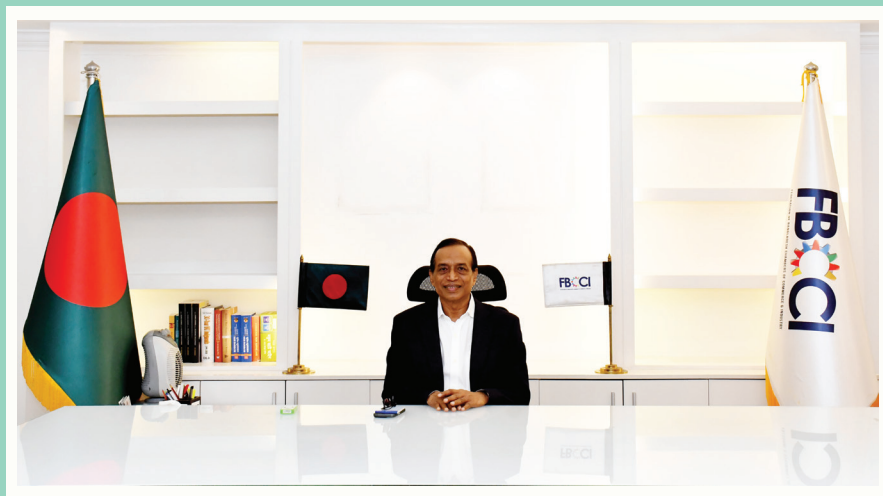


Ensuring Energy Security for Development



Seminar on Power & Energy

From the Desk of the Administrator



Dear Fellow Members, Colleagues, and Stakeholders,

Greetings from the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

We're excited to share the January edition of the FBCCI Monthly E-bulletin, where we bring you FBCCI's foremost events, activities, strategies, and policy advocacy in accelerating trade and investment 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 stands on the edge of significant transformation. The interim government set its agenda in establishing Bangladesh as a resilient and dynamic economy in the coming years, through reinforcing trade and investment. Aligning with the Government's goal to inspire trade and investment in the country, FBCCI is continuing echoed voices for ensuring a business-friendly environment in Bangladesh.

We all know that uninterrupted and quality Power & Energy is the heart of the manufacturing sector. To exchange views and express the Private Sector's concerns about energy security, FBCCI organized a seminar titled "Power & Energy Scenario in Bangladesh: Ensuring Energy Security for Development" on 25 January 2025.

To safeguard trade and businesses and enhance the competitiveness of the local industry, FBCCI, on behalf of the private sector, met with the Governor of Bangladesh Bank and shared recommendations related to the bank's interest rates, foreign currency supply, policy support for affected industries, agricultural loan facilities, and other related matters on 26 January 2025.

Throughout January, FBCCI organized a good number of significant meetings with its international counterparts, including the Bangladesh-Turkey Business Roundtable, attended by Hon'ble Commerce Adviser of Bangladesh and Hon'ble Trade Minister and Deputy Trade Minister of Turkey; a discussion meeting with UKBCCI accompanied by Ms. Rupa Huq, Member of

Parliament of the United Kingdom; with a visiting high level delegation from FPCCI Bangladesh-Pakistan Business Forum hosted by FBCCI; and a discussion meeting with a delegation from the Board of Investment of Nepal. These meetings aimed to bolster bilateral trade, encourage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and explore avenues for mutual economic and investment collaboration. FBCCI also signed an MoU to establish the Joint Business Council with the Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

In addition, FBCCI engaged in fruitful discussions with business leaders from various chambers, associations, and forums, including the Bangladesh Auto Biscuit and Bread Manufacturers Association, Bangladesh Sustainable and Renewable Energy Association, Australia Bangladesh Business Forum, and the International Business Forum of Bangladesh, to listen to sectoral concerns and explore opportunities for collaboration.

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.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all our members, business leaders, and stakeholders for their continued support. I strongly believe that together we can build a prosperous Bangladesh.

Warm regards,

Md. Hafizur Rahman
Administrator, FBCCI

FBCCI Organized a Seminar on Power & Energy



FBCCI, the country's apex trade body, organized a seminar titled "Power and Energy Scenario in Bangladesh: Ensuring Energy Security for Development" on January 25, 2025, at the FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

Hon'ble Adviser to the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan graced the seminar as the chief guest.

FBCCI Administrator Md. Hafizur Rahman chaired the seminar.

The seminar stressed on ensuring energy security in Bangladesh through exploring off-shore and on-shore sources of gas and coals, reducing the system losses in the Power & Energy sector, adopting cost-effective energy strategies, reducing import dependence, diversifying energy sources, and increasing the use of renewable energy, etc.

