



Unskilled workers cost Bangladesh \$4B: Muhith

| Update: 11:09am on Tuesday 15th September 2015 UTC



Ittefaq Report

While attending a certificate giving ceremony at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on Monday, the Finance Minister AMA Muhith said that Bangladesh has an outflow of \$4 billion due to the foreigners working in Bangladesh.

He also said that had there been enough skilled workers available, Bangladesh would have been able to save that amount.

Muhith was attending a function arranged by the BGMEA where he handed out certificates to ready made garment workers who participated in the 'Skills for Employment Investment Program' (SEIP).

Stating that there is an abundance of foreigners working in the garments sector of Bangladesh, they are siphoning off around \$4 billion to their respective home lands every year.

"This huge sum of money can be saved if we can train the workers and mid-level managers to be more capable," he added.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association's acting President SM Mannan Kachi said, "The garment sector is running with a 30 percent shortage of workers while a major portion of the population remains unemployed."

"We need to seriously consider using this situation to our advantage," he said.

"The SEIP project is aimed at developing the skills of workers starting from new employees to mid-level managers through training."

"This project would also create 43,800 skilled ready made garment factory workers," added Muhith.

He said that \$ 200 million dollars of the \$1 billion dollars required to complete this training program will be given by the government and the rest will be given by the Asian Development Bank.

Upon completion of the project, it will create 260,000 skilled workers for five different sectors including RMG.

SEIP project's Director Jalal Ahmed said that Bangladesh would also be able to supply more skilled workers overseas