

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

FOR ECONOMIC RESILIENCE



From the Desk of the Administrator



It is my privilege to extend my warmest greetings as the Administrator of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI). Having formally assumed responsibilities on August 2, 2026, following my appointment by the Ministry of Commerce, I am delighted to share key highlights of our initiatives from my first month in office through this monthly e-bulletin.

I take charge of FBCCI at a critical juncture as Bangladesh seeks a three-year extension for its LDC graduation timeline to pursue structural reforms and economic stability. Navigating this transition requires our private sector to focus on productivity, compliance, export diversification, and

IPR capability. To address these priorities, FBCCI hosted a strategic dialogue on August 31 to formulate capacity-building strategies for post-graduation readiness.

Throughout August, we also advanced international partnerships through high-level bilateral engagements. On August 18, we hosted a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) delegation led by Director General Mr. Chandrajit Banerjee to discuss establishing a joint B2B task force and addressing the trade deficit. This followed an August 17 B2B session with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) focused on joint ventures and technology transfer. Additionally, a productive meeting with

H.E. Mr. Yao Wen, Ambassador of China to Bangladesh, yielded positive commitments regarding business visa facilitation and expanded trade cooperation.

On the domestic front, the newly formed 16-member “FBCCI Shohayok Committee” held its inaugural meeting to maintain operational momentum and oversee preparations for a fair election. Meanwhile, the FBCCI Safety Council continued its nationwide occupational safety initiatives, and this issue features a special report on the recently signed Bangladesh–South Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

My central commitment remains delivering a transparent, fair, and timely election to transition leadership to a newly elected Board of Directors. With your continued support, I am confident we will achieve this mission smoothly. I wish this e-bulletin continued success and hope it serves as a valuable resource for our readership.

Md. Fazlul Hoque
Administrator, FBCCI

Md. Fazlul Hoque Takes Charge as FBCCI Administrator



Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque has been appointed as the Administrator of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI). On 02 August 2026, Mr. Hoque took over the charge as Administrator of the FBCCI. Before joining as Administrator of FBCCI, Mr. Fazlul Hoque was President of BKMEA (2004-2010), and Director of FBCCI (2010-2012). He is a

renowned businessman of the country and revered by all for his foresightness, straightforwardness, and down to earth approach.

In his decorated business career, he has set-up country's first LEED certified garments industry named "Plummy Fashions Ltd." in Narayanganj, Bangladesh.

On his assuming office, the officers and staff of FBCCI welcomed Mr. Hoque with a bouquet of flowers and in his first acquaintance meeting with the officials Mr. Hoque sought all out cooperation from the FBCCI officials and promised them to standby them in every rightful pursuit.



Mr. Hoque urged all the officials of the FBCCI to work sincerely, neutrally and with full dedication. He emphasized on honesty, courage, and sincerity while giving service to businessmen. He also demanded them to maintain official secrecy in all official correspondences. He promised that during his short tenure- his first priority would be to conduct election in due time to uphold the reputation of FBCCI.

Navigating Bangladesh's LDC Transition: Trade Leaders urged for Sector-Specific Action Plans



The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) hosted a consultation meeting on August 31, 2026, at its Motijheel office in Dhaka to address private sector participation in LDC graduation reforms. During the session, trade leaders and entrepreneurs urged the government to craft tailored sector-specific action plans, ensure seamless execution, and set up continuous monitoring to navigate Bangladesh's transition from Least Developed Country status.

Chaired by FBCCI Administrator Md. Fazlul Hoque, the meeting featured a baseline report from Secretary General Md. Alamgir outlining post-graduation risks. He warned that Bangladesh will lose critical duty-free privileges like GSP and EBA in major markets like the European Union. In addition, stricter intellectual property laws will create major hurdles for key domestic sectors, including pharmaceuticals, agro-chemicals, and plastics.

To safeguard local industries, business experts emphasized three main priorities: building stronger trade negotiation skills, activating the National Single Window (NSW), and securing patents for locally produced goods. In addition, business leaders called for targeted financial aid, skill-building programs, and logistics support for regional CMSMEs, placing special emphasis on empowering rural women entrepreneurs.

During the open discussion, national and international trade experts emphasized that private sector challenges must be clearly identified using field-level data. The creation of a joint Public-Private Council was recommended to implement result-oriented strategies. Meanwhile, all district chambers and sector-specific associations were asked by the FBCCI Administrator to submit written proposals. These recommendations will be analyzed and presented to policymakers to boost the private sector's global competitiveness during the extended transition period.

Other notable attendees included former FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Secretary General Mr. Md. Alamgir, and International Trade Expert Mr. Nesar Ahmed from the Support to Sustainable Graduation Project. Senior representatives and board members from major trade bodies—including BGMEA, BKMEA, BJMA, BTMA, Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and Bangladesh Diversified Jute Products Association—were also present alongside delegates from key government ministries, BSTI, and the ICT Division.

India's CII proposes B2B Task Forces to Boost Bilateral Trade



The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has proposed the creation of two business-to-business task forces to strengthen bilateral investment and trade relations with Bangladesh. The proposal was presented by a high-level Indian business delegation led by CII Director General Mr. Chandrajit Banerjee during a meeting with the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at its Motijheel headquarter in the capital on 18 August 2026.

The proposed task forces focus on infrastructure investment and financing, alongside technology-driven "sunrise sectors." Highlighting the interest of young entrepreneurs in non-traditional ventures, Mr. Vinayak Chatterjee, founder and managing trustee of the Infravision Foundation, identified eight key emerging areas. These include nuclear power, semiconductor manufacturing, hydrogen and ammonia, renewable energy and battery storage, high-speed rail, data centers, artificial intelligence, and solar cell manufacturing.

Mr. Chandrajit Banerjee stated that the delegation's primary goal was to enhance private-sector engagement and capitalize on the strong potential for Bangladeshi goods across various Indian states. Indian companies want to expand investments in Bangladesh, particularly in infrastructure, healthcare and emerging sectors, Mr. Banerjee added.

Welcoming the initiative, FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque noted that joint efforts could significantly expand trade and help reduce Bangladesh's nearly \$10 billion trade deficit with India, while also addressing non-tariff barriers.

