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Report on:

**Report on Field Trip to The Police Special Training School,
Betbunia, Rangamati**

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Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Introduction and Background:

PSTS (Police Special Training School) is a unique institution with only two such establishments globally, one located in Malaysia and another is in Bangladesh named Police Special Training School in Betbunia (Khawkhali area), Rangamati. Initially established as Tactical Jungle Warfare at Mahalchhari in Chittagong Hill Tracts, the school has operated independently since 1980, overseen by a Commandant (Superintendent of Police). It was moved from Dulahajra, Cox's Bazar, to Betbunia, Rangamati, following a government order on December 2, 1988. PSTS started about 65 years ago, providing command training to the Police, which is now done in Khagrachhari. Over time, the institution transitioned from Tactical Jungle Warfare School to its current designation as the 'Police Special Training School.' The school, spanning 40.36 acres, focuses on '**Peace, Discipline, and Progress**' to bring positive changes to the entire Police force. While 60% of the area is hilly, 40% is plain land with attractive scenic beauty. This specialized school imparts diverse jungle warfare techniques, catering to trainees ranging from Sub-Inspector to Constable. From inception to completion, the training encompasses individuals earmarked for various units such as APBn, District Metropolitans, Constables of RRF, and others.

1.2 Purpose of the Field Trip

The objectives of the field visit to Police Special Training Centre includes:

- Gaining firsthand experience of police training methods in Bangladesh, emphasizing the transformation of individuals into effective law enforcement officers.
- Learning about the diverse types of courses offered at the center, providing a comprehensive understanding of the educational aspect of police training.
- Exploring career opportunities and responsibilities within the Bangladesh police force, if applicable, to connect theoretical knowledge with potential practical applications.
- Observing and understand the different types of training offered at the center, from physical exercises to specialized courses.
- Recognizing the challenges and specific skills required for effective police work in the unique socio-cultural environment of Bangladesh and the pivotal role of the police training center.

1.3 Objectives of the Report

The main goal of this report is to share my personal thoughts and feelings about my visit to the police training center. I want to give readers a unique and individual perspective, talking about the atmosphere, details, and memorable moments that stood out to me. By focusing on my personal insights, the report aims to make the experience relatable and interesting for others, providing a more personal and engaging view of the police training center visit.

Section 2: Visiting Police Special Training School

Our journey commenced from the campus at 9:30 pm on February 26, 2024. After an entire night of travel, we arrived at Chittagong University at 6:00 am the following morning. Upon our arrival, we refreshed ourselves and enjoyed a delicious breakfast, thoughtfully organized by Shakhawat Hossain, Chairman of the Department of Criminology and Police Science at Chittagong University and also a student from CPS 6th batch. Following breakfast, we embarked on a brief tour of Chittagong University, taking in the sights.



At 9 am, we set out for the Police Special Training School and reached our destination at 10:30 am. Minhajul Islam, a Sub Inspector and student from CPS 9th batch, warmly greeted us and provided a detailed briefing of our itinerary for the day. The day's plan promised to be engaging and insightful. This marked the beginning of an educational and immersive experience at the Police Special Training School. Subsequently, we were escorted to the main building where meticulous arrangements were made for our seating. At 10:45 am, our refreshment break commenced, courtesy of Constables Mahin and Ayman, who served us snacks. Just before 11 am, the distinguished Head of the Police Training Centre, SP Mohiuddin Faruqi, Deputy Commandant, arrived accompanied by another ASP named Ahmed Raju. They extended a warm welcome and at 10:54 am, SP Mohiuddin Faruqi greeted us with a brief but welcoming introductory speech, setting a positive tone for the proceedings.



2.1 Conference Part

Following the snack break, at 11:50 am, we were taken to the conference room. The conference officially commenced with an introduction of each member present, including representatives from the training center and our esteemed teachers. We, too, provided brief introductions. Subsequently, the core of the conference unfolded, starting with a video presentation that vividly portrayed the physical infrastructure of the training center.



2.1.1. Overview of the Police Training Center

The entrance has a small gate for security and surveillance. Upon entering, there's a pond on the right and a two-story mosque in PSTS.

