



**Building
a smart economy
by 2041
Private Sector
must take the lead**



FBCCI Board of Directors Paid Courtesy Call on HPM Sheikh Hasina

From the Desk of the President



Dear Colleagues and Friends of FBCCI,

It is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to each one of you as we embark on publishing our monthly E-bulletin for December 2023. It gives me great pride to bring to your sight the FBCCI E-Bulletin on a monthly basis; a venture first of its kind by FBCCI.

The Monthly E-bulletin brings out FBCCI's activities and related developments regularly, visualizing our views and positions on various aspects of trade, commerce, and industry in the country. It provides feedback about our organizational endeavors in upholding the interests of our members engaged in various business sectors of the country.

The month of December has been eventful for FBCCI. We celebrated the 52nd victory day of Bangladesh. We have had the privilege of engaging in numerous activities that have strengthened our commitment to bolstering economic development, strengthening international relations, and engaging private sectors in different policy discourses at home and abroad. The Annual General Meeting-AGM (2022-2023) of FBCCI was successfully held on December 09, 2023. I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to all our esteemed General Body (GB) Members and business dignitaries for attending the

AGM. I would also like to thank my beloved colleagues, the Board of Directors of FBCCI, for their tireless effort to make this event successful.

We had the pleasure of paying a courtesy visit to the Honorable Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina on December 13, 2023, at Ganabhaban, Dhaka. We discussed ways in which both the Private Sector and the Government could work more closely to forge the path of a Smart Economy by 2041.

We also had the privilege of hosting the Honorable Investment Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) H.E Engr. Khalid A. Al-Falih on December 6, 2023, in Dhaka. We hosted a dinner in honor of the Saudi Delegation at the hotel Le Meridian in the Capital. FBCCI also organized the Saudi Bangladesh Business Council meeting on December 6, 2023, in Dhaka where 46 Saudi investors and business dignitaries attended the meeting. I strongly believe their visit to Bangladesh will provide a valuable platform for Bangladesh to attract foreign investment and enhance collaborative efforts for bilateral trade and commerce between Bangladesh and KSA.

In December, FBCCI also held fruitful discussions with ambassadors and other business dignitaries. These interactions provided a valuable platform for us to discuss collaborative opportunities, share insights, and build

stronger ties internationally.

FBCCI has long been a vital pillar of our nation's economic landscape. The Board of Directors for the term 2023-25 is committed to safeguarding the interests of the private sector through advocating policies. FBCCI also hosted a discussion meeting with retail and wholesale market owners, focusing on market stability during Ramadan, and organized a seminar on SME in December. We are also focusing on ensuring a healthy environment for trade and business for our General Body Members and all Entrepreneurs. We have already taken several initiatives to facilitate our services to our General Body (GB) members within a short period. One of them is extending FBCCI's office in Gulshan, which will save valuable time for our members and other dignitaries. The Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser and former FBCCI President, Mr. Salman F Rahman, inaugurated the extended office in Gulshan on October 09, 2023.

Our commitment to social responsibility remains the same. In line with past years, FBCCI initiated efforts to aid the vulnerable during winter, distributing blankets to those in need. We are planning to distribute 50 thousand blankets nationwide through our chambers and Associations.

Looking back on the events of December 2023, it is evident that FBCCI remains dedicated to its mission of promoting and protecting the interests of the private sector by providing valuable insights and creating opportunities and connections that benefit our members.

As we move forward to January 2024, the month that holds special significance for all of us as the nation prepares to cast their vote to form the Government for a new term, a momentous occasion for Bangladesh. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our members, partners, and stakeholders who continue to support FBCCI's endeavors. Together, we will shape a brighter and more prosperous future for our great nation.

Warm regards,

Mahbubul Alam
President, FBCCI

FBCCI Annual General Meeting held



The Annual General Meeting (AGM 2022-2023) of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) was held on December 09, 2023 at the Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Convention Hall in the capital. FBCCI President Mr. Mahbubul Alam Presided over the meeting. While addressing the AGM 2022-2023, Mr. Mahbubul Alam, rallied the business community to prioritize national economic growth over political differences by keeping in mind the motto, 'Politics for some, Economy for all'. He emphasized the collective responsibility of the private sector in steering the country towards prosperity.