Mr. Hoque also said Bangladesh could learn from India's experience in attracting private and foreign investment in infrastructure, while seeking investment beyond the energy sector amid gas and electricity challenges.

Emphasizing that businesses must drive economic ties forward regardless of political dynamics, Honorable Minister for the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and former President of the FBCCI, Mr. Abdul Awal Mintoo assured that the government is sincerely working to simplify the investment and business environment in the country.

The meeting was attended by former FBCCI President Mr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman, Mr. Mir Nasir Hossain, and Mr. Md. Jashim Uddin; DCCI President Mr. Taskeen Ahmed and former DCCI President Mr. Rizwan Rahman; BTMA President Mr. Showkat Aziz Russell; Rangpur Chamber President Mr. Emdadul Hossain; Rajshahi Chamber President Mr. Md. Hossain Ali; Barisal Chamber President Mr. Ebaidul Huq Chand; former FBCCI Vice-President Mr. Nizam Uddin Rajesh; former FBCCI Directors Mr. Abdul Huq and Mr. Abdul Wahed; India-Bangladesh Chamber President Mr. Mashiur Rahman; Bangladesh Motorcycle Assemblers & Manufacturers Association President Mr. Matiur Rahman; Runner Group Director Mr. Mohammad Ali Deen; FBCCI Secretary General Mr. Md. Alamgir; along-side leaders of various chambers & associations.

FBCCI and CCPIT Join Forces to Drive Trade Growth

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) hosted a discussion meeting and B2B matchmaking session with the visiting delegation from China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) on August 17, 2026, at the FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque, Administrator, FBCCI chaired the meeting. Mr. He Tao, Director of the Bureau of Commerce of Honghe Prefecture, led the CCPIT delegation. The gathering brought together prominent business leaders from both nations to explore new horizons for trade and investment.



At the core of the discussion was narrowing the existing trade gap by unlocking greater access for Bangladeshi exports to the Chinese market. Participants highlighted strategic industrial synergies, notably the ongoing relocation of ready-made garment manufacturing from China to Bangladesh, alongside policy enhancements aimed at streamlining cross-border operations. Building on the established MoU between FBCCI and CCPIT, the event concluded with direct B2B networking sessions, paving the way for joint ventures and long-term economic partnership.

Former FBCCI Directors Mr. Abdul Haque, Ms. Priti Chakraborty, and Mr. Obaidur Rahman, along with FBCCI Secretary General Md. Alamgir, Advisor to the FBCCI Safety Council Brigadier General (Retd.) Abu Nayeem Md. Shahidullah, FBCCI General Body members, leaders of various chambers and associations, and other members of the CCPIT delegation were attended the meeting.

FBCCI Shohayok Committee Holds First Meeting



The newly formed FBCCI Shohayok Committee held its inaugural meeting on 12 August, 2026 at the FBCCI office in Gulshan, setting a collaborative tone for Bangladesh's private sector and trade leadership. The session was presided over by FBCCI Administrator Md. Fazlul Hoque. Delivering the welcome address, Mr. Hoque urged all members of the Shohayok Committee to share their valuable thoughts and suggestions in organizing a free and fair election at FBCCI.

The gathering brought together key chambers and industry leaders, including Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry President Mr. Taskeen Ahmed, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce & Industry President Mr. Mohammed Amirul Haque, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce & Industry President Mr. Kamran T. Rahman, Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce & Industry President Mr. Md. Hasen Ali, Barisal Chamber of Commerce & Industry President Mr. Ebaydul Hoque Chand, Rangpur Chamber of Commerce & Industry President Mr. Emdadul Hossain, and Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry President Ms. Sangita Ahmed, BGMEA President Mr. Mahmud Hasan Khan, BTMA President Mr. Showkat Aziz Russell, BKMEA President Mr. Mohammad Hatem, BPGMEA President Mr. Shamim Ahmed, REHAB President Mr. Ali Afzal, Leathergoods & Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association President Mr. Syed Nasim Manzur, Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries President Mr. Abdul Muktedir, Bangladesh Association of Banks President Mr. Abdul Hai Sarker, and Bangladesh Jute Mills Association Chairman Mr. Md. Abul Hossain.

Administrator attended FIRC Board Meeting



FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque attended the 6th Board Meeting of the FBCCI Innovation and Research Centre (FIRC), on 15 August 2026 at FIRC office at Haatkhola, Dhaka.

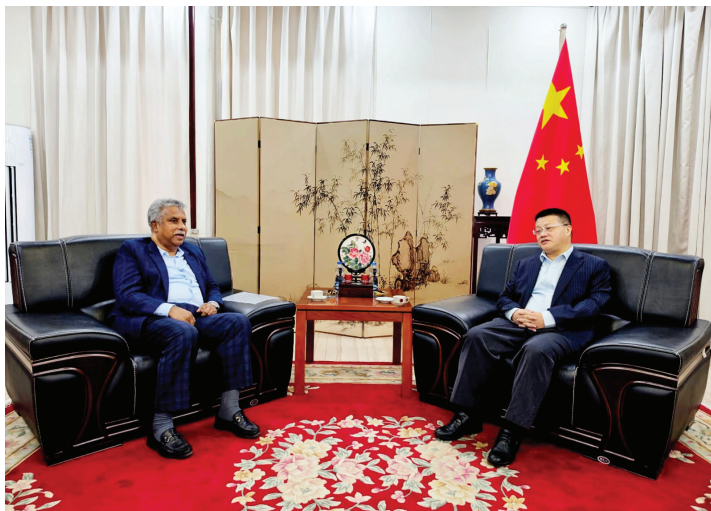
Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, Former President, FBCCI, chaired the meeting. FIRC Chairman and Former President of FBCCI Mr. Md. Jashim Uddin, along with Senior Vice Chairman of FIRC Mr. Mostofa Azad Chowdhury Babu, Vice Chairman Mr. M A Momen, Director Mr. Md. Amin Helaly, Mr. Md. Habib Ullah Dawn, Engr. Ghulam Mohammed Alamgir, Mr. Mohammad Ali Khokon, Mr. Shamim Ahmed, Dr. Nadia Binte Amin, and Mr. Abdul Haque attended the meeting.



