

State cannot be trusted by minorities : Rehman Sobhan

Noted economist and chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue Rehman Sobhan Sunday said members of the minority communities are living with a huge sense of vulnerability in today's Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Speaking at a dissemination seminar on 'Religion, Minority and Trust', he also noted that even the state cannot be trusted by its minorities.

Neither the transcending rigorous secularism nor any religious denomination matters with the minority of any category - religion, ethnicity or class - due to the muscle power that exists and the state is not protecting anyone from any misdeed, he observed.

The dissemination seminar was jointly organised by International Growth Centre (IGC), Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) of Brac University on the findings of a study on trust between minorities and majorities in Bangladesh and West Bengal state of India.

In his keynote presentation, IGS research head Minhaj Mahmud said they studied trust through 'incentivised trust games' participated by the people of both Hindu and Muslim faith in the two neighbouring countries and found that trust matters more with regard to the majority-minority status in this context, not with religious identities.

"Both Hindus and Muslims behave differently as minorities. It is minority status rather than religion that dictates behaviour," he said.

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) research director Binayak Sen and IGC, Bangladesh, country director Sultan Hafeez Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

State cannot be trusted by minorities: Rehman Sobhan
Noted economist and chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue Rehman Sobhan Sunday said members of the minority communities are living with a huge sense of vulnerability in today's Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Speaking at a dissemination seminar on 'Religion, Minority and Trust', he also noted that even the state cannot be trusted by its minorities.

Neither the transcending rigorous secularism nor any religious denomination matters with the minority of any category - religion, ethnicity or class - due to the muscle power that exists and the state is not protecting anyone from any misdeed, he observed.

The dissemination seminar was jointly organised by International Growth Centre (IGC), Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) of Brac University on the findings of a study on trust between minorities and majorities in Bangladesh and West Bengal state of India.

In his keynote presentation, IGS research head Minhaj Mahmud said they studied trust through 'incentivised trust games' participated by the people of both Hindu and Muslim faith in the two neighbouring countries and found that trust matters more with regard to the majority-minority status in this context, not with religious identities.

"Both Hindus and Muslims behave differently as minorities. It is minority status rather than religion that dictates behaviour," he said.

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) research director Binayak Sen and IGC, Bangladesh, country director Sultan Hafeez Rahman also spoke on the occasion.