



Muhith for more effective foreign aid

→ Business Desk

Finance Minister AMA Muhith has called upon the international community to work towards the rationalisation of sector support in line with national priorities by exploring options for harmonisation of aid and increased use of programme-based approaches.

The minister made the remarks yesterday while addressing the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) in Busan, Korea, said a press release.

Ministers and other officials from 150 countries, Development Partners (DPs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and academia have attended the function to discuss ways and means to enhance effective partnership among development partners to make optimum results of development assistance.

Muhith said despite several joint initiatives by development partners and partner countries to harmonise development efforts and reduce duplication, as well as related commitments made in the context of the last three High level Forums (Rome Declarations-2003; Paris Declaration-2005 and Accra Agenda for action-2008), high degrees of aid proliferation and fragmentation remain a major challenge for many aid recipient countries, including Bangladesh.

The finance minister added that reducing aid fragmentation is a joint responsibility of the government and its development partners. In order to achieve more development impact and reduce transaction costs, his government and its development partners will work together to rationalise support to sectors and thematic areas, as well as to limit the number of development partners that are active in a sector or thematic areas.

As Sherpa of Asia Pacific region and the lead nation of LIC (Low Income Countries) Group, the Bangladesh delegation has made efforts to reflect concern of 19 Asia-Pacific region countries including Bangladesh, Nepal, Cambodia, Pacific Island countries over untie aid and un-conditionality of official Development Assistance (ODA).

An 11-member Bangladesh delegation, led by the finance minister, is attending the function. The other members of the delegation are--

The High power 11 member Bangladesh delegation led by Hon'ble Finance Minister also includes, Ms. Nazma Akther, MP, member of the The parliamentary standing committee on foreign affairs, M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, cabinet secretary and Mr. Iqbal Mahmood, secretary of Economic Relations Division (ERD).

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