

MCCI : A JOURNEY
1904-2014



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MCCI : A JOURNEY
1904-2014



Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka

MCCI : A Journey 1904-2014

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PREFACE

This is a book about how the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) has become what it is today. It is the story of 110 years of evolution, of the long and eventful journey that the Chamber has taken to come to the position it is in now, of the many name changes it has had, and of the momentous move of the organization from Narayanganj to Dhaka that has made it the premier chamber of a burgeoning metropolis and of a country that has been going from strength to strength as far as economic development is concerned.

Certainly, the passage of the Chamber from British India to Pakistan and from Pakistan to Bangladesh has been momentous. It is thus a history well worth recording and that is what this book sets out to do. The pages that follow therefore give us that history in considerable detail. In the process it shows how a Chamber that was once exclusively composed of British traders and merchants gradually began to incorporate in its workings local businessmen and financiers till it became transformed into a thriving enterprise consisting of Bangladeshi entrepreneurs and industrialists whose ambition and outlook have become increasingly global and cosmopolitan.

But this book is also an attempt to represent the variety of functions undertaken by the Chamber in our time. It not only documents the Chamber's role in advocacy and support of its members but also the range of programs it has adopted for the constituent community in particular and the country as a whole. It also provides information on how the Chamber has evolved into the leading voice of business in this part of the world. In addition, the book indicates how the Chamber has been adapting itself to help Bangladeshi businesses meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. Moreover, it provides information about some of the key events and personalities that have moulded the Chamber over time.

Ultimately, this book should be seen as commemorative; for the Chamber intends it to be viewed as part of its program to celebrate its 110 year history and to make its readers aware of the rich tradition that members of MCCI are heirs to. We hope that it will be of use as a ready source of information about Chamber activities and new directions that the Chamber is taking in the new millennium. The Chamber will feel its efforts rewarded if its members find in it cause for pride in the Chamber's history and if readers of the work find in it a place where they can discover aspects of MCCI's multi-faceted nature that they were hitherto unaware of. Our hope, in the end, is that the same sense of discovery will lead readers and members to a greater appreciation of the Chamber's past and present; we hope too that they will come up with ideas to make the Chamber a more dynamic body that will make it an even more effective, representative and responsive voice of Bangladeshi business in the future.

October, 2014



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The publication of the book is a momentous occasion not only for the Chamber itself but also for those of us who were involved in the writing and compilation of it. The contentment in being able to fulfill a commitment, given the limited time, is immense.

The initiative of publishing a history of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) that would be worthy of its past and present achievements was initially taken by Major General (Retd) Amjad Khan Chowdhury, President (2011-2012) of the Chamber. The current President, Ms Rokia Afzal Rahman along with other members of the Committee, was greatly inspired by this idea. We would like to thank them all for rendering all out support. Our gratitude to the former Presidents of the Chamber – Mr M Anis Ud Dowla, Mr Syed Manzur Elahi, Mr Latifur Rahman and the former Secretary-General Mr CK Hyder, for their contributions. Despite their busy schedule they helped us record the history they had witnessed and contributed to in their years at the Chamber.

We would also like to single out the contributions of Mr Farooq Ahmed, Secretary-General of MCCI, who worked diligently and gave us his all out support in the publication of this book. Mr Masudur Rahman of MCCI Secretariat also gave us considerable logistic support.

We are grateful to Professor Dr Sharif Uddin Ahmed, for sharing his vast knowledge about the National Archives of Bangladesh with us. With his assistance we were able to access the West Bengal Secretariat Record Room and the Library and National Archives of India, Delhi. It would have been impossible to collect the necessary materials about the commercial history of Bengal without the information provided by Dr Ahmed.

During our field work in India, we were fortunate to get assistance from some knowledgeable and helpful people. We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to Mr DP Nag, the Secretary of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BNCCI), Kolkata and Mr HS Das, the Head-HR and Administration of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), Kolkata, India. They provided us with material from their own records and also made available relevant documents from the Secretariat Record Room and Library in Kolkata. We also thank Ms Yagyaseni Bareth, Ms Tanima Dey and Ms Ipsita Chowdhury of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, and Dr Maroona Murmu, Assistant Professor of History in the Jadavpur University, Kolkata for sparing their valuable time for us to collect various documents from the National Archives of India (New Delhi), the Central Library of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and the National Library of Kolkata. In this connection, we would like to thank Professor Dr

Chittabrata Palit as well, who helped us to access and obtain important documents from Sir Ashutosh Library of Calcutta University.

While carrying out research in our own country, our expeditions to the Bangladesh National Archives and National Library; Dhaka University Central Library, Newspaper Section; Bangladesh Asiatic Society Library; and MCCI Library were immensely beneficial.

It is imperative to mention the gratitude of our Consulting Editor and myself to our Research Assistants, Mr Abdus Samad and Ms Shehreen Ataur Khan, both Lecturers at Jagannath University for their meticulous research and for spending innumerable hours in collecting and organizing essential information. We are thankful to Mr Muktadir Abdullah and Mr Shahinuzzaman for their assistance. We are indebted to Mr Babul Prasad, Administrative Officer of the Department of English, University of Dhaka, for all the hard work he did in incorporating editorial revisions.

Amongst our colleagues at the University of Dhaka, Professor Sayeedul Hoque Khan of the Department of Marketing, Professor Sharif Ullah Bhuiyan of the Department of History, Dr Shantanu Majumdar of the Department of Political Science, Mr Shameem Reza of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Mr MA Kawser of the Department of History, Dr Mohammad Azam and Ms Meher Nigar of the Department of Bangla inspired us in persevering and staying focused on the successful completion of the work. However, Professor Dr Asha Islam Nayeem of the Department of History must be singled out for her never-ending and unreserved assistance to those of us involved in the project.

When the manuscript of the book was almost ready, a chance encounter with our Consulting Editor led us to Mr Tarik Sujat, who is no mere publisher, but someone who believes in producing books that are beautiful and a pleasure to look at as well as read. We would like to thank him and two members of his design firm, Mr Mostafizur Rahman and Mr Akter Hossain for working tirelessly on a book that would surely have been even more attractive if they had been given a little more time to perfect it.

Last, but by no means least, I would like to take this opportunity to pay homage to the person I have always looked up to, Professor Dr Fakrul Alam, Professor of English at the University of Dhaka, and our Consulting Editor. If it were not for the privilege of working under his wing, I would not have been a part of this interesting project. If not for his guidance and inspiration, I would not have had the strength to persevere to the end.

October 18, 2014

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Chapter 1 Introduction





INTRODUCTION

The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) is a non-political, non-profit-making organisation owned and directed by its members. This Chamber was established as the 'Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce' (NCC) in 1904. It was set up as a unique platform to influence decision-makers and shape policy and to ensure the best possible environment for business for its members. It is the pioneer chamber of Bangladesh and was the first modern chamber of its kind in Eastern Bengal and Assam province. Thus, it can be said that the Metropolitan Chamber is the oldest and the preeminent trade organisation of the eastern part of Bengal. Promoting Bangladesh as a promising investment destination is a major focus area of the Chamber. The Chamber concentrates on furthering business ties with the greater business world. Through the Chamber's policies, its membership, consisting of major companies, and its specialised secretariat, MCCI is adapting to the constant changes in the global order and is moving ahead purposefully to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Emergence of the Chamber: Background¹

In the history of trade and commerce in Eastern Bengal, the Dhaka-Narayanganj area has always played a major role. The trade and commercial importance of Wari-Bateshwar, Sonargaon, Savar and Dhaka over the centuries testify to the crucial geographical location

¹ The data and analysis followed for the background of emergence of the Chamber is largely based on the research works by Kedarnath Majumdar, *Dhakar Bibartan* (in Bangla), Mymensingh, 1910; *Thacker's Indian Directory*, A Directory of the Chief Industries of India (The Fiftieth Issue of The Bengal Directory), Calcutta: Thacker, Spink & Co., 1905-07, 1912; SG Panandikar, *The Wealth and Welfare of the Bengal Delta*, Calcutta: University of Calcutta, 1926; CWE Cotton, *Handbook of Commercial Information for India*, 3rd edition, New Delhi: Govt. of India, 1937; ML Khemka, *A Study in the Industrial Development of Bengal*, Calcutta: Marwari Chamber of Commerce, 1944; Geoffrey W Tyson, *The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (1853-1953), A Centenary Survey*, Calcutta: Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, 1952; Sirajul Islam, (ed), *History of Bangladesh (1704-1971)*, Vol-2: Economic History, Dhaka: The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, 2007; Chittabrata Palit, *Growth of Commerce & Industry in Bengal*, Calcutta: Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry, 1999; *Studies in India's Maritime Trade through the Ages*, Kolkata: Institute of Historical Studies, 2008; M. Mofakhkharul Islam and Firoz Mahmud (ed), *400 Years of Capital Dhaka and Beyond: Economy and Culture*, Vol-2, Dhaka: The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, 2011.

of the area. Narayanganj, in particular, was one of the major trading centers in the Eastern part of Bengal from antiquity because of its geophysical location. However, the Dhaka-Narayanganj area emerged as a thriving commercial and industrial hub after the Mughals shifted the capital of Bengal from Rajmahal to Dhaka. Narayanganj, the epicenter for textile industries since the ancient and medieval times, became an important riverine outlet to the Bay of Bengal in the 18th and 19th century. Since Eastern Bengal was a kind of land-bridge between south and southeast Asia, Dhaka-Narayanganj gradually turned into an important entrepreneurial centre for trade and commercial activities of these two localities. The commercial opportunities and abundant resources of Dhaka-Narayanganj presented lucrative options for foreign traders viewing the Eastern part of Bengal.

In the last two decades of the nineteenth century, in particular, Narayanganj emerged as an important center for trading of raw jute. The Jute industry, which had started to grow from the mid-fifties of the nineteenth century, became the second largest industry of India during the First World War. The supply of nearly three-quarters of all raw jute came from the eastern part of Bengal, though this region had inherited no industry at the time of the partition of Bengal in 1905. Raw jute then was collected by beparies (middlemen traders) and brought to Narayanganj to be packaged in jute baling presses. Till 1947, there were no jute manufacturing industries in Narayanganj except 'pucca' jute baling presses. But the situation changed after the second partition of Bengal in 1947. In less than two decades, the number of 'pucca presses' in the region rose to 79, out of which 30 were located in Narayanganj. 20 large jute mills were eventually established all over the country, 10 of which had been set up in Dhaka and Narayanganj. With the establishment of the huge Adamjee Jute Mill (1951), the first factory of its kind, Narayanganj began to develop rapidly as an industrial as well as a trading centre. Adamjee Jute Mill was set up by Mr Abdul Wahid Adamjee, a leading industrialist and a member of one of the wealthiest families of (West) Pakistan.

Bengal witnessed a fascinating commercial phase as a number of chambers were formed in this region at this time. Most countries in Asia had by the end of the 19th century adopted the concept of chambers of commerce from western countries and had adapted it to their local conditions. In fact, in the Indian sub-continent, British traders were the first to organize chambers of commerce. Subsequently, local trading and industrial communities organised themselves into similar bodies. In the third decade of the nineteenth century, European investment in India as well as in Bengal first began to be patronized by the trade associations, and chambers of commerce developed in the sub-continent from then on. The Calcutta Chamber of Commerce (1833) and the Bengal Chamber of Commerce (1853) were set up by the Europeans in this decade. Local merchants, however, had no access to these bodies. But within two years of the formation of the Indian National Congress in 1885, indigenous merchants were able to establish a Chamber of Commerce of their own in 1887,

namely, the 'Bengal National Chamber of Commerce', where business organisations or agents of Eastern Bengal were affiliated and became members.

In 1903, the partition of Bengal was proposed so that East Bengal and Assam could be separated from Kolkata. This idea was a direct blow to the European business community in the eastern part of Bengal, who had their business headquarters in Kolkata and who used Kolkata port for export of goods. Chittagong port now became crucial for the new province. Until this time, the eastern part of Bengal had been treated only as a hinterland of the Kolkata metropolis and only as a source of supply of raw materials for the Kolkata-Howrah-Hoogly industrial belt. The largest industry of this belt was jute, which relied heavily on the supply of raw jute from East Bengal. With the creation of a new province, it was imperative to have a new trade organisation for prompt export purposes in this area. Until 1904, the Bengal Chamber and the Bengal National Chamber, both located in Kolkata, were platforms where foreign and local businesses and firms from the eastern part of Bengal could get memberships. After the formation of the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce (NCC) in 1904 and the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce (CCC) in 1906, European businesses and firms of eastern Bengal joined these chambers. Some local merchants of this area, however, continued to have affiliations with the Bengal National Chamber as they could rarely access chambers made and constituted by Europeans.