The FBCCI President acknowledged the pivotal role of traders in Bangladesh's economy, urging entrepreneurs at all levels to unite for the greater good. The business community should forget all differences and work unitedly to make the country prosperous. Starting from small, medium, and large industrialists, businessmen of all levels of the country should be united, he added.

Expressing concerns about the global geopolitical landscape impacting Bangladesh's economic activities, Mr. Mahbubul Alam highlighted the necessity of modernizing trade-related conditions and policies by 2026. In this regard, various issues

such as cross-border trade and connectivity, investment, private sector recommendations for building a smart Bangladesh, customs and taxation, infrastructure, supply chain and logistics support, energy, the impact of climate change, the fourth industrial revolution, technical and vocational and technical education etc is going to play a crucial role. He also urged private sector involvement in policy-making on crucial issues such as cross-border trade, infrastructure, and climate change.

In alignment with the government's vision for a smart Bangladesh, the FBCCI President outlined the current Board of Directors' initiatives,

including the inauguration of FBCCI's extended office in Gulshan, FBCCI Innovation and Research Centre in Haatkhola and the launch of an interactive digital website. He also highlighted plans for a new branch office in Old Dhaka, and a vocational center in Uttara.

The Annual General Meeting unanimously approved the minutes of the last AGM

(2021-2022), the Annual Report of FBCCI 2022-23, the Audit Report of Income and Expenditure, and the appointment of a new auditor. The General Body (GB) members shared their perspectives, with the FBCCI President attentively addressing their concerns and presenting the board's plans.

Among others, the Senior Vice President of FBCCI Mr.

Md. Amin Helaly, Vice President Mr. Khairul Huda Chopol, Mr. Mohammad Anwar Sadat Sarker, Dr. Joshoda Jibon Deb Nath, Ms. Shomi Kaiser, Mr. Rashadul Hossain Chowdhury (Ronni), Mr. Md. Munir Hossain, FBCCI Directors, General Body (GB) members, and other dignitaries were present at the program.

FBCCI Board of Directors Paid Courtesy Call on HPM Sheikh Hasina



The Board of Directors (2023-25) of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), led by its President Mr. Mahbubul Alam, paid a courtesy call on Hon'ble

Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina on December 13, 2023 at Ganabhaban, Dhaka. The meeting delved into Bangladesh's remarkable achievements under visionary leadership and

addressed the economic situation of the country in the current global economic landscape.

FBCCI President Mr. Mahbubul Alam applauded

Bangladesh's growth as the world's fastest-growing commodity market in the last 15 years and emphasized the country's prominence in manpower export and online outsourcing. He highlighted major infrastructure projects such as the Bangabandhu satellite installation, Karnaphuli river tunnel, nuclear power plant, the Padma bridge, Elevated Expressway, and Metrorail; positioning Bangladesh as a global business icon.

Addressing the economic impact of global crises, Mr. Mahbubul Alam discussed the challenges arising from the Russia-Ukraine war and Middle East conflicts, putting challenges to the overall economic activities in Bangladesh. He stressed the need for coordinated efforts between the public and private sectors to mitigate losses faced by traders and achieve the country's economic growth targets in this ongoing global crisis.

Mr. Mahbubul Alam suggested a nuanced approach to managing imports, advocating for controlled imports of luxury/non-essential goods to address the current dollar crisis. He proposed aligning monetary and fiscal policies to control inflation effectively.

Mr. Mahbubul Alam urged for streamlined gas supply to prevent increased business operation costs.

As the month of Ramadan approaches, the FBCCI President recommended strategic import planning for essential goods to control prices. He specifically mentioned items like onion, gram, edible oil, potato, brinjal, gram flour, sugar, and dates, crucial during Ramadan.

HPM H.E. Sheikh Hasina assured her commitment to the development of businesses in the country and underscored the government's

ment's ongoing efforts in this regard.

