

Embracing Reforms for a Resilient Economy



From the Desk of the Administrator



**Dear Fellow Members,
Colleagues and Stakeholders,**

I am delighted to present the November Edition of FBCCI Monthly E-bulletin, containing our foremost events, activities, strategic initiatives, and policy advocacy in reinforcing trade and businesses in the country. In this edition, we also focus on the reforms we are working towards, including the upcoming free, fair, and transparent election for FBCCI, and our continuous efforts to protect the interests of the private sector.

Through the historic movement by students and general people, we have started the journey of building a new Bangladesh. We believe in establishing a society free from discrimination by ensuring transparency & accountability through reforms in all areas. The interim government has formed several reform commissions including the Constitutional Reform Commission, the Local Government Reform Commission, the Public Administration Reform Commission, the Judiciary Reform

Commission, the Media Reform Commission, the NBR Reform Committee etc. On behalf of the private sector, FBCCI has contributed valuable recommendations to these Reform Commissions. We firmly believe that public-private collaboration will shape prosperous Bangladesh; we all aspire to build together.

As the nation undergoes these reforms, FBCCI has also launched several initiatives to support the business community. In November, we formed 'Shohayok Committee' comprising veteran business leaders to streamline our operations, and had two productive meetings. We also restructured our Arbitration Tribunal to help our member associations resolve disputes more efficiently.

FBCCI continues to engage with key government bodies like the National Board of Revenue (NBR), and we recommended improvements in business facilitation and the implementation of the National Single Window (NSW). In addition to that, we stressed on enhancing capacity

of local industries, especially CSMEs, for a sustainable graduation during the meeting with United Nations Committee on Development Policy (UNCDP).

Our engagements with international organizations, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and German International Cooperation (GIZ) have focused on evaluating governance and microfiscal pillars for Bangladesh ensuring climate protection and public safety in all construction initiatives. FBCCI also took into cognizance the possible impact of Bangladesh's joining Design Law Treaty (DLT), an international framework for protection of industrial designs by having a meeting with relevant business people.

Despite continuous challenges faced by the private sector, FBCCI remains committed to fostering a business-friendly environment. As a part of regular portfolio discussions with sectoral associations to help understand their needs better and gather insights for upcoming reforms, especially ahead of FBCCI election.

Finally, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all our members, business leaders, and stakeholders for their continued support. Together, we can continue driving economic growth for a more prosperous future for Bangladesh.

Warm regards,

Md. Hafizur Rahman
Administrator, FBCCI

FBCCI held a meeting with UNCDP

CSMEs are at the Heart of Economic Development, Employment Generation and Sustainable Graduation of Bangladesh



FBCCI organized a discussion meeting with Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, Member of the United Nations Committee on Development Policy (UNCDP) and Rapporteur for Bangladesh on graduation issue, on November 26, 2024 at the FBCCI office in Gulshan, Dhaka. Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Administrator, FBCCI chaired the meeting.

While delivering the welcome address, FBCCI Administrator Md. Hafizur Rahman said that Bangladesh successfully met three criteria like Income Per Capita, Human Assets Index and Economic & Environmental Vulnerability Index, for a sustainable graduation. This achievement has brightened Bangladesh's image in the international arena, helped generate ample opportunities to increase FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) and increased the

confidence of the private sector to expand the business.

The meeting stressed on boosting the capacity of Cottage, Small and Medium Industries (CSME) to ensure sustainable graduation. Administrator, FBCCI put special emphasis on export diversification, exploring new markets, research and innovation in the private sector, boosting productivity through skills development and utilization of technologies. He also sought continued support from the UN in this regard.

Member of UNCDP Mr. Taffere Tesfachew said that Bangladesh could be a role model for other LDCs, provided that public-private collaboration is ensured and integrated efforts are undertaken for transitioning to smooth graduation.

