of loans without down payment. Only affected industries will be eligible for the benefit, getting which will require a permission of Bangladesh Bank.

A Bangladesh Bank official said if the benefit is given, a major obstacle to these industries' getting funds would be removed.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 6

Talks with Russia start to set up Nuke power plant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Russia yesterday launched a three-day talk on an agreement for assistance in setting up nuclear power plants in Bangladesh so that Bangladesh can peacefully use nuclear energy.

A two-member delegation led by Vladimir Averkiv, the head of international co-operation of Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation, gave an overview on Russian technology on the first day of talks. Nikolay Poznyakov, head of external affairs of International Relations Department, is accompanying him.

"We will be discussing the possible deal with Moscow," said MM Neazuddin, a joint secretary to the Ministry of Science, Information and Communication Technology and the leader of Bangladesh delegation.

During the dialogue held at the Ministry of Science and ICT

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Don't overplay Bangabandhu

JS body asks BTV, Betar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday asked the state-run Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television not to make exaggerated publicity about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The parliamentary standing committee on information ministry at a meeting also gave similar instructions about other national leaders.

Emerging from the meeting, Obaidul Quader, chief of the committee, told reporters, "We told the state-run media not to make sycophantic eulogy on any of the national

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

BDR-BSF TALKS Vow to fight cross-border terrorism

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday held their first round of annual talks in New Delhi on issues including joint patrolling of 46 difficult areas, prevention of cross-border movement of terrorists and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Pak Taliban behind Lahore police academy attack

Baitullah Mehsud claims responsibility

AP, AFP, Dera Ismail Khan

The top Pakistani Taliban commander said yesterday that his group had carried out the deadly assault on a police academy in eastern Pakistan, and he vowed to launch an attack on the US capital.

Baitullah Mehsud, who has a \$5 million bounty on his head from the US, said the Pakistan Taliban was planning a terrorist assault against Washington DC.

"Soon we will launch an attack in Washington that will amaze everyone in the world," Mehsud told The Associated Press by phone.

Mehsud and other Pakistan Taliban militants are believed to be based in the country's lawless tribal areas near the border

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIALS OF CHITTAGONG PORT IN BANGLADESH.

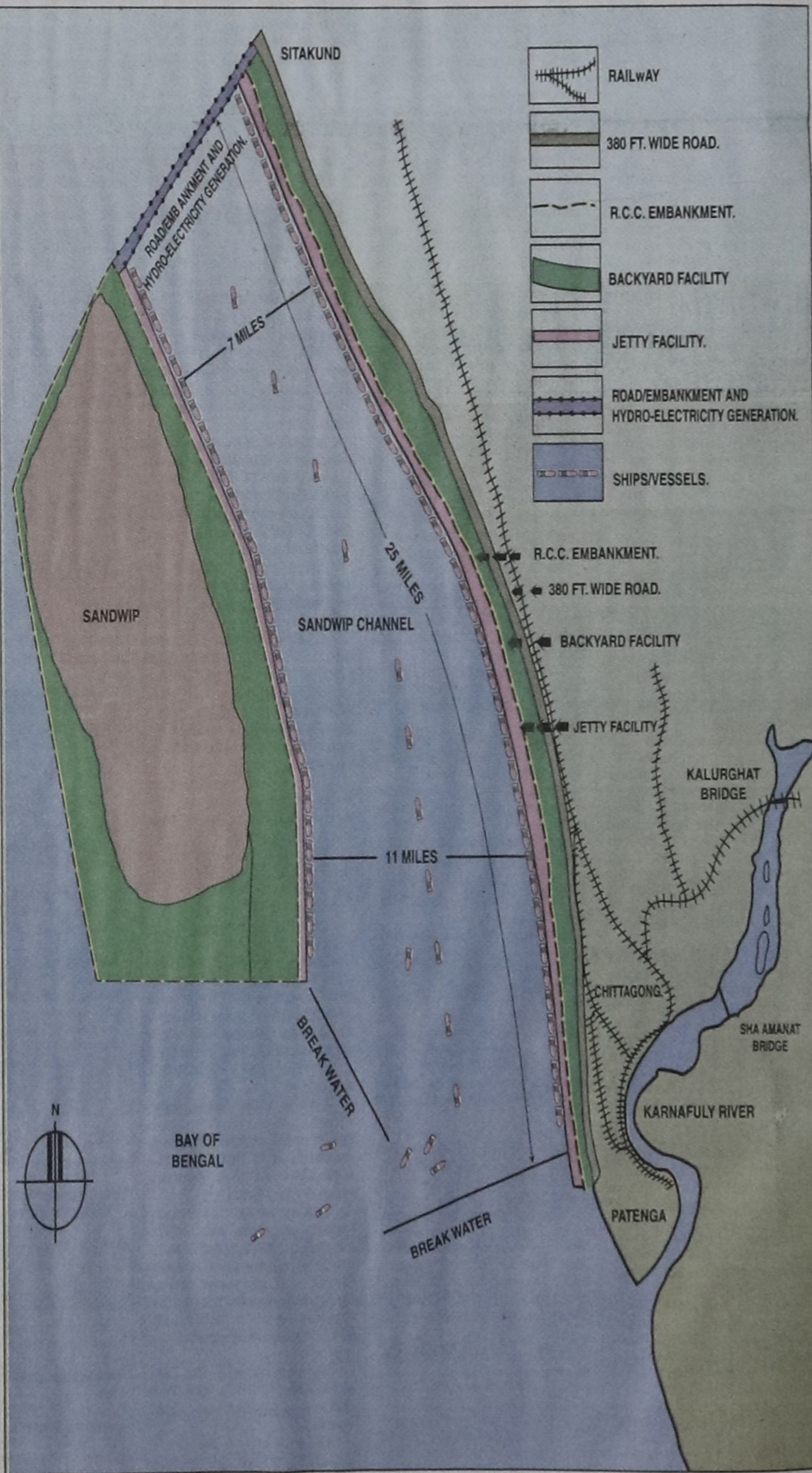
Chittagong has got great potentials endowed with many possibilities. Surrounded by different styles of landscape pattern, hilly terrain, long sea beach and endless sea limit on the south-western boundary and situated on the bank of the river Kamatali, Chittagong has most prosperous future if a proper and farsighted plan can be prepared keeping in view the need for future with the application of modern technology. The plan proposed thus will establish a firm base for prosperous Bangladesh which can become an international gateway for traders of 7 states of Eastern India, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan and south-western province of China. The proposed port will contribute greatly to enhance the life style and fate of the people of this region through attaining economic emancipation.