FBCCI Administrator meets Chinese Envoy in Dhaka

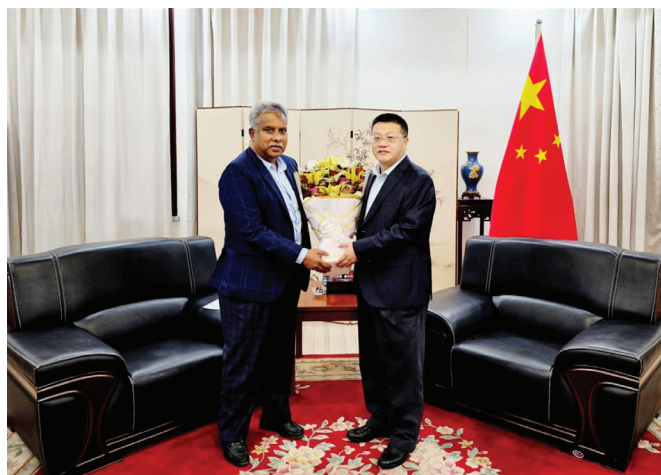
China remains Bangladesh's single largest trading partner, driving bilateral trade to new heights. Over the past decade, bilateral trade between the two nations has witnessed unprecedented growth. However, this growth remains heavily one-sided, with Bangladesh facing a stark trade deficit - importing \$18.19 billion worth of goods from China in FY 2024-2025 while exporting just \$694 million.

In a move to bolster bilateral trade, investment, and economic ties, Administrator of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque, met His Excellency Mr. Yao Wen, Ambassador of China to Bangladesh, at his office in Dhaka on August 26, 2026.



Upon his arrival, Ambassador Mr. Yao Wen extended a warm welcome to the FBCCI Administrator with a floral greeting. During the high-level meeting, both side engaged in highly constructive discussions aimed at deepening bilateral trade, expanding mutual investment opportunities, and driving economic cooperation between Bangladesh and China.

Highlighting investment prospects in Bangladesh, Mr. Fazlul Hoque called on Chinese businesses to invest in Bangladesh's Special Economic Zones, particularly in Chittagong and Khulna. He assured the Chinese Ambassador that the FBCCI will provide all-out support to Chinese entrepreneurs and business leaders looking to trade and invest in Bangladesh.



Stressing the need for institutional collaboration, the FBCCI Administrator noted that trade and investment between the two nations could be further accelerated through collaborative efforts involving the FBCCI from Bangladesh, alongside the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and the Chinese Enterprises Association in Bangladesh (CEAB). Furthermore, Mr. Hoque also called for easing Chinese visa processing for Bangladeshi entrepreneurs to smooth the flow of bilateral business interactions.

In response, the Chinese Ambassador reaffirmed his office's commitment to proactively driving bilateral trade to greater heights. He also highlighted promising investment opportunities in Bangladesh across several key sectors, including electric vehicles, fruits and agro-products, renewable energy, and tourism.

Among others, FBCCI Secretary General Mr. Md. Alamgir, and higher officials of Embassy of China in Dhaka, were attended the meeting.

FBCCI-ADPC Ally to Drive BPP Phase - 3 Program

In a concerted effort to fortify Bangladesh's commercial ecosystem against climate and disaster vulnerabilities, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) convened an official discussion with key representatives from the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) on 03 August 2026 at the FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.



The meeting, initiated by the FBCCI Safety Council, hosted Mr. Edwin M. Salonga, Program Lead for Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) and Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) at ADPC's Bangkok headquarters.

The overarching discourse emphasized strengthening collaboration to advance private sector resilience, disaster preparedness, and sustainable business continuity under the Bangladesh Preparedness Partnership (BPP) Phase - 3 program. During the discussion, ADPC highly appreciated the initiatives successfully implemented by the FBCCI Safety Council under the BPP Phase - 2 program, recognizing its significant contributions to enhancing disaster preparedness, business resilience, and capacity building within Bangladesh's private sector. Notably, all BPP programs are led by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR).



Following the meeting, Mr. Edwin M. Salonga paid a courtesy call on the FBCCI Administrator, Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque. Recognizing the pivotal role of the private sector in ensuring national economic stability, both sides expressed a strong commitment to accelerating collaborative initiatives aimed at strengthening disaster resilience and mitigating supply chain disruptions during crisis events.

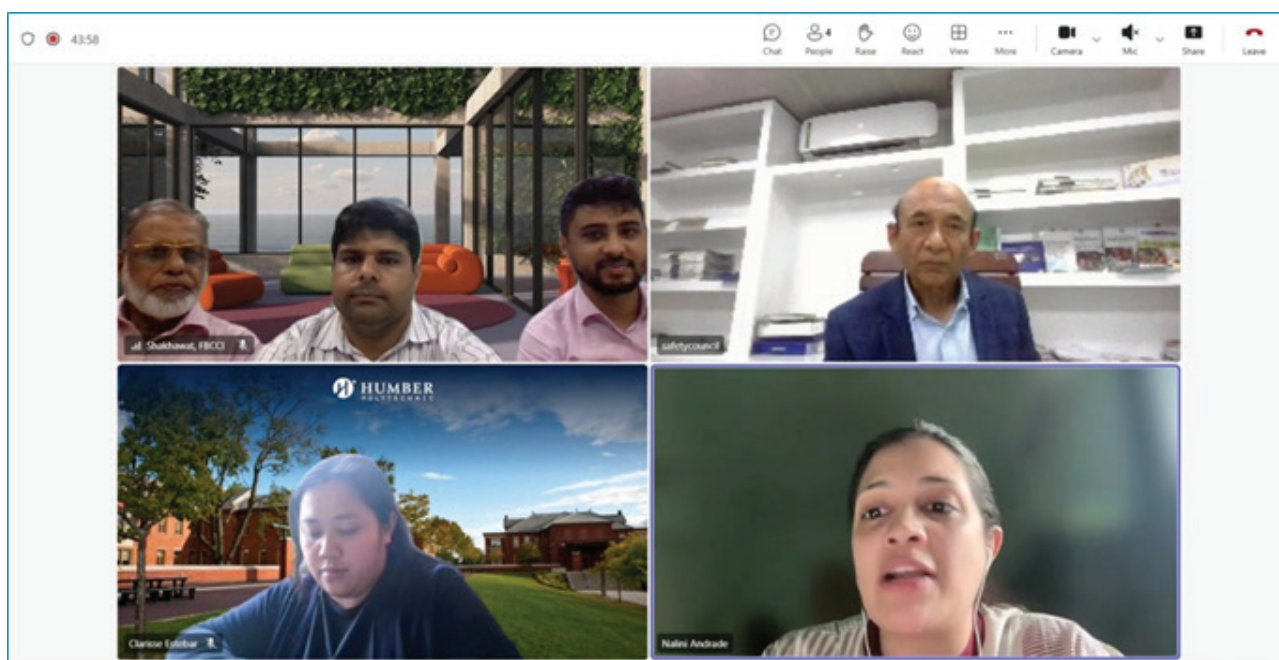
The session brought together distinguished leadership and technical experts, including Brig. Gen. (Retd.) Abu Nayeem Md. Shahidul-

