

UK BANGLADESH CATALYSTS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY



instance, most financial indicators in Bangladesh displayed remarkable growth whilst the last period of 2014 marked a new momentum in consumer and business confidence. The economy achieved a respectable 6.12 percent growth rate against all political odds. Per capital income rose from 1,044 dollars in FY2013 to 1,190 dollars in FY2014.

Overall employment has also picked up. While poverty has slid down, indicators like life expectancy and real wage have shown a positive trend and this is in to achieving self-sufficiency in food production. These are just some of the facets of why the fundamental environment is always changing for the better in Bangladesh.

International trade is getting better and a healthy banking system, which is critical for economic growth in Bangladesh, is in compliance with the inclusive development strategies of the government. These included inclusive banking, new loan classification guidelines, green banking, financial sector modernization, e-commerce, mobile banking, agri-credit expansion, export promotion, smart banking supervision and digitalization, liberalization in foreign exchange transactions, etc. In addition, Bangladesh Bank is enhancing digital technology to improve supervision so banking irregularities do not repeat in the future.

However, it should be remembered that if Bangladesh is an oasis of opportunity, it is also in the UK's interest to forge ahead with investment overseas.

Outward investment can lead to increased overseas investment income for a country, including profits from overseas subsidiaries, dividends from owning shares in overseas firms and even interest payments, from lending abroad.

For large companies and multinationals, transport costs can be reduced by locating manufacturing plant within a consuming country. Firms that build factories and plant in other territories can exploit of economies of scope, such as spreading fixed management costs between territories. Firms based outside one trading bloc can avoid barriers of trade such as tariffs and quotas.

It makes sense for our two nations, Bangladesh and the UK, to join hands and participate in each other's interests ultimately to reap rewards which both can share and UKBCCI will do its utmost to encourage such endeavours.

Why Investment in an Emerging Economy Such as Bangladesh is Vital

Quite aside from the fact that Bangladesh is an emerging economy and emerging economies will continue to grow rapidly compared to developed economies, it is incumbent on us as part of the entrepreneurial and successful Bangladeshi Diasporas to invest in our country of origin.

It is only natural that we as Bangladeshis, who have seen their nation gone through a long development process, which is now progressing at pace, take pride in both our achievements in the UK and put something back in Bangladesh. A country where opportunities for foreign investment are ripe and can form the backbone for its long-term sustainability.

The evidence very much speaks for itself: in 2014 for

Registered Office:

43 Berkeley Square, Mayfair, London W1J 5FJ

Tel: 020 7791 1813 Email: info@ukbccci.org.uk, www.ukbccci.org.uk

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(Jamal), Director

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Showkat Aziz Russell, Director

We Welcome Our New Members

Corporate:

- Md Mokhtarur Rahman of M & H Global Trading Ltd

Regular:

- Zaki Husein of Kaiser & Associates
- Syed Feroz Ghani of Crossworld (UK) Ltd
- Rois Ali of NR Unique Hospitality Ltd
- Nawaz Ali NR Unique Hospitality Ltd
- Mashuk Rahman of R M Indian Ltd
- Rais Miah of Al-Falah Investments
- Askir Ali of Quilfords
- Monojir Ali of Ammar Property Services
- Mishbaur Rahman of Desh Foundation UK
- Showkat Aziz Russell of Amber Overseas UK Ltd

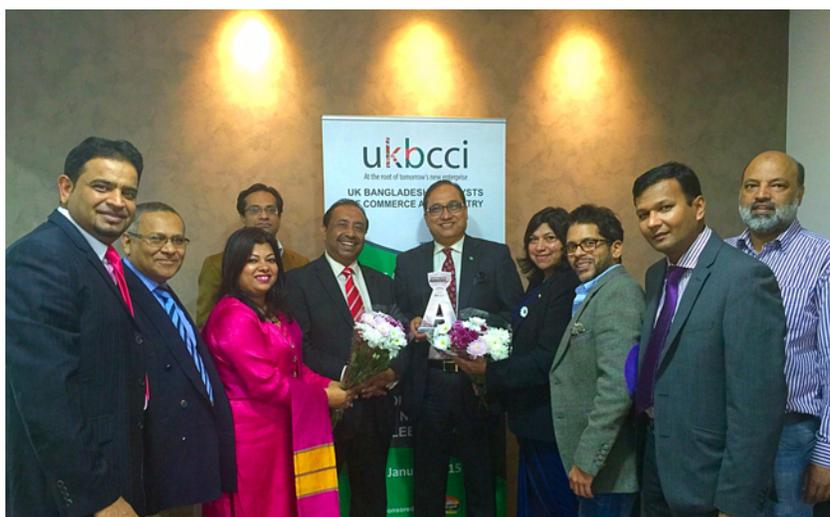
New UKBCCI Directors



Showkat Aziz Russell

Managing Director Amber Group (Partex Holdings)

