

# Drafting a People's Participatory Industrial Policy

ONE-third of the total population of Bangladesh is unemployed either directly or indirectly. To solve this problem, mass industrialisation is a must. The entire populace have to be mobilised for the purpose by motivation, providing a network of the industrial policy throughout the country, extending opportunities to share the ownership of industrial units to the people of all income groups.

Capital is a factor of production and is the most scarce one. For this we, the people, have become a debtor, and when a Bangladeshi dies, he or she dies with a debt of Tk 5,355. We should seek capital generation from our own resources. About 25 lac probashis are there who seek opportunities to invest in their homeland. Besides, rest of the people, however, poor they may be, have to be given opportunities too. Policy should be — we shall not seek loan, if at all, only 30 per cent of the total requirement for any project and without collateral. Our probashis are our assets with treasure. They have to be made home-bound soon. Those who are in the Middle East, Malaysia and other Asian countries, have no scope to settle in those countries. But their earnings are income being spent in unproductive sectors. What is required to fetch income of probashis for productive investments in Bangladesh is security.

technology can be purchased or imported through participation of foreign investors who may come to invest under the system. Under the proposed system EPZ-like vast area of industrial zone also has to be acquired and some facilities have to be provided to the investors.

A recent trend of investment mentality is seen from the reports of stock exchange trading of the shares. The companies who sell shares do not get more than the face values of the shares but with their names and fame, a game of lottery is being played there in the stock exchange floor. It is not a capital-generation process or other infrastructure facilities, to prepare project profiles for each of the companies and then to hand over the money they earlier deposited with the Statutory Body, to their elected or selected managing directors of the respective companies and to provide all necessary assistance for building the industrial concerns, production — and then, even up to marketing.

If we go for establishing the Statutory Body, we hope it not only will accelerate industrialisation, it will attract all our wage earners abroad and their descendants who are already citizen of respective foreign countries, foreign investors (other than our people). We should be sure that Bangladeshis nationals who already have taken their dependents, descendants to foreign countries and obtained citizenship there, will never come back. These wage-earner immigrants by now are our lost assets. Under the proposed means these wage earners will be our main source of providing cash capital. We do not hope to seek help and loan from banks if others staying in the country add their cash with those of the foreign wage earners, process of production in industrialisation will remain free from any desirable political influence.

A recent trend of investment mentality is seen from the stock exchange trading of shares. However, the companies who sell shares do not get more than the face values of the shares rather, with their names and fame, a game of lottery is being played there on the floor. It is not a capital-generation process nor new companies are being floated increasing the number of industrial units and production adding to national economic development. But it speaks for a necessity to extend scope for ownership of companies to the people of medium- and low-income groups, writes **Fazlul Haque Shobuz**

to acquire land under the provisions of Acquisition Law 1962, make and assure supply of gas, electricity, water, telephone, roads and streets and other infrastructure facilities, to prepare project profiles for each of the companies and then to hand over the money they earlier deposited with the Statutory Body, to their elected or selected managing directors of the respective companies and to provide all necessary assistance for building the industrial concerns, production — and then, even up to marketing.

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There are four factors of production: 1) Land, 2) Labour, 3) Capital, and 4) Organisation. We, the people, have land, and labour, and we have so much of this. The labourers of our country can work competitively at lesser remuneration than the labourers of any other countries in the world. We also have capital, not in banks but in the hands of the ordinary people and these people are scattered, living in the country and also abroad. We are to make a plan to accumulate those money for formation of capital. The fourth factor of production is organisation/institution or organised productive teams. What this writer is advocating is for a Statutory Body which may collect all the money in the form of capital from the people of all income groups and also can give birth to hundreds and thousands of productive teams with the help of the government. Help of the government means promulgation of law, providing a statutory body by incurring some initial expenditure. This statutory body will provide the opportunities for massive industrialisation extending scope for sharing the ownership of industrial units by the people of all income groups.

The functions of the Body will be to involve everybody in the country and earning abroad to invest money in industrialisation, to collect their money, to ascertain and identify the convenient, viable, profitable field of industrial productive items, prepare prospectus, obtain options from the investors and divide them into productive teams itemwise according to their choice/options, and then, to ask them to form their respective companies under the guidance of the Statutory Body.

cost of production will be lesser, everyone concerning the process of production and also not concerned with production will have their sympathy towards the process of production. The draft which we prepared may be called 'BANGLADESH FOREIGN WAGE EARNERS INVESTMENT AUTHORITY ACT' or 'GONO SHILPA BEINGO INVESTMENT AUTHORITY ACT'. And the Statutory Body that may be established under the act may be known as 'PROBASHI BEINGO SANGSTA' or 'GONO SHILPA BEINGO SANGSTA'. While promulgating this six institutions may be established in the six administrative divisions, and these can be established initially in the divisions where there are comparatively more foreign wage earners.

