

Protecting Cultivating land and Planned Life

View-exchange Meeting on Compact Township

Venue: Training complex, North Bengal Sugar Mills

Date: 20 December 2014

Organized by Compact Township Foundation and Dhupil UP, Lalpur, Natore

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1. A view-exchange meeting on ‘Compact Township’ was held on 20 December 2014 at the Training Complex of North-Bengal Sugar Mills located in Lalpur upazila under Natore District. The meeting was presided over by Principal Ibrahim Khalil. The meeting was graced by Mr. Abul Hossain, General Secretary of the CTF as the Chief Guest, while among others were present as Special Guests Advocate Lokman Hossain Badal, the twice-elected General Secretary of Natore District Lawyers Association, Professor Nazrul Islam Molla and Motiur Rahman. In the view-exchange meeting, people of different walks of life attended.
 2. The meeting was moderated by a young lawyer named Al-Mamun. The meeting commenced with the welcome speech by Advocate Lokman Hossain Badal. Here, Mr. Lokman also introduced an overview of Compact Township.
 3. After that, Dr. Abul Hossain - General Secretary of CTF portrayed a detail view of Compact Township(CT) to the audience. He said research on Compact Township has been carried out for last 18 years. Some works on Compact Township was also done in Mymensingh and Narsingdhi, Dr. Abul mentioned. Compact Township Foundation was established in 2012. Professor Salim Rashid is the President of the CTF, he added.

The meeting was divided into two parts. In first part, the selected discussants took part in the dialogue.

1. Mr. Saiful Islam taking part in the discussion said, people think about Compact Township(CT) in different ways, but I never thought in this way. Today I have understood what is Compact Township. To establish Compact Township, everything to be rebuilt in organized way by demolishing all the things. It may be hard to demolish all the things. All the necessary things of human will be built there in planned way. There will be school, hospital which will be a complete system of life. At present it seems to be a day-dream. But we need to think of this issue presently as the time of 50 years later. Suppose, we were joint family 20-30 years before. Breaking that joint family we are now 10 families. Of course, this is a radical thinking in the needs of time.
2. Mr. Motiur Rahman said, we have gone through the leaflet, listened to deliverances. Compact Township is a planned town system where school, college, play-ground, and hospital everything

will be built; it is to be really worth-thinking. This will be really beautiful. The opinions of 16 crore people have gone in different angles. Who will unite them, the whole nation? Everybody wants to be the king of his kingdom, wants to build a beautiful house on his own land. What will happen there after 50 years is not a silly matter. This is fact. As initiative has been taken, this should be materialized. We shall have a good result.

3. Mr. Nazrul Islam in citing a reference of his family said, we had 42 decimal lands for living of 04 brothers, 06 sisters including the children. After the death of my father, I built house on 52 decimal lands; and my brothers also built houses like me, and such way many agricultural lands disappeared, he added. If CTs concept can be materialized in effective and true manner, people will not have dream to go to Dhaka. Nothing of our administration has been decentralized. I am afraid of going to Dhaka. If Compact Township is established, pressure on Dhaka will be reduced much.
4. Following these discussion, Dr. Abul Hossain explained some issues on Compact Township. He, in reference to Mr. Saiful Islam's view, pointed out that we have to think to build anew demolishing everything. He also added to the opinion of Mr. Motirur Rahman that, journalists can play a role in changing our mind-set. The concept of Compact Township is now spread out through the people present here. Dr. Abul also complemented to the issue of Mr. Nazrul Islam that, there is trend of migration. Among the population of Dhaka, 35% of Dhaka's people dwell in slum. Dr. Abul stated that Compact Township is an integrated plan.

Second Part: Open Discussion



1. Mr. Selim Reza, President of Chatra Moitree, Lalpur Thana opined, thinking for the future is wise. Daily essentials are not available due to be town-bound by all. There is no comfortable life in towns. Mr. Selim recommended spreading out the Compact Township idea among the young folk. Thus there will be more effect in the society.
2. A reporter named Mamum wanted to know by questions, who will finance it? What will be the role of young folk? Whether flat or land will be sold in the Compact Townships? He recommended to start this now with 40-50 bighas land. He also suggested to emphasize branding of it like in the names "Village Township" or "Village Urbanization" so that rural people can communicate it easily.
3. Lecturer Abu Sufian opined, it is undoubtedly a very good initiative. If everybody responds to the idea, everybody will get standard life; it will save environment as well. Awareness is needed here, he added.

5. Mr. Ataur Rahman, a degree student viewed it is essential. He wants its materialization heart and soul.
6. A farmer named Mr. Abul Kalam Azad said, “We heard a lot in favour and against the compact township. However, the initiative is good. If we get the facilities of town staying in the field, then we need not to go to the Capital. “ Mr. Adhir, also referring Dr. Abul Hossen speech, opined it would be good for having share of life-term facilities by being partner of land.
7. Mr. Adhir Kumar opined the initiative is nice. But there needs creation of some organizers and activists for working on it.
8. Mr. Monirul Islam who has been working in an NGO named BRAC for last 20 years opined, “While living in Dhaka, I only thought when traffic jams would decrease. But now upon listening to your speech, I feel cry. If it is materialized immediately, I will be happy enough.”
9. Mr. Abdul Quddus also echoed the same that he accepts the ideas from the core of his heart. But he asked when and from where will it start?
10. Mr. Khali taking part in the discussion expressed his optimism. He recommended for wide publicity of this concept.
11. An Honour’s level student wanted to know, “When will it start, as it is a long-term process? Or will it remain just a dream?” Mr. Hafiz also suggested to establish one as a model. If there are opportunities more, people will feel inspired.
12. A Madrasha Teacher named Mr. Shafiqur Rahman put a question, “Suppose the people who desire to live in the Compact Townships, but there is no space for them. What would happen then?”

In the concluding speech, Principal Ibrahim Khalil thanked to all for making the discussion animated. According to him, Bangladesh is moving ahead with all the limitations and disorder. To materialize anything, we should take responsibility. Mr. Principal stressed the need of taking responsibilities by all. He also requested all to think about future Bangladesh. He also expresses gratitude to CTF for raising awareness at field level publicity. He also cited the reference of human effort for making the Moon human habitable. Therefore, we should continue the effort for Compact Townships. We should not retreat. He also reiterates to take responsibility by all, and said Bangladesh will obviously survive.