UKBCCI Director News



UKBCCI Chairman Iqbal Ahmed OBE Wins Prestigious Business Award

Iqbal Ahmed OBE, Chairman of the UKBCCI, has been awarded the highly respected and much coveted accolade of Businessman of the Year at the Asian Achievers Awards 2015, held at London's Grosvenor House Hotel on Park Lane.

"When they announced the award," said a jubilant Ahmed, "I just couldn't believe I'd won it! It felt absolutely great and quite honestly, a very encouraging thing too because it made me think that whether its myself or someone else, our community has come a long way and truly established itself. I have received so many kind messages of congratulations from family and

colleagues including my wonderful fellow directors at UKBCCI that I feel overwhelmed with joy."

Ahmed had the additional honour of being featured in The Sunday Times newspaper recently too as he was put under the spotlight of the column, How I Made It, in the capacity of founder of his company Seamark.

The article profiled him from his humble beginnings to having formed the famed seafood business and subsequently his other business interests to his success today as one of the most well known Asian entrepreneurs in the UK.

Voice of UKBCCI Members

Business is All about the three C's, Says Md Mokhtarur Rahman

"Business is all about connections, consistency and capital," says UKBCCI Corporate Member Md Mokhtarur Rahman, Chairman of M & H Global Trading Ltd.

Rahman spoke exclusively for the UKBCCI newsletter, stating that there are always some golden rules to becoming an entrepreneur and doing business, which he classifies as the three "C's".

"Some say that luck comes into it," says Rahman, "but it's always been a case of connections and then consistency, after which capital which really follows on naturally from the aforementioned two. When you are starting out in business, you need to know people, the right people and make connections. Then, if at first you don't succeed at what you are trying to do, you have to be tenacious and be very consistent in wanting to try again and again. The capital will follow on naturally."

A highly successful businessman himself, Rahman has been started as an entrepreneur having left Bangladesh for Moscow, in Russia in his late teens. Today his business interests expand various continents and countries, dealing in commodities such as rice and sugar to apparel he imports from Bangladesh as well as property development and finance consulting.

Latest Events



London Networking & Luncheon Event

Amanah Banqueting Hall
London, 21 July 2015

UKBCCI hosted a networking event at the Amanah Banqueting Hall in London. The session was hosted with its directors, members, key dignitaries and representatives from the UKTI, bringing together a number of entrepreneurs, business heads and organisers, along with those involved in dealing with trade between the UK and Bangladesh. Six new directors were inducted too into UKBCCI at the same time.



East Midland Road Show Kettering, Raj Restaurant

17 August 2015

The UKBCCI had a major road show event in the East Midlands, held at the prestigious The Raj restaurant in Kettering, Northants. UKBCCI directors were present and there were key speeches given at the event outlining the activities of the UKBCCI and also what has been achieved of late. The event was of particular interest as it highlighted the second year of UKBCCI and in celebration of this, the directors even cut a cake culminating in a highly joyous event.



Bangladesh Financial Sector Seminar

Amanah Banqueting Hall,

London, 9 September

Entitled "Bangladesh Financial Sector: Opportunities, Regulations, Products and Services",

UKBCCI hosted a major and highly significant seminar event looking at the banking and financial sector in Bangladesh, its advancement and how its benefitting business. There were also some very senior personnel from the sector who were present along with dignitaries and VIPs, UKBCCI members as well as members of the media.

The opening speech in welcoming everyone was given by Bajloor Rashid MBE, President of UKBCCI, followed by Mr Abrar A. Anwar, CEO, Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh, who spoke of the importance of the banking system and its forward movement in Bangladesh along with how it can be a bridge between there and the UK.

Chairman of UKBCCI, Iqbal Ahmed OBE, and Founder of NRB Bank Ltd in Bangladesh, also gave a comprehensive analysis of the banking system in his speech.

