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Finance Minister calls upon American citizens to support duty free and quota free access of Bangladesh apparels into US market.

WASHINGTON, October 8, 2010

Bangladesh Finance Minister Abul Maal A. Muhith called upon American citizens to support duty free and quota free access of Bangladesh apparels into US market on Thursday.

He said that, Bangladesh is one of the major exporters of garments to the US market. Bangladesh is a developing country and an LDC and as a developing country, Bangladesh should get this opportunity. He also added that many other countries like France do not have to pay hefty tariff on their exportable to USA while Bangladesh coughs up huge amount as tariff for its exports to USA as apparels is the only major items in its export basket.

This appeal was made by the finance minister after his long speech and a question- hour session at Johns Hopkins University in Washington DC. It was organized by School of Advance International Studies (SAIS). The “SAIS arranged the talks on Economic Development Bangladesh’s financial future”.

In his speech the finance minister said that Bangladesh has made a tremendous success in different sectors including pharmaceuticals, garments, manpower etc. He also mentioned that Bangladesh exports pharmaceuticals in sixty one countries. In the question- hour session, he said that jute has not

lost its economic market but thought in the context that jute will not regain its glorious past. He also thought that shoes, toys and furniture etc can take lead in future market.

Bangladesh Ambassador and State Minister Mr. Akramul Qader to USA said that Bangladesh is now considered a 'model' amongst the developing countries. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Bangladesh has achieved UN MDG award. It proves that, in her leadership, Bangladesh will become a middle income country very soon. Sheikh Hasina is giving relentless efforts to attain the vision 2021 to make a 'digital Bangladesh', the ambassador said.

Bangladesh Bank governor Dr. Atiur Rahaman participating in the talk told the audience that Bangladesh government has taken many innovative steps in different sectors of the economy to make Bangladesh a self-reliant country in near future. These measures will help reach the growth rate at 8 (eight) percent within a short time, he hoped.

Bangladesh Bank has taken different initiatives in micro economy giving the opportunity to the rural poor, the government said. He said that, money is for all. So he has taken the bank activities to the poor farmers of the country. The Bank now has introduced a system that would allow a farmer open a bank account with only Taka Ten. Nine million farmers already opened this account which is unique in the banking history of the country.

Dr. Walter of SAIS moderated the talks where two former US Ambassadors to Bangladesh, teachers and students of Johns Hopkins University were present.

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