How and who will form the institution (here in after called **Sangsta**) in the divisions? The Chairman of the Sangsta will be an officer of the rank and status of Joint Secretary to the government of Bangladesh. There will be two more government officers as members, one of them will be member finance and the other member secretary. Four of the members will be from the MPs elected from the divisions concerned, and they will be nominated by government. Other members will be taken also having representative capacities — they are the chairmen of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of the districts in the divisions con-

cerned and chairmen of the Municipal bodies to be nominated by the government. The Divisional Commissioner may be appointed ex-official chairman of the Sangsta of the division concerned. Both the chairman and other member who are ex-officio will get honorarium and the amount which will be decided by them. The chairman and member will hold at least two meetings every month. They may also hold emergency meetings. It is according to and with the decisions of meetings that every action will be done for fulfilling the functions of the Sangsta.

**Function of the Sangsta:** Primarily there will be 12 sections/cells in the Sangsta. Each section will be headed by a section officer who will be of sufficient experience and will be appointed for particular term which may be 3 years. They will be appointed by the Sangsta. The main primary business of the Sangsta will be to motivate the people to make them invest money in industrialisation, for production of the different items of goods of human use and utility, to collect money in cash prior with the units afterwards.

**Making productive teams companies and the process of collection of cash capital:** The Sangsta will prepare list of the items of the goods/productions, will prepare a prospectus with regard to every item in the said

investors/share purchasers for preparation of their documents in respect of the formation of companies. There will be absolute liberty with the shareholders/investors to get associated with person and companies of his choice, in naming the company of his choice, in supporting or assuming the executive office of the company of his choice. The Sangsta will have no interference in those matters excepting providing guidance and necessary knowledge about the concerned matters.

**Providing guidance and assistance to companies:** After the formation/registrations of the company or companies, the Sangsta will hand over the money which the investors/share purchasers deposited with it earlier (before formation of companies) to their respective managing/executive directors or any other person of the choice of the company concerned, to start construction work, acquire machineries, raw materials, engage labourers etc. The Account Section of the company will deal with these matters. The Sangsta will allot plot for the company of its choice and convenience from amongst the plots earlier acquired by the Sangsta.

Considering the suitability and the nature and kind of production the Sangsta may permit or acquire land outside industrial area acquired by the Sangsta. The section of the Sangsta which will deal these matters will be known as 'Land Acquisition and Allotment Section'. While allotting plots to a company, the Sangsta may keep a partial or full cost of the plot allotted to company from its money deposited earlier to the Sangsta. For providing roads, electricity, gas, telephone, sanitary facilities, accommodation, bank, insurance, school, market and other facilities, a section/cell in the Sangsta will be there under the name 'Requisites & Welfare Section'. The Sangsta may by instalment or otherwise realise service charge from the companies for facilities rendered to the companies.

**Deal with the necessity of loan:** The Sangsta shall ascertain the necessity of any loan for any company and in its meeting for the purpose, shall recommend/request any loan-granting authority for extending loan and shall see that the loan is repaid to the loan-granting authority immediately after the company goes into production. The motto of the Sangsta shall be to 'increase the capital of the company by adding more investors and to avoid the necessity of loan'. The Sangsta shall advise in detail to each and every company and shall prepare project profiles. These shall be done by Industrial Advisory and Project Profile Section. The Accounts Section shall perform and deal with every financial matter. After the formation of the companies whenever there will be any sale, and purchase of shares of such companies the company shall have to inform the Sangsta about all the particulars of such sale and purchase. In case of failure to do so, for any loss to any shareholder, the company shall be held responsible and the Sangsta shall realise such compensation from the concerned person or company after fixing responsibility.