UKBCCI was also highly honoured and grateful to have the chief guest Honourable Governor, Bangladesh Bank, Dr. Atiur Rahman.

Also present were special guest, Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh to UK Mr Khondker M. Talha. Each in their capacity, gave eloquent and in-depth speeches on the banking and financial sector in Bangladesh and the increasingly positive climate it is creating for business and the overall economy in the country.

In addition, Mr Shafquat Hossain, Head Retail Products & Segments, Standard Chartered Bank, gave a Powerpoint presentation on the highly efficient Bangladeshi banking system.

Additional speeches were given by Ruzina Hasan, Director, UK Trade & Investment, Head, Trade Investment, British High Commission, Bangladesh and The Baroness Uddin of Bathnal Green.

Trade Mission to Bangladesh

January 2016

The UKBCCI are planning a trade mission to Bangladesh for January 2016.

As Bangladesh is one of the fastest growing economies in the world and is developing in several sectors at pace, the aim of the comprehensive delegation will be to showcase leading British companies to the local business community, and to introduce them to the flourishing Bangladesh economy and market.

To seek out the best business opportunities, the delegation will visit the main cities of Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong during a five day visit to Bangladesh between in January 2016. This will see them meeting relevant local businesses and entrepreneurs, Ministers and leading Government officials at the Ministries of Commerce and Education in the capital, and national chambers and industry leaders in all three cities.

Figures from the Bangladesh Bank show the UK was the second largest cumulative investor/source of FDI into Bangladesh in the financial year 12/13 with £159.5m worth of investment projects. Some 100 UK firms have operations locally with the main centres of operation focused around Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet.

In particular, the UKBCCI would like to focus the delegation on the following important sectors, many of which are key to both the UK and Bangladesh economy:

- Textiles
- Pharmaceuticals
- Electronics
- Telecommunications
- Leather
- Energy
- Food Processing
- Shipbuilding
- Consultancy
- Service Industry

Aside from the skills and knowledge transferred via the business relationships, the UKBCCI is keen to encourage developing bilateral trade as both the UK and Bangladesh have much to offer each other and grow economically.

Objectives of UKBCCI

- Provide more effective practical support and communications to existing and future entrepreneurs and to promote and improve the business environment in UK and Bangladesh
- Stimulate a vibrant economy within the community and produce a co-operative effort to enhance the overall quality of businesses that will enable them to reach their highest potential
- Work towards increasing the prosperity by facilitating the growth of existing businesses
- Create inward and outward investment between the UK and Bangladesh whilst addressing and promoting the establishment and improvement of the social, professional, civic, cultural and educational needs of the business community
- Create and support in all aspects the next generation of entrepreneurs, and continuing our past efforts of liaising and developing our relationship with the business community
- Help a wide variety of business communities to achieve a more sustainable performance model, encouraging and improving best practice standards
- Offer help and advice to small and medium size businesses on start-up and growth

Membership Benefits

Members will have the opportunity to develop an insight into effective market methods and connect directly with business leaders and key government officials. These individuals will offer their experience and knowledge so that members will be able to learn from those companies that are doing business in the marketplace. Members will be able to benefit from targeted sector matchmaking meetings that will potentially open doors for their business to trade and work with other companies.

Members will receive first-hand

information, regarding those opportunities where key contacts can give tailored advice and aid to strengthen and improve their business in the UK and Bangladesh.

If you are a small or medium company, UKBCCI members will receive help and advice on start-up growth.

Members will gain access to numerous discounted and free

services. Discounts will apply at:

- UKBCCI Conferences
- Networking Receptions
- VIP Lunches
- Business Briefings
- Exhibitions
- Trade Missions
- Offers for complimentary/reduced places at key trade-related events

A complimentary invitation to our members networking receptions plus updates via our newsletters and website.

Members will receive offers of help so that they can raise their company's profile across the broad spectrum of media, including a quarterly newsletter, sponsorship packages and if they are considering staging/hosting an event.

As our member, do you have any news about your business you feel we should be putting into our newsletter? Do please let us know. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Business Information

Asian Bride Live

31 October - 1 November 2015

Olympia, London

<http://olympia.london/whatson/asian-bride-live>

Two days of wedding inspiration. Nearly 180 stalls of specialist wedding suppliers, carefully selected based on their ethos of style and elegance; await you to inspire your big day. The show will feature some of the biggest names in wedding decor, fashion, catering, photographers, bridal makeup plus much more. There will also be catwalk which will feature the latest South Asian fashion with collections from leading designers and boutiques.