Location and Facilities

- Infrastructure: A six-story building with the capacity to accommodate 500 people.
The building included,
Level 1: Auditorium
Level 2 & 3: Administrative Division
Level 4 & 5: Residence and Barrack
- Parade Grounds: We observed a parade ground for training and drills.
- Ponds: Two ponds within the premises.
- Recreational Facilities: There are seven clubs available, including music and debate clubs for recreation
- Firing Fields: There is a firing field where training of firearm takes place.
- Classroom Facilities: There are mainly 4 classrooms for the trainee.
- Also includes,
 - Hilly Roads among Hills
 - Hanging Bridge
 - Several Tin shades of semi building



2.1.2 Training Part

This was followed by an elucidation of the center's vision and mission, shedding light on its overarching goals. The session continued with an overview of the syllabus, offering insights into the comprehensive training programs offered at the Police Special Training School. This introductory phase set the stage for a rich and informative conference experience.

During the conference commencement, the training schedule was presented via a projector, focusing on essential police courses. The training programs offered by the Police Special Training School fall into two main categories:

1. Basic Training
2. Special Training

Common Training Topics Include:

- Balancing personal life and duty responsibilities.
- Theoretical knowledge related to policing and crime.
- Morality and ethics reinforcement.
- Training on attitudes and behavior.
- Human rights awareness.

Specialized Training Areas:

- Combat training for militant groups in the hill tracts, emphasizing skills suitable for challenging hilly terrains and camouflage techniques.
- Survival training to prepare officers for various demanding situations.

Policing Techniques Training Covers:

- Identification of suspects.
- Patrolling strategies.
- Money escort procedures.
- VIP squad operations.
- Criminal investigation techniques.
- Handicap criminal squad

2.1.3 Question and Answer Session

After that, we entered the question and answer session, where we were encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification about police training. Deputy Commandant Mohiuddin Faruqi took the lead in answering most of the questions, ensuring that everyone's queries were addressed satisfactorily. His responses left us content and provided valuable insights into the intricacies of police training. This interactive session allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of the training processes and cleared any doubts we may have had. Key Lessons from the Question and Answer Session:

- **Police as the First and Last Asylum:** We learned that people often turn to the police as their first and last refuge in times of trouble, highlighting the critical role law enforcement plays in providing assistance and support.
- **Lack of Stress Reduction Programs:** The police acknowledged a gap in stress reduction programs during duty. While clubs like debating and music exist, there is no specific plan in place to alleviate the stress faced by officers during their job responsibilities.
- **Morality Strengthened through Religious Education:** The police emphasized their focus on strengthening the morality of officers primarily through religious education. This aspect is integrated into the entire training process, guiding individuals as they enter the realm of police work.
- **Challenge of Political Influence:** Policemen, post-training, are assigned to different stations, where they often come under the influence of local politicians. This can compromise fairness and impartiality in cases. The lack of established rules for officer transfers was acknowledged, prompting a call for an impact-free environment to ensure justice is served impartially.
- **Addressing Negative Public Image:** In response to concerns about the negative public perception of the police, it was clarified that officers are not trained to harm people or damage property. Negative impressions often arise due to personal and surrounding factors post-joining. The police stressed the need to consider the positive contributions made by the department and requested a fair judgment, urging not to view the entire force negatively based on the actions of a few officers.

During a personal discussion, I had the opportunity to talk with SI Minhajul Islam about the issue of corruption within the police system. He candidly expressed that tackling corruption poses a significant challenge within the police force. According to him, there's a notable absence of an exclusive course or training to address this issue, with emphasis primarily placed on religious education. This, he felt, might not be given the importance it deserves.

Minhajul Islam shed light on the economic challenges faced by police officers, citing the low pay scale as a potential factor contributing to corruption. He explained that with inadequate wages, officers find it difficult to meet their families' basic needs, leading some to resort to corrupt practices. Furthermore, he emphasized that an officer's involvement in corruption depends on their individual morality. Additionally, external factors such as interactions with politicians in the assigned area could influence their choices. This insightful conversation

highlighted the multifaceted nature of the issue and underscored the importance of addressing both systemic and individual factors to combat corruption effectively.

