

Fostering Trade and Businesses Through Public-Private Collaboration



From the Desk of the Administrator



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

Happy New Year!

Wishing you an amazing 2025. May this year bring new opportunity, prosperity and big wins for you and your businesses. In this cheerful occasion, I'm delighted to present the **December 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.

Bangladesh has entered a new era of economic transformation. The interim government has embraced a forward-thinking agenda to address issues related to good governance, economic diversification, and sustainability. On behalf of the private sector, FBCCI is continuing its efforts to reinforce the trade and businesses through enhancing business facilitation

in the country. Its engagement with the government and non-government parties create a great opportunity for business community to fostering trade and business.

In our pursuit of minimizing the gap between private sector and public administration, FBCCI organized view exchange meeting with the Public Administration Reforms Commission on December, 2024, aiming to share business community's thoughts and opinion for an efficient, skilled and transparent Public Administration.

Business entities are the significant source of government's revenue earning. By simplifying processes of the revenue management system we can reduce the costs of doing business, increase competitiveness, and attract investments; the government can boost revenue as well. In light of these objectives, FBCCI and the Bangladesh VAT Professionals Forum jointly organized a workshop on the occasion of the 'VAT Day & VAT Week 2024'. I strongly believe that the workshop has made a unique opportunity for business community and members of the NBR (National Board of Revenue) to gain valuable insights from one another..

In addition, FBCCI held a productive meeting with the World Bank Procurement Specialist Team on December 9th. As part of its ongoing commitment to disaster prevention, the FBCCI Safety Council took the initiative to provide financial support to the district chambers of Bagerhat, Kurigram, and Cox's Bazar, aiming to modernize and strengthen their disaster prevention and rapid response capabilities.

Throughout December, FBCCI also engaged in fruitful discussions with business leaders from various chambers and associations, including Chapainawabganj Chamber, BGMEA, TOAB, and the Automobile Workshops Malik Samity. As the apex trade organization, FBCCI has consistently represented the diverse business community in significant dialogues. Additionally, FBCCI continued its proactive engagement with government agencies, local counterparts, and international partners throughout the month.

Despite the ongoing challenges faced by the private sector, FBCCI remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment and advancing its mission to promote and safeguard the interests of the private sector.

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

Discussion with Public Administration Reforms Commission on Enhancing Business-Friendly Governance



The Public Administration Reforms Commission, led by its chief Mr. Abdul Mueed Chowdhury, visited FBCCI to discuss with the business leaders regarding necessary reforms in the Public Administration of the country on 7th December 2024.

The Administrator of FBCCI Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman chaired the meeting.

During the discussion, business leaders recommended reducing costs and time associated with services related to licensing, ensuring transparency and accountability in public services, reducing bureaucratic complexity, involving stakeholders from the business community in policy implementation, adopting long-term policies for the betterment of businesses, appointing sector-based experts in public

services, and minimizing the gap between the private sector and public administration.

In his welcome address, the FBCCI Administrator emphasized that public administration can play a significant role in the sustainable development of trade and businesses. He further stated that the business community calls for an efficient and transparent public administration. He strongly believes that improvements in public administration can reduce the cost of doing business, increase competitiveness, and help meet the challenges of LDC graduation.

The chief of the Public Administration Reforms Commission, Mr. Abdul Mueed Chowdhury, highlighted the ample opportunities to minimize the gap between the

private sector and public administration. He encouraged businessmen to share their valuable insights to create a business-friendly public administration in the country.

Senior Secretary of the Public Administration Dr. Md Mokhles Ur Rahman, the Administrator of BGMEA Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain, former President of the FBCCI Mr. Mir Nasir Hossain, former Senior Vice President of FBCCI Mr. Kamaluddin Ahmed, FBCCI Secretary General Mr. Md. Alamgir, Head of the FBCCI International Affairs Mr. Md. Zafar Iqbal ndc, Advisor of the FBCCI Safety Council Brig. Gen. (retd) Abu Nayeem Md. Shahidullah, members of the Public Administration Reforms Commission, business leaders and other dignitaries were present at the discussion.

A Workshop held on the Occasion of the VAT Week 2024



FBCCI and the Bangladesh VAT Professionals Forum jointly organized a workshop and awareness session on the occasion of VAT Day & VAT Week 2024, on December 12th, 2024, at FBCCI, Motijheel, Dhaka.

Dr. Md. Abdur Rouf, Member (VAT Implementation & IT), NBR, graced the event as the guest of honor.

Mr. Habibur Rahman, Chief Coordinator of the Bangladesh VAT Professionals Forum, emphasized the importance of compliance in VAT management.

During the discussion, business leaders highlighted the need to simplify the VAT management system in the country by reducing processes, eliminating

discrimination and harassment, developing a unified system, implementing automation, and more. They also urged for necessary amendments in VAT policy.

Dr. Rouf, Member of the NBR (VAT Implementation & IT), attentively listened to the challenges faced by businessmen and assured them that their concerns would be addressed. He urged entrepreneurs to prioritize compliance in their businesses. Former Director of FBCCI Mr. Abdul Haque, Mr. Md. Giasuddin Chowdhury (Khokon), FBCCI Secretary General Mr. Md. Alamgir, business leaders, and other dignitaries were present, among others.