The Finance Professional Show

4 November 2015

Olympia, London

<http://olympia.london/whatson/finance-professional-show>

The Finance Professional Show is the industry's must-attend exhibition for all finance professionals and firms specialising in residential mortgages, secured loans, commercial finance, equity release and the insurance market. The show has brought back the united front of the industry and has become the new face of the UK finance market.

The International Conference on Electrical and Electronic Engineering

4 - 6 November 2015

Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology in Rajshahi, Bangladesh

<http://www.globaleventslist.elsevier.com/events/2015/11/international-conference-on-electrical-electronic-engineering-iceee/>

The conference will cover areas like Circuit & Systems, Electrical Machines & Drive System, Telecommunications system, Fiber Optic System, Electromagnetic Fields & Waves, Microwave & RF Engineering, Antennas & Propagation, Control Theory & Applications, Measurements & Instrumentations, Electronics & Embedded System, Power Systems & Switchgear, Embedded Technologies, Thin films & Nanotechnology etc.

Bangladesh Denim Expo

11 - 12 November 2015

Bangabandhu International Conference.

<http://10times.com/bangladesh-denim-expo>

The Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka, Bangladesh, plays host to this event showcasing

products like laundry and washing equipments, auxiliaries, dyes specialty chemicals, to that of denim fabrics, and garments associated with this field etc. in the apparel and clothing, Lifestyle and fashion industries.

UK Bangladesh E- Commerce Fair

13 - 14 November 2015

The Waterlily, E1, London

<http://e-commercefair.com/events/2nd-uk-bangladesh-commerce-fair-2015/>

Sponsored by Bangladesh Bank and jointly organised by ICT Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunication and Information Technology, Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority and Computer Jagat are hosting a 2-day long UK-Bangladesh e-Commerce Fair. From online shops to e-services, e-banking, telecom services, e-tourism and travel, software and server solutions, more than a 100 exhibitors are expected from across the UK and Europe at the event. There will be various seminars and networking sessions too amongst other opportunities at the event.

Leathertech Bangladesh

26 - 28 November 2015

Bashundhara Convention City, Dhaka

<http://events.hellotrade.com/tradeshows/leathertech-bangladesh>

The event named Leathertech Bangladesh, shall be exhibiting a wide variety of products, equipments, devices and services of the leather goods manufacturing industry. The event shall include or organize a wide variety of workshops, seminar presentation, and open forum questionnaires with the help of it the exhibitors will showcase products and services like lining, hooks, trimmings, fabrics, clothes, apparel, shoe parts, leather processing chemicals, machines used in the leather industry, plastic parts, repairing machines sewing machines, various kinds of knives and many other products and services of the leather goods manufacturing industry

Business Start Up

3 - 4 December 2015

Olympia, London

<http://olympia.london/whatson/business-startup-0>

As the industry-leader, Business Startup is a free exhibition for anyone thinking about starting a business or expanding a business. With over 250 seminars, over 350 exhibitors, advice, opportunities, and much more if you're starting a business or looking to get advice from the UK's finest business experts.

The Business Show 2015

3 - 4 December 2015, Olympia, London

www.greatbritishbusinessshow.co.uk

After 12 years of running The Business Show has established a reputation as the country's leading business exhibition built on a blend of highly respected speakers, interactive features and industry leading suppliers.

The two day event attracts more than 25,000 businesses who attend with the primary agenda of improving and expanding their business, and to anybody who has attended the show it will come as no surprise that it's now the fastest growing business show in Europe.

It's a free business exhibition to attend and offers a wealth of opportunity, advice and information crucial for ongoing business growth within a challenging economy. The event welcomes businesses from a cross-section of industries.

UKBCCI LINK PROJECT

UK-Bangladesh Catalyst of Commerce and Industry (UKBCCI) is now focused on working together with both the British and Bangladesh governments, businesses, educational institutions and the relevant government bodies to respond to the many national challenges that currently exist and to develop more leadership, management and entrepreneurs in the various fields of health and social care, education, management, hospitality, pharmaceuticals, RMG- garment and textile manufacturing, trade and export and much more.

As we know, alongside initiative and courage doing business requires connections with the right people. UKBCCI is currently developing a programme that will enhance the way in which businesses can grow, communities can flourish, and individuals can get more out of life through a programme aptly called the UKBCCI Link Project. For some, it's because they want a chance to shape the future, and drive forward a new era of change. For others, it's because of the way that we encourage them to get the best out of themselves.