She also highlighted the government's initiatives for business development, export diversification, export incentives, and addressing LDC challenges.

Among others, Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investments Adviser Mr. Salman F. Rahman, Principal Secretary Mr. Tofazzal Hossain Miah, FBCCI Senior Vice President Mr. Md. Amin Helaly, Vice President Mr. Khairul Huda Chopol, Mr. Mohammad Anwar Sadat Sarker, Ms. Shomi Kaiser, Mr. Rashadul Hossain Chowdhury (Ronni), Mr. Md. Munir Hossain, FBCCI Directors, Secretary-General, and other dignitaries were present at the program.

Chinese Ambassador met FBCCI President

H.E Yao Wen, Ambassador, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Bangladesh met the FBCCI President Mr. Mahbubul Alam on December 18, 2023 at FBCCI Icon, Dhaka. They had a fertile discussion on strengthening trade relation between Bangladesh and China.

Among others, FBCCI Vice President Md. Munir Hossain, Secretary General Md. Alamgir, Consultant of the FBCCI International Affairs Wing Ambassador Mosud Mannan ndc, First Secretary of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Bangladesh Mr. Cui Yifeng and other dignitaries were present at the meeting.



KSA vows to enhance trade in food, energy, logistics and manufacturing sector



Saudi entrepreneurs vow to strengthen business in several areas including Food, Energy, Logistics and Manufacturing with Bangladesh.

They expressed keen interest during a meeting on Saudi Bangladesh Business Council hosted by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) on December 6, 2023 at the hotel Le Meridian in the Capital.

The Investment Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) H.E. Engr. Khalid A. Al-Falih joined the meeting as the chief guest. While speaking, Saudi Investment Minister said, Bangladesh is one of the closest

friends of Saudi Arabia. Both the countries enjoy an excellent bilateral friendship. He said, the trade relation between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia existed in few areas, but now is the time we look for ways on how we can facilitate trade for the mutual benefit for both of the countries.

FBCCI President Mahbubul Alam said, Bangladesh enjoys excellent bilateral relations with Saudi Arabia. Bangladesh has emerged as a role model for developing countries and has become one of the fastest growing economies with consistent GDP growth of 6.03% in 2023. We have had a competitive

manufacturing sector and resilient socio-economic progress. By 2040, Bangladesh is estimated to be a trillion-dollar economy, driven by consumer optimism, innovation and a young engaged workforce. FBCCI President urged the Saudi government for utilizing the competent young workforce of Bangladesh and their skills by providing them job opportunities in KSA.

Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Advisor Salman F. Rahman, Deputy Minister for Investors Outreach of KSA H.E. Mr. Badr I. AlBadr spoke at the meeting, among others.

Among others, Chairman of the Saudi Bangladesh Business Council Ayad Al Amri, Ambassador of KSA in Bangladesh H.E. Essa bin Yousef Al Duhailan, FBCCI Vice President Khairul Huda Chopol, Dr. Joshoda Jibon Deb Nath, Md. Munir Hossain, Directors, and Business Dignitaries from Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia were present at the business council meeting

FBCCI President met Japanese Ambassador

FBCCI President Mr. Mahbubul Alam paid a courtesy visit to the ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh H.E. Mr. IWAMA Kiminori in Dhaka on December 20, 2023. They had a fruitful discussion regarding the trade and business between Bangladesh and Japan.

FBCCI President proposed and

agreed with the Japanese ambassador to open a Japan help desk in FBCCI. FBCCI President also assures the Japanese Ambassador to facilitate meeting with the relevant stakeholders of NBR and central Bank to open a new window for Japanese investors in Bangladesh. The Japanese ambassador reiterated his commitment

to further deepen the bilateral friendship between Bangladesh and Japan. He also expressed his keen interest in enhancing trade between the two nations.

Among others, Secretary General of the FBCCI Mr. Md. Alomgir; Consultant of the International Affairs Wing Ambassador Mosud Mannan ndc, and Barrister Tahmidur Rahman were present at the courtesy meeting.



Meeting between FBCCI and the Ministry of Industries



A meeting was held between FBCCI and the Ministry of Industries to identify strategies for the sustainable development of the industrial sector on December 07, 2023 at the conference room of Ministry of Industries.