During the discussion among others Additional Secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD), Mr. AHM Jahangir, Component Manager of SSGP (ERD) Mr. Mostafa Abid Khan, Director of Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) Mr. Mohammad Imtiaz Hassan, Deputy Director of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Mr. Sujan Das Gupta, Vice President of SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) Mr. Shafquat Haider, Former Vice President of FBCCI Mr. Abul Kashem Haider, Former Director of FBCCI Mr. Gias Uddin Chowdhury (Khokon), FBCCI Secretary General Mr. Md. Alamgir, Head of International Wing Mr. Zafar Iqbal ndc, Vice President of BASIS Mr. M Asif Rahman and business leaders were present and spoke on the subject.

Discussion Meeting between FBCCI and NBR's Advisory Committee held



Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Administrator, FBCCI attended the discussion meeting with NBR's Advisory Committee, tasked for recommending on reforms of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), on November 27, 2024 at NBR office in

Agargaon, Dhaka. Dr. Muhammad Abdul Mazid, former Chairman of NBR, chaired the meeting.

During the discussion, FBCCI stressed on bolstering business facilitation, increasing the

tax to GDP ratio, and implementing the National Single Window (NSW) as the earliest possible time. FBCCI also emphasized on the necessity of separating NBR's Tax/VAT Administration from the Policy Wing, as this will pave the way for removing clashing interest between Tax Wing & Policy Wing of NBR.

Among others, former Chairman of NBR and Member of the Advisory Committee Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, Members of the Advisory Committee Mr. Md. Farid Uddin and Mr. Aminur Rahman, Former Director of FBCCI Mr. Abdul Haque and Mr. Abul Kasem Khan, General Body Member of FBCCI Mr. Md. Zakir Hossain were present at the meeting.

Consultation meeting with the ADB on GMaP Assessment

A consultation meeting regarding the Governance and Macroeconomic Pillars (GMaP) Assessment for Bangladesh, an initiative led by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) was held on November 14, 2024 at the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).



The ADB team focused on evaluating key governance areas such as public financial management, procurement, and anti-corruption, and engagement with a wide range of government and civil society stakeholders.

Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Administrator, FBCCI chaired the meeting and greeted ADB for taking such an initiative.

During the discussions, FBCCI emphasized on the need for transparent procurement practices and avoiding sudden policy change without consulting the private sector, they also discussed on the establishment of automation to enhance governance efficiency, predictability and accountability at all levels of government service provisions. Additionally, FBCCI urged that recent changes in Bangladesh be reflected in ADB's guidelines, suggesting to develop a clear framework to ensure that these changes already promised are effectively implemented and carried forward.

ADB's consultation with the private sector is important in shaping a robust framework for strengthening Bangladesh's governance and macrofiscal systems ensuring that policy changes are aligned with the business sector's needs- an essential

driver of the country's economic growth.

FBCCI Secretary General Mr. Md. Alamgir, Head of International Wing Mr. Md. Zafar Iqbal ndc, Advisor of the FBCCI Safety Council Brig. Gen. (retd) Abu Nayeem Md. Shahidullah, Senior Social Development

Officer (Civil Society and Participation) of ADB Mr. Michelle Ann E. Ramirez, Dennis Lorne S. Nacario Consultant, ADB (Manilla), Senior Research Associate of SANEM Afa Mubasshira Tiasha, business leaders and other dignitaries were present at the meeting.

Meeting with 'Helping (Shohayok) Committee' to chatter plan of functions and necessary reforms in FBCCI



FBCCI formed a 'Shohayok Committee' under Section 18 (2)(KA) of the Trade Organisations Act, 2022, aiming to cooperate with the FBCCI Administrator in conducting his activities successfully.

The Committee consists of 4 members, including the Former Vice President of FBCCI Mr. Abul Kashem Haider, the Former Director of FBCCI Mr. Abdul Haque, the President of the Women Entrepreneur Association of Bangladesh (WEAB)

Ms.Nasreen Fatema Awal and Former Director of FBCCI Mr. Gias Uddin Chowdhury (Khokon).