The partition of Bengal in 1905, was one of the main factors behind the establishment of a new chamber in the eastern part of Bengal, particularly around the new capital city of Dhaka. On the eve of the partition of Bengal, European entrepreneurs of Narayanganj and Dhaka established the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce (NCC), the predecessor of MCCI, in 1904. In 1904, the Government established the Department of Industries to handle the industrial and commercial growth of the province. In 1905, the province of East Bengal and Assam began functioning. Lt Governor Sir Bamfield Fuller officially took over the charge of the new province. In 1906, Chittagong was made an independent port of the new province. Narayanganj was put under the jurisdiction of this port instead of Kolkata.

Though the annulment of Bengal partition in 1911 was a hindrance to the economic growth of this region, the revival of the tea and jute markets and business marts in and around Dhaka, and the emergence of Narayanganj as a substantial port city in Eastern Bengal, configured a new economic order. In the 1940s, a number of cottage industries, weaving factories and cotton mills were established in East Bengal which added a further dimension to the trade and commerce of the region. After 1949, indigenous merchants started taking over and the Chamber entered an era of 'Nation Building'. The historical evolution, activities and contributions of the Chamber will be discussed elaborately in the following chapters.

Objectives, Vision and Mission

Over the years, the Chamber consistently pursued an objective approach to socio-economic issues, which successive governments as well as the business community and political leaders have appreciated. Becoming the leading voice and serving responsible business is the Chamber's Vision; and providing support to business in Bangladesh is the principal mission of the Chamber.

The main objectives^{1a} of the Metropolitan Chamber are: to (a) promote, advance and protect trade, commerce and industry; (b) add, stimulate and promote the interests of industry and business in matters of inland and foreign trade; (c) watch over, protect and promote general commercial and industrial interests; and (d) secure and safeguard the well-being and interests of persons engaged in trade, commerce and industry. There are also various incidental objectives such as to establish a library, disseminate information, publish periodicals and provide other relevant services for the development of business.

To face the challenges of the new millennium, the Metropolitan Chamber revisited its vision and mission in 2012. A strategic planning session was held and after extensive discussions, members unanimously agreed to a new "Vision and Mission". A formal launching ceremony of the Chamber's "Vision and Mission" was held on 17 April 2012 at Lake Shore Hotel in Gulshan. The revisited "Vision and Mission" of the Chamber are as follows:

VISION
Be the leading voice serving responsible business
MISSION
Become the leading Chamber for providing research and analysis support related to business in Bangladesh
Attract quality membership, representative of a cross-section of business
Effectively respond to the changing needs of our members
Enhance our capabilities through collaboration with local and international institutions
Engage and communicate regularly with our stakeholders
Recognize best practices that benefit business and society

The Metropolitan Chamber is thus seeking to provide services through which commercial and industrial business will be assisted in their growth. It now aims to provide

^{1a} See the detail objectives of the Chamber in the [Appendix 21](#).

members with a vision and focused leadership to enhance and promote the ongoing ventures of the business community. The Chamber, of course, will continue to play a leading role in influencing the social, economic and business environment of Bangladesh in order to create sustainable economic progress. In line with the objectives, vision and mission mentioned above, members of the Metropolitan Chamber are entitled to the following services and benefits:

New members can network with the leaders of over 300 member companies who come from all sectors and represent most of the large enterprises in Bangladesh including multinationals.

Members can rely on the Chamber's strong collective lobbying efforts on their behalf.

Unparalleled access to major stakeholders through business meetings.

Participation in Chamber Committees and Project Groups that advance the Chamber's national objectives.

Possibility of participating in the Chamber on key committees and boards that are important to the country's development.

New members are officially welcomed in the monthly newsletter.

Opportunity for maximum promotion and exhibition of members' products and services at Chamber events.

Opportunities to advertise in the Chamber's publications and on its website.

Discounted rates for conference and meeting room facilities at the Chamber.

Access to relevant local, regional and international business information.

Assistance to members in arranging one-on-one business meetings and reciprocal meetings.

Possibility of participating and assisting in social programmes in which the Chamber is involved.

Assistance with information and contacts that can guide businesses looking to tap into regional markets.

Members looking to expand their reach beyond national borders can benefit from relationships MCCI has with other Chambers of Commerce of the world.

Chapter Organization

Based on source materials accessed from Chamber archives and the National Archives of Bangladesh and India, this is an attempt at presenting a narrative history of the Metropolitan Chamber. We have tried to make the book an appropriate record of the Metropolitan Chamber that combines the qualities of a coffee-table book with that of a well-researched history. The book is divided into the following chapters: Chapter 1: Introduction - Emergence of the Chamber: background, objectives, visions, mission and chapter organization; Chapter 2: Evolution of the Chamber - the different names of the chamber and its evolution, the story also of how the chamber moved from Narayanganj to Dhaka; Chapter 3: The Chamber Now: Organization - structure of the Chamber, office bearers, the secretariat, the rights and privileges of members, subscription, members' eligibility and expulsion; Chapter 4: The Chamber Now: Functions - reviews, international affiliations and representation functions of the Chamber, AGMs, publications, communication development; Chapter 5: The Chamber and the Nation – social and humanitarian services rendered to the nation by the Chamber; Chapter 6: Conclusion - Into the Future.

The first chapter explores the emergence of the Chamber in 1904. This chapter is divided into four sub-sections: reasons behind selecting Narayanganj to set up a chamber; interests of the Bengal Government and the Chamber's objectives, visions and mission.

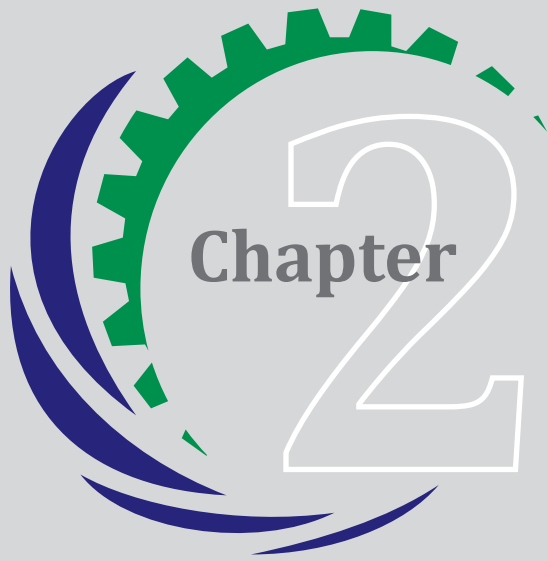
To establish the historical perspective, we focus briefly on the evolution of the Chamber in the second chapter. The history of the Chamber, since inception to the present, is narrated here. This chapter also discusses details various phases in the evolution of the Chamber, the changes in its name, the shifting of the Chamber office from Narayanganj to Dhaka, as well as the evolving status of the Chamber.

The third chapter deals with the organization of the Chamber. This chapter is divided into several sub-sections. In these subsections, we will look at the structure of the Chamber (office bearers and secretariat), eligibility for becoming a member, rights and privileges of member companies, subscriptions and provision for expulsions.

In chapter four, we will throw light on the multidimensional functions of the Chamber. Some of the functions briefly discussed in this chapter include the regular review activities on various important national and international issues, international connections, representations of members of the Chamber in government and non-government bodies since 1904, annual general meetings of the Chamber, activities of the publications and research cell and communication services offered.

The fifth chapter explores the Chamber's role in providing social and humanitarian services to the nation over the years. The Chamber has contributed significantly to public sectors like education, health and environment, over the decades, and this is the history this chapter narrates.

Chapter six, titled 'Into the Future', includes concluding remarks on the Chamber's past, present and future.



Evolution of the Chamber





EVOLUTION OF THE CHAMBER

“Viewed in the light of history, one-hundred and ten years may not appear to be a very long span of time. Indeed, history abounds with instances of institutions which survived and flourished for longer periods. Yet, an organization which has weathered vicissitudes for 110 years has learnt many lessons that can be of significance not only to trade and industry but to a wider public. Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka is fortunate enough to be such an organization.²”

Mr CK Hyder³ expressed his feelings thus on the eve of the 110th anniversary of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka in an interview, held in April, 2014. He went on in the interview to say, “I am overwhelmed by the thought that MCCI has already gone through an eventful history of 110 years of service to trade, industry and the nation, and I had the honour and privilege of having been associated with this premier chamber of the Country for 44 years. I have witnessed many remarkable and fascinating stages of the evolution of the Chamber”.⁴

Mr Hyder’s words indicate that the growth of the Chamber has been continuous and that it has come a long way in the course of its history. This chapter will focus briefly on the evolution of the Chamber, explore the various phases of its evolution and discuss the changes in its name the shifting of the Chamber office from Narayanganj to Dhaka, as well as its evolving status over time. In particular, we will focus on the many stages of the evolution of the Chamber.

² ‘Interview’ of Mr CK Hyder, Former Secretary-General of MCCI, MCCI Office, Dhaka, 24 April 2014.

³ Popularly known as Mr CK Hyder. He joined the Chamber in 1965 and served till 1990 as its Secretary. He got promoted and became the First Secretary-General of the Chamber in 1991. After completing 44 years of services, Mr Hyder took retirement on 31 December, 2008 but continued his association with the Chamber as Adviser to the Committee till 2011.

⁴ ‘Interview’ of Mr CK Hyder.

Phases of the Evolution of the Chamber	
Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce (NCC)	1904 – 1950
Dacca-Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce (DNCC)	1950 – 1952
Dacca-Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DNCCI)	1952 – 1959
Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI)	1959 – 1979
Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI)	1979 – 1999
Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI)	2000–Present

Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce (NCC), 1904-50: The Chamber started its journey in 1904 as the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce (NCC), and continued to be known as such till 1950; this, then, may be regarded as the first phase of MCCI's evolution. The Committee of the Chamber was composed then of 16 members, including the President, Vice-President and Honorary Secretary.⁵ In 1949, the first major re-organization of NCC was initiated by some business firms that had been operating in and around Narayanganj and Dacca. They intended to form a trade association under the Companies Act. As per the Memorandum and Articles of Association, 1949,

“We, the several persons whose names and addresses are subscribed, are desirous of being formed into an association pursuance of the Memorandum of Association: DP Fafallios (Merchant- Rally Brothers Ltd), LK Nixon (Managing Director- R Sims & Co Ltd), G Allan (Director- Sonakhunda Baling Co Ltd), Arff Ismail GH (Agent- Bengal Assam Steamship Co Ltd), SW Alexander (Manager- Ludlow Pakistan Co Ltd), KP Matthews (Join Agent- IGN & RSN Co Ltd) and JA Coldwell (Manager- M Sarkies & Son).⁶”

This memorandum was signed on the 9th of May, 1949 and the witness was GP Henwood.⁷

Because of scanty source materials, a complete picture of the pre-partition structure of the committee is not possible. Records of the Chamber at its initial stage are very few.

⁵ CWE Cotton, *Handbook of Commercial Information for India*, Third Edition, New Delhi: Government of India, 1937, p. 49.

⁶ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Dhaka: 2013, p. 5.

⁷ *Ibid.*

Annual reports, minutes and other documents, the main sources of chamber activities, are not available. The lack of sources in the colonial era makes the task of reconstructing the history of the first phase of the Chamber extremely difficult. But it can be conjectured that at the initial phase the Chamber had to deal with many tumultuous events. The Chamber, for example, went through the turmoil of the partition of Bengal (1905), the Swadeshi Movement (1903-08), the First World War (1914-19), the great economic depression of 1930s, the Second World War (1939-45), the Famine in Bengal (1943) and the political turmoil surrounding partition in the 1940s. All these events had a significant impact on the economy of Bengal and, consequently, on the history of the Chamber.

It can be assumed that the Chamber could not contribute much to trade and industry till the partition of India (1947). In its initial phase (1904-50) it did not have many members. The Chamber had possibly around 40 member-firms⁸ and followed the Bengal Chamber of Commerce (BCC) in its activities and secretarial practices. The principal trade of the region was concentrated on jute and was controlled by expatriate traders and entrepreneurs. The major concern of the Chamber, in this phase, was to solve the problems of member-firms. The problems faced by the native businessmen were not at all the concern of the Chamber in the first phase of its existence.