Through a series of research and studies by experts in the related fields it has been found apparent that through reclamation of land by constructing an embankment on the sea side from Patenga to Sitakund measuring approximately 25 miles along the coast line of the Bay of Bengal a modern sea port can be established. For providing backyard facilities for the port, vast land can be developed inside the same embankment. As a result of which, the existing industrial activities in the city may be upgraded and modernized compared to the present situation and can create facilities for setting up of new industries, factories and port related business activities in the region.

Besides this, another multipurpose embankment along the eastern bank of the Sandwip Island may be constructed to maintain the required depth in the "Sandwip Channel" for the ocean going vessels and ships. This will help develop a vast land on the eastern coast of the Sandwip Island carrying out dredging activities in the Channel and filling sand inside the embankment. With the implementation of this plan, jetties can also be constructed on both sides of the channel with adequate backyard facilities. An embankment can also be constructed all around the Sandwip Island and this can play a great role in protecting the island from erosion and tidal surge. These technologies and ideas may also be applied for protecting the proposed port and consequently protect the ships on anchorage during cyclone and storm surge disaster. On the other hand, if an embankment/dam is constructed on the north side of Sandwip Island linking Sitakund with sluice gates; hydroelectric power generation can be ensured and can be supplied in the key installations of Chittagong Port City. Moreover, The embankment can also be used as a major transportation mode to connect Sandwip with Chittagong City which can play an important role in the expansion of port activities in the eastern bank of Sandwip Island.

Finally it is to be mentioned here that the average depth of the "Sandwip Channel" from Patenga to Sitakund is approximately 30 feet, which can provide favorable navigation and berthing facility for large ships and ocean going vessels as well. If port facility is developed on both banks of the channel, it will facilitate berthing and anchorage opportunity for at least 500 ocean going vessels at the same time in the same Channel.

Development specialists, policy makers, Port users and related agencies should put their heads together and give appropriate thoughts to the above proposal. Besides, interested local investors as well as foreign investors and donor agencies from all over the world involved in the development activities in Bangladesh can seek opinion from the relevant experts in this perspective.



A. B. M. MOHIUDDIN CHOWDHURY, MAYOR, CHITTAGONG CITY CORPORATION, CHITTAGONG.

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