Following the discussion, another captivating moment unfolded as a video clip showcased a mission led by Mohiuddin Faruqi. The mission aimed to apprehend a notorious group responsible for numerous dacoities and murders. The video depicted Faruqi and his team bravely putting their lives at risk to capture the criminal group. The conference concluded at 1:30 pm with a concluding speech from M. Faruqi and our respected teachers

2.2 Field Visit and Concluding the Visit

Post-conference, we embarked on a comprehensive tour of the Police Training Centre. As we explored, Minhajul Islam guided us through various training tools and props. He provided insights into the physical training regimen that trainees undergo, highlighting that physical training doesn't commence immediately. Instead, trainees begin with regular exercises to condition their bodies before gradually moving into more rigorous physical training tasks. The tasks appeared challenging, requiring considerable stamina, strength, and practice to successfully navigate.

In their physical training they have:

- Balancing
- Climbing Wall (Nearly 12 Feet)
- Rope Climbing
- Water Dribbling
- Crawling with weapon
- Pull Up (At least 10 times) etc.

Firearms Training



Our journey through the training center continued as we visited the firing squad area, witnessing police officers undergoing gun training in a vast open field. The hanging bridge, a distinctive feature of the police training institute, captured our attention, showcasing the diverse training environments. We also had the opportunity to observe a classroom where trainees receive instruction. The scenic beauty of the surrounding hills and nature added to the magnificence of the experience. The visit to the high-altitude hanging bridge left a lasting impression on some of us. The overall experience was a harmonious blend of learning and

appreciation for the challenging yet crucial training processes undertaken by future police officers.

After exploring the entire training center, our hosts arranged a delightful lunch for all of us. The meal was not only delicious but also a shared moment of camaraderie. Following lunch, we gathered for a memorable photo session with our gracious hosts.

Later, we were taken to the parade ground, where commandants were actively training three different groups of trainees. Witnessing the disciplined and coordinated parade was a highlight, showcasing the extensive training and effort put into the process. The entire visit was a harmonious blend of discipline, learning, and effectiveness.



As the clock struck 4 pm, we bid a fond farewell and boarded the bus to return to our campus. Although we were not part of the subsequent tour to Cox's Bazar and Saint Martin, the experiences of the day had left us enriched with valuable insights into the rigorous training undergone by future police officers.

2.3 Instructors and Staff

In shaping recruits, instructors play a pivotal role as mentors, guides, and educators. They are responsible for imparting not only the essential skills and knowledge required for effective law enforcement but also instilling a strong sense of discipline, professionalism, and ethical conduct. Instructors serve as role models, inspiring recruits to uphold the values of the police force and fostering a commitment to public service. Through hands-on training, constructive feedback, and real-world scenarios, instructors mold recruits into competent, resilient, and morally grounded individuals prepared to navigate the complex and demanding landscape of law enforcement. Their guidance extends beyond technical proficiency, encompassing the development of critical thinking, decision-making, and interpersonal skills essential for success in the dynamic field of policing. We noted that they were disciplining the trainee when they were breaking any kind of rules. Some instructors are:

- Mohammad Mohiuddin Faruque (Police Super)
- Akhter Raju (ASP)
- Manik Chandra Saha (SI)
- Md. Rustom Ali (Administrative Officer)

- Manik Chandra Saha(SI)
- Md. Omar Faruk (SI)
- Alim Hossain (SI)

Section 3: SWOT Analysis

SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) on the training institute are:

Strengths:

Hands-On Training Facilities: The institute boasts comprehensive facilities, including firing squads, classrooms, and physical training areas, providing practical, hands-on experience to trainees.

Experienced Instructors: The presence of experienced instructors, exemplified by Deputy Commandant Mohiuddin Faruqi, ensures a high level of expertise and guidance during the training process.

Real-Life Mission Examples: The inclusion of video clips showcasing real-life missions demonstrates the practical application of training and highlights the bravery and dedication of the force.

Weaknesses:

Stress Management Programs: The absence of specific stress management programs is a weakness, as it could potentially affect the mental well-being of officers during their duties.

Exclusive Corruption Reduction Training: Lack of exclusive courses or training focused on corruption reduction poses a vulnerability, given the acknowledged challenges of corruption within the police force.