Mr. Mahbubul Alam, President

of the FBCCI led the business delegation from the private sector. Senior Secretary for the Ministry of Industries Zakia Sultana, Vice President of the FBCCI Mr. Joshoda Jibon Deb Nath, Directors, Managing Director of the

SME Foundation Dr. Md. Mafizur Rahman, Chairman of the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) Md. Mahbubor Rahman and other dignitaries were present at the meeting.

FBCCI President Pays Tribute to the Father of the Nation on Victory Day



The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) President Mr. Mahbubul Alam along with the Board of Directors on Saturday (December 16, 2023) paid rich tributes to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of Victory Day.

The Board of Directors of FBCCI led by President Mahbubul Alam paid tribute by placing a

floral wreath on the portrait of Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi Road-32 in the capital.

After placing the wreath, the FBCCI President stood there in solemn silence for some time as a mark of profound respect to the memory of the great leader and the architect of the country's independence.

FBCCI President Mr. Mahbubul Alam urged the businessmen

to take the country forward with the spirit of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the martyrs of the 1971 Liberation War.

FBCCI Vice President Mr. Mohammad Anwar Sadat Sarker, Mr. Md. Munir Hossain, FBCCI Directors, FBCCI Secretary General, GB Members, and other dignitaries were present there.

A meeting was held between FBCCI distribute blankets among helpless and distressed people

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), takes initiative to distribute blankets in every district of the country to stand by the helpless and distressed people this winter. Therefore, FBCCI distributed 10,000 blankets, and is going to distribute blankets among more than 50 thousand cold hit families across the country through the district chambers and associations.

FBCCI President Mr. Mahbubul Alam inaugurated the program by handing over

blankets to some district chambers and women chambers on December 18, 2023 at the FBCCI office in Motijheel. Senior Vice-President of FBCCI Mr. Md. Amin Helaly, Vice President Mr. Khairul Huda Chopol, Mr. Md. Munir Hussain, FBCCI Directors, representatives of various Associations and District Chambers were present at the distribution program.

While speaking, Mr. Mahbubul Alam stated that the FBCCI stood by the common people with the sense of social responsibilities. Earlier,

The FBCCI handed over fire Tk 1 crore to the fire affected businessmen in Bangabazar in Dhaka, distributed relief to the flood affected people in Sylhet and Sunamganj, distributed winter clothes to lower income people in Dhaka. Furthermore, FBCCI provides scholarships to 30 students of Asian University for Women (AUW) for higher education every year. FBCCI will continue these activities in future as well, Mr. Mahbubul Alam promised.



FBCCI hosts discussion meeting on market stability during Ramadan



The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) held a discussion meeting with the stakeholders regarding keeping the supply of daily commodities normal and prices stable during the upcoming Ramadan.

The discussion meeting was held on December 18, 2023 at FBCCI office in Motijheel. President of FBCCI Mr. Mahbubul Alam presided over the meeting.

In his welcome speech, FBCCI President called upon the business community to keep

the supply of essential commodities normal and prices under control. If any businessman wants to disrupt the supply of daily commodities in the market, FBCCI has serious objection in this regard, he mentioned.

Representatives of mill owners, wholesalers, retailers took part in the open discussion and highlighted their positions on market situations.

Closing remarks in the meeting was delivered by the FBCCI Senior Vice President Mr. Md. Amin Helaly.

Mr. Md. Amin Helaly.

FBCCI Vice President Mr. Khairul Huda Chopol, FBCCI Directors, Assistant Director of the Directorate of the National Consumer Rights Protection Mr. Md. Abdul Jabbar Mondol, President of Bangladesh Shop Owners Association Md. Helal Uddin, among others, were present at the meeting.

FBCCI President Calls for Onion Imports from Alternative Markets to Stabilize Supply Chain

In response to the unprecedented surge in onion prices in the market, Mr. Mahbubul Alam, the President of FBCCI, the country's apex business organization, has advocated for the import of onions from alternative markets if necessary. The FBCCI president made this call to maintain a reasonable price for onions and ensure the smooth functioning of the supply chain for essential commodities.

