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Metropolitan

## Community policing by '08

Our Correspondent, Ctg

Speakers at a consultation programme yesterday stressed on collecting the views of different communities, especially the vulnerable ones, before finalising the draft police reform programme (PRP) to make it successful, sustainable and people-friendly.

The regional consultation programme on community policing was inaugurated by National Project Director of PRP and Additional Inspector General of Police Naba Bikram Kishore Tripura at a hotel in the port city.

Such consultation programme will also be held in other divisional headquarters in order to formulate a common strategy on community policing, sources said.

In his speech, Naba Bikram urged police officials to be more open minded, unbiased and sensitive enough for community policing.

He hoped that the community policing, an essential part of the police reform programme to prevent the crimes, could be introduced throughout the country by the end of 2008.

Some donor agencies from Japan, Germany and Australia have shown their interest to financing the PRP in Bangladesh, he informed.

PRP's Anti-Human Trafficking Specialist from the UNDP Neale Fursdon said such consultation programmes would be helpful to formulate a common strategy on community policing.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner Moinur Rahman said Police Act of 1861 should be replaced by a new one which will widen the role of police to promote the rule of law.

Bangladesh Police organised the programme on community policing funded by European Commission, UNDP and DFID.

Around 70 people from different professions including 30 police officials took part in the programme.