Some of the letters documenting exchanges between the Government of Bengal and the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce (NCC) have been found in the Bangladesh National Archives, the National Archives of India (Delhi) and West Bengal Secretariat Record Room and these have been the main sources for reconstructing the first phase of the Chamber's history. On the basis of the archival documents, it seems that in addition to its other activities the Chamber used to comment regularly on various policies adopted by the Commerce Department of the Bengal Government during that period. At this stage, the Honorary Secretary of the NCC used to send comments and decisions of the Chamber Committee to the Secretaries of the Bengal and India Government on various policies initiated by these governments. The Chamber corresponded mainly with the Commerce, Labour and Industries Departments of the government. Analyzing the policies taken by the Government, chambers of commerce and industries often gave their feedback. This was a regular practice and in most cases in this initial phase, NCC supported government initiatives. On the one hand, the Chamber preferred or referred to the opinion or comments sent by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce (BCC) to the government.⁹ On the other, in some cases, they opposed the government's position.¹⁰

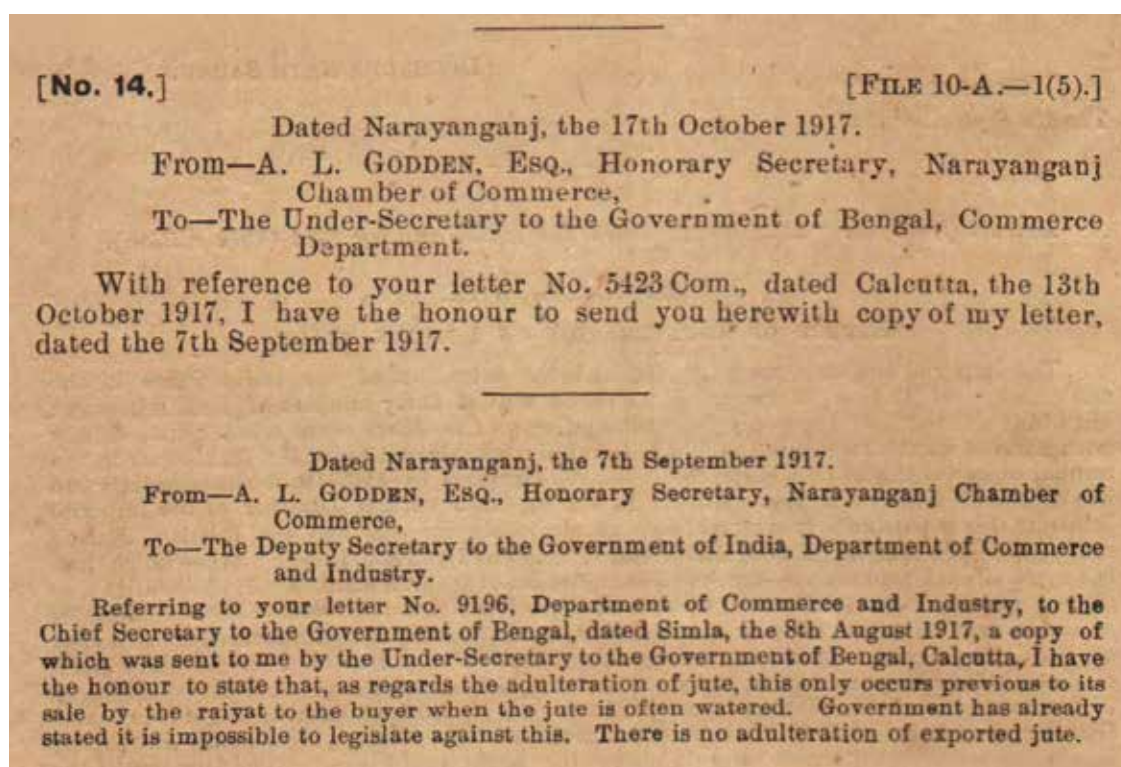
⁸ *Minutes of the NCC*, 23 May, 1950, pp. 28-29.

⁹ The Chamber forwarded its opinion to the Government of Bengal on "A Bill to Amend the Indian Company Act, 1913" by supporting the opinion given by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce (BCC) in 1914. See, *A Proceedings, Govt. of Bengal, Commerce Dept.*, Bangladesh National Archives, February 1914, File No. 4-A/7, No. 40.

¹⁰ The Honorary Secretary of the Chamber, Mr AL Godden, opposed a decision taken by the Govt. on the issue titled "Proposal to Suppress the Adulteration of Indian Produce before Export", *A Proceedings, Govt. of Bengal, Commerce Dept.*, Bangladesh National Archives, March 1918, File No. 10-A/1, No. 14.

The Bengal Government had regular contacts with the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce. 'Scheme for the Registration of Property in British India Belonging to Enemies', the 'United Kingdom Registration of Business Names Act 1916', 'Registration of Claims for War Losses against Enemy Governments 1919', 'The Draft Indian Partnership Bill 1930', 'Bengal Factories Rules 1935', and 'The Draft Revised Explosives Rules' were some of the Acts and policy matters that the Chamber had to deal with after being notified to them.^{10a}

**Correspondence between the Government of Bengal (GOB) and the
Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce (NCC), 1917**



Source: *A' Proceedings, GOB, Commerce Department*, Bangladesh National Archives
October 17, 1917, File 10-A-1(5), No. 14.

In the final years of the first phase, the Chamber re-organized and amended its Memorandum and Articles of Association; these subsequently became the guiding principles for the Chamber. Seven businessmen subscribed to the Memorandum of Association that was signed on 9 May, 1949.¹¹

^{10a} Some of these correspondences are reproduced from the original sources which have been added in the Appendices Section of the book. See [Appendix 1](#) for an original letter and [2-5](#) for the reproduced letters.

¹¹ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Dhaka, 2013, p. 5.

From its inception, the Chamber was known as the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce (NCC) until 1950, when the Chamber entered its second phase. It was renamed as the Dacca-Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce (DNCC). Mr CK Hyder says about the first phase that

“the evolution of the Metropolitan Chamber has been slow but gradual and steady, following the historical process of the socio-economic development of a region, and not through any abrupt revolution. This process can be traced out in an easier way if it is seen in the perspective of the changing socio-economic and political trends of the region and the country.¹²”

Dacca-Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce (DNCC), 1950-52: In the second phase of its evolution and after the partition of India, the Chamber changed its name again. In 1950, the Chamber Committee responded positively to a suggestion that the name of the Chamber should be changed because of increasing trading activities. The Committee discussed the issue of the name change at length and thought that it would encourage Dacca firms to join the Chamber, assuming that the Government would agree to its decision to represent Dacca as well as Narayanganj business.¹³ There was then no recognized trade association for Dhaka firms, although by this time ‘Dacca’ had become the capital of East Pakistan and had enhanced its commercial and administrative status. In an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 12 May 1950, a resolution was unanimously passed to modify the name of the Chamber and include the word ‘Dacca’.¹⁴ With the change in name and the inclusion of ‘Dacca’, businessmen from East Bengal started to get involved in the Chamber Committee and take part in its activities.

In this phase, the Chamber had extensive dealings with the Jute Board and its work led to an increase in the export of jute. The volume of work of the Chamber in this phase, increased, and eventually the post of an Assistant Secretary was created. The Chamber, as DNCC, survived for only two years. Because of the emergence of new industrial ventures in the eastern part of Bengal, the Chamber was once again transformed in 1952.

The activities of the Chamber did not always go smoothly in the second phase of its evolution. In 1951, for instance, the Chamber received an invitation from ILO to join a conference in Geneva but the Pakistan Government did not allow DNCC to send any delegates there.¹⁵ It was the beginning to be evident that the Pakistan government was going to pose obstacles in the path of the business community of East Bengal.

¹² ‘Interview’ of Mr CK Hyder, MCCI, Dhaka, 24 April 2014.

¹³ *Minutes* of the DNCC, 31 January, 1950, P. 14.

¹⁴ *Minutes* of the DNCC, 12 May, 1950, P. 27.

¹⁵ *Minutes* of the DNCC, 10 December, 1951, p. 94 and 27 December, 1951, p. 92.

Dacca-Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DNCCI), 1952-59: The third phase of the evolution of the Chamber began with another name change. In order to deal with the increasing tempo of industrialization in the eastern part of the Indian Subcontinent, the Committee realized that the Chamber should be authorized by its Constitution to deal with industrial as well as commercial matters. A proposal to change the name of the Chamber to 'Dacca-Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry' (DNCCI) was approved and the Committee notified its members accordingly. It was considered advisable to amend the constitution of the Chamber to provide for the addition of the word 'Industry' in the terms of reference of the Chamber.¹⁶ A special resolution to that effect was therefore adopted at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Chamber held on 15 July 1952.¹⁷ A few other articles and clauses were also amended, after being proposed by AD Boldy and seconded by NG Smith at the EGM. The meeting was chaired by the Chamber President Mr RWN Ferguson.¹⁸

The High Court ruled that the Chamber's Memorandum of Association could be altered under Section 12 (2) of the Companies Act 1913. The court's approval was obtained by an order dated 12 December 1952. The consent of the Government of Pakistan was received in July 1953. The approval of the Government of East Bengal to this change in the Chamber's name was received towards the end of July 1954.¹⁹

The activities of the Chamber increased rapidly in this phase because of the increased pace of industrialization in East Bengal. A large number of mills and factories were established in the area around Dhaka and Narayanganj at this time. For the first time, local businessmen participated actively in chamber committees and sub-committees in this phase of DNCCI.

Chamber membership was now opened to both government and non-government bodies. The number of members of the Chamber also increased. 58 business-firms received membership in 1954, the highest number in the DNCCI phase of MCCI's history.²⁰ The Chamber started to deal with matters relating to Law and Legislation, Import and Export, Communications and Customs, Taxation, Arbitration, Licensing, Development, Finance etc. There were now regular exchanges with politicians and civil servants. This close working relationship produced beneficial results for the country. Merchants and industrialists were inducted by government and were entrusted with nation-building tasks. The Chamber

¹⁶ *Minutes of the DNCC*, 15 July 1952, p. 140.

¹⁷ *Annual Report of the DNCCI*, 1954, p. 5.

¹⁸ *Minutes of the DNCC*, 15 July 1952, p. 140.

¹⁹ *Annual Report of the DNCCI*, 1954, pp. 5-6.

²⁰ *Annual Report of the DNCCI*, 1954, pp. v-vi.

President, MM Ispahani, opined that 'it is to the credit of the business community that such tasks, whether in the field of Commerce or Banking or Industry, were performed with great devotion and zeal'.²¹ Mr Ispahani stressed that 'the mercantile community was held in high esteem by the people and Government. People rejoiced when an industry, whether a Jute Mill or a Cotton Mill, was established.'²²

1958, the last year of the third phase of the Chamber, was a year of considerable progress. Local industries, particularly jute mills, were thriving and jute, the golden fibre, was earning an increasing proportion of the Country's foreign exchange. The Chamber, at that time, worked very closely with the Pakistan Jute Association. Indeed, both shared the same office in Narayanganj. The Government relied a great deal on the Chamber to resolve trade and commercial problems, and received wise and unbiased advice from it. The Chamber, by inclination and because of circumstances, had its roots in fundamental regional pursuits and occupations, and members took a personal and experienced interest in all aspects of agriculture, trade, commerce and industry.²³

Nevertheless, every now and then, the Pakistan government continued to impede the work of the mercantile community of East Bengal. For example, when, in 1955, a high-level business delegation from India came to visit East Bengal the Chamber did not get permission to meet the delegation because of the lack of support of the Pakistan government.²⁴

Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI), 1959-79: It was in the fourth phase of the evolution of the Chamber that it became the leading voice of responsible business in Bangladesh. This era is thus one of the most significant phases in the evolution of the Chamber. In this phase, the Chamber was renamed again when the word 'Dacca' was removed. The Ministry of Commerce reallocated the jurisdiction of chambers. When the Dacca Chamber of Commerce received government recognition, the issue of changing the name of the Dacca-Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry automatically received special attention. When the Narayanganj Chamber applied to the government for recognition the government responded by removing the word Narayanganj from the 'Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry' (NCCI).²⁵ The Chamber subsequently received Government recognition and license from the Ministry of Commerce on April 1, 1959.²⁶

²¹ 'Message' by MM Ispahani, the Chamber President of 1955-56, *Annual Report: 1978-79, Diamond Jubilee Year (1904-79)*, p. 95.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ 'Message' by WR Longwill, the Chamber President of 1958, *Annual Report: 1978-79, Diamond Jubilee Year (1904-79)*, p. 96.

²⁴ *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 12 July, 1955, pp. 83-84.

²⁵ *Daily Azad*, 10 March 1959, p. 2.

²⁶ License No. 3, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan, 16 March 1959.

The Chamber then, took steps to amend the Articles of Association according to the requirements of the Government notification. The Articles were amended in an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Chamber held on 11 August 1959.²⁷ The Chamber President briefly explained the objective of the meeting. He said, that the Memorandum and Articles of the Association were amended in December in compliance with the government notification of 18 November 1958, regarding re-organization of the Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations. 'Certain Objections' were raised by the Government, he noted, and the Chamber was asked by it to further amend the Articles in the light of the objections. The President noted that the Articles of Association were subsequently changed as directed by the Government. 41 members attended the meeting, where the Special Resolution was passed unanimously.²⁸ The Chamber received a Certification of Incorporation under the Companies Act of 1913, on 8 October 1959, from the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies of East Pakistan.²⁹

The NCCI was transformed into an organization of exclusively local businessmen in this phase. It now started to take an active part in developing the trade and commerce of the then East Paistan under the leadership of mostly *Bangali* entrepreneurs. The Chamber now earned high status for its members with its devotion, hard work and the integrity of Committee members and member-firms.

