

Need for compact townships stressed -The Asian Age

Former secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan stresses the need for the consolidation of land and its proper utilization by establishing collective institution and legal framework for building a better Bangladesh in the days to come. If not succeeded in doing it, Bangladesh will be turned into the biggest slum in the world, he said. He also suggested that the government has to take collective efforts in cooperation with private research organizations and voluntary bodies to materialize the compact township idea.

Dr Khan came up with the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a roundtable discussion on 'Compact Township for Integrated Urban and Rural Development Planning' organized by Department of Urban and Regional Planning (URP), BUET in collaboration with Compact Township Foundation with the support from planning-bd.org at URP seminar room, BUET, Dhaka on Thursday.

On the occasion former adviser to the caretaker government Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury said the way of building unplanned housing around the country is a basic factor for decrease of our cultivable land. With a view to ending the trend, a strong regulatory body is a must.

The USA Emeritus Professor Salim Rashid presented the keynote at the roundtable. He is also president of the Compact Township Foundation. It is a matter of fact that now Bangladesh has 16 crore people. If the growth of population remains so, in 2050 number of population will be 24 to 28 crore. Compact Township Foundation is going ahead with the policy to find out time-bound, realistic solution, he said. We need a tested road guided by experts to establish compact townships all over the country, Professor ATM Ruhul Amin said. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Dr Nusrat Jahan, Professor Sarwar Jahan, Professor Nurul Amin, Dr Abul Hossain, Professor Shahed and Bangladesh Bank official Mohammad Akhteruzzaman.