lah, Advisor to the FBCCI Safety Council; Dr. Mohammad Ahsan Ullah, Country Head (Bangladesh), ADPC; Mr. Md. Monjur Kader Khan, Program Coordinator, FBCCI Safety Council; Mr. Md. Shakhawat Hossain, Capacity Building Specialist, FBCCI Safety Council; and Mr. Md. Nimul Islam, Web Developer & IT Officer, FBCCI Safety Council.

Concluding on a note of mutual alignment, the meeting reaffirmed the shared dedication of FBCCI and ADPC to accelerating collaborative action. Through structured dialogue and technical synergies, the partnership aims to cultivate a safer, more adaptive, and disaster-resilient private sector, ensuring long-term economic resilience and sustainable growth for Bangladesh.

FBCCI Engages with Humber Polytechnic Canada on Proposed Five-Year BRIDGE Workforce Development Initiative

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) has engaged with Humber Polytechnic, Canada, through a series of stakeholder consultations on the proposed BRIDGE (Bangladesh Initiative for Resilient and Inclusive Skills Development, Growth, and Employment) initiative, a five-year workforce development initiative being developed for submission to Global Affairs Canada.



The engagement commenced following a meeting request received by FBCCI from the Canadian Embassy. A virtual stakeholder consultation between the FBCCI Safety Council and Humber Polytechnic was subsequently held on 4 August 2026 to discuss the proposed initiative and explore potential areas of collaboration.

A key focus of the consultation was the growing gap between industry requirements and available workforce skills in Bangladesh. FBCCI highlighted challenges including limited alignment between academic curricula and labour market needs, insufficient practical and industry-oriented training, limited exposure to advanced technologies, inadequate industry participation in curriculum development, and shortages of qualified instructors.

FBCCI emphasized the need for industry-led, technology-oriented and demand-responsive workforce development. Potential areas where BRIDGE could add value included employer participation in curriculum and competency development, skills forecasting, trainer and instructor development, modernization of training facilities, and stronger work-based learning through internships, and industry placements.

The discussions also highlighted the growing importance of digital transformation and emerging technologies, alongside the need to prepare the workforce for developments in the green economy, sustainable production and climate change adaptation. The consultation further emphasized inclusive workforce development, particularly expanding opportunities for women, youth, rural communities and persons with disabilities.

As part of the continued consultation process, at the request of Humber Polytechnic, FBCCI organized a virtual consultation on 13 August 2026 with leaders of women's chambers and associations. The meeting provided an opportunity to incorporate the perspectives of women business leaders into the proposed initiative and discuss skills and capacity-building needs for women entrepreneurs.

The meeting was attended by Brig. Gen. (retd) Abu Nayeem Md. Shahidullah, Advisor, FBCCI Safety Council, along with leaders of women's chambers and associations, including Ms. Nasreen Fatema Awal, President, Women Entrepreneurs Association of Bangladesh (WEAB); Ms. Sangita Ahmed, President, Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mrs. Abida Sultana, President, Chattogram Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mrs. Ismat Jerin Khan, President, Patuakhali Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Mrs. Rosettee Najneen, President, Rajshahi Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, among others.

Representing Humber Polytechnic, Clarisse Esteban, Manager, Programs, International Development Institute (IDI), and Nalini Andrade, Director, International Development Institute (IDI), participated in the consultations.

The consultations explored how BRIDGE could strengthen collaboration among employers, industry associations, government, educational and training institutions, and development partners, while building on existing systems and avoiding duplication.

Following the consultations, Humber Polytechnic further refined its proposed project approach and identified FBCCI as a potential key private-sector institutional partner. Humber Polytechnic subsequently shared a formal partnership letter seeking FBCCI's support in principle for the proposed partnership and its inclusion in the proposal to Global Affairs Canada.

FBCCI subsequently confirmed its interest in participating in the proposed BRIDGE initiative. FBCCI's interest in being included in Humber Polytechnic's proposal and reaffirmed its commitment to continued engagement towards the shared goal of workforce development in Bangladesh. The proposed BRIDGE initiative remains subject to approval by Global Affairs Canada.

The engagement reflects FBCCI's continued commitment to promoting industry-led, inclusive and future-ready workforce development and strengthening international cooperation to build a more competitive, resilient and skilled workforce for Bangladesh.

Strengthening Emergency Response : Experience-Sharing Program held at Kurigram

On August 31, 2026, an experience-sharing workshop titled "Progress Learning and Sharing Program" took place at the Kurigram Zilla Parishad Auditorium to enhance private-sector capacity in disaster



management, guarantee business continuity, and reinforce local emergency response systems. The event was organized by the Kurigram Chamber of Commerce and Industry, initiated by FBCCI Safety Council, under the Bangladesh Preparedness Partnership (BPP)-Phase 2 project, led by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief.

Alhaj Abdul Aziz, President of Kurigram Chamber, chaired the program. Alhaj Sohel Hossain Kaikobad, Administrator of the Kurigram Zilla Parishad, graced the event as the chief guest. Special guests included Additional District Magistrate Md. Asaduzzaman and District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer ATM Benazir Rahman, with senior representatives from both the FBCCI Safety Council and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in attendance.

A major highlights of the event was the distribution of certificates to members of the Private Sector Emergency Response Team (PERT), which was formed by representatives from local business associations. The team was awarded these certificates following the successful completion of a two-phase training focused on Business Continuity Plans (BCP), disaster readiness, and emergency response.