The early years of the fourth phase were remarkable because of the many challenges faced by the Chamber. In spite of dropping 'Dacca' from the name, the existing members of the Dhaka area remained enrolled with NCCI. The Chamber was afterwards recognized under the Trade Organisation Ordinance, 1961. The Government further re-allocated its jurisdiction, granting it the areas of Dacca-Narayanganj, Demra, Tongi and Tejgaon. But in April 1962, The President of the NCCI contacted the President of the Dacca Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and came to an agreement with regard to the respective jurisdictions of the two chambers. The Committee was of the view that Tangail and Tejgaon should be under the jurisdiction of the Dacca Chamber of Commerce and Bhairab, Tongi, Faridpur and Goalundo should be under the jurisdiction of the Narayanganj Chamber.³⁰ The total members of the Chamber, in this phase, was 139, whereas in the previous phase it was only 58.

²⁷ *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1960, p. 27.*

²⁸ *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1960, pp. 27-31.*

²⁹ 'Certification of Incorporation', No.1305-E.P./34 of 1959-60.

³⁰ *Minutes of the NCCI, 12 April 1962, p. 526.*

In an interview CK Hyder observed that,

‘the Chamber got new impetus after 1971 and it didn’t look back from that time onwards. The Chambers of Commerce and Industry now gained consultative status and participated at the policy-making level with the Government, offering it their research-based suggestions whenever appropriate.’ Mr Hyder went on to say ‘it was quite an achievement for a businessman or an organization to be seated close to a Minister or a Secretary on policy formulation or implementation in those days.’³¹

In independent Bangladesh, the Chamber was given the opportunity to regularly contribute its views and suggestions in the policy-making process of the trade, commerce and industry of the Country. At the same time, it started playing a useful role to solve problems of its member-firms and for their betterment. The experience of working with the Bangladesh Government in this initial period and until 1974 was, however, not smooth. The Chamber did not invite either the Minister of Commerce or of Industries to address Chamber members from 1972 to 1974. The then President of the Chamber did not agree with the economic views of the Government and claimed that he was fully supported by the Chamber members in taking this stand. DCCI took full advantage of this unhappy relationship between the Government and NCCI. Bangladesh was experiencing an economic crisis, resulting from faulty distribution, erratic export performance, stagnation in investment, labour indiscipline and an unsatisfactory law and order situation – situations almost inevitable in a just-born country. In spite of everything, NCCI continued its efforts to reinforce the structural basis of the Bangladesh economy. Its representatives attended meetings of the representative bodies of the Government, expressed their opinions or views, and submitted suggestions for policy making. The Government would also listen to the voices of the business community of the country and try to accommodate their suggestions before taking decisions on economic issues.³²

In the late 1970s, the Chamber’s connection with the wider world was accelerated significantly. In 1976, two Chamber members visited Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan along with a government delegation to invite foreign investors to Bangladesh. This practice continued in subsequent decades.

For their part, foreign delegates also started to visit Bangladesh and meet the Chamber Committee. In 1977, Mr Claude Vidalain, Charge de Mission, French External Trade Council, met members of the Chamber Committee and discussed possibilities of joint collaboration in trade and commerce between Bangladesh and France.³³

³¹ ‘Interview’ of CK Hyder, MCCI, Dhaka, 24 April 2014.

³² *Annual Report* of the NCCI, 1973, pp. 2-3.

³³ *Minutes* of the NCCI, 17 May 1977, p. 1404.

The Chamber arranged a seminar on the “Two Year Plan” that was held at the Chamber Building on 20 June 1978. The Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh, requested the Chamber to arrange the seminar. Three papers on the ‘Two Year Plan Private Sector’, ‘Some Aspects of Financing and Domestic Resources Publication’ and ‘Creation of Job Opportunities and too much Dependence on on-going Projects’ were presented by the Chamber members. In the meeting a number of important recommendations were made, including creation of a separate cell for formulation of policy measures to help promote private sector industries. The Planning Commission sent some of these recommendations to the Ministry of Industries for its comments.



Diamond Jubilee Celebration of NCCI. Source: *The Bangladesh Observer*, 21 June, 1979

The biggest event arranged by the Chamber in this phase was the celebration of its Diamond Jubilee on 20 June 1979. The NCCI decided to commemorate its glorious completion of 75 years in style. The Chamber invited many dignitaries of the country such as the ministers of Finance, Commerce and Industries, secretaries of relevant departments, academics, ambassadors of major countries, industrial leaders and other distinguished persons, who responded cordially to its invitation and joined the occasion. This event was a great success and appreciated by all. A Diamond Jubilee Celebration Publication was also produced by the Chamber to everyone’s satisfaction. Four national daily newspapers published supplements on this occasion, filled with articles and messages. See Appendix 24.

The Chamber in 1971: The fourth phase of the evolution of the Chamber was especially significant because the Chamber witnessed the Liberation War of Bangladesh during this time. It was a unique and glorious time in the history of the Chamber.

1971 was the most difficult period the Chamber had to face in its 110 years of history. The Chamber played a significant role in the Liberation War of Bangladesh, though it did so covertly. It offered whole-hearted support for the cause of the freedom movement. Mr CK Hyder recalls, for example,

“... the night of March 26, 1971, when we hoisted the flag of Bangladesh at the rooftop of the Chamber building; we donated money, food and extended our support to the freedom fighters who came to us during the liberation war. For the security of the Chamber and the country, we had to destroy some important documents so that the Pakistani government could not have access to these. We secretly gave our suggestions and supported the formulation of the new government. After the Liberation War, we regularly expressed our opinions, views and suggestions through well-researched papers on various policy matters.³⁴”

Mr M Anis Ud Dowla, the former President of the Chamber, says that

“the Chamber definitely played an important role during the Great Liberation War. During the Liberation War, one of our former Presidents Mr A Ahad disappeared forever. When the non-cooperation movement was going on, the Chamber supported the move of not paying any tax to the Government of Pakistan. In this way, the Chamber supported the freedom movement under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.”³⁵”

From March 25, 1971, the communication systems of the Country completely broke down. The Chamber Committee was then asked by the Martial Law authorities to resume its courier services between Dacca and Chittagong and Dacca and Khulna. In a meeting held in April 1971, the President of the Chamber informed members that the Insurance Association of Pakistan had decided not to cover the losses or damage to properties suffered after March 25, 1971, in the wake of military operations in the province. The Committee agreed that the matter should be taken up with the Government and the Insurance Association of Pakistan as well as local Martial Law authorities and financial institutions like IDBP, NIT, ICP etc.³⁶ At a subsequent meeting, the President of the Chamber

³⁴ ‘Interview’ of CK Hyder, MCCI, Dhaka, 24 April 2014.

³⁵ ‘Interview’ of Anis Ud Dowla, Former President of the MCCI, Dhaka, MCCI Office, 11 May 2014.

³⁶ *Minutes* of the NCCI, 7 May 1971, p. 992.

pointed out that he had spoken to Mr VA Jafri, CSP, the Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan, and urged him to impress on the Government that the Insurance Association of Pakistan should be made to accept losses due to the recent disturbances, payable under the 'Riot and Strike Damage' clause. One member mentioned in the meeting that Insurance companies were not covering risks under 'Civil Commotion' or risk of 'Damage by Miscreants'. The Committee decided that this was a serious matter since losses could run into hundreds of thousands of rupees. It was decided that a telegram should be sent to the Ministry of Commerce asking it to make arrangements immediately for such coverage through the Pakistan Insurance Corporation.³⁷

The Chamber Committee held an emergency meeting on 12 March 1971 that was chaired by the then President Mr A Qayyum and attended by Mr Nawab K Hasan Askari, Mr Mohammad Bhai, Mr SM Doja, Mr R Grant, Mr AA Kahlon, Mr Y Amanullah Khan, Mr WR Longwill, Mr CM Murshed, Mr Md Saifur Rahman and Mr Rashid Ahmed. The President welcomed members to the meeting of the Committee and went on to say that:

“ it had been the practice with Narayanganj Chamber to avoid involvement in political movement of any nature but since the present movement is no longer a political movement and as it has become a peoples' movement, it would be advisable for the business community to identify themselves with the current movement under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Committee unanimously agreed with this view. The Committee then resolved that a telegram be sent to the President of Pakistan urging him to accept the demands of Shiekh Mujibur Rahman without any further delay and thus save the country. The Committee approved the draft of the telegram, placed before it by the President.³⁸”

At the same meeting, the Chamber Committee decided to donate Rs 10,000 to the East Pakistan Awami League Relief Fund in response to an appeal from Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It also discussed various difficulties being faced in trade, commerce, and industry and decided to set up a sub-committee to deal with these matters.³⁹

On August 2, 1971, the Vice-President of the Chamber wrote a letter to the President informing him that the 'Central Peace Committee' had approached him for donations. The President replied that though "the Peace Committees were doing good work" and deserved

³⁷ *Minutes of the NCCI, 10 June 1971, p. 997.*

³⁸ *Minutes of the NCCI, 12 March 1971, p. 985.*

³⁹ *Ibid.*

support ... “in view of the deteriorated economic conditions it may not be possible for member-firms to donate to it”. In this very tactful manner the Chamber successfully evaded donating money to the so-called “Peace Committees” set up by collaborators of the Pakistani army.⁴⁰

The pressure for donations to the ruling party of Pakistan became ever stronger at this time. In a meeting on December 10, the Chamber President said that there had been “considerable pressure” by the Administration for donations to the Governor’s Defense Fund. The President said that he had tried to resist the pressure for some time but it seemed now that any further show of indifference would be misconstrued. The Committee circulated the request of the donation to its members without giving any indication of the amount to be donated so that members could take their own decisions. However, the Chamber Committee decided that “they should make no contribution of its own”.⁴¹

After December 16, 1971, the Chamber went back to work immediately to reconstruct the socio-economic foundation of Bangladesh. On December 22, 1971, a meeting was held to welcome the new government of independent Bangladesh. The Chamber pledged its whole-hearted support to the government in its task of building a prosperous country free from all exploitation. The Committee of the Chamber congratulated the Mukti Bahini and expressed its gratitude for the service it had rendered to the nation. The meeting demanded the immediate release of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The meeting condemned the inhuman massacre of intellectuals and demanded an enquiry into the matter. It sympathized with the bereaved families and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls. The meeting directed the Secretariat to publish a suitable message in all newspapers.⁴²

At a meeting on December 29, 1971, the Chamber decided to send a representation to the government with a number of suggestions. These suggestions were directed at allowing commercial, industrial firms and companies and trade organizations the right of waiver from the requirement of obtaining prior approval from Bangladesh Bank and also withdrawal of restrictions as far as possible.⁴³

At a meeting on 5 January, 1972, the Committee decided that it would be better if the government promulgated an Ordinance superseding the requirements of the Companies’ Act for the purpose of substituting the word ‘Bangladesh’ for ‘Pakistan’ or ‘East Pakistan’.⁴⁴

⁴⁰ *Minutes of the NCCI*, 2 August 1971, p. 999.

⁴¹ *Minutes of the NCCI*, 10 December 1971, p. 1113.

⁴² *Minutes of the NCCI*, 22 December 1971, p. 1115.

⁴³ *Minutes of the NCCI*, 29 December 1971, p. 1117.

⁴⁴ *Minutes of the NCCI*, 12 May 1972, p. 1140.

Mr Kamruddin Ahmad, President NCCI from 1972 to 74, is quoted to have said: 'On 16 December 1971 Pakistan Armed Forces surrendered and War of Liberation came to an end. Bangladesh emerged as a sovereign People's Republic but I was still in the custody of the Pakistan Army. The Jail Gate was opened on the 17 December by the Mukti Bahini and I came out as a free citizen of a newly independent state... I became the President of NCCI and had to continue for three consecutive years, the longest period one is allowed under the Chamber constitution to hold that post'.⁴⁵

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI), 1979-1999: The fifth phase of the evolution of the Chamber was perhaps the most important phase in its long history. With a legacy of 75 years of history, the Chamber entered this dynamic phase by calling itself, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI for the first time). The renaming of the Chamber occurred at the Diamond Jubilee Celebration in 1979. It was according to the requirements of the Government that the Chamber had to change its name once again. Now that it had become MCCI, the Chamber came out from a restrictive geographical jurisdiction and most leading companies of the country became its members. Any trade group or company could become a member of any chamber across the country. The Chamber tactfully negotiated the challenges arising from this change under the leadership of the then Chamber President, Mr Anis Ud Dowla and the then Secretary Mr CK Hyder. As the Narayanganj Chamber was the leading chamber of the Country, the jurisdictional case became a big issue at this time. The Chamber office had already been shifted to Dhaka from Narayanganj. It was at this juncture, that the Chamber approached the government to help it solve the issue of jurisdiction.