FBCCI

FEDERATION OF BANGLADESH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

To address the ongoing crisis, Mr. Mahbubul Alam assured full support from FBCCI to businesses involved in importing daily essentials, including onions, from various countries. He emphasized the importance of selling these products at fair prices and urged traders to refrain from artificially inflating onion prices.

Mr. Mahbubul Alam emphasized the necessity of onions for individuals across all societal

strata, ranging from the lower class to the upper class. Those, who are causing hardships for personal gains do not represent the true spirit of the business community. He called for the cooperation of traders and emphasized the responsibility of businessmen to prevent the suffering of the common people.

FBCCI President urged vigilance from the entrepreneurs in preventing the destabilization of markets through

artificial crises. The market should import onions from alternative countries to maintain the supply of onion normal if necessary and subsequently provide them to the consumers at a fair price, he added.

FBCCI President also called for increased monitoring of the purchase and sale of onions at the retail, wholesale market and wholesale levels to maintain stable prices. Mr. Mahbubul Alam remains optimistic about the cooperative efforts from the entrepreneurs of this sector in addressing this issue and reiterated his commitment to supporting measures that prioritize the well-being of the general public.

The First meeting of FBCCI Price Monitoring Committee



The 1st meeting of the FBCCI Price Monitoring Committee (Essential Commodities) for the term 2023-2025 was held on 14 December 2023 at FBCCI

Icon, Dhaka. Mr. Md. Amin Helaly, the Senior Vice-President of FBCCI, presided over the meeting.

Among others, FBCCI Director Mr. Abu Motaleb, Hafez Hazi Harun-Or-Rashid (CIP), Hafez Hazi Mohammad Enayet Ullah, Alhaj Azizul Hoque, Mr. Mohammad Aftab Javed, Haji Md. Abul Hashem, FBCCI Secretary General Mr. Md. Alamgir and others were present at the meeting.

The 1st Meeting of BPSWC's Five Thematic Groups

The 1st meeting of the five thematic groups formed by the Bangladesh Private Sector Working Committee (BPSWC), an initiative of the private sector, the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, was held on Wednesday (December 06, 2023) at Gulshan in the capital.

The United Nations Resident Coordination Office in Bangladesh, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), and Bangladesh Employers Federation (BEF) organized the meeting jointly. The meeting discussed the techniques for setting

strategies of governments and development agencies with the private sector to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Each group is headed by six nominees from FBCCI representing the private sector, three from BEF, as well as representatives from various UN departments, agencies, and ministries from the Government of Bangladesh. These groups will spearhead initiatives to prioritize and implement strategies aligning with the 17 goals and 169 specific targets of SDG.

Md. Amin Helaly, Vice Chairman of the Bangladesh Private Sector Working Committee and Senior Vice President, FBCCI

highlighted the timeliness and relevance of these thematic groups in the current economic landscape.

Other notable attendees included Ben Morgan, Development Coordination Officer, UNRC; Tuomo Pautiainen, International Labor Organization (ILO) Country Director; Stefan Liller, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Resident Representative in Bangladesh; Farooq Ahmed, BEF Secretary General; government officials; distinguished representatives from UN, UNICEF, UNDP, UNRC, FAO, ILO and SDG focal point were present.



BPSWC Strategizes to Boost MSME Competitiveness for Sustainable Development

To address the challenges of LDC graduation and align with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Bangladesh Private Sector Working Committee (BPSWC) emphasized the imperative need for MSME competitiveness during its 2nd meeting held on Thursday (December 07, 2023) at Gulshan in the Capital.

The FBCCI President and Chairman of the BPSWC Mahbubul Alam Chaired the meeting. FBCCI President said, business activity, investment and innovation are the major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation. The diversity of the

micro enterprises to cooperatives to multinationals is enormous. For this, we need to extend our strong support on "Making MSMEs Competitive through Intellectual Property (IP) and Innovation.

