

Thrust on attracting long term FDIs and private equity investments

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Finance Minister A.M.A. Muhith has underscored the need for attracting long term FDIs and private equity investments in Bangladesh.

The minister was addressing a conference titled 'Attracting Private Equity Investments in Bangladesh', arranged by LR Global Bangladesh, a private asset management company held at a city hotel recently.

The conference was arranged to mark the visit of Mr. William T. Comfort, Chairman of Citigroup Venture Capital.

Dr. Mirza Azizul Islam, former Finance Advisor, Mr. Ziaul Haque Khondker, Chairman of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Mr. Rakibur Rahman, president of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) attended the conference.

Donald S. LaGuardia, Chairman of LR Global made the opening remarks.

Mr. Reaz Islam, CEO of LR Global, presented the potential benefits for investors and issuers of Private Equity in Bangladesh and highlighted various economic benefits from such investment including job creation and acceleration of economic growth.

Mr. Comfort shared the key success factors of India and how public and private sectors in Bangladesh can leverage similar models.

"Mr. Comfort's visit is an important step and we hope many more high profile investors will visit Bangladesh," Mr. Reaz Islam said.

Mr. Comfort also met chairman of SEC and president of DSE and exchanged ideas about the markets and ways Bangladesh can attract investments.

Mr. Comfort stated, Public Sector funds (such as ICB), local Institutional Investors (Banks, NBF, Insurance), and funds matched by Foreign investors need to create a critical mass of funds to be deployed to attractive and transparent businesses, but the government must take the lead role to promote such initiatives due to potential of significant benefit to the overall economy by attracting such investments and a potential multiplier effect thereafter.