The Chamber Committee worked hard at resolving the situation and on its advice the Ministry of Commerce eventually issued an order approving the change of the Chamber's name from Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI) to Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dacca (MCCI, Dacca), subject to the conditions that (a) the existing area of operations would remain unchanged; (b) none of the existing members of the Dacca Chamber of Commerce and Industry would be enlisted as members without prior agreement of the Dacca Chamber; and (c) representations would not be sought in any advisory bodies where Dacca Chamber of Commerce was represented at the expense of the latter.⁴⁶

Following the government's approval, the Committee organized an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Chamber on 20 December 1979. The meeting unanimously adopted the new name and the formal certificate of the change of name from Narayanganj Chamber

⁴⁵ 'Message' of Kamruddin Ahmad, *Annual Report of 1978-79, Diamond Jubilee Year (1904-1979)*, p. 100.

⁴⁶ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dacca, 1980*, p. 41.

of Commerce and Industry (NCCI) to Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) was accepted unanimously on 21 December 1979.⁴⁷

In an interview, Mr Anis Ud Dowla, the then President of the Chamber, recalled the history of the renaming of the Chamber as MCCI as follows:

“... After long negotiation with the government as well as the Dacca Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Chamber established its co-jurisdiction. The existing jurisdiction of the Chamber remained the same and we all came to a “Gentleman’s Agreement” with the Dacca Chamber in relation to enrolment of member-firms. Both chambers dealt with the matter with due care and gave it special attention. Mr CK Hyder, Secretary of NCCI, then played a significant role in choosing the word ‘Metropolitan’ for us. In a meeting of the NCCI Committee members, the word ‘Metropolitan’ was chosen after a long discussion. We opted for the word ‘Metropolitan’ because of strategic reasons. As it was not confined to any specific area, existing member-firms could easily keep their association with the Chamber. The Dhaka Chamber also didn’t raise any objections to the new name. It was thus that after celebrating its Diamond Jubilee, the Chamber entered into a new phase as MCCI, Dhaka, from 21 December, 1979.”⁴⁸

The 1970s can be termed as the ‘Golden Period’ for the Chamber and at the same time can be seen as the transitional period for trade, commerce and industries in Bangladesh. In this decade, privatization and denationalization of the industries took place at a brisk pace. The process of privatization was initiated by the government but the Chamber played a key role by submitting a well-researched paper on this issue.⁴⁹

In course of time, MCCI became the most noted chamber of the country. More and more firms became its members. Most leading businesses and firms opted to join the Chamber. The total number of members of the Chamber, in this phase, amounted to 279, whereas in the previous phase it was only 139.

In collaboration with the National Press Club, the Chamber organized a two-day seminar entitled ‘Policy Options for Economic Break-through’ in May 1992, at the Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka. The Seminar was inaugurated by the Prime Minister and

⁴⁷ *Ibid.* ‘The Certification of Incorporation’, Issue No.1220, Office of the Register of the Companies, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh, 21 December, 1979.

⁴⁸ Interview’ of Anis Ud Dowla, MCCI, Dhaka, 11 May 2014.

⁴⁹ Interview’ of Anis Ud Dowla, 11 May 2014.

addressed by the Finance Minister and the Minister of Planning. The Leader of the Opposition joined the closing ceremony and a large number of MPs, diplomats, journalists, economic and social thinkers, and political and trade union leaders participated in the discussions.⁵⁰



Sheikh Hasina, MP, Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition and President of Bangladesh Awami League addressing the national seminar on "Policy Options for Economic Breakthrough" on 11 May, 1992



Begum Khaleda Zia, MP, Hon'ble Prime Minister, inaugurating the national seminar on 'Policy Options for Economic Breakthrough' on 10 May, 1992.

⁵⁰ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1992, p. 33*

MCCI took an active part in assisting the government in its policy making and put forward its suggestions to that effect. In the 1980s and 1990s, the Chamber participated in most nationally or internationally important issues connected to the development of trade and commerce and came up with its opinions or suggestions. The Chamber became much more responsive to the needs of the people of Bangladesh in this phase. It began issuing public statements or press releases on significant events to convey its concerns on key business issues. Some of the core activities of the MCCI, in this phase, included regular correspondence on trade and commerce-related issues with national and international trade bodies and government and non-government bodies, and signing MoUs with globally recognized chambers and attracting foreign investors.



Mr Jean-Pierre Goyer (3rd from left), Leader of the Canadian Businessmen's Team accompanying the Prime Minister of Canada addressing the members of the MCCI, Dacca on 21 Nov, 1983

This phase may be termed as the preparatory stage for the next phase of the Chamber when it would have to face the upcoming challenges of the new millennium. The Chamber thus commented on two important documents of the Planning Commission – 'Thoughts on the Third Five Year Plan (1985-1990)' and 'Thoughts about the Perspective Plan'. Chamber members were included in nearly all the panels of experts of the Planning Commission formed to offer recommendations on different issues to be covered by the Third Five-Year Plan.⁵¹

⁵¹ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dacca, 1984, p. 33.*

Since the 1980s, the Chamber has submitted proposals to the government on National Budgets, Export-Import policies and Enhancement of Power Tariff.⁵² In 1984, the Chamber became affiliated with the International Chamber of Commerce (Paris) and joined the ICC.⁵³ The Bangladesh-Malaysia Joint Economic Committee met the members of the Chamber to discuss the possibilities of increasing trade and business between these two countries.⁵⁴

In 1988, the then Prime Minister of Bangladesh called on the Chamber Committee and discussed the strategy to be adopted for doubling the Country's exports by 1990. The Chamber Committee subsequently provided its suggestions on this issue.⁵⁵

International exchanges of the Chamber continued on a regular basis. A 10 member delegation of the Chamber, for instance, visited Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan and the People's Republic of China from 5 to 25 October, 1989. In the course of these visits, the Chamber delegation met trade bodies, ministers and business personalities to discuss issues concerning industrialization, export promotion, possibilities of trade and commerce affording mutual benefits, ports and shipping services, and other relevant matters.⁵⁶

Meetings of the Chamber with heads of political parties were important and useful as the exchange of views with them facilitated discussion on relevant provisions relating to trade and industry in their respective election manifestos. The Chamber offered its views and suggestions towards making their election manifestos trade and commerce-friendly.⁵⁷

The Chamber maintains regular contacts with business delegations from overseas. The Chamber also has regular contacts with ambassadors and high commissioners of various countries to Bangladesh to extend business and trade activities across the Country. Chamber Delegations have visited various countries at regular intervals. On 1 January 1992, an eleven member delegation of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), Calcutta visited MCCI. This visit was important in establishing joint venture projects of BCCI in Bangladesh. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between MCCI and BCCI envisaging industrial cooperation between India and Bangladesh. The scope of

⁵² *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dacca, 1984, p. 33; Annual Report of the MCCI, Dacca, 1985, p. 29.*

⁵³ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dacca, 1984, p. 40.*

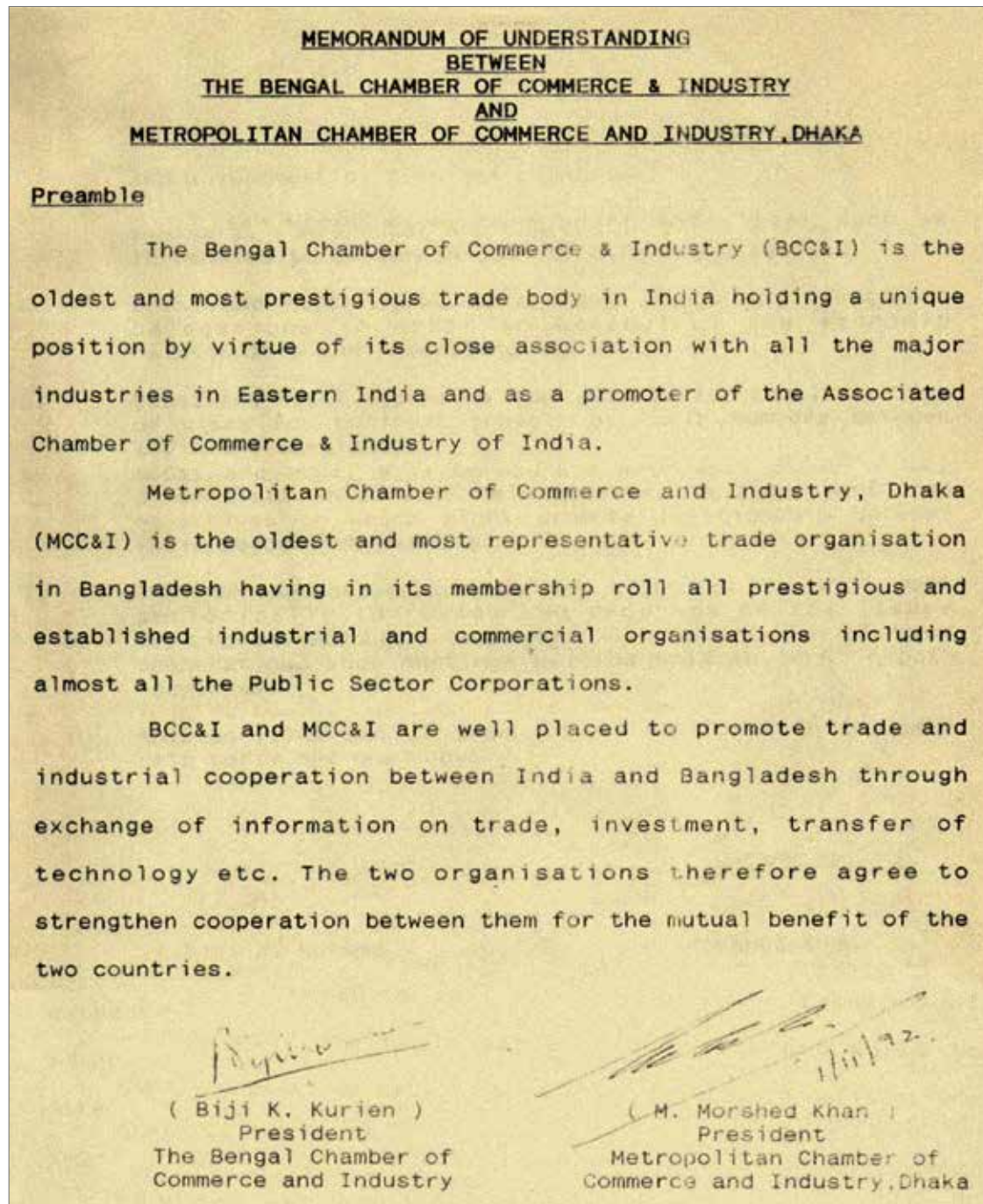
⁵⁴ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dacca, 1985, p. 26.*

⁵⁵ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 1988, p. 34.*

⁵⁶ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 1990, p. 33.*

⁵⁷ The Chamber Committee reviewed the outcome of the meetings with the Acting President of the country and the chiefs of 8-Party and 7-Party Alliances. *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1991, p. 35.*

collaboration for a large number of industries was created as a result of the Chamber's active role in promoting trade and industry in Bangladesh.⁵⁸ This MoU signing event remains a milestone in the history of the evolution of the Chamber.



Detail of the Original document of the MoU between MCCI and BCCI is added in the Appendices Section. See [Appendix 23](#).

⁵⁸ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 1993, p. 42.*

In 1993, the Chamber came up with a number of proposals for the government on 'Import Policy Order' and the 'Three Years Export Policy, 1993-96'. This was also the first time, that the Chamber issued review proposals in Bangla. The Chamber scrutinized the original policy drafted by the Government and pointed out loopholes in it. The arguments it came up with were highly appreciated by concerned bodies.⁵⁹

The credibility of the Chamber, as far as the Government was concerned, gathered momentum in this phase when the Chamber's proposal to the Prime Minister entitled 'Economic Agenda of the New Government' was received with much appreciation and given high importance. The proposal was handed over to the Prime Minister on 25 July, 1996,⁶⁰ as soon as the new government, formed under the leadership of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, came to power.

In this phase the importance of the Chamber continued to increase. A Joint Task Force, formed in 1994, between the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) Joint Task Force, handed over its report on improving business ties to the Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and India on 6 January, 1997, during the visit to Dhaka of the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Deve Gowda. Later, the CII-MCCI Joint Task Force was renamed as the CII-MCCI Joint Economic Council. It is a body which continues to review the trade and economic relationships between the two countries.⁶¹

In the final years of the fifth phase of its history, the Chamber continued to forge strong international connections. Dr Joseph Stiglitz, Chief Economist and Senior Vice President of the World Bank, visited the Chamber and met with Committee members to discuss economic issues on March 15, 1999.⁶² The Chamber extended host facilities to a Taiwan Turnkey, Engineering & Electronic Trade Mission from 8 to 9 April 1999. Missions of the European Union met members of the Chamber Committee on April 11, 1999, to discuss prospects of trade and commerce. A delegation from the Chamber visited Singapore to attend a seminar on business opportunities in Bangladesh, on 14 July 1999, organized by the Chamber jointly with the Bangladesh High Commission in Singapore, Singapore Confederation of Industries and Singapore Trade Development.⁶³ A 15-member Trade and Investment delegation from Singapore met members of MCCI on October 12, 1999.⁶⁴ These are but a few examples that demonstrate the links that MCCI has been creating with the outside world.