During the discussion, speakers emphasized that integrating a trained private sector with government efforts significantly reduces disaster damage and speeds up business recovery. Guests encouraged PERT members to actively apply their training during real emergencies, while organizers reaffirmed their commitment to using insights from BPP-Phase 2 to build long-term disaster resilience across local trade bodies and business communities.

Bangladesh's Comprehensive Economic Partnership with South Korea

From Preferential Tariffs to Industrial Transformation — What the CEPA Means for Bangladesh

Bangladesh has long relied on the trade preferential access and hold advantage in global trade with duty-free, quota-free access to major markets as one of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). In addition, the domestic back-to-back Letters of Credit and bonded warehouse facilities has led us to advance in global manufacturing. However, as we graduate from LDC status in November 2026, Bangladesh export will face MFN tariffs, and domestic incentive structures will need to be adjusted accordingly. In response, Bangladesh is taking action, signing new agreements with the world's biggest economies. This transition required a shift from prevailing unilateral trade preferences to negotiated and reciprocal economic partnerships.

Bangladesh and the Republic of Korea signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in Dhaka on 4 August 2026. Under the CEPA, 97 percent of Bangladeshi goods will receive preferential tariff treatment on entry into the Korean market, while 87 percent of South Korean products will enjoy reciprocal treatment in Bangladesh. Upon implementation, 8,428 Bangladeshi product lines gain immediate duty-free access to Korea. Moreover, CEPA is a more ambitious instrument than a conventional free trade agreement. Following the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Japan, this is Bangladesh's second bilateral economic partnership agreement.

CEPA at a Glance

97%	of Bangladeshi goods and services get preferential access to the Korean market — 8,428 product lines in total.
87%	of Korean exports get reciprocal preferential access to Bangladesh, including agricultural goods, plastics, and spare parts.
95	services sub-sectors Bangladesh opens to Korea, with safeguards retained for sensitive domestic industries.
111	services sub-sectors Korea opens to Bangladesh, spanning all four modes of service delivery.
6	priority sectors named in the agreement: construction, engineering, telecom, healthcare, e-learning, and distribution.

Fifty Years in the Making: From Daewoo to Data Processing

South Korea holds a distinctive place in Bangladesh's industrial history. In the late 1970s, Daewoo and Dosh Garments collaborated and that led to a major industry in Bangladesh history, making Bangladesh agriculture based to a manufacturing country. It was the South Korean management and marketing knowledge that aid the growth of domestic garment industry.

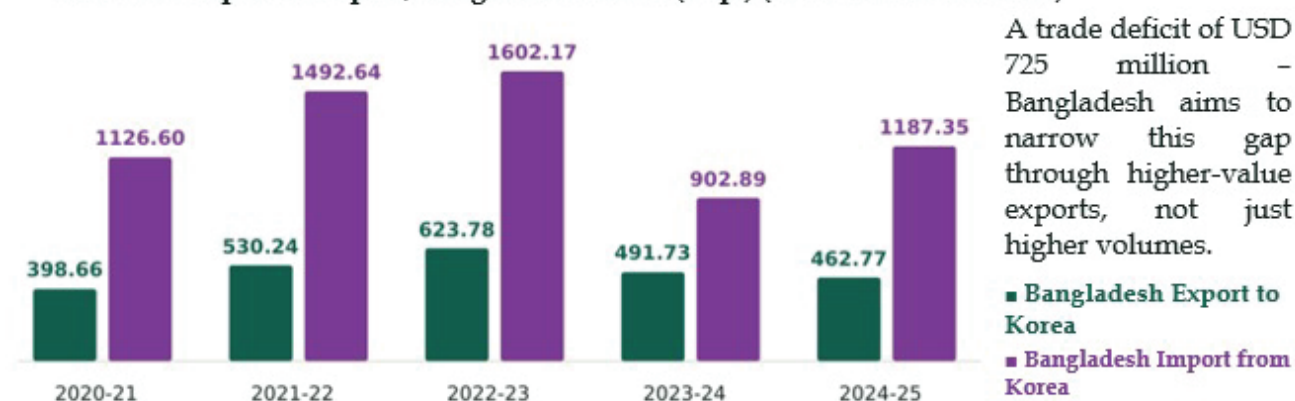
The CEPA extends this relationship into new terrain: people and data, not only garments. Under the agreement, Bangladeshi IT specialists, software companies, civil and mechanical engineers, ship-building engineers, marine technicians, nurses, physiotherapists, and skilled caregivers to obtain temporary visas and work permits in South Korea. In addition, Bangladeshi software companies will be able to provide data processing and cloud services directly.

The agreement also includes rules of origin, digital customs systems, simplification of customs procedures, protection of intellectual property, technology transfer, skills development, industrialization, infrastructure development, and a modern dispute settlement framework.

Opening New Sectoral Frontiers

Bangladesh's exports to Korea have historically been concentrated in readymade garments, knitwear, and related textile products, which together account for roughly 85 percent of shipments to that market, alongside smaller volumes of leather goods, footwear, jute products, frozen food, and pharmaceuticals.

Year-wise export & import, Bangladesh-Korea (Rep.) (value in million USD)