Dependence on Religious Education: Relying solely on religious education for morality development may limit the holistic understanding of ethical conduct.

Opportunities:

Introduction of Stress Management Programs: The identified gap in stress management programs presents an opportunity for the institute to introduce targeted initiatives, fostering mental resilience among trainees.

Incorporating Anti-Corruption Training: Creating specialized courses addressing corruption prevention and ethical conduct can significantly enhance the integrity of the training programs.

Collaboration for Comprehensive Training: Opportunities for collaboration with criminologists and external experts can contribute to a more comprehensive and diverse training curriculum.

Threats:

Low Adaptability: The evolving crime patterns in Bangladesh underscore the need for adaptive changes in policing strategies and training methods.

Low Pay Scale: The identified low pay scale as a potential cause for corruption poses a threat to the integrity of the force, potentially leading to ethical concerns and misconduct.

Section 4: Experience and Effectiveness of Field Trip

This tour proved to be an indispensable experience for several reasons. Firstly, it provided us with a firsthand understanding of the police training processes and challenges. Witnessing the training center's facilities, from classrooms to firing squads, allowed us to grasp the practical aspects of preparing future police officers. It was crucial for us, as aspiring criminologists, to comprehend the challenges faced by the current training force, such as the absence of stress-reducing or corruption-reducing training programs.

The tour's application lies in our ability to contribute to the enhancement of police training. As criminologists, we now have valuable insights into the gaps and areas for improvement in the existing training methods. For instance, the discussion about stress management and corruption prevention highlighted crucial aspects that could be addressed through targeted training modules. This knowledge equips us to actively engage in discussions and initiatives aimed at refining the training programs to better prepare law enforcement officers.

Improving the effectiveness of our police force is indeed a critical endeavor, and one key avenue for enhancement lies in refining their training methodologies. The insights gained from the tour highlighted specific areas where improvements can be made to better equip our law enforcement officers. By incorporating targeted modules focusing on stress management, ethical conduct, and corruption prevention, we can enhance the overall training experience.

A comprehensive training program that addresses not only the physical and tactical aspects but also the mental and ethical dimensions is essential. Policemen and women need to be equipped not just with the skills to combat crime but also with strategies to navigate the various challenges they encounter, both internally and externally.

Fostering a sense of morality and resilience through comprehensive training can contribute to a police force that is not only effective but also compassionate. By focusing on building the character of officers, we can instill a strong commitment to upholding justice and fairness. Additionally, addressing stress management can result in a more resilient and mentally prepared force, ensuring that officers can handle the demands of their roles effectively without succumbing to undue pressure. As future criminologists, we have a unique opportunity to advocate for the improvements and actively engage in discussions aimed at refining and advancing police training. By contributing to the enhancement of our law enforcement training programs, we pave the way for a more effective, ethical, and compassionate police force that serves the best interests of our people and our country. From this tour, we learned that police training goes beyond theoretical knowledge; it involves rigorous physical and mental preparation. The challenges faced by the police force, such as political influence and stress, became evident.

Section 5: Conclusion

In conclusion, the field trip to the Police Special Training School provided invaluable insights into the comprehensive and rigorous training methods employed for future law enforcement officers in Bangladesh. The field trip served as a catalyst for understanding the multifaceted nature of police training, with its strengths and areas for improvement. It was very effective as we observed methods of police training firsthand and in practical. The identified strengths, such as practical training facilities and experienced instructors, underscored the commitment to shaping proficient and ethical police personnel. However, the discussion also brought to light certain weaknesses, notably the absence of specific stress management programs and exclusive courses on corruption reduction. These areas present opportunities for enhancement, aligning with contemporary needs and global best practices in law enforcement training. The pivotal role of the Police Training Center in Bangladeshi society is evident, as these shapes the future policing of Bangladesh. Because if the police are not trained well they will be failed to meet their objectives in their duty. As aspiring criminologists, the tour prompted reflections on how our field of study intersects with the challenges faced by the police force. The identified gaps in stress management and corruption prevention training provide avenues for us to contribute actively to the ongoing discourse on improving law enforcement practices.