

Chittagong Port undergoes automation to reduce container handling times

- A Monitor Report

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Chattogram : A move to launch automation at Chittagong Port was announced by Maritime and Textile Adviser Brigadier General (Retd) Dr M Sakhawat Hossain.

Automating processes would significantly reduce container handling times. Earlier, unloading goods from a ship took about 10 to 15 days, however, improvements have been made, although he emphasised that they are not yet satisfied.

The automation process is underway, which, he believes, will further decrease the time for loading and unloading containers.

Advisor made these remarks while speaking to the media at the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) after inspecting the Chittagong Port.

Regarding the activities at the port, he mentioned that some containers

have been sitting there for 20 years, and some vehicles have been idle for 12 to 14 years.

He highlighted the need for the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to auction these items, saying, "If the port area is filled like this, how can operations expand? I will discuss this with the chairman of the NBR upon my return."

Dr Sakhawat Hossain further stated that they will implement the best measures for the port. He announced that tenders will no longer be conducted through the DPM (Direct Procurement Method) system. Instead, open tenders will be called, which will be reviewed afterwards.

The adviser inspected the Patenga Container Terminal, Laldia Char, the Bay terminal project area, and other parts of Chittagong Port.