**Bulletin and security measures:** The Sangsta shall publish regularly monthly bulletins which will contain every bit of progress of all the companies, their detail works, efforts, investment, production, export, import, income and expenditure so that the investor who is not working with company or is staying abroad can be kept informed about the activities of the company of which he is a shareholder and can realise all about the money he invested in the company. A section shall do this function by publishing bulletins. Of course, bulletins have to be purchased by the investors at a price. The Sangsta shall arrange for short-course management-trainings for the executives of the companies. The Sangsta shall see for its satisfaction on behalf of all the investors if there is any attempt of mis-appropriation of money by any executive or incumbent of the company/companies and at its satisfaction shall hand over such executive or incumbent to the law of the land. The Sangsta shall retain, in law, the power to examine, any account of any company anytime it wants. For all these said functions the Sangsta shall have 'Management short-course training, control and supervision section'. The Sangsta shall have no responsibility in profits and losses of any company. In the context of the local positions as to the availability of labour, raw material and other facilities, conveniences and inconveniences keeping the local development in view, a team of research workers shall prepare plans for development suggesting production of particular item and for this purpose the Sangsta shall maintain an 'Economic-Research and Development Planning Section'.

**Investment motivation inviting rural participation:** The Sangsta shall settle the disputes between the companies, between the shareholder or shareholders of a company through committees constituted by it from amongst its members by arbitrations. For intensive motivation and participation in industrialisation of everybody from all income group even from remote villages, the Sangsta shall fix a target amount every year for selling shares and request the chairman of the union parishes to sell shares amongst the villagers. A UP chairman shall receive certificate for his performance and such performance shall be treated as his acts of patriotism. The Sangsta shall take care of the quality of production of the companies, shall extend cooperation for finding market of the products. The Sangsta shall invite the foreign investors, along with the wage earners living abroad, through the High Commission and Embassies abroad. There will be provision of the receipt of the money from investors abroad through the High Commissions and Embassies.

**Fund:** The Sangsta shall have its funds from the grant or loan of the government of Bangladesh or shall receive loan from any other source with the approval of the governments, shall receive cost of the land/plot allotted to the companies and service charge for services rendered to the companies.

**Budget & Audit:** The Sangsta shall prepare budget for every year and submit it to the government and get its accounts audited by chartered accountants.

The writer is a practising lawyer at the Supreme Court.

## WHO Helps Bangladesh Prepare for Emergency Response to Disasters

With assistance from WHO, Bangladesh has built up an emergency response programme in the health sector, with the potential to become a model for the region. Soon, an Emergency Country Profile for the health sector will help the government draw up a national plan of action.

The devastating cyclone of 1991 that left some 139,000 people dead along the south-eastern coast of Bangladesh spurred the country to draw up a national disaster management programme in the health sector. With assistance from the World Health Organisation (WHO), Bangladesh has built up an emergency response programme with the potential to become a model for the region.

The Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) programme initiated by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) in 1991, is rapidly turning the disaster-prone areas of the country into virtual fortresses against calamities.

The launching of an emergency response programme in the health sector was necessary as Bangladesh is more disaster-prone today than at any time in its history. Available data show that, over the past 36 years, the frequency of natural disasters has nearly quadrupled.

Natural disasters bring with them threats of diseases, putting survivors in greater danger than the calamity itself. Not surprisingly, tackling health emergencies in the aftermath of disasters has been a prime concern for policy makers and planners. Through the EPR programme, these concerns have been translated into concrete actions.

Since 1991, hundreds of health supervisors and workers have been trained in emergency response. Buffer stocks of medicines have been built up at thanas in vulnerable areas. Additional medical teams are now kept at constant readiness during disaster seasons, particularly pre and post monsoon times.

Financial and technical support from WHO have helped the DGHS to build up management capacity for the health sector's EPR programme. Reference laboratories of six medical colleges have also been strengthened to meet health emergency diagnostic needs.

The EPR programme has recently completed its first Emergency Country Profile, which offers a comprehensive overview of emergency management in the country's health sector. The country profile is intended to assist the DGHS formulate a National Emergency Plan of Action.

Beginning in October 1991, the EPR programme kicked off with a workshop organised by DGHS with support from WHO Dhaka office. The workshop evaluated lessons learnt during the aftermath of the cyclone and recommended that 'focus of disaster management practices should be shifted towards preparedness for organising timely and effective disaster response'.

This required a series of preparatory measures, from involving vulnerable communities in response programmes, to training of grassroots health workers to multi-sectoral coordination at different levels of the administration.

Permanent disaster management committees have been set up at all levels of administration, from the national down to the thana level.

At the top of the programme sits the Health Sector Disaster Coordination Committee (HSDCC) which formulates policy guidelines. At the operational level, the Working Committee on Disaster Management and Coordination headed by the Director General of Health Services implements emergency response activities. Organisation of emergency health care services at the grassroots are ensured by thana committees.

