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RMG sector faces shortage of skilled mid-level manpower

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Siddiquir Rahman, President of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), seen at a certificate giving ceremony, at BGMEA Bhaban in the city on Thursday.

Speakers at a discussion said the country's ready-made garments sector has been suffering due to shortage of efficient mid-level officials which is a challenge for continuation of its growth and attaining \$50 billion export target by 2021. They came up with the views at a programme titled "BGMEA-SEIP (Skill for Employment Investment Program) Award Ceremony for Management Trainee", at the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Bhaban in the capital on Thursday. The speakers urged the government to develop an energy policy to provide uninterrupted energy supply to the export-oriented industry to meet the country's export target. "The RMG sector feels a severe crisis of mid-level management officials comparing to the entry-level workers. It is very important to ensure the sustainable growth of the sector and achieve \$50 billion export target by 2021," Md Siddiquir Rahman, President of the BGMEA said. He said, the country had achieved 7 percent export growth last year while the RMG export growth was 10 percent during the recent years when the country went through political turmoil. Siddiquir Raham said, "Shortage of skilled mid-level management is the main constraint for the development of the RMG sector. If the foreigners could work in the industry as mid-level officials, why not our people will be allowed?" He also requested young people to join the industry and gain knowledge to become skilled as mid-level management in the garments industry. Additional Secretary of Finance Ministry Jalal Ahmed was present as chief guest while Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Fashion and Technology (BUFT) Prof Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed and Country Director of Intertech Kartik N. D were present as special guests.

BGMEA President Siddiquir Rahman chaired the function. Vice-President (Finance) of BGMEA Mohammad Nasir, and Prof Dr Engineer Mahbulul Haque spoke the function. A total of 200

management trainees received certificates at the programme. Mentionable, SEIP – Skill for Employment Investment Programme is run by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

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