In his address, the Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources Adviser highlighted that the ministry has been giving special importance in promoting good governance and practices of competition in the power and energy sector in Bangladesh. He sought the cooperation of all stakeholders, including businessmen, to achieve this goal.

FBCCI Administrator Md. Hafizur Rahman said that to enhance trade and investment in the country, uninterrupted and high-quality energy is essential. He urged the government to take necessary measures to explore domestic resources.

During the seminar, Energy Adviser of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) Dr. M. Shamsul Alam emphasized on enhancing the capacity of Bangladesh Energy

Regulatory Commission (BERC), and bringing necessary reforms as well.

Among others, the Chairman of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) Mr. Jalal Ahmed, Chairman of the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) Khandker Md. Abdul Hye, Executive Director and CEO of Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) Md. Alamgir Morshed, Head of Renewable Energy of IDCOL Md. Enamul Karim Pavel, Professor Dr. Ijaz Hossain, Former Director of the FBCCI and Member of FBCCI Shohayok Committee Mr. Abdul Haque and Mr. Gias Uddin Chowdhury (Khokon), FBCCI Secretary General Md. Alamgir, Adviser of the FBCCI Safety Council Brig. Gen. (Retd.) Abu Nayeem Md. Shahidullah, business leaders, and dignitaries were present at the seminar.

Bangladesh-Pakistan Business Forum FBCCI and FPCCI Signed MoU to Establish Joint Business Council



businesses in trade exhibitions in both countries.

FBCCI, the apex trade body of the Bangladesh, organized a meeting titled “Bangladesh-Pakistan Business Forum” with the visiting delegation of FPCCI, on 13th January 2025 at hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka. The delegation was led by FPCCI President Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh.

FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman Chaired the meeting.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) signed an MoU to establish joint business council, aiming to bolster bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

FBCCI Administrator Md. Hafizur Rahman and FPCCI President Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations.

The joint business council will serve as a platform for exchanging trade and investment information, organizing business delegations, and participating

High Commissioner of Pakistan in Dhaka H.E. Syed Ahmed Maroof, Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Mohammad Wasif, Senior Vice President of FPCCI Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, members of the FPCCI delegation, business leaders from the FBCCI and other dignitaries were present at the meeting.

Bangladesh-Türkiye Business & Investment Roundtable

FBCCI and Türkiye Embassy in Bangladesh jointly organized Bangladesh-Türkiye Business & Investment Roundtable with the visiting delegation from Türkiye on January 09, 2025 at the Hotel InterContinental, Dhaka.

Mr. Sheikh Bashir Uddin, Honorable Adviser of the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Textiles & Jute of Bangladesh and H.E. Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat, Honorable Minister of Trade of Türkiye graced the meeting as Special Guests.

Both sides highlighted their trade & investment potential, and emphasized on further bolstering the trade relations between Bangladesh and Türkiye.



Deputy Minister of Trade of Türkiye H.E. Mr. Mustafa TUZCU, Administrator of FBCCI Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Vice President of TOBB Mr. Tamer Kiran, Chairperson of DEIK Mr. Onur Ozden, Former Director of the FBCCI Mr. Abdul Haque, Ms. Nasreen Fatema Awal, Mr. Gias Uddin Chowdhury (Khokon), FBCCI Secretary General Mr. Md. Alamgir, Head of International Wing Mr. Md. Zafar Iqbal ndc, business leaders, government officials and other dignitaries were present at the meeting.

Meeting between FBCCI and UKBCCI FBCCI Encourages British-Bangladeshis to invest in Bangladesh



The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) has urged the British-Bangladeshi entrepreneurs to invest in the country's infrastructure sectors including energy, technology, education and human resource development, blue-economy and tourism.

The call was made at a view-exchange meeting between FBCCI and UK Bangladesh Catalysts of Commerce and Industry (UKBCCI) held on January 6, 2025 at Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon in Dhaka.

The meeting was presided over by FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman.

A delegation from UKBCCI visited Bangladesh to explore potential sectors and to enhance trade and investment in Bangladesh. The delegation was led by UKBCCI Chairman Iqbal Ahmed. This is the first

visit of a UK business delegation to Bangladesh since the interim government assumed office.

During the meeting, the FBCCI Administrator said that Bangladesh has continued to provide necessary assistance to create a conducive environment for trade and investment in the country.

The FBCCI Administrator also called upon all entrepreneurs in the UK, including British-Bangladeshi businessmen, to invest in Bangladesh's potential sectors and utilize the market opportunities.

He suggested that the two countries should move forward quickly on issues such as Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) to harness the benefits of regional and global supply chains.