Mr. Mahbubul Alam added, the BPSWC may pursue on expediting grants and low-cost loans from development partners and international donor agencies, they are committed to support financially for meeting the trade gap of the poorest and other countries which creates due to Covid 19 Pandemic. We are hopeful to get support from our UN Office in Bangladesh in this regard.

Among others, Gwyn Lewis, the UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh; Arifur Rahman Mamun, Deputy Director (SDG Co-ordination Cell) of Prime Minister's Office; Mr. Ben Morgan, Development Coordination Officer, UNRC; Farzanah Chowdhury, Committee Member, BEF; Co-chairman of the BPSWC and President of BEF Ardashir Kabir; Farooq Ahmed, Secretary General, BEF and distinguished representatives from UN, UNICEF, UNDP, UNRC, FAO, ILO and SDG focal point join the meeting.



Entrepreneurs optimistic about steel and steel goods export



Businessmen and entrepreneurs are optimistic for exporting steel and steel goods produced locally after meeting the domestic demand. According to the industry owners, there are opportunities to earn 10 to 15 billion dollars annually by exporting steel and steel goods. In this regard, the entrepreneurs urge for support from the government to facilitate business in this sector.

These words came out in a meeting jointly organized by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and

Industry (FBCCI), Bangladesh Steel Manufacturers Association (BSMA) and Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council on December 04, 2023 at FBCCI office in Gulshan, Dhaka. FBCCI President Mr. Mahbubul Alam chaired the meeting.

Among others, Adviser of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council Mr. Zillur Hossain, Country Director of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council Dr. Sumon Chowdhury, President of the BSMA Mr. Mohammad Jahangir

Alam, Director of FBCCI and Vice President of Bangladesh Iron and Steel Importers Association Mr. Md. Amir Hossain Noorani, Managing Director of Metrocem Ispat Limited Mr. Md. Shahidullah, Director of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Mr. Shunil Kumar Adhikari, businessmen and entrepreneurs of steel sector were present.

FBCCI President attended a seminar on SME



FBCCI President Mr. Mahubul Alam, as the Chief Guest, attended the Seminar

on "Opportunities and Challenges in the SME Sector" Jointly Organized by the

Economic Reporters Forum (ERF) and the National Bank Limited on December 18, 2023 at ERF Auditorium, Dhaka.

Among others, Chairperson of the SME Foundation Dr. Md. Masudur Rahman, President of DCCI Barrister Md. Sameer Sattar, Managing Director of the National Bank Ltd Mr. Md. Mehmood Husain attended the program as the special guests. The seminar was chaired by the President of the ERF Mr. Mohammad Refayet Ullah Mirdha.

FBCCI President attended the ceremony of National Customs and VAT Day



FBCCI President, Mr. Mahubul Alam, attended an award giving ceremony for the National Customs and VAT Day 2023, hosted by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) at the NBR Office in Dhaka on December 10, 2023.

The event was chaired by Mr. Abu Hena Md. Rahmatul Muneem, Senior Secretary, Internal Resources Division, and Chairman of the National Board of Revenue.

Among others, Mr. Tapan Kanti Ghosh, Senior Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Dr. Md Khairuzzaman Mozumder, Secretary of the Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, and other distinguished guests were present at the program.

Workshop on 'Role of the Private Sector in Disaster Risk and Crisis Management' held



To reflect on private sector's engagement framework and the TOR of private sector working group, a workshop titled 'Role of the Private Sector in Disaster Risk and Crisis Management', was held on 23 December 2023, at the FBCCI's auditorium, Motijheel, Dhaka. The workshop was jointly organized by the FBCCI, the Department of Disaster Management, and the ActionAid Bangladesh. FBCCI and ActionAid Bangladesh also signed a MoU in this regard.

Lokman Hossain Mia, Executive Chairman, BIDA (Bangladesh Investment Development Authority) joined the workshop as the chief guest, while Md. Kamrul Hasan ndc, Secretary of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and Md. Mizanur Rahman, Director General of the department of Disaster Management were present as special guests. FBCCI President Mahbulul Alam chaired the meeting while Farah Kabir, Country Director of ActionAid Bangladesh was present as the guest of honor.