⁵⁹ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 1993, pp. 51-63.*

⁶⁰ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 1996-97, p. 30.*

⁶¹ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 1996-97, p. 34.*

⁶² *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 1999, p. 31.*

⁶³ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 1999, p. 33.*

⁶⁴ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2000, p. 26.*

The Chamber's role in the trade and industry of Bangladesh as well and its economic development during the last two decades of the 20th century has been remarkable. It has been adopting pragmatic policies at home and has been reaching out externally. The Chamber, in other words, has prepared itself, in this phase, to meet the challenges of the new millennium.

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI), 2000-Present: Since 2000, the Chamber has been facing a world whose economy has become entirely different from the past. In this new millennium, the role of the Chamber in the economic sector has developed significantly as it emerged as the leading voice of the business community of Bangladesh. The Chamber is having to deal with the impact of globalization and has had to reshape itself vigorously to adapt to it.

Because of intense global competition and the increasing liberalization of trade, MCCI's role has had to change to enable it to cope with the changing environment. MCCI has had to operate much more efficiently and effectively than before in order to tackle distinctive and complex challenges. The rapid growth of the market economy demanded development of different institutions, procedures, laws, means of production, attitudes, and public awareness. The processes related to a market economy and liberalization has made enormous demands on the Chamber.

The private sector of the country has had to strengthen itself in this changing situation. It has had to work on a cooperative basis in policy formulation and implementation. As an institution seeking to undertake and perform new tasks for business and industry, the Chamber has transformed itself accordingly.

In addition to its regular activities, the Chamber has been focusing on environmental issues. The Chamber Committee joined the Environmental Management Program in 2000, expressing its concern over the issue in a meeting at the World Bank's Dhaka Office.⁶⁵ The impact of climate change – a critical issue for many countries, including Bangladesh – has been taken seriously by the Chamber. It organized a discussion meeting on 25 August in 2010, entitled 'Climate Change and Business Opportunities' where members present exchanged their views on the subject.⁶⁶ The Chamber Committee also felt the need to express its solidarity with the business community and associate itself with other trade bodies and organizations of Bangladesh in the "Clean Rivers" campaign.⁶⁷ MCCI has introduced annual

⁶⁵ *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2000, p. 25.

⁶⁶ *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2009, p. 6.

⁶⁷ *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2009, p. 39.

awards on Environmental Issues which has been hailed as an outstanding initiative by many.⁶⁸

The Chamber has continued to develop its international connections and has made more commitments and forged new links in this phase. From the outset of the 21st century, more and more trade delegations have been visiting Bangladesh from all over the world. Chamber delegations have also been visiting different countries regularly to ensure broader marketing and trade facilities for Bangladesh.

The Joint Economic Council (JEC) of the Confederation of Indian Industry and MCCI held its second meeting on 23 February, 2000 and discussed various aspects of Indo-Bangladesh co-operation on trade and industry.⁶⁹ This meeting was especially arranged to discuss a comprehensive list of issues. Participants on this occasion were twice the number that attended the previous meeting.

The Chamber organized a two-day visit of a forty-member trade delegation from Sri Lanka-Bangladesh Business Council (SLBBC), Colombo, in March, 2000, which explored business and investment prospects in Bangladesh.⁷⁰

The President and Secretary-General of the Chamber met Mr Jan Axel Voss, Deputy Head of Mission of the German Embassy in Bangladesh, on 6 July, 2000, and discussed issues of bilateral interest. The Chamber, jointly with Save the Children, UK, sponsored the launching ceremony of *Big Business, Small Hands: Responsible Approaches to Child Labor*, on 21 November, 2000. Princess Anne of the United Kingdom graced the occasion.⁷¹ The Chamber organized a half-day discussion meeting on the World Trade Organization (WTO) and issues arising from its decision to phase out tariff and non-tariff barriers by January 1, 2005. Mr Muchkund Dubey, former Permanent Representative of India to the WTO, was the guest speaker on this occasion.⁷²

In the first decade of the 21st century, the Chamber conducted a series of noteworthy meetings with world famous trade bodies and personalities. It held a discussion meeting with the visiting President of the Japanese Commerce and Industry Association and the JETRO representative at the MCCI office. The Chamber hosted a luncheon meeting in honour of Donald C Mckinnon, Commonwealth Secretary General, at the MCCI office. It held a meeting with Mr Nicholas Stern, Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President of the World

⁶⁸ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2010, p. 35.*

⁶⁹ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2000, p. 29.*

⁷⁰ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2000, p. 26.*

⁷¹ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2001, p. 30.*

⁷² *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2001, p. 31.*

Bank, Washington DC in the Chamber Office on 8 January 2002. A meeting with the US ambassador was held on 24 September 2003.⁷³ Lord Swaraj Paul, a member of the British House of Lords, held a meeting with the members of the Chamber on 8 October 2003. A Thai trade delegation headed by Mr Prachuab Chaiyasan also met members of the MCCI. The Chamber held a discussion and dinner meeting with the Singapore Prime Minister, Mr Goh Chok Tong at a city hotel on 24 June 2004.⁷⁴ A German Business Mission visited Bangladesh from 19 to 26 May, 2006. The visit was organized by the German Asia-Pacific Business Association and was sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Economics & Technology, Germany. The delegation visited the Chamber on 22 May 2006 and exchanged views with members. Both parties emphasized the importance of more mutual cooperation. Chamber members highlighted the favourable investment climate existing in the country. The German team expressed keen interest in investing in textiles and other sectors in Bangladesh.⁷⁵ The Chamber was a partner of the multi-country match-making project, 'South Europe Meets South Asia 2009', funded by the European Commission. The Chamber Secretariat successfully disseminated the purpose and benefit of the project to target groups of the Information Technology and Food Processing sub-sectors in Bangladesh.⁷⁶

A team of experts from the World Bank paid a visit to the Chamber on 14 June, 2009, to hold a pre-consultation meeting with leaders of the private sector to get the views of the business community on what the goals, objectives and strategy of the World Bank's Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) for the upcoming 2010-2013 period could be.⁷⁷

Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) were signed between MCCI and many other chambers and trade bodies across the world. For example, an MoU was signed between MCCI and two Australian trade bodies in 2004.⁷⁸ Later that year, an MoU was signed between MCCI and the Confederation of Nepalese Industries.⁷⁹ Similar documents for promotion of business and trade and economic activities between Bangladesh and China were signed in December 2005 between the Chamber and the Yunnan Provincial Chamber of Commerce and Yunnan Fijian Chamber of Commerce, China.⁸⁰ Other MoUs were also signed where the Chamber played the leading role in promoting commercial growth and economic development.

⁷³ *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2004, p. 30.

⁷⁴ *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2004, p. 35.

⁷⁵ http://www.mccibd.org/chamber_events.php

⁷⁶ *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2009, pp. 33-34.

⁷⁷ *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2009, pp. 38-39.

⁷⁸ *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2004, p. 34.

⁷⁹ *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2004, p. 32.

⁸⁰ *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2006, pp. 24-25.

Chamber members have visited numerous places across the world to build trade and business relations with other countries. For instance, a 10-member delegation visited Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China, from 10 to 17 December, 2005 at the invitation of the Vice Governor, Dehong Prefecture, Yunnan Province.⁸¹ The Chamber's former President, Mr M Anis Ud Dowla, and its Secretary-General, Mr CK Hyder, participated at the 7th International Conference on Corporate Governance held in London on 11-12 May 2006.

The Chamber participated in the "Investment Seminar on Bangladesh" held in Singapore on 23 February, 2010. The Board of Investment of the Bangladesh Government and Singapore Business Federation jointly organized the seminar to mobilize foreign investment in Bangladesh. The Chamber President, Mr M Anis Ud Dowla, presented the keynote paper, entitled 'Key Sectors and Projects for Investment on Private-Public Partnership Basis'.⁸²

A Chamber delegation consisting of its President, Vice-President, two former Presidents and the Secretary-General participated in the 'Partnership Summit 2006' organized jointly by the CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) and the Government of West Bengal in Kolkata from January 18 – 20, 2006. The Chamber took part in a high-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue for LDCs held in Dhaka from 18 to 20 January, 2010. In his presentation at this event, the Chamber President highlighted the need for time-bound programs on poverty reduction, improvement of health, sanitation, safe water, primary education, skills and ICT development. In addition, the President emphasized the importance of dealing with two emerging issues, viz., effects of climate change and the need for updated information and data management systems.⁸³

In addition to delegations from Europe, America and Asia, a few African delegations have also visited the Chamber to promote trade relations. A delegation from the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET), led by Mr KY Amaoko, former UN Under Secretary-General of Economic Commission for Africa, visited the Chamber on 27 March, 2010. A lively discussion was held then on common challenges faced by Least Developed Countries (LDC), possible areas of cooperation, and trade expansion between African countries and Bangladesh. The ACET delegation expressed its keen interest in linking South Asia with Africa through business and investment partnerships, and shared development experiences. The delegation agreed that there are enormous opportunities to promote trade and economic cooperation between Africa and Bangladesh.⁸⁴

⁸¹ *Ibid.*

⁸² *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2010, p. 30.*

⁸³ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2010, p. 29.*

⁸⁴ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2010, p. 31.*

In this phase of its evolution, the Chamber also focused on internal issues. The Chamber arranged a seminar with the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport on ‘Traffic Congestion and its Impact on Business: Some Remedial Measures’ on 21 July, 2010 at the Chamber Conference Hall. The summary of the discussions at the seminar was sent to all concerned ministries and departments.⁸⁵

Chamber members continued to have meetings with very high government members including the Prime Minister, Ministers, the Chairman of the National Board of Revenue, and other high-ranking officials, to discuss important national issues and subjects related to trade and commerce. The Chamber also held meetings with Advisors during the Caretaker Government regime. Chamber members met the Governor of Bangladesh Bank on a number of occasions to discuss national, economic, and financial issues. The Chamber’s meetings with various trade bodies of the country for the promotion of trade and economic development was also part of its regular activities.

The global economic recession was perceived as a threat for all economies at the beginning of the 21st century. The Chamber had to contend with this phenomenon and strove to lessen the impact of the crisis on Bangladesh. It carried out a survey among its member firms to assess the impact of the crisis on the Bangladesh economy and discussed measures needed to tackle the situation.⁸⁶

The Chamber organized a high-profile discussion session entitled ‘Asia 2050 and Bangladesh’ on 26 May, 2011 at the Westin Hotel, Dhaka, to discuss future growth prospects of Bangladesh in the context of a report published by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) entitled ‘Asia 2050: Realizing the Asian Century’. Dr Atiur Rahman, Governor of Bangladesh Bank, was the keynote speaker, and Dr Gowher Rizvi, Adviser to the Honorable Prime Minister on International Affairs, was present as the Chief Guest. Eminent citizens of the country, including leaders of the business community, past presidents of the Chamber, presidents and chairmen of major trade bodies, diplomats, economists, and media personnel were present on the occasion.⁸⁷

To face the challenges of the new millennium, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry has reconceptualized its “Vision” and “Mission”. A strategic planning session was held on 11 February 2012 at Cox’s Bazar for this purpose. After a daylong discussion, members adopted an updated “Vision” and “Mission” statement.⁸⁸ It was decided that the goals set out in the the reformulated “Mission” would be realized

⁸⁵ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2010, pp. 36-37.*

⁸⁶ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2009, pp. 29-30.*

⁸⁷ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2011, p. 36.*

⁸⁸ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2012, p. 27.*

within a span of five years. A formal launching ceremony of the Chamber’s “Vision” & “Mission” was held on 17 April 2012 at Lake Shore Hotel in Gulshan. All members of MCCI and some distinguished personalities from the business community and academics, as well as journalists, were invited to the event.⁸⁹

The preceding section has traced the evolution of the Metropolitan Chamber to its millennium phase. In this phase, Chamber activities increased significantly. The commitment made by the Chamber to the business community and the nation’s economy is in line with its status as the premier Chamber of Bangladesh. It has set an example for other chambers of commerce to emulate.



Chamber Building at Motijheel: After Moving from Narayanganj to Dhaka

⁸⁹ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2012, p. 28.*

The Move from Narayanganj to Dhaka: The Chamber Secretariat was located in Narayanganj for a long time. MCCI moved its Secretariat office to Dhaka in the 1960s. The story of the move from Narayanganj to Dhaka is an integral part of the history of the evolution of the Chamber.