UK Parliament Member Rupa Haque expressed her interest in working closely with businessmen from both the countries to promote bilateral trade.

UKBCCI Chairman Iqbal Ahmed said that expatriate businessmen are interested to invest in Bangladesh. He emphasized on restoring discipline in the country's financial sector to attract desired investment.

Former FBCCI directors Md. Abdul Haque, Prabir Kumar Saha, Shafqat Haider, Obaidur Rahman, Gias Uddin Chowdhury (Khokon), President of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Bangladesh (WEAB) and former FBCCI Director Nasreen Fatema Awal, FBCCI Secretary General Mr. Md. Alamgir, Head of International Affairs Wing Mr. Md. Zafar Iqbal ndc, members of the UKBCCI business delegation, FBCCI business leaders and others were also present at the meeting.

Inaugural Ceremony of DITF 2025



Fair (DITF) on 1st January 2025 at Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center in Purbachal, Dhaka.

Honorable Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus inaugurated the 29th edition of the DITF.

Honorable Adviser of the Ministry of Commerce Mr. Sheikh Bashir Uddin, Former Secretary Md. Selim Uddin, Former President of the FBCCI Mir Nasir Hossain, Vice-Chairman of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) Md. Anwar Hossain, business leaders and dignitaries were present at the ceremony.

FBCCI Administrator Md. Hafizur Rahman attended the inauguration ceremony of the Dhaka International Trade

FBCCI Business Delegation met Bangladesh Bank Governor



FBCCI business delegation, led by its Administrator Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, met the Governor of Bangladesh Bank Dr. Ahsan H Mansur on January 26, 2025 at the Bangladesh Bank, Motijheel, Dhaka.

During the meeting, businessmen sought regulatory interventions like lowering the interest rate, relaxing the loan classification rules and policy supports to affected

businesses. They requested to keep interest rate in single digit to control the inflation in order to maintain the competitiveness of Bangladeshi products and investment in the global economic situation.

The Governor of the Bangladesh Bank Dr. Ahsan H Mansur said that the bank is working vigorously to ensure stability in the financial sector. He called for support and cooperation from business community for the sustainable development of the economy.

The FBCCI delegation included its Former President Mir Nasir Hossain, Former Vice President Abul Kashem Haider, Former Director Abdul Haque and Gias Uddin Chowdhury (Khokon), CEO of the PRAN-RFL Group Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, Former President of BGMEA SM Fazlul Haque, FBCCI General Body Member Zakir Hossain Nayon and Md. Jakir Hossain and Secretary General Md. Alamgir.

Meeting between FBCCI and Pakistani Business Delegation



A discussion meeting between FBCCI and the visiting business delegation from the dates and citrus sectors of Pakistan was held on January 22, 2025, at the FBCCI office in Gulshan, Dhaka. Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Administrator of FBCCI, chaired the meeting.

The meeting also discussed ways to strengthen bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Pakistan by reducing trade barriers, simplifying customs procedures, and addressing tariff-related issues.

Trade and Investment Attaché on Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka H.E Mr. Zain Aziz, Head of FBCCI International Affairs Wing Md. Zafar Iqbal ndc, business leaders from FBCCI, representatives from Bangladesh Fresh Fruits Importers Association, and others were present at the meeting.

FBCCI Administrator attend the Closing Ceremony of DITF

Mr. Abdul Khan Ratan, President Md. Hafizur Rahman, Administrator of the FBCCI attended the closing ceremony of 29th Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) on January 31, 2025 at Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center in Purbachal, Dhaka. Hon'ble Commerce Advisor Mr. Sk. Bashir Uddin graced the event as the chief guest.



Biscuit Manufacturers met FBCCI Administrator

A delegation from the Bangladesh Auto Biscuit and Bread Manufacturers Association paid a courtesy call on the FBCCI Administrator Md. Hafizur Rahman on 19th January 2025 at the FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, the Chairman of Pran-RFL Group and Advisor of Bangladesh Auto Biscuit and Bread Manufacturers Association led the delegation. Among others, the President of Bangladesh Auto Biscuit and Bread Manufacturers Association Mr. Shafiqur Rahman Bhuiya, the President of Bangladesh Agro-Processors Association (BAPA) Md. Abul Hashem, entrepreneurs, and representatives from the bread, biscuits, and food processing sectors were present at the meeting.



During the meeting, food processors expressed concern over the government's VAT hike. They urged the government to withdraw its decision to impose VAT and supplementary duties on the bread, biscuit, and food processing sectors. Entrepreneurs also sought FBCCI's support in addressing the current issues related to VAT and supplementary duties.