Source: Export Promotion Bureau & Bangladesh Bank

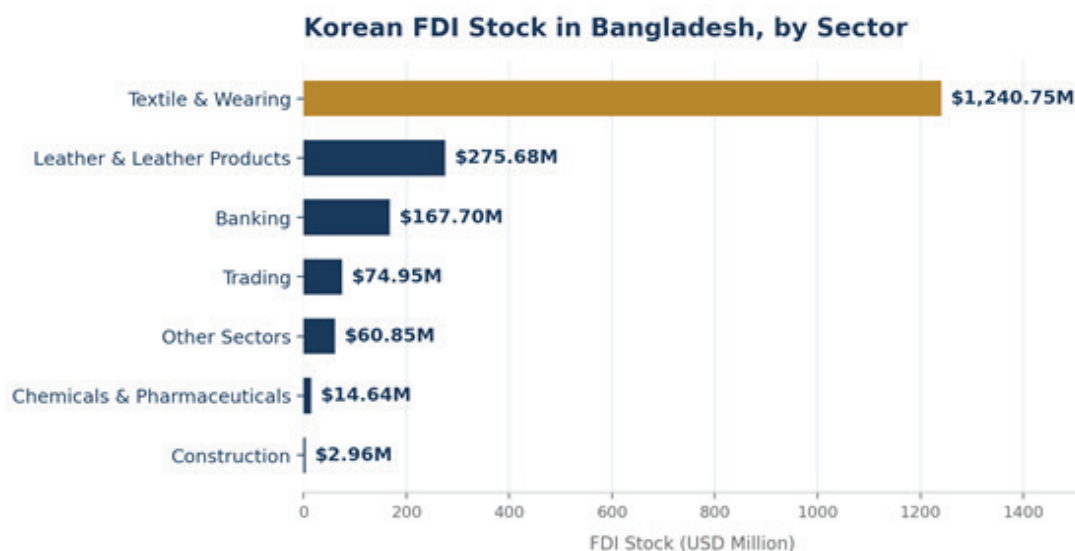
On the import side, CEPA offers preferential tariffs on Korean goods and machinery, making it cheaper for Bangladeshi firms to import from Korea. As for Korean investor, this makes Bangladesh a more predictable production base for local assembly. For Bangladesh, that investment carries an upgrading dividend: Korean design, automation, quality-control, and compliance expertise could help modernise sectors such as leather and footwear, pharmaceuticals, and processed food.

In order to materialize this preferential market access into actual exports, integrate domestic companies into South Korean supply chains, utilize South Korean technologically advances service sector to enhance Bangladesh service export. Bangladesh's ability and capacity all that matter and adequate preparation is required.

How CEPA could shape future FDI and sector-wise opportunities

South Korea is already Bangladesh's fourth-largest source of FDI by stock, after the United Kingdom, Singapore, and China, with a cumulative stock of around USD 1.8 billion. Current investment is concentrated in export-oriented manufacturing, such as, garments, leather, and food processing

and ICT and automobiles, with Samsung and Hyundai assembling locally through Fair Group's plants. Korean firms are also active in infrastructure and heavy construction, including landmark projects such as the Meghna Bridge and the Ashuganj power plant.



Total Korean FDI stock in Bangladesh: approx. USD 1.8 billion — the 4th largest source after the UK, Singapore, and China.

Bangladesh's recent domestic reforms are aimed to make Bangladesh more viable and safer to invest. The Invest Bangladesh Act 2026 merges BIDA, BEZA, the PPP Authority, and the Hi-Tech Park Authority into a single apex agency, Invest Bangladesh, intended to simplify investor entry and exit. In addition, Bangladesh Bank's March 2026 master circular delegates greater authority to authorised dealer banks, allowing them to process share-sale repatriation of up to BDT 100 crore within defined timelines, typically five working days once documentation is in order.

Together, these changes point toward a more flexible foreign-exchange regime, even as delays around customs, land, utilities, regulatory approvals, and dispute resolution continue to rank Bangladesh behind Vietnam, India, and Indonesia in investor perception.

Furthermore, Bangladesh is racing against the clock to reinvent its economy before those advantages start disappearing completely. If it gets this right, it could become one of Asia's next economic powerhouses. But if it gets wrong the country could find itself stuck in the middle too expensive to compete on cheap labor, but not advanced to compete on technology.

***Written by : Md. Masud Parvez**
Assistant Secretary General, FBCCI*

FBCCI Administrator attends a discussion on Energy Security

Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque, Administrator of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), attended a roundtable discussion titled "Challenges of Energy Security: Bangladesh on the Path to Competitive Business" as the chief guest on 30 August 2026 at the MCCI conference room in Gulshan, Dhaka.



Jointly organized by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and Policy Exchange Bangladesh, the event opened with a welcome address by MCCI Secretary-General Mr. Farooq Ahmed and was moderated by Dr. M. Masrur Reaz, Chairman and CEO of Policy Exchange Bangladesh. Prominent discussants included BTMA President Mr. Shawkat Aziz Russell, former dean of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) Professor Dr. Ijaz Hossain, former Dhaka Chamber President Mr. Asif Ibrahim, Eastern Bank Additional Managing Director Mr. Ahmed Shaheen, and IDCOL Chief Investment Officer Mr. Nazmul Haque.

FBCCI and Russia's Kostroma Region Chamber Sign MoU to Boost Trade

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and the Union "Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kostroma Region", Russia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to bolster bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The agreement was signed virtually on August 11, 2026, by FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque and Kostroma Region CCI President Mr. Pavel Maksimov.



Under the MoU, both trade bodies agreed to exchange economic data, publications, and regulatory information, while encouraging joint ventures and the relocation of Russian industries to Bangladesh. The partnership focuses on supporting small and medium enterprises, fostering startups, and narrowing skill gaps through technical cooperation and research. Furthermore, both organizations will facilitate delegation visits, trade fairs, and alternative dispute resolution through negotiation and arbitration to strengthen commercial ties between the two nations.



FBCCI Administrator visits FBCCI Innovation & Research Centre

FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque visits the FBCCI Innovation and Research Centre (FIRC) at Hatkhola, Dhaka. He was accompanied by FIRC Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Mostafa Azad Chowdhury Babu, FIRC Directors Mr. Md. Amin Helaly, Dr. Nadia Binte Amin, and Mr. Abdul Haque, former FBCCI Director Mr. Akkash Mahmud, FBCCI Secretary General Mr. Md. Alamgir, and FIRC CEO Dr. Bikarna Kumar Ghosh.



FBCCI Safety Council & ILO Explore Collaboration on Safe Chemical Management



In a major step toward enhancing Chemical Safety and Risk Management including occupational health and safety (OSH), the FBCCI Safety Council convened a high-level strategic meeting with the International Labour Organization (ILO) at the ILO Dhaka office. The session focused on the comprehensive roadmap for the upcoming 3-year collaborative

initiative titled "Strengthening Chemical Safety & Risk Management within the Private Sector."