The key to the programme is training of manpower. The DGHS, with WHO assistance, has drawn up a comprehensive curriculum on health sector emergency preparedness appropriate to Bangladesh. The main objective of these training programmes is to enhance the supervisory skills of the health officials and basic health

workers in disaster management. By the beginning of 1996, about 1,250 supervisory personnel and 1,000 basic health workers posted in disaster-prone areas were trained on emergency preparedness and response. Workshops for divisional staff of the DGHS and civil surgeons are scheduled to be completed soon in all six divisions of the country.

The training programme went in tandem with a contingency plan for manpower deployment in disaster-prone areas. In addition to the routine health care services, five medical teams for each thana are kept in readiness during pre and post-monsoon period. Members from the local communities join medical and para-medical personnel to make up these teams.

Another area of focus for WHO has been the DGHS's ability to procure water purifying tablets and bleaching powder from local manufacturers. These two items are vital components of the overall strategy to combat post-emergency diarrhoea.

In 1996, WHO helped mobilise US\$ 172,330 in additional funding from the Italian government to strengthen institutional and logistical capacities for the DGHS EPR programme. In addition to providing funds for operating costs of the EPR programme and training of personnel, Italian grants have also been earmarked for the current installation of nine 2-way high-frequency radios linking DGHS to high-risk thanas and districts.

## The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Thursday 19th December (All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes)

**BBC**  
6:00am BBC World News 6:10 Newsnight 7:00 BBC Newsroom inc. World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 10:00 B.B.C. World Headlines 10:05 World Focus: Pole to Pole 11:00 BBC Newsday 2:00 BBC World Headlines 2:05 World Focus: War Stories 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: Holiday 4:00 BBC Newsdesk 6:00pm BBC World Headlines 6:05 World Focus: Horizon 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC NewsHour Asia and Pacific 8:30 Time Out: Top Gear 9:00 BBC World Headlines 9:05 World Focus: Pole to Pole 10:00 BBC World News 10:20 Time Out: Film 96 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 Time Out: The Clothes Show 12:00pm The World Today 2:00 BBC World Headlines 2:05 World Focus: Assignment 2:50 Earth Report 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 4:00 BBC World Report inc. World Business Report/24 Hours 5:00 BBC Newsroom inc. World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours

**CHANNEL V**  
6:00am Frame by Frame 7:00- Rewind VJ Sophia 8:00 Frame by Frame 9:00 Jump Start VJ Alessandra 10:00 Frame by Frame 11:30 The Vibe VJ Luke 12:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 1:00 By Demand VJ Trey 2:00 Frame by Frame 2:30 First Day First Show 3:00 BPL Oye 4:00 Planet Ruby 4:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 6:00pm Rewind VJ Sophia 7:00 By Demand VJ Trey 8:00 Planet Ruby 8:30 The Vibe 9:00 Videon Flashback 9:30 Top of the Pops 10:00 First Day First Show 10:30 Soul Curry 11:00 Classic Rock 12:00am Big Bang VJ Alessandra 1:00 Hayshen 2:00 By Demand VJ Trey 3:00 Big Bang

**STAR PLUS**  
6:00am Home and Away 6:30 The Sullivan's 7:00 Aerobics 8:00 Sky Style 7:30 Star News 8:00 Sky News 9:30 Aerobics Oz 8:30-10:00 Today's Gourmet 10:00-10:30 The Chamber 11:00 Kate & Allie 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30 21 Jump Street 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:00 The Bold & the Beautiful 3:00 Tenkiki! 3:30 Khandana 4:00 Home and Away 4:30 Lost in Space 5:30 Adventures of Black Beauty 6:00pm Kate & Allie 6:30 Today's Gourmet 7:00 Destinations 'Goa' 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Small Wonder 8:30 The Bold & the Beautiful 9:00 Ghanu 9:30 Star News 10:00 Family Towers 10:30 The X-Files 1:30 The Bold & the Beautiful 12:00am Santa Barbara 1:00 Santa Barbara 2:00 21 Jump Street 3:00 Quinc 4:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:00 Barnaby Jones

**STAR MOVIES**  
7:30am Family: The Aftermath A Test Of Love 15 (Arabic Subtitles); 9:30 Classic: Made For Each Other PG (Arabic Subtitles); 11:30 Family: Not My Kid 15 (Hindi Subtitles); 1:30 Classic: Song of Bernadette PG (Hindi Subtitles); 3:30 1600 Comedy: Father and Son 12 (Hindi Subtitles); 5:30 Adventure: Dark Star 12 (Hindi Subtitles)