The workshop concluded with the closing remarks by Md. Amin Helaly, Senior Vice President, FBCCI. Among others, FBCCI Vice President Md. Munir Hossain, FBCCI directors, representatives from various private sector chambers and associations, government departments, NGOs, the United Nations, embassies, and media attended the workshop.

Workshop on 'Role of the Private Sector in Disaster Risk and Crisis Management' held

A preparatory meeting on Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2022-2023 of FBCCI was held on 03 December 2023 at FBCCI. President of FBCCI Mr. Mahbulul Alam presided over the meeting.

FBCCI Senior Vice President Mr. Md. Amin Helaly, Director Mr. Abu Motaleb, Hafez Hazi Harun-Or- Rashid (CIP), Hafez Hazi Mohammad Enayet Ullah, Mr. Serajul Islam, Mr. Kausar Ahmed, Rtn. Engr. Mohabbat Ullah, Mr. Mohd. Ishaqul Hossain Sweet, Mr. Md. Amir Hossain Noorani, Mrs. Salma Hossain Ash, Secretary General Mr. Md. Alamgir were present at the meeting.



Advisor of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council met the FBCCI President



Mr. Zillur Hossain, Advisor, Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council met

the FBCCI President Mr. Mahbubul Alam on December 04, 2023 at FBCCI office in

Gulshan, Dhaka. Dr. Sumon Chowdhury, Country Director (Bangladesh), Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council and other dignitaries were present at the meeting. They had a fruitful discussion on strengthening trade and investment between Commonwealth countries.

FBCCI Senior Vice President attended a workshop on leather industry

Md. Amin Helaly, Senior Vice President of the FBCCI was attended a workshop on leather industry at Dhaka Club on December 04, 2023. The workshop was jointly organized by Bangladesh Tanners Association (BTA) and Leather Sector Business Promotion Council of the Ministry of Commerce. Mr. Tapan Kanti Ghosh, Senior Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce graced the event as chief guest. Meanwhile, three LWG (Leather Working Group) certified tanneries were honored at the event.



FBCCI hosts welcome dinner in honor of KSA delegation



The FBCCI hosts a welcome dinner in honor of H.E. Eng. Khalid A. Al-Falih, Honorable Minister of Investment, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and business delegation at a city hotel on December 05, 2023.

FBCCI President Mr Mahbubul Alam, Former President Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, Director Rashadul Hossain Chowdhury (Ronni), Deputy Minister for Investors Outreach of KSA H.E. Mr. Badr I. Al-Badr, business leaders and other dignitaries were present at the event.

Coordination meeting on AGM



A coordination meeting regarding the Annual General Meeting 2022-23 of FBCCI

was held on December 07, 2023 at the FBCCI Office in Gulshan. FBCCI President

Mr. Mahbubul Alam presided over the meeting.

Among others, FBCCI Vice President Mr. Khairul Huda Chopol, Mr. Md. Munir Hossain, Dr. Joshoda Jibon Deb Nath, Director Mir Nizam Uddin Ahmed, Khandaker Ruhul Amin, Rtn. Engr. Mohabbat Ullah, Mr. Mohd. Ishaqul Hossain Sweet, Mr. Kausar Ahmed, FBCCI Secretary General Md. Alamgir attended the meeting.

Chairman of Sunamganj Zila Parishad met FBCCI President

The chairman of the Sunamganj Zila Parishad Mr. Nurul Huda Mukut paid a courtesy visit to FBCCI President Mr. Mahbubul Alam on December 7, 2023 at the FBCCI Office in Gulshan, Dhaka.

FBCCI Vice President Mr. Khairul Huda Chopol, Mr. Md. Munir Hossain, Director Mir Nizam Uddin Ahmed, Mr. Sujib Ranjan Dash, Khandaker Ruhul Amin, Rtn. Engr. Mohabbat Ullah, Mr. Mohd. Ishaqul Hossain Sweet, Mr. Kausar Ahmed, and other dignitaries were present at the meeting.