Leaders from Chapainawabganj Chamber met FBCCI Administrator

Mr. Md. Abdul Wahed, President of Chapainawabganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry, along with board members, met with the Administrator of FBCCI, Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, on December 4th, 2024, at the FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

They exchanged views regarding necessary reforms of the FBCCI and urged to conduct a free and fair election at the earliest possible time. The Administrator of FBCCI requested business community to support him in this effort.



Meeting with the World Bank Procurement Specialist Team



A discussion meeting was held with Fatema Samdani Roshni, Procurement Specialist of the World Bank Dhaka Office on 9th December 2024 at FBCCI.

Mr. Md. Alamgir, Secretary General of the FBCCI, chaired the meeting.

Among others, former Director of FBCCI Mr. Abdul Haque, Mr. Syed Md. Bakhtiar, Managing Director of Abdul Monem Ltd. Mr. A.S.M. Mainuddin Menem, Director of Mir Telecom Ltd. Mahreen Nasir, Head of FBCCI International Affairs Mr. Md. Zafar Iqbal ndc, and business leaders were present at the meeting.

Automobile Workshop Owners met the FBCCI Administrator

Engr. Md. Jahangir Alam, President of the Bangladesh Automobile Workshop Malik Samity met with the Administrator of FBCCI Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman on December 04, 2024 at the FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

They had fruitful discussion on several issues related to the automobile workshop sector. Secretary General of the association and other business leaders were present at the meeting.



FBCCI Administrator attended a View Exchange Meeting at BGMEA



Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Administrator of FBCCI, attended a view exchange Meeting on industrial safety and security, on 7th December 2024 at BGMEA office in Uttara, Dhaka.

Md. Anwar Hossain, the Administrator of BGMEA, chaired the meeting.

Among others, former President of BGMEA Mr. Anwar UI Alam Chowdhury (Parvez), BKMEA President Mr. Mohammad Hatem, and business leaders were present at the meeting.

Leaders from the Music Industries Owners Association met FBCCI Administrator

SK. Shahed Ali Pappu, Secretary General of the Music Industries Owners Association of Bangladesh met with the FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman on December 04, 2024 at the FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

Business Leaders of the Music Industries Owners Association of Bangladesh were present at the meeting.



FBCCI Administrator attended a Seminar on the VAT Day

Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, The Administrator of FBCCI, as special guest, attended a seminar on the occasion of VAT Day and VAT Week 2024, organized by National Board of Revenue (NBR), on December 10, 2024 at NBR office in Agargaon, Dhaka.



Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Honorable Adviser of the Ministry of Finance, graced the seminar as the Chief Guest. Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Khan FCMA, the Chairman of NBR chaired the meeting.

Finance Secretary Dr. Md. Khairuzzaman Mozumder,

former Director of the FBCCI Mr. Abdul Haque, Mr. S.M. Kamal Uddin, business leaders and other dignitaries were also present.

FBCCI Administrator paid a courtesy call on the President of Bangladesh on the occasion of Victory Day



Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Administrator of FBCCI paid a courtesy call on the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Mohammed Shahabuddin on December 15, 2024 at Bangabhaban.

FBCCI Business Leaders were present during the occasion.

Doa Mahfil to Commemorate Late Afsarul Arifeen

FBCCI organized a Doa Mahfil to commemorate Mr. Afsarul Arifeen, former Secretary General of FBCCI, on December 12th, 2024, at the FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

During the Doa Mahfil, business leaders and FBCCI officials remembered their experiences of working with Mr. Arifeen during his tenure (1993-2020) at the FBCCI Secretariat.

Mr. Arifeen passed away from a cardiac arrest at a hospital in Dhaka on December 6th, 2024, at the age



of 56. At the time of his death, he was serving as the Secretary General of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI).

FBCCI Safety Council's initiative to enhance the capacity of safety cells in disaster management



The FBCCI Safety Council extended financial support under the Bangladesh Preparedness Partnership (BPP) project on December 18th, 2024, to strengthen disaster management activities and establish effective communication systems in the district chambers of Bagerhat, Kurigram, and Cox's Bazar. This funding will be used to purchase computers for the Safety Cells of the respective district chambers, aiding in the modernization and enhancement of disaster prevention and rapid response operations.

This initiative will play a pivotal role in fostering communication and cooperation among local business communities, government bodies, and private organizations, ultimately bolstering disaster management and response capabilities.

TOAB President met FBCCI Administrator

Mr. Md. Rafeuzzaman, President of the Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh (TOAB) met the FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman on 30th December 2024 at FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

They had a fruitful discussion on the challenges and opportunities of the tourism industry in Bangladesh. TOAB President invited the Administrator to attend a tourism summit, which is going to be held in January 2025.

Among others, Secretary General of the FBCCI Mr. Md. Alamgir, First Vice President of TOAB Mr. Abul Kalam Azad and others were present at the meeting.



FBCCI Administrator attended a Seminar on Anti-dumping, Countervailing & Safeguard Measures



Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Administrator, FBCCI attended a seminar on Anti-dumping, Countervailing and Safeguard Measures, organized by the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission (BTTTC), on 30th December 2024 at the FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

Md. Selim Uddin, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce graced the seminar as a special guest. Dr. Moinul Khan, Chairman (Secretary) of the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission presided over the seminar. A keynote paper was presented by Dr. Md. Rizwanul Islam, Professor and Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at North South University.

The Secretary General of FBCCI Mr. Md. Alamgir, business leaders, government officials, stakeholders, and other dignitaries were also present at the seminar.

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