As a group of NRBs that are successful in various sectors of the UK and Bangladesh, we are looking to impart our knowledge and success for the benefit of the business community by operating an internship and apprenticeship service to the non-resident Bangladeshi professionals in the UK and vice versa.

In fact, many of the world's largest multinational corporations rely on international graduates to compete in the global market. We know that you will appreciate the difference that an internship can make and we would very much like to explore and secure ways to make that happen.

USEFUL LINKS

● **Bangladesh High Commission in UK:**

28 Queens Gate, London SW7 5JA
Telephone (switchboard): 020 7584 0081
Fax: 020 7581 7477
E-mail: bhclondon@btconnect.com
www.bhclondon.org.uk

● **British High Commission in Bangladesh:**

British High Commission Dhaka
United Nations Road, Baridhara
Dhaka - 1212, Bangladesh, P O Box 6079,
www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/british-high-commission-dhaka

● **UK Trade & Investment (UKTI):**

UKTI, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-trade-investment

● **Get Finance Support from UK Export Finance:**

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-export-finance

● **Startups:**

6-8 Cole Street, London SE1 4YH,
www.startups.co.uk

● **Federation of Small Business**

2 Catherine Pl, London SW1E 6HF, www.fsb.org.uk

● **The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI)**

60, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
T: 88-02-9560102-3, 9560482 F: 88-02-9567621
E: fbcci@bol-online.com, URL: www.fbcci-bd.org

● **Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry**

DCCI Building, 65-66 Motijheel C/A
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Tel: 880-2-9552562, Fax: 880-2-9560830
email: info@dhakachamber.com
www.dhakachamber.com

Year Wise Export Target and Achievements from UK (million US \$)

Year	Target	Achievement	% of Achievement over Target	Growth (%)	Total Export of Bangladesh	UK Export As % of Total Export
2008-09	1,695.00	1,603.41	-5.40	9.13	15,565.19	10.30
2009-10	1,795.90	1,652.73	-7.97	3.08	16,204.70	10.20
2010-11	1,834.53	2,231.98	21.66	35.05	22,924.38	9.74
2011-12	2,555.65	2,639.31	3.27	18.25	24,287.70	10.87
2012-13	3,160.82	2,973.74	-5.92	12.67	27,018.26	11.01
2013-14	3,590.66	3,143.99	-12.44	5.73	30,500.00	10.31
2014-15	3,475.00	3,438.56	-1.05	9.37	31,198.45	11.02

Source: Export Promotion Bureau, Bangladesh

Year Wise Remittance Flow from UK (million US \$)

Year	Remittance from UK	Annual Growth (%)	Total Remittance to Bangladesh	UK as % of Total
2006-07	886.90		5,998.47	14.79
2007-08	896.13	1.04	7,914.78	11.32
2008-09	788.85	-11.97	9,689.26	8.14
2009-10	827.25	4.87	10,987.40	7.53
2010-11	889.60	7.54	11,650.32	7.64
2011-12	987.45	11.00	12,843.43	7.69
2012-13	991.59	1.22	14,461.14	6.86
2013-14	901.23	-9.11	14,228.26	6.33
2014-2015	812.34	-9.86	15,316.90	5.30

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Inward and outward foreign direct investment flows, annual, 2003-2011

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Economy								
Bangladesh	792	666	1,086	700	913	1,136		

Source: UNCTAD

FDI Inflow to Bangladesh from UK (Million US \$), 2003-2014

Year	Total FDI Flow to Bangladesh	FDI from the UK	FDI from UK as % of Total
2003	350	116	33.14
2004	460	106.2	23.09
2005	845	111.9	13.24
2006	792	127.6	16.11
2007	666	140.2	21.05
2008	1,086	138.5	12.75
2009	700	207.3	29.61
2010	913	105.68	11.58
2011	1,136	116.32	10.24
2012	990.04	136.94	13.83
2013	1,599	191.35	11.97
2014	1526.70	180.98	11.85

Source: Bangladesh Bank and UNCTAD

Advertisement Opportunity

We welcome our members to promote their products and services through UKBCCI.

If you are interested to advertise your products or services in our quarterly newsletter, please contact us on **0207 791 1813** or email: info@ukbcc.org.uk