The meeting was led by Brig. Gen. Abu Nayeem Md. Shahidullah (Retd.), Advisor to the FBCCI Safety Council. From the FBCCI Safety Council team, Mr. Md. Monjur Kader Khan, Program Coordinator; Mr. Md. Shakhawat Hossain, Capacity Building Specialist; and Engr. Md. Nimul Islam, Web Developer and IT Officer, actively contributed to the deliberations.

The ILO delegation was represented by Mr. Ron Johnson, Technical Specialist on Labour Inspection & OSH (ILO Country Office for Bangladesh); Mr. Md. Satil Munzoor Al Mahmud, Senior Programme Officer for OSH and Industrial Safety; and Mr. Ole Justesen, Technical Officer.

Trade Leaders Congratulates FBCCI Administrator

Following his appointment as the Administrator of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque—Managing Director of Plummy Fashions and former President of BKMEA—officially assumed charge on August 2, 2026. Over the subsequent weeks, leaders from various sectoral associations, joint chambers, district chambers, and institutional bodies paid courtesy visits to FBCCI and greeted the newly appointed Administrator at its office in Dhaka. The delegations extended warm congratulations with floral bouquets, pledged their cooperation, and engaged in strategic discussions regarding trade facilitation, policy support, and key economic challenges.

August 3, 2026



Demonstrating strong private sector solidarity, a high-level delegation from Sammilito Babosayi Parishad, led by Convener and former FBCCI Vice-President Mr. Mir Nizam Uddin Ahmed, paid a courtesy call on the newly appointed FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque. The delegation—comprising prominent business leaders including former FBCCI Vice-President Mr. Md. Nizamuddin Rajesh, former Directors Mr. Md. Rakibul Alam, Mr. Mohd.

Ishaqul Hossain Sweet, Haji Md. Abul Hashem, and Syed Md. Bakhtiar, alongside general body members—extended warm congratulations and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the apex trade body's initiatives under his leadership.

Reinforcing the institutional framework and legal dispute resolution mechanisms, Mrs. Nasrin Begum, Chairman of the FBCCI Arbitration Tribunal, accompanied by tribunal members Mr. A.S.M. Kamal Uddin and Mr. Sayed Ahmad, called on Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque. The tribunal members presented their compliments on his appointment and expressed full readiness to collaborate closely with the new administration to ensure a smooth, efficient trade arbitration environment for the business community.



August 4, 2026



Advocating institutional reform and business solidarity, a delegation from Boishamma Birodhi Songskar Parishad (FBCCI), led by Convener and former FBCCI Director Mr. Md. Gias Uddin Chowdhury (Khokon), called on newly appointed FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque at the FBCCI office in Dhaka. Accompanied by former FBCCI Director Mr. Md. Abul Hashem and general body members, the delegation extended warm felicitations and voiced their shared commitment to strengthening the apex trade body.



Reaffirming the crucial role of district-level enterprise and female leadership, a delegation from the Chandpur Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by its President Miss Monira Akter, paid a courtesy call on FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque. The leaders greeted the Administrator on assuming his new role and pledged their active cooperation to streamline regional trade operations, drive local commerce, and empower women entrepreneurs across the country.

August 6, 2026

BARVIDA President Mr. Abdul Haque, along with its former President Mr. Md. Habib Ullah Dawn, met FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque and extended their warm greetings and heartiest congratulations on his appointment at the apex trade body. They exchanged views and insights on issues related to the reconditioned vehicle sector. BARVIDA's First Vice President Mr. Saiful Islam (Somrat), Second Vice President Mr. Dr. Habibur Rahman Khan and others were also attended the meeting.



A delegation from the China-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CBCCI), led by its President, paid a courtesy call on FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque. During the meeting, the delegation extended their warm greetings on his appointment and engaged in strategic discussions focused on deepening bilateral trade relations and commercial cooperation between Bangladesh and China.

The President of the Bangladesh Aluminium Manufacturers Association, Mr. Obaidur Rahman, also met FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque. They had a fruitful discussion focused on unlocking new avenues for bilateral trade and investment between Australia and Bangladesh.



A group of prominent business figures, including former FBCCI Directors Mr. Khandaker Ruhul Amin, Mr. Abu Hossain Bhuiyan (Ranu), and Mr. Abul Hashem, congratulated the FBCCI Administrator on assuming charge of the apex trade body.



Mr. K. M. Awlad Hossain, Managing Director, Bengal Commercial Bank PLC, along with senior executives of the bank, paid a courtesy call on the Administrator to extend their best wishes for his tenure.



August 8, 2026



A delegation from Bangladesh Flexible Packaging Industries Association (BFPIA), led by its President Mr. Safius Sami Alamgir, paid a courtesy call on FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque on August 8, 2026 at FBCCI, Dhaka.

A delegation from Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BPGMEA), led by its President Mr. Shamim Ahmed, paid a courtesy call on FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque on August 8, 2026 at FBCCI, Dhaka. Senior Vice President of BPGMEA Mr. K M Iqbal Hossain, Director Mr. Shahedul Islam Helal, and others were attended the meeting.



Muhammad Ali & Helal Uddin Parishad (FBCCI) congratulated the newly appointed FBCCI Administrator, Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque, on August 8, 2026, at FBCCI, Dhaka. It is worth noting that Muhammad Ali is a former First Vice President, and Helal Uddin is a former Vice President of the FBCCI. Both assured the Administrator of their continued cooperation to ensure a free and fair election in FBCCI.



August 10, 2026



A delegation from the Narsingdi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by its President Mr. Rashidul Hasan Rinto, met FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque. The discussions highlighted Narsingdi Chamber's commitment to partnering with the government on economic initiatives, while raising strong concerns regarding the ongoing gas crisis affecting industrial

production. Former FBCCI Directors Mr. Md. Gias Uddin Chowdhury (Khokon) and Mr. Prabir Kumar Saha, along with Senior Vice-President Mr. Abdul Kaium Molla and Vice-President Mr. Hasib Ahmed Molla, attended the meeting.

Highlighting the vital role of women in the economy, a delegation from the Association of Grassroots Women Entrepreneurs Bangladesh (AGWEB), led by President Ms. Mousumi Islam, greeted FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque with a floral bouquet. The meeting centered on a comprehensive discussion regarding the systemic challenges confronting women entrepreneurs across small,



cottage, micro, and SME sectors. Key dialogue focused on securing collateral-free financing, easing banking procedures, building market linkages, enhancing technical skills, and expanding opportunities for women-led enterprises in public procurement.