FBCCI Administrator Md. Hafizur Rahman assured the delegation that he would discuss their concerns with the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and the relevant ministries.

FBCCI Safety Council Participates in a Workshop on Disaster Management Fund



On January 15, 2025, the FBCCI Safety Council participated in the National Workshop on the Disaster Management Fund, organized by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), supported by the Bangladesh Preparedness Partnership (BPP), and facilitated by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC). The workshop was held at Hotel Lakeshore in Dhaka.

Chaired by KM Abdul Wadud, Additional Secretary of MoDMR, the workshop brought together key stakeholders to discuss and strengthen disaster management funding mechanisms. The discussions focused on mobilizing resources for

disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts across sectors.

The FBCCI Safety Council was represented by its adviser Brig Gen (Retd.) Abu Nayeem Md. Shahidullah, Program Coordinator Md. Monjur Kader Khan, and Training and Admin Officer Md. Shakhawat Hossain. Their participation underscored the Council's ongoing commitment to enhancing disaster resilience within the business community and promoting effective disaster management practices in Bangladesh.

ABBF President paying courtesy visit to FBCCI Administrator

Mr. Abdul Khan Ratan, President of the Australia Bangladesh Business Forum (ABBF) paid a courtesy visit to the FBCCI Administrator Md. Hafizur Rahman on 8th January 2025 at FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

They had a fruitful discussion on strengthening trade and business between Bangladesh and Australia.



BSREA President meet FBCCI Administrator



Mr. Mostafa Al Mahmud, President of Bangladesh Sustainable & Renewable Energy Association met Md. Hafizur Rahman, Administrator of the FBCCI on January 14, 2025 at FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

They had a fruitful discussion on Renewable Energy Sector in Bangladesh, focusing on its growth potential, challenges, and the need for stronger policy support. The BSREA President highlighted both the significant opportunities and challenges the sector faces in expanding. He urged FBCCI's cooperation on addressing policy-related issues.

FBCCI Administrator Md. Hafizur Rahman emphasized the importance of ensuring the availability of renewable energy technologies and equipment in the country. He also urged BSREA to focus on maintaining the quality and standards of renewable energy equipment and technologies.

Among those present at the meeting were FBCCI Secretary General Md. Alamgir, Head of the International Wing Md. Zafar Iqbal ndc, and Vice President of BSREA Engr. Md. Ruhul Amin.

Delegation from the Nepalese Mission visits FBCCI

A discussion meeting was held between FBCCI and the visiting delegation from the Nepalese Mission on January 28, 2025 at FBCCI office in Gulshan, Dhaka.

FBCCI Administrator Md. Hafizur Rahman chaired the meeting.

The mission was formed under the guidance and collaboration of the JICA to study and understand the investment promotion strategies and economic development initiatives of Bangladesh, as well as to explore avenues for mutual economic and investment collaboration.

CEO of the Nepalese Investment Board Mr. Sushil Gyawali, General Manager of the Industrial Districts Management Limited in Nepal Mr. Padam Oli, Under Secretary of the Nepalese Special Economic Zone Authority Mr. Tulsiram Marasini, Former Directors of

the FBCCI Mr. Bozlur Rahman and Nasreen Fatema Awal, FBCCI General Body Members Mr. Humayun Rashid, Mr. Zakir Hossain Nayon, Mr. Jakir Hossain, Md. Salauddin Yousuf, FBCCI Secretary General Md. Alamgir, Head of International Affairs Wing Md. Zafar Iqbal ndc and others were present at the meeting.



Bangladeshi Ambassador to Austria meet FBCCI Administrator

Mr. Toufique Hasan, Director General, United Nations Wing and Ambassador-Designate of Bangladesh to Austria met the FBCCI Administrator Md. Hafizur Rahman on January 28, 2025 at the FBCCI office in Gulshan, Dhaka.

Former Director of the FBCCI Mr. Bozlur Rahman, FBCCI General Body Members Mr. Humayun Rashid, Mr. Zakir Hossain Nayon, Mr. Jakir Hossain, FBCCI Secretary General Md. Alamgir, Head of International Affairs Wing Md. Zafar Iqbal ndc and others were present.



IBFB leaders paying Courtesy Call to FBCCI Administrator



Ms. Lutfunnisa Saudia Khan, President of the International Business Forum of Bangladesh (IBFB) met the FBCCI Administrator Md. Hafizur Rahman on January 28, 2025 at the FBCCI office in Gulshan, Dhaka.

Former President of the IBFB Mr. Humayun Rashid, Mr. Hafizur Rahman Khan, MS Siddique, Executive Director S.M Salim Reza were present at the meeting.

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