FBCCI President laid the foundation stone of Basumati Agro



The FBCCI President Mr. Mahbubul Alam laid the foundation stone of the Basumati Agro and Jute Industry at Shailakupa, Jhenaidah on December 11, 2023. FBCCI Director Mr. Fakhorus Salehin Nahian, Former Director Mr. Aslam Sernibat, and other dignitaries were present at the event.

FBCCI Senior Vice President attended the occasion on National Customs & VAT Day



Senior vice President of FBCCI Mr. Md. Amin Helaly attended the award giving ceremony for the National Customs and VAT Day 2023, hosted by the National Board of Revenue (NBR)

and VAT Commissionerate, Dhaka (North), Dhaka on December 12, 2023 at Uttara Model Town, Dhaka.

Mr. Mohammad Neyazul Rahman, Commissioner, Excise and VAT Commissionerate, Dhaka (North), Dhaka chaired the event. Ms. Safina Jahan, Tax Commissioner, Tax Zone-9, Dhaka graced the ceremony as the chief guest. Among others, Mr. Md. Azizul Rahman, Commissioner, Customs Bond Commissionerate, Dhaka (North), Dhaka, and other dignitaries were present at the program.

FBCCI President attended the program on stall allocation for DITF- 2024

FBCCI President Mr. Mahbubul Alam as the chief guest, graced the occasion of the stall allocation for the Dhaka International Trade Fair 2024 at Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) in Karwan Bazar, Dhaka on 13 December, 2023. Vice Chairman of the EPB Mr. A. H. M. Ahsan chaired the program. Business leaders, government officials and other dignitaries were also present at the event.



FBCCI Senior Vice President joined the meeting on Skill Development in Plastic Industry



FBCCI Senior Vice President Md. Amin Helaly attended the meeting on Public-Private-Academia Coordination for Skill Development in Plastic Industry, jointly organized by FBCCI Innovation and Research Centre (FIRC) and Prime Minister's Office on 19 December at FIRC office at Haatkhola, Dhaka.

Mr. Akhtar Hossain, Chief Coordinator for SDG Affairs, Prime Minister's Office chaired the event. Chairman of the FIRC and Former President of the FBCCI Md. Jashim Uddin graced the meeting as the co-chairman.

Newly elected President of DCCI met the FBCCI President



Newly elected President of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) Mr. Ashraf Ahmed met the FBCCI

President Mr. Mahbubul Alam on December 23, 2023 at the FBCCI.

Senior Vice President of the FBCCI Mr. Md. Amin Helaly, Vice Presidents Mr. Khairul Huda Chopol, Mr. Md. Munir Hossain, Directors, Senior Vice President of the DCCI Mr. Malik Talha Ismail Bari, Vice President Md. Junaed Ibna Ali and other dignitaries were present at that time.

FBCCI President chaired the Coordination meeting with FBCCI Secretariat

FBCCI President Mr. Mahbubul Alam chaired the Coordination meeting with FBCCI Secretariat on December 23, 2023 at FBCCI.

Senior Vice President of the FBCCI Mr. Md. Amin Helaly, Vice Presidents Mr. Khairul Huda Chopol, Mr. Md. Munir Hossain, Directors Mr. Md. Niaz Ali Chisty, Mr. Abu Murshed Chowdhury and officials from FBCCI Secretariat were present at the meeting.



FBCCI Senior Vice President attended the roundtable discussion on Inclusive Development



Senior Vice President of the FBCCI Mr. Md. Amin Helaly attended the roundtable discussion on "Inclusive Development in Bangladesh: Challenges

and Opportunities" organized by The Daily Business Eye on December 30, 2023 at National Press Club, Dhaka.

Mrs. Farida Yasmin, President of the National Press Club and Editor of the Daily Business Eye Chaired the Discussion.

Eminent economist Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed, Former Governor of the Bangladesh Bank Mr. Dr. Atiur Rahman, Former Minister for the Ministry of Planning Mr. Shamsul Alam, BGMEA President Mr. Faruque Hassan, FBCCI Director Mr. Md. Niaz Ali Chisty, business leaders, journalists and other dignitaries were present at the roundtable discussion.

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