

Developing an industrial zone in Northern region

Dr. M. Azizur Rahman

THE industrial development is an important factor for the development of any country. Industrialization increases production of goods and services, income, development and economic growth. It also creates employment facilities, equal distribution of income and employment facilities. Though the transport communication is relatively developed in different areas of Bangladesh, these are poor in northern region. Road, transport and the related communication is very important factor for development.

It is not possible to industrialize North-Bengal, the one-fourth area of the habitation of the country, for the lack of gas, electricity, and entrepreneurs. So, for the industrialization of North-Bengal, the improvement of gas, electricity, and trans-

port facilities is a vital requirement. Besides, it is also essential to increase in various ways the interest of the investors and entrepreneur at home and abroad. The development of the political and international relations with the neighboring country India, will help both the countries about trade and commerce.

Undertaking any activities or projects and through their implementation even if a limited number of people of the world is benefited, provided those activities do not go against the interest of anyone, should be carried out for the human welfare. This is called Pareto optimality in economics. As a part of such a project, India is interested in importing gas from Myanmar using Bangladesh as a corridor. To implement this project, India has proposed for 300

Kilometers corridor facilities through Bangladesh. Similarly, to produce and import electricity using fast moving water-flow of the rivers of Nepal, Bangladesh needs at least 25 kilometers corridor facilities from India.

Again India desires to have transit facilities through Bangladesh, to send its goods and services and essential commodities including different types of raw materials to 7(Seven) sisters alliance states of India within a shorter time across Bangladesh. According to the international trade information, the concerned countries are benefited through their business cooperation. For instance, the goods that we can produce with low cost can be imported to India. Bangladesh will also be benefited by exporting the goods to India. Similarly, Bangladesh without produc-

ing the costly goods, can import those goods within a shorter time. Through these international trades, the neighboring countries are benefited.

It means that, Bangladesh should give India the corridor facilities for importing gas from Myanmar. Besides, Bangladesh should give India transit facilities in order to establish easy and quick transit systems among the 7(seven) sisters alliance states of India. If Bangladesh, in both the cases, is much more benefited we should think positively in favour of receiving the facilities.

If India invests thousands of crores Taka in Bangladesh in the programs of transit and corridor, the trade and commerce will increase in our country with the creation of new employment facilities. Now it is clear to us

that load shedding is increasing in Bangladesh. If Nepal producing hydro-electricity, using their rivers having fast moving water-flow exports it to Bangladesh. we may get rid of the electricity crisis to a great extent. If Bangladesh gives India reasonable transit and corridor facilities, Bangladesh, will be able to receive expected facilities from India and it will also get the assurance of importing electricity from Nepal.

Using Indian corridor, we can import hydro-electricity from Nepal. Simultaneously, developing Mongla, the second largest sea port of Bangladesh, we can construct an international highway in the name of Mongla-North Bengal-Nepal and Nepal-North Bengal-Mongla highway. Through private initiatives, many mills and factories and serv-

ice oriented centers will be set-up by the sides of this international highway. Using Mongla sea-port India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan will be benefited in respect of international trades.

It is stated that Nepal and Bhutan are interested in financing to Mongla port development project including the proposed highway. India should give corridor facilities to materialize this plan. Through the development of international highway and the Mongla sea how India will be benefited, finding it out through the result of the research work, should be informed to the citizens as well as the government of India.

(Dr. M. Azizur Rahman is Vice Chancellor and Chairman, North-Bengal Development Council (NDC) Uttara University)