**STAR SPORTS**  
6:00am Watersports World 7:00 International Motorsports News 8:00 1996 Asian Cup Championships 1st Semi Final Venue: Zayed City, Abu Dhabi 10:00 1996 Asian Cup Championships 2nd Semi Final Venue: Zayed City, Abu Dhabi 12:00pm Compaq Grand Slam Cup 1996 Finals From Munich, Germany 1:30 World Windsurfing HL-13 2:00 Supercross Osaka, Japan 2:30 ITTL PGA Championships Women's Final Day 4:30 World Cup Of Golf 5:30 BT Global Challenge 6:00pm Supercross Osaka, Japan 6:30 World Windsurfing Federation Raw 7:30 G. Karling 8:00 Philips League Indian Football Philips League East Bengal v Mohun Bagan From Salt Lake, Calcutta 10:30 Futbol Mundial 11:00 This is the PGA Tour 12:00 All Terrain Marathon 1:00 G. Karling From France 2:00 World Windsurfing HL 2:30 Watersports World

**EL TV**  
7:30 Pyar Hi Pyar 8:30 Jeevan Ki Rang 9:30 Dance Dance 10:30 The Music Show-Réal Court-d'ony 11:00 Nakkad 11:30 Shatranj 12:00 Top of the Tops 12:30 Brigadier Balwant Bhanu 1:00 Suhana Safar 1:30 Nazrana 2:00 Special 3:00 Amar Prem 3:30 Cherehe 4:00 Aankaha 4:30 Song Yatra 5:00 Dear EL 05:30 Special 6:30 Sorry Men Lorry 7:00 Hi Th Hi 8:00 11:30 Halki Bakke 8:00 Fauji 8:30 Pakti (Drama) 9:30 Gambler 10:00 Peoples Club 10:30 Humrahs 11:00 Casper Number-1 11:30 Film Cheat 12:00 Newsline 12:30 Special 1:30 Tarane Aur Fasane 2:30 Party Time

**PTV**  
8:00am Tilawal Aur Tarjuma/Hamd/Nasir 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Cur Piece 8:50 Aashan 10:00 Ghazal 9:45 Phool Chand 10:05 Sons of Chandi (Drama Serial) 10:30 Bultoon & Rustys (Eng. Film) 10:55 Milli Naghma 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 Aabshar (Music Programme) 11:55 Tele Play (Drama Serial) 12:45pm Qawwali 12:55 Quran-e-

**SONY ET**  
8:30am Yaadon Ki Baar 9:00 The Three Stooges 9:30 Dennis The Menace 10:00 Dream Of Jeannie 10:00 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune (Game Show) 8:30 Serial 9:30 Hospital (Serial) 10:00 Cover Story: Hostel (Thriller Serial) 10:30 Janee Kaha Mera Jigar Gaya Ji (Serial) 11:00 The Young And The Restless 11:30 Yeh Sadi Nahi Ho Sakti (Serial) 12:00 Pehli Mulakat 12:30 Sunday Ki Sundry 1:00 Nripal Rasoi Show

**DD 7**  
10:30 Janmadin 10:35 Classical Music 11:00 Dance 12:00 ETV Programme 12:30 Monorama Cabin 1:00 Janani (Serial) 2:30 Darpan (Serial) 3:00 Eto Tuku Basha (Serial) 3:30 Shrooshi (Serial) 4:30 Thursday Bengali Film 5:30 News 7:00 Palisamaj (Serial) 7:30 Bangla Sambad 8:00 Bhanga Aana 8:30 Devi

**ZEE CINEMA**  
6:30 Hit Hai Fir Hai 7:00 Aaj Ka Samson 9:00 Box Office 9:30 Akshay 12:15 Bollywood 12:30 Roti 3:15 Songs 3:45 Commando 6:30 Nenu Maa Aavada 9:15 Songs 10:00 Pyar Kiya Hai Pyar Karanga 12:45 Satya Sundaram 3:30 Na Jane Kyon 4:00 Hawaii

**Garfield** by Jim Davis  
I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING TO DO  
THAT'S PRETTY AMBITIOUS, JON  
I CAN'T THINK OF A REASON TO THINK OF ANYTHING TO DO  
DRAWN BY JOHN MOLLYSKY

**JAMES BOND**  
BOND PRISES THE OBJECT CLENCHED IN THE DEAD MAN'S FIST...  
A NECKLACE OR PENDANT OF SOME SORT!  
HMM... LOOKS LIKE A MINIATURE OF ONE OF ONE OF THOSE OLD GREEK TRAGIC MASKS!  
BUT AS OOOZ BARRAGES TO PHOTOGRAPH HIS CORPSE...  
WHAT THE DEVIL?