The inaugural meeting of the committee was held on 4th November 2024 followed by a discussion meeting with committee members on 26th November 2024 at the Gulshan office.

Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, the Administrator of FBCCI chaired both meetings.

During this meeting the members of the committee urged Administrator to undertake reforms those are early implementable. They also insisted for announcement of a road map for FBCCI election. In this regard they emphasized on undertaking reform of formation of Chambers, Associations etc. They reiterate their commitment that without reform no election should be held.

Member of the GIZ Mission paid a courtesy call on the FBCCI Administrator

An appraisal mission of German International Cooperation (GIZ) led by Mr Daniel Schatt met FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman on November 11, 2024 at FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

In the meeting, FBCCI shared its recommendations to address the negative impacts of the construction and buildings sector on the environment, climate and the people. The FBCCI Administrator emphasized on the importance of teamwork, ensuring climate protection and public safety in all construction initiatives.



Among others, FBCCI Secretary General Mr. Md. Alamgir, Head of the International Wing Mr. Md. Zafar Iqbal ndc, Advisor of the FBCCI Safety Council Brig. Gen. (retd) Abu Nayeem Md. Shahidullah, Consultant of the GIZ Mr. Tobias Kienlein and others were present at the meeting.

FBCCI organized a Meeting on the Design Law Treaty



FBCCI, the apex trade body of the country, organized a consultation meeting on the Design Law Treaty (DLT) with relevant business representatives on November 12, 2024 at the FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

DLT, an initiative by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), aims

to establish a streamlined, internationally harmonized framework for registration and protection of industrial designs.

Attendees of the meeting shared their perspectives on the challenges of Bangladesh joining the treaty at this stage and discussed its potential implications for

local industries. Mr. Md. Zafar Iqbal ndc, Head of the International Wing, FBCCI chaired the meeting.

Among others, President of the Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BPGMEA) Mr. Shamim Ahmed, Secretary General Mr. Narayan Chandra Dey, Chief Executive Officer of the Bangladesh Agro-Processors Association (BAPA) Mr. Md. Billal Hossain, President of the Bangladesh Agro-based Product Producers & Merchants Association (BAPMA) Mr. Md. Ruhul Amin, President of the Association of Fashion Designers of Bangladesh (AFDB) Ms. Mantasha Ahmed, Additional Secretary General of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) Mr. Saidul Islam, Legal Advisor at the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (BAPI), Mr. Shabin Ashfarah Khondaker, Deputy Secretary at the Brand BGMEA Ms. Saila Akther Nova were present at the meeting.

Steel Manufactures met with the FBCCI Administrator

A delegation of steel manufacturers, led by the former First Vice-President of FBCCI Mr. Mohammad Ali, met with FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman on 11th November 2024 at the FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

The Administrator appreciated the delegation and commended the steel industry's contribution to the economy and employment creation. Founder Chairman of the Bangladesh Steel Manufacturers Association Mr. SK. Masadul Alam Masud, Chairman of the Bangladesh Steel Mills



Owner Association SK. Fazlur Rahman (Bakul), business leaders and representatives from the Bangladesh Re-Rolling Mills Association and the Bangladesh Scrap Suppliers Association were present among others.

FBCCI Administrator attended the Inaugural Ceremony of Bangladesh International Medical Expo



FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, as the Guest of Honor, attended the inaugural ceremony of the Bangladesh Electric Vehicle & Mobility Exhibition 2024 and the Bangladesh International Medical Expo 2024, organized by Savor International Limited on 7th November 2024 at International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB), Dhaka.

In his remarks, Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman said that this expo could be a great platform for medical professionals, specialists and innovators to come in contact with one another, and be able to explore and showcase the newest

technologies in the medical field and health sector.

He further emphasized on maintaining high standards in medical components to insure a robust health sector.