August 11, 2026



Former FBCCI First Vice-President Mr. Muhammad Ali, along with the President of Chapainawabganj Chamber Mr. Md. Abdul Wahed, and President of Barishal Chamber Mr. Md. Ebaydul Haque Chand met FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque. Leaders extended their heartiest felicitations, sharing valuable insights and offering their full backing as Mr. Hoque takes the reins to guide the country's private sector toward sustainable growth.

August 12, 2026

A high-level delegation from the Commonwealth Independent States-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CIS-BCCI), led by President Mr. Jadab Debnath and Senior Vice President Ms. Tauhida Sultana, alongside its Board of Directors, paid a courtesy call on FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque. During the visit, the leaders presented a floral bouquet to mark his appointment and submitted key policy proposals. Welcoming their constructive engagement, Mr. Hoque appreciated their suggestions and emphasized strengthening mutual cooperation among commercial organizations.



Strengthening international trade diplomacy took center stage as newly appointed Commercial Counsellors Dr. Shahadat Hosan (Bangladesh Embassy in Los Angeles) and Mr. Mohammad Ruhul Quddus (Bangladesh Embassy in Madrid) paid a joint courtesy visit to FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque. The discussion focused on strategic initiatives to broaden Bangladesh's economic footprint and boost bilateral trade in their respective postings.

Underscoring the strategic role of raw material importers in national infrastructure, a delegation from the Bangladesh Iron & Steel Importers Association (BISIA) met with FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque. Led by former FBCCI Director and BISIA Senior Vice-President Mr. Amir Hossain Noorani, the team welcomed Mr. Hoque into his new role and reaffirmed their full support toward advancing Bangladesh's industrial foundation.



August 16, 2026



Gonotantrik Byabsayi Parishad, led by its convener and former FBCCI Director Dr. Parvez Sajjad Akter, paid a courtesy call on FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque on August 16, 2026 at FBCCI, Dhaka. They had a fruitful discussion on conducting free & fair FBCCI election.

August 18, 2026

Spotlighting one of the nation's key export-oriented manufacturing industries, a delegation from the Bangladesh Ceramic Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BCMEA), led by its President Mr. Moynul Islam, paid a courtesy call on FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque. Accompanied by Senior Vice-President Mr. Abdul Hakim Sumon, Directors Farian Yusuf and Mohd. Ziaul Huque Zico, and Executive Secretary Zahedi Hassan Chowdhury, the leaders extended warm felicitations on behalf of the ceramic sector and expressed their enthusiasm for working together to expand Bangladesh's global trade presence.



Addressing crucial aspects of commercial safety and compliance, a business delegation from the Fire Fighting Equipment Business Owners Association of Bangladesh (FEBOAB) met FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque. Led by FEBOAB President Mr. Md. Wahid Uddin and General Secretary Mr. Shamsul Haque Jamil, alongside executive vice presidents and directors, the team greeted the new Administrator and held constructive discussions regarding trade operations, policy support, and resolving operational hurdles within the safety equipment sector.

August 19, 2026

Representing regional business interests from the northern frontier, a delegation from the Thakurgaon Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by its President Mr. Md. Shariful Islam, paid a courtesy call on FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque. The delegation includes Senior Vice President of Thakurgaon Chamber Mr. Jahangir Alam Khokan, along with other board members. The team offered their warm congratulations to newly appointed FBCCI Administrator, and engaged in fruitful discussions on boosting regional commerce, expanding grassroots market infrastructure, and fostering localized industrial growth.



Former FBCCI Director Alhaj Mohammad Bazlur Rahman congratulates Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque on his appointment as FBCCI Administrator.

August 31, 2026

Former Director of FBCCI and Chairman of Molla Group Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque Molla, along with former Vice-President of FBCCI Mr. Mir Nizam Uddin Ahmed, and Mr. Md. Nizamuddin Rajesh, paid a courtesy visit to FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque on August 31, 2026. During the meeting, business leaders talked on various issues related to trade and FBCCI's upcoming election.



In a strategic effort to gather feedback on the upcoming election, the FBCCI engaged in a consultative session with leaders from Boishamma Birodhi Songskar Parishad (FBCCI) on August 16, 2026 at FBCCI, Dhaka. Business leadership shared key insights and put forward significant proposals regarding the upcoming FBCCI electoral process. Former FBCCI Director Mr. Md. Gias Uddin Chowdhury (Khokon), along with FBCCI Secretary General Mr. Md. Alamgir attended the discussion.



On August 16, 2026, the FBCCI convened a discussion with leaders from Sammilito Babosayi Parishad (FBCCI) at FBCCI, Dhaka, aiming to gather insights regarding the upcoming FBCCI election. During the session, business representatives presented their recommendations to conduct a free and fair FBCCI election. The Convener of the Parishad and former FBCCI Vice-President Mir Nizam Uddin Ahmed, along with former FBCCI Vice President Mr. Md. Nizamuddin Rajesh, former FBCCI Director Haji Md. Abul Hashem, FBCCI Secretary General Mr. Md. Alamgir attended the discussion.



Muhammad Ali and Helal Uddin Parishad (FBCCI), led by former FBCCI First Vice-President Muhammad Ali and former FBCCI Vice President Mr. Helal Uddin, attended a discussion meeting with FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque on August 17, 2026 at FBCCI, Dhaka. The discussion emphasized on upcoming FBCCI election. Former First Vice President of FBCCI Mr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed, former FBCCI Director Mr. Md. Abdul Wahed, AKM Shaheed Reza, Khandaker Ruhul Amin, Hafez Hazi Harun-Or- Rashid, Mr. Kausar Ahmed, and Mr. Md. Abdul Mannaf attended the meeting, among others.

Former FBCCI Directors Mr. Abdul Haque and Mr. Obaidur Rahman met with the FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque on August 17 at FBCCI, Dhaka, to present a series of proposals concerning the upcoming FBCCI election. FBCCI Secretary General Mr. Md. Alamgir, Senior Additional Secretary General Shah Md. Abdul Khaleque, Additional Secretary General Mr. Md. Mamunur Rahman attended the meeting.



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