In 1950, the plan for a new chamber building, submitted by architects, Messrs. Ballardie, Thompson and Mathews, was approved by the Committee with a few alterations. The architects were instructed to prepare the design and call for tenders.⁹⁰ On March 10, 1953, the Chamber purchased a plot on Henderson Road, Narayanganj. The Chamber paid Rs 10,000 as advance to the land owner, Mr Hira Lal Paul. As soon as the deed was registered, the Secretary was instructed to commence constructing walls around the plot.⁹¹

In 1952-53, an ad-hoc Development Sub-Committee was set up to examine how the Chamber could best utilize its funds through development of its properties. After examining the options, the Sub-Committee came to the conclusion that because of high costs and shortage of supply of materials at that time, it would not be advantageous to undertake any building program there. The sub-committee felt that instead a building, already built in Dacca and generating a steady income from rents, might be purchased, if available at an attractive price.⁹²

The old Chamber Building (Zuriel Lodge) was partitioned in 1954, in order to provide separate premises for Jute and Gunny Room and the Stock Exchange.⁹³ It was decided in one Committee meeting that the section of the Lodge building which had been partitioned off would be rented out to a member firm. An arrangement was made to leave half of the Chamber Building to Louis Dreyfus & Co Ltd.

From 15 December 1956, this member continued to occupy a portion of the building. The Secretary now moved his residence to Dhaka in accordance with the decision of the Committee. As a result, the first floor remained vacant and was rented to Landale & Morgan (Pakistan) Ltd. for a period of three years from June 1, 1956.⁹⁴ The Committee also decided that the building at Henderson Road, Narayanganj, would be turned into a residential colony for member firms' employees. Gammon & Co (Pakistan) Ltd., a member firm, was requested to inspect the Chamber's Henderson Road land and submit a report on its condition. Meanwhile, Omar Sons made an offer to sell their Motijheel Building to the

⁹⁰ *Minutes of the NCC*, 3 January 1950, p. 7.

⁹¹ *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 24 March 1953, p. 196.

⁹² *Annual Report of the DNCCI*, 1954, p. 7.

⁹³ *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 1 November 1955, p. 100.

⁹⁴ *Annual Report of the DNCCI*, 1956, p. 41.

Chamber, and after a series of negotiations, the Chamber took a loan of Rs 2 Lacs from the Pakistan Jute Association Committee and bought the building.⁹⁵

In 1956, the Chamber Building at Dacca had its ground floor vacant. It was agreed then that accommodation would be provided there for PJMA. At the end of the year a large area of nearly 4000 sq ft was made available for office or show room use. Some development work was carried out on the infrastructure and a new signboard with the words 'Chamber Building' was erected. The Committee felt, the Henderson Road land was no longer required and arrangements were made for the Joint Steamer Companies to take over the whole building until the expiry of the lease. The Committee also began the process of selling off the property.⁹⁶

In 1960, a decision was taken to donate the land to the Narayanganj Education Society, but the government imposed a requisition order on this donation and later it became a Labor Welfare Center.⁹⁷ The Chamber building in Dhaka remained fully tenanted during 1961, but the Committee decided to raise the rent to 40 Paisa/sq ft for existing tenants and 50 Paisa/sq ft for new tenants.⁹⁸

The Chamber Building at 87/88, Motijheel, was purchased in 1965. After the construction of new modern buildings with improved facilities in the Motijheel area, some of tenants of the Chamber Building left and consequently the Chamber's income from rent fell considerably. Consequently, the Building Sub-Committee and the Chamber Committee decided to sell the building and construct a new one. At the Committee meeting on April 21, 1966, the then President Mr Anwar A Kahlon was authorised to negotiate the sale of the building at Rs 6,50,000/- to Pakistan Red Cross Society on November 2, 1966. The Committee got to know that 'Al-Bawany Chamber' at 122/124 Motijheel, Dacca belonging to Messrs. Ahmed Brothers Ltd., would be sold. The Chamber Committee decided to purchase the building and the land from Mr YA Bawany for Rs 18 Lakhs.⁹⁹ In order to raise money to purchase the 'Al-Bawany Chamber', the Chamber building at Narayanganj was sold to the PJA for Rs 6 lakhs. 'Zurial Lodge' was also sold to PJA for Rs 3 Lakhs. With all the money paid, possession of the 'Al-Bawany Chamber' building was taken on November 01, 1967 and the building was renamed as 'Al-Chamber'.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁵ *Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1956, p. 43.*

⁹⁶ *Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1957, pp. 19-20.*

⁹⁷ *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1960, p. 37.*

⁹⁸ *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1961, pp. 21-22.*

⁹⁹ *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1967, pp. 11-12.*

¹⁰⁰ *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1968, p. 9.*



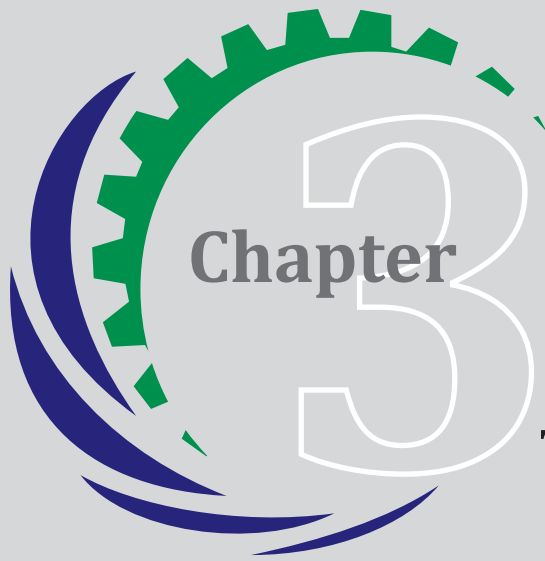
The foyer of the Chamber Building

The Chamber constructed more floors and the building has remained fully tenanted from 1967. In 1988, two new floors were extended. It was decided that the two side wings of the 4th and 5th floors would be used for the Chamber's Conference Hall, Library and other purposes.¹⁰¹ This building is now known as the 'Chamber Building' and is a landmark in Motijheel, Dhaka.



Entrance of the Chamber Building

¹⁰¹ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2002, p. 24.*



Chapter
3

The Chamber Now: Organization





3

THE CHAMBER NOW: ORGANIZATION

The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) is the oldest and the preeminent trade organization of Bangladesh. Its membership roll encompasses leading commercial and industrial organizations of the country, including public sector corporations and local as well as multinational companies. Presently, almost all major enterprises of the manufacturing and service sectors are among its members. The Chamber offers a wide range of professional services to its members. For effective functioning, it has a full-fledged secretariat, which is widely acclaimed as one of the finest in Bangladesh. Although the Chamber was originally established more than a century ago to serve the interest of British businesses in Bengal, it has since evolved into a leading business chamber to preserve and uphold the interests of the Bangladeshi business community.

This chapter of the book elaborates on the organizational structure and the foundation of the Chamber, membership requirements, rights and privileges, subscriptions and other relevant matters. However, due to paucity of primary sources, it is difficult to depict an accurate picture of the early organizational structure of the Chamber. Early records (Annual Reports, Minutes) of this pioneer Chamber are not available in archives and hence reconstructing the Chamber's formative years has not been possible. The Chamber was reorganized, restyled and renamed in 1949 under Section 26 of the Indian Companies Act, 1913 and was subsequently adapted to meet Pakistan-period legal requirements. The journey of the Chamber, its functions, its organizational structures and its services to members, society at large and the nation can only be gleaned properly from the Annual Records and Minutes available from 1949 onwards.

Presently, the Metropolitan Chamber governance consists of office bearers led by the President and a Secretariat headed by the Secretary-General. The secretariat is manned by professional staff. The well-managed Secretariat gives the Chamber its reputation as a highly functioning and visible trade organization of the country and the region. The

Chamber's services, developed over a long period, are comprehensive and cover specialized areas such as taxation, import-export policy, tariff and non-tariff measures, investment policy, WTO matters, macro-economic surveys/studies and other national and international economic and commercial matters. It regularly provides necessary policy inputs and budget recommendations to the Government. The secretariat maintains all records diligently. In fact, MCCI has enhanced its organizational capacity and augmented its effectiveness over the course of its history. In the process, the Chamber inevitably encountered formidable barriers. But the Chamber has withstood the ravages of time successfully and has emerged as a composite body representing varied types and sizes of business. It has incorporated new elements and trends into its administrative machinery from the experience it has gathered for over a century.

In the course of the research undertaken to produce this book, some archival documents of MCCI were discovered in the Bangladesh National Archives, the National Archives of India (New Delhi) and the West Bengal Secretariat Archives. There are some indications of the nature of the early organizational structure of MCCI in these documents. It seems from these documents and other secondary sources that the Chamber began by following the organizational structure of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, established in 1853, by British traders and entrepreneurs. Initially, the Honorary Secretary was a vital figure of the Chamber Committee. He would maintain links with the Bengal Government as well as the Government of India on behalf of the Chamber Committee. There were few member companies at that time and little secretarial work. At the time of the World War II, the Chamber passed through a difficult period. After end of the War, however, the Chamber overcame the adverse situation as some new companies and business firms joined it as members.

It can be stated on the basis of the sources available that initially the Chamber was led only by foreigners; native businessmen did not get access to it until 1947. But in a new political configuration, the Chamber was reorganized in 1949. Its mission and vision became much more region-oriented from this time onward and native businessmen finally started to become part of the Chamber. Nevertheless, it still had no office of its own and usually met in the Narayanganj Club Committee Room or in the Institute and thereafter in Dacca at the Secretary's residence.¹⁰² From 1948 to 1950, the Chamber had a Secretariat, but no permanent staff.¹⁰³ In 1958 the Government of Pakistan decided, that the chambers and associations of trade and industry would have to be reorganized and published a Gazette of Pakistan Extra-ordinary to that effect on 18 November.¹⁰⁴ The Chamber

¹⁰² *Annual Report* of the NCCI, Dacca, 1978-79, p. 94.

¹⁰³ 'Interview' of CK Hyder, former Secretary-General of MCCI, Dhaka, 24 April 2014.

¹⁰⁴ *The Pakistan Observer*, 21 November, 1958.

Memorandums and Articles were amended in accordance with the Government notification. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Chamber was held on 20 November and it was re-styled and re-organized once again through a special resolution.¹⁰⁵ The increasing participation of native businessmen in the Chamber Committee made it more functional and public-friendly. With every major political changeover in the region and due to changing government regulations, the Chamber has had to be re-structured several times in its 110 years history.

Eligibility of Membership: Without membership a chamber of commerce does not exist. Members are its lifeblood. When a chamber offers membership, it does not merely offer its services to members; it is also then sharing its goodwill and prestige with its members. In other words, the positive image of the Chamber and the past work it has done in the community has stood its members in good stead. MCCI has achieved a prominent place among the Chambers of Commerce in Bangladesh. Getting membership in the Metropolitan Chamber is a matter of great honour for companies.

Firms or individuals engaged in export and import or any other trade or owning factories that pay or are liable to pay taxes are eligible for membership of the Metropolitan Chamber. The Chamber consists of four classes of members,¹⁰⁶ namely,

1. Trade Group Members
2. Ordinary Members
3. Associate Members and
4. Town Association Members.

But in practice only Ordinary and Associate Members are found in the list and are actively involved in the Chamber.

Only groups which have been organized to represent specific trades or industries and have been licensed under the Trade Organizations Ordinance 1961 are eligible for Trade Group membership. However, groups who are not licensed under the above mentioned ordinance but whose constitutions are governed by the rules framed by the Chamber are eligible for Trade Group membership. In addition to the above mentioned groups, some branches or zonal offices of associations of trade or industry or of both, organized on an all-Bangladesh basis to represent specific trades or industries or both, are eligible for membership in the Trade Group category.¹⁰⁷ Presently though, there are no members in the MCCI from this category.

¹⁰⁵ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Dhaka: 2013, p. 7.

¹⁰⁶ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Article 3, Dhaka: 2013, p. 9.

¹⁰⁷ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Article 4, Dhaka: 2013, p. 9.

As mentioned above, the Chamber consists mainly of Ordinary and Associate members. Ordinary members form the core of the chamber. They pay annual membership subscriptions and have voting rights. They can also stand for election to the Executive Committee of the Chamber. Associate membership is for firms who prefer not to become ordinary members. The annual subscription for this category of members is charged at a lower rate and they do not have any voting rights. As per the Memorandum of MCCI, all individuals, persons, firms, companies, corporations, banks, ship owners, industrial concerns, solicitors, accountants engaged in commerce, industry, agriculture, mining or manufacture are eligible for election as Ordinary and Associate members.¹⁰⁸

Rights and Privileges: Members depend on the chamber for its services; to speak on their behalf; to come to their rescue when necessary; to join in innovative business programs; and to have a sense of fellowship. Members want the chamber to help them develop and grow, not merely in size but in status in the community; they want their chamber to help them in achieving what we may call the fulfillment of their ambitions. As an accredited organization, the Chamber is entitled to some rights and privileges. Its recommendations on various problems and issues concerning trade, commerce and industry of the country are received with due consideration by the government who also consult the Chamber in such matters. The Chamber also publishes reports and policy papers for its members. It is authorised to issue certificates of origin (CO) in accordance with the requirements of trade and commerce in general or of specific commodities or products in particular. Representatives of trade and industry in local bodies, standing committees, advisory councils, port development trusts, improvement trusts, railway advisory bodies etc. are normally nominated by the Chamber. It seeks affiliation with any organization abroad and send representatives to meetings or conference of similar bodies held in foreign countries.¹⁰⁹

Chamber members have special rights and privileges according to the category they are in. They also receive copies of the Chamber's circulars, publications and other relevant documents.

