

Time-worthy vision for apparels export suggested

September 2, 2006, The Bangladesh Observer

Speakers at a seminar on Thursday underscored the need for a vision to be competitive in the world market mainly in apparel sector, which would begin after 2008 following the withdrawal of restrictions on China.

Speaking at a seminar titled "national dialogue on trade, development and poverty linkage" the economists, trade experts and academicians of the country also stressed on developing skills of the workers to go to the high end of the competition by the end of 2008. The government has not yet set any vision for the Ready Made Garment (RMG), the highest export earning sector of the country, to be competitive in the world Market, the speakers lamented.

They suggested preparing a complete and time-worthy vision for the export products, particularly the apparels in order to enhance foreign currency earnings. They also emphasised on developing an institutional mechanism for workers' bargaining in terms of salary and other related issues.

Unnayan Shamannay, a local research-organisation, and CUTS International of India jointly organised the seminar at the Development Studies Department auditorium of Dhaka University (DU).

Chairman of Unnayan Shamannay economist Dr Atiur Rahman moderated the seminar, which was attended by Commerce Secretary Feroz Ahmed as the chief guest. Dr Abdur Razzak, Assistant Prof of Economics department of the DU and Prof Abu Eusuf, Assistant Prof of Development Studies of the same university made two separate presentations in the seminar on "A case study of Ready Made Garment Industry in Bangladesh" and A case study of Cellular Phone in Bangladesh respectively. Dr Selim Raihan, another Assistant Prof of Economics Department at the DU spoke at the seminar as a designated discussant.

At the beginning of the seminar Dr Atiur Rahman and Feroz Ahmen jointly unveiled the cover of a book titled "Banijyo Sohoj Path", trade made easy, jointly published by the Unnayan Shamannay and the CUTS International of India.