



THOUGHTS & INITIATIVES

VOL 1, NO. 1 AUGUST 1993

BDI

812 Hope Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15220
15160 SE 54th Place, Bellevue, WA 98006
USA

BDI (Bangladesh Development Initiative) is a registered non-profit, non-political corporation based in USA. BDI is dedicated to facilitating value-added commodity production in Bangladesh.

BDI Executive Committee

President: Shah M. Yunus, Ph.D.

Vice President: Jahangir Jasimuddin, Ph.D.

Secretary and Treasurer: Ashraf Ali, D.Sc.

BDI Special Advisors

General Counsellor: Rafiq Rasul, Ph.D.

Marketing Consultant: Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.

Tax Consultants: Syeda M. Khan

Syed Nuruz Zaman

BDI Publications

Ashraf Ali, D.Sc. (Editor)

Mominul Hoque, Ph.D.

Ruhul Kuddus, Ph.D.

Shahid M. Shahidullah, Ph.D.

Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.

BDI Advisors

Abdur Razzaque, Ph.D. (MI)

Anisa Yunus, M.D. (PA)

Anwar Karim (MD)

Dhiraj M. Shah, M.D. (NY)

Faizul Islam, Ph.D. (PA)

Faruq M. A. Siddiqi, Ph.D. (PA)

Habibul H. Khondker, Ph.D. (Singapore)

Hassan Shayer (DE)

M. A. Kabir, M.D. (MO)

Mahabub-ul Islam, Ph.D. (PA)

Mohammed Alauddin (KY)

Moyenuddin Munshi, M.D., Ph.D. (GA)

Salim Rashid, Ph.D. (IL)

Saqui Selima Huq (NY)

Shahed Khan, Ph.D. (PA)

Shamsher Bakth, M.D. (PA)

Shayla S. Ali (PA)

Syed Zaki Hossain (NY)

Yunus Rahi, Ph.D. (CA)

Zahidul Rahman, Ph.D. (CA)

Ziauddin Ahmed, M.D. (PA)

EDITOR'S NOTE

For the last few years BDI has actively developed several thought streams and related activities to contribute to the socio-economic changes in Bangladesh as effectively as possible. The task that was envisaged can be broadly divided into two parts: (1) to propose policy prescriptions on development at the macro-level and (2) to formulate work plans to implement these policy prescriptions in practice. It may appear to many that the task of policy planning is easy, which is true at certain levels and under certain circumstances. However, deriving correct policy propositions for Bangladesh turns out to be the major task that needs to be performed. This strategic planning provides the philosophical framework on development issues regarding Bangladesh. Once the philosophical issues are in place, process details are expected to follow as a matter of consequence.

After careful thinking, BDI came up with two economic policy propositions for Bangladesh. These involve (1) Technology and (2) the Market (internal and external), which constitute the central theme of the present volume of "THOUGHTS & INITIATIVES". 'Technology' is identified as an unmistakable indicator of social progress, whereas 'market' is an indispensable mechanism by which technology is rendered objectively dynamic in the society. The economic development of Bangladesh hinges on developing an internal market and securing the internal and international markets for the domestically produced industrial goods.

The technological potentials and other requisites in present Bangladesh appear to be as plentiful as in any other country. Consequently, the technological quality of domestically produced goods can generally be improved and ensured. We only need to secure a large enough market-share for the sale of the goods. Therefore, all Bangladeshis, both at home and abroad, can best contribute to Bangladesh by helping her develop the internal market and secure the internal and international markets for the domestically produced high-tech or value-added industrial goods. The question of 'capital' is also partly addressed in this issue.

BDI is launching a few initiatives in Bangladesh in order to realize the goals espoused in these propositions. First of all, with the establishment of the BDI National Innovator's Award (NIA), BDI would like to lend support to the existing and potential domestic industries that are capable of producing durable, intermediate and capital goods. Please contribute to the BDI-NIA Fund to make it more prestigious.

You may also consider establishing a perpetual fund in any field, viz., medicine, agriculture, engineering, basic sciences, economics or marketing (e.g., a Chemistry Research Fund or a Technology Development Research Fund) in your or your relative's name by making a one-time contribution of \$20,000 to BDI. BDI will take the responsibility of establishing and administering the fund in the Bangladeshi Institution of your choice.

You may also contribute a lump sum of \$5,000 which will allow BDI to recruit an employee or a consultant in Bangladesh for a full year. Furthermore, BDI is in constant need of volunteers in Bangladesh to maintain contact with the educational and research institutions, and

entrepreneurial cooperatives in Bangladesh. You can help by requesting your friends or relatives in Bangladesh to volunteer their time for BDI.

For your membership in BDI, we will send you all BDI publications. In addition, we will keep you informed about important developments. We will also keep you updated on how your money is being spent. If you participate in BDI Knowledge Transfer Program, your travel expenses to Bangladesh may be tax-deductible. We extend our deep appreciations to those who have already contributed money and provided moral support to BDI. All your contributions to BDI are tax-deductible and we look forward to your participation in the proposed endeavors.

Editor, BDI Journal

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor's Note	iii
THOUGHTS AND INITIATIVES	
1. BDI Work Guidelines: An Overview.....	1
2. Individual Approach or Organized Approach?	5
3. Establishment of the National Innovator's Award (NIA) Fund in Bangladesh.....	7
BDI ACTIVITIES 1992-1993	
4. Proceedings of the Meeting of BDI, IAT AND Chemical Alumni Association.....	10
5. BDI Proposal to UNDP for Funding the Establishment of the Bangladesh National Fund (BNF)	12
6. Bangladesh Today: A Visitor's Perspective	15
7. Letter to the Vice Chancellor of BUET	19
8. A Few Words to the Engineers in Bangladesh (in Bengali)	24
9. Letter to the President of the Dhaka District Dholai Khal Small Parts Manufacturing and Repairing Workshop Owner's Association (in Bengali).....	35
10. Response from the President of the Dhaka District Dholai Khal Small Parts Manufacturing and Repairing Workshop Owner's Association (in Bengali).....	41
SELECTED ESSAYS	
11. Problems of Industrial Development in Bangladesh: Conversation with a Few Concerned Bangladeshis by Ruhul Kuddus	47
12. On the Economic Development of Bangladesh by Ashraf Ali	60