In case of unresolved differences of opinion between various categories of members on matters on which the government has sought the advice of the Chamber, members of relevant groups have the right to have their viewpoints forwarded to it.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁸ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Article 5-6, Dhaka: 2013, pp. 9-10.

¹⁰⁹ *Annual Report of the NCCI*, Dacca: 1959, pp. 40-41.

¹¹⁰ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Article 13, Dhaka: 2013, p. 11.

Subscription: Member companies pay subscription fees as per the Memorandum of the Association. The annual subscription payable for each class of members is set within minimum and maximum limits. Within the above limits, the committee in office determines the exact amount of subscription payable by each class of members from time to time. Subscriptions become due and payable on the first day of January, but may be declared by the Committee to be payable quarterly, except in the case of Associate members. Members who are elected or who join after the first day of July in any year pay half of the annual subscription for that year.¹¹¹

The annual subscription of member firms has increased in course of time. In 1959, the annual subscription was re-fixed at Rs 750 per annum for a Group Member, Rs 750 per annum for Ordinary Members and Rs 150 per annum for Associate Members.¹¹² A resolution revising the subscription to Tk 2500 for Ordinary Members and Tk 625 for Associate Members was passed to partly meet the recurring shortfall in the Secretariat account.¹¹³

Revision of member subscription is a continuous process and the Chamber does so with the changing economic condition of the country. The present Secretary-General of the Chamber, Mr Farooq Ahmed, noted in 2012 that the current rates of subscriptions, which were fixed in 1986, were no longer adequate and needed to be re-fixed. Some of the members present then suggested that the subscription rates be increased. Accordingly, an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) was held on 22 October 2012, to consider adopting special resolutions for enhancing the annual subscriptions. These were passed unanimously.¹¹⁴ The revised fees are as follows:

Annual Subscriptions (from 2012)¹¹⁵		
Names	Minimum	Maximum
Trade Group Members	Tk 1,00,000/-	Tk 2,00,000/-
Town Association Member	Tk 1,00,000/-	Tk 2,00,000/-
Ordinary Member	Tk 40,000/-	Tk 70,000/-
Associate Member	Tk 30,000/-	Tk 60,000/-

¹¹¹ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Article 25-26, Dhaka: 2013, p. 14.

¹¹² *Annual Report* of the NCCI, Dacca: 1959, p. 48.

¹¹³ *Annual Report* of the NCCI, Dacca: 1978, p. 4.

¹¹⁴ *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka: 2012, p. 6.

¹¹⁵ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Article 24, Dhaka: 2013, p. 14.

Expulsion: The Committee may, at any time, through a majority of its total strength and at its discretion, suspend and/or expel from the Chamber any Ordinary or Associate member for any of the following reasons: (a) Non-fulfillment of contractual obligations and claims arising out of them; (b) Non-payment of any dues of the Chamber within the time prescribed by the Committee; and (c) For any activity which may, in the opinion of the Committee, harm or in any way be detrimental to the interest or general well-being of Bangladesh, the Committee and trade of the country, or the members of the Chamber. Before expulsion, the member in question shall be given notice of complaint or charge and the opportunity to reply to or meet the same. The Chamber Committee has powers to withdraw any suspension made under Article 27 of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the MCCI, Dhaka.¹¹⁶

Management Structure of the Chamber: The Chamber Management System is supervised by office bearers with the support and assistance of the Secretariat. In 1904, the then NCC (now MCCI, Dhaka) Committee consisted of 16 members, including the President, Vice-President and Honorary Secretary.¹¹⁷ In 1949, the re-organization of the NCC was initiated by some business firms operating in and around Narayanganj and Dhaka. They were desirous to form a trade association under the Companies Act 1913. As per the Memorandum and Articles of Association, 1949, they redesigned the organization and signed the Memorandum on the 9th May, 1949.¹¹⁸ Because of scanty source materials the complete reconstruction of the pre-partition structure of the committee is not possible.

After it was restructured in 1949, the Chamber got a new look. The then office of the Chamber was in Narayanganj. In accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the period, the Management of the business of the Chamber was vested in a committee consisting of a President, a Vice-President and up to 24 Members. This Committee was represented by 12 Ordinary Members, 6 Associate Members, 3 Town Association Members and 3 Trade Group Members.¹¹⁹ In course of time, the management system of the Chamber evolved due to the changing pattern of the work. Presently, the Chamber Committee consists of 13 members, elected in the Ordinary and Associate category. Their election to the Chamber Committee is confirmed during the Annual General Meeting. They are known subsequently as Office Bearers and consist of 13 members,

¹¹⁶ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Article 27, Dhaka: 2013, pp. 14-15.

¹¹⁷ CWE Cotton, *Handbook of Commercial Information for India*, Third Edition, New Delhi: Government of India, 1937, p. 49.

¹¹⁸ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Dhaka: 2013, p. 5.

¹¹⁹ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Article 32, Dhaka: 2013, p. 16.

including the President and Vice President. The elected office bearers hold office for a term of three years but are eligible for re-election for another term of three years; on completion of which, one must retire for at least two consecutive years. Thereafter, the same individual becomes eligible for contesting in the election again. In order to maintain continuity and functional efficiency, a third of the members of the Chamber Committee retire every year and an equal number of members are elected in the same year for a term of three years. Thus, a balanced rotation is maintained. The Secretary till 1990 and the Secretary-General from 1991 onwards (when the post of the Secretary was upgraded to Secretary-General), is also the Chief Executive Officer. The Secretary-General has to coordinate all activities of the Chamber and the President is responsible for overseeing all its activities. Currently, among the 13 Committee Members, 12 are from the Ordinary category and one from the Associate Member category.



Major General Amjad Khan Chowdhury (Retd), President MCCI
presiding over a seminar on 7 October 2012

The President is the de-facto head of the Chamber and sees to it that the Chamber fulfills its responsibilities to its members.¹²⁰

The President presides over all meetings of the committee, all general meetings, all deputations and the annual general meetings; in addition, the President has a number of executive and administrative functions to discharge. Some other important activities of the President are as follows: to head the Chamber Committee and chair all meetings as the leader of the Chamber; to oversee the Chamber Committee's work plan for the term of office and to set targets and priorities for Committee members and the Secretariat; to appoint the Secretary-General and monitor the Secretariat's progress in meeting targets set by the Committee; to delegate authority and assign tasks to other Committee members and

¹²⁰ *Memorandum and Articles of Association, MCCI, Article 43-44, Dhaka: 2013, p. 22.*

the Secretariat; to receive visitors, sign documents, host dinners, and officiate at social, sports and other membership events organized by the Chamber. As a negotiator or Spokesperson of the Chamber, the President represents it in its dialogues with the Government; heads delegations attending regional and international meetings; speaks on behalf of the Chamber at press conferences and high level events and makes official announcements. The President has to cast the deciding vote in the event of an impasse in Committee meetings and chairs 'meet-the-members' sessions. If and when appropriate, the President reconciles differences between members and resolves trade disputes.

In an interview Mr M Anis Ud Dowla, former President of the MCCI, noted that as per the articles of association, the President is supposed to be elected by the Committee members. However, there is a good practice in MCCI that in most cases (but not all), the Committee members select the President through mutual consensus and thereafter, the election formalities are completed to fulfil the regulatory compliances. In some cases in the past, when there was more than one Presidential candidate, the outcome was decided through secret ballots. The election of the President is also confirmed during the Annual General Meeting. Mr Anis Ud Dowla observes that

“we are fortunate enough that all of our Presidents were always ready to give time and merit to contribute to the nation and this is the historical legacy of the Chamber. The Chamber President is an established and highly respected person in society and has never attempted to gain personal interest out of it.¹²¹”

The Chamber President is generally regarded as someone who has the stature as well as the ability to overcome the pressure coming from any corner of society. Professionalism, fairness, and community interest have characterized Chamber Presidents over the years.

The President always performs duties with the intention of serving society and the nation. Mr Anis Ud Dowla added in the interview that usually even government ministers have welcomed both the MCCI President and telephone calls from MCCI. Few Chambers have such access to the upper echelons of Government.¹²² It has not been possible to retrieve all the names of former Presidents of the Chamber from existing documents. However, a list of MCCI presidents with names of their companies since 1947 is provided in the Appendices Section. See Appendix 6.

¹²¹ 'Interview' of Mr Anis Ud Dowla, Former President of MCCI, Dhaka, 11 May, 2014.

¹²² 'Interview' of Mr Anis Ud Dowla.



Former Presidents of MCCI, Dhaka

The reputation of the chamber depends largely on the attitude, activity, work ethic and vision of the President, the Vice-President, committee members and the Secretary General, all of whom work as a team. The Chamber President has been working more and more closely with senior officials in the public sector since in market economy partnership activities between public and private sector have been gaining momentum in recent decades.

The Vice-President in the absence of the President has the powers of the President.¹²³

The Chamber Committee is vested with absolute powers to take all policy decisions for the Chamber. It has certain duties explicitly stated in the Articles of Association. These include admitting new members, appointing sub-committees and looking after the properties of the Chamber; arranging for the proper administration of the office of the Chamber, making by-laws or rules for regulation of chamber business, and deciding upon undertaking any new activity of the organization. This body has the power to make all decisions necessary for running the Chamber.

The Committee is elected for one year and its terms of reference are described elaborately in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of MCCI, Dhaka.¹²⁴ Initially, the then NCC (now MCCI, Dhaka) Committee was composed of 16 members, including the President, Vice-President and Honorary Secretary.¹²⁵ After 1949, the NCC was re-organized

¹²³ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Article 45, Dhaka: 2013, p. 23.

¹²⁴ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Article 46-53, Dhaka: 2013, pp. 8, 23-25.

¹²⁵ CWE Cotton, *Handbook of Commercial Information*, p. 49.

and consisted of 7 founding members. From 1954 to 1963, Chamber Committee members were restricted to 9. In 1964, it was increased to 10. From 1965 to 1966 the Committee consisted of 11 members and in 1967 it was run by 12 members. From 1968 the composition of the Chamber Committee members is 13. A list containing names of the committee members of the Chamber (year-wise) to date will be of interest to many, and is given in Appendix 7.

As per the Memorandum and the Articles of the Association, the Committee meets at such time as is deemed advisable, and make such regulations as they think proper to the summoning and holding of committee meetings and for transaction of business at such meetings. Records of their proceedings are kept open for inspection by members.¹²⁶ The Vice-President is ex-officio Chairman of the Committee in the absence of the President. If the Vice-President is absent, the Committee elects a Chairman.¹²⁷ One-third of the members of the Committee form a quorum for the transaction of business. Each Member of the Committee has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman has a second or casting vote. No resolution duly passed at a meeting of the Committee can be amended, altered or rescinded at a subsequent meeting of the Committee held within 12 month of the date of which such resolution is adopted, unless two-thirds of the total numbers of members of the Committee vote for a change. This rule also states that the agenda containing the proposal should be duly circulated amongst members.¹²⁸

An article (no. 51) of the Memorandum of MCCI states that a yearly report of the proceedings of the Committee is to be prepared, printed and circulated for the information of members at least fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting. Such a report is to be submitted to the AGM for confirmation and is to be confirmed or otherwise dealt with or disposed of as the meeting shall determine. The Committee has the power to appoint any Departmental Committees and Sub-committees of the members of the Committee, or of the Members of the Chamber, and to appoint any person as Secretary-General on such remuneration and subject to such terms and conditions as the Committee considers proper.¹²⁹

The duties of the Chamber Committee can be broadly classified into 3 general categories: *Executive Duties* (Policy making, Target setting, Periodic review of policies and directions); *Constitutional Duties* (Admittance and termination of members, managing the business, funds and properties of the Chamber, appointment of committees and delegation

¹²⁶ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Article 46, Dhaka: 2013, p. 23.

¹²⁷ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Article 47, Dhaka: 2013, p. 23.

¹²⁸ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Article 48-49, Dhaka: 2013, p. 23.

¹²⁹ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Article 51-53, Dhaka: 2013, pp. 24-25.

of authority to them, introducing new bye-laws or amendments to the Constitution for expedient regulation of the Chamber's