Mr. Rahman also reiterated FBCCI's commitment to developing the private sector's trade and industrial environment, with a special focus on advancing the medical and healthcare sectors in Bangladesh.

The event was attended by Mr. Mohammed Tipu Sultan, President, Bangladesh Medical Equipment Importers and Suppliers Association (BMEISA); Mr. Hafizur Rahman Khan, Vice President, Bangladesh Automobiles Assemblers and Manufacturers Association (BAAMA); Mr. Sk. Aminuddin, Director, Akij Group; Mr. Amirul Islam, Chairman, Savor International Limited; Entrepreneurs; business leaders and other dignitaries were also present in the event.

MIOB President paid a courtesy visit to the FBCCI Administrator

Mr. Jakaria Shahid, President of the Mobile Phone Industry Owner's Association of Bangladesh (MIOB) paid a courtesy visit to FBCCI Administrator, Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman on November 6, 2024 at the FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

Executive Director of MIOB Mr. Monirul Bashar, Mr. Md. Kamrul Hasan Sarker and others were present among others.

The FBCCI Administrator attentively listened to the challenges faced by the industry and assured to address their concerns. He urged



entrepreneurs to reduce import dependency of Mobile Phones by focusing on enhancing local manufacturing capabilities.

FBCCI Administrator attended the ceremony on National Foundation Day of South Korea



Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Administrator, FBCCI attended a reception ceremony marking the National Foundation Day 2024 of the Republic of Korea, on 14th November 2024 at the Embassy of Korea, Dhaka.

H.E. Mr. Park Youngsik, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the People's Republic of Bangladesh welcomed the FBCCI Administrator. FBCCI Administrator commended Korea's long standing friendship and support towards Bangladesh and stressed on strengthening bilateral relation.

FBCCI Administrator attended the 26th Anniversary of Daily Prothom Alo

Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Administrator, FBCCI attended the grand celebration of the 26th Anniversary of The Daily Prothom Alo, on November 15, 2024 at hotel Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel, in Dhaka.

FBCCI Administrator congratulated the 'Daily Prothom Alo' for achieving the faith and trust of its readers for its commitment to truthful, impartial, and objective journalism for more than 25 years. He expressed optimism that the newspaper would continue to play a pivotal role in presenting the real scenario of the country's trade and businesses, contributing to ensure a more business-friendly environment in Bangladesh.

Former FBCCI President Mr. Mahabub Rahman, Mir Nasir Uddin,



Mr. Abdul Awal Mintoo, business leaders and other dignitaries were also present at the event.

BUCCI Delegation met FBCCI Administrator

A delegation from the Bangladesh-USA Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BUCCI), led by its Senior Vice President Mr. Raihanul Islam Chowdhury met the FBCCI Administrator Mr. Hafizur Rahman on November 28, 2024 at the FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

The meeting focused on strengthening trade relations with the USA, emphasizing export promotion, diversification, and attracting more FDI from the USA.

The BUCCI representatives requested FBCCI to organize a business delegation to the upcoming New York International Trade Fair and Chamber Expo 2025, scheduled for September 2025 in New York, USA. The event co-organized by BUCCI and Greater New York Chamber of Commerce and Industry will aim to diversify Bangladesh's exports to the USA and attract more investment into Bangladesh.

The FBCCI Administrator suggested focusing on high-growth sectors, including e-commerce, fin-tech, leather & leather goods, jute and jute goods, agro-products, processed food, ceramics, pharmaceuticals, plastics,



and ICT. He emphasized these sectors' potential for enhancing trade and investment between Bangladesh and the USA.

The delegation also extended an invitation to the FBCCI Administrator to attend the upcoming Remittance Fair as a special guest, in April next year in New York, USA.

Among others, the Bangladesh representative of BUCCI Mr. Ritesh Saha, Head of International Affairs of FBCCI, Mr. Md. Zafar Iqbal ndc, business leaders and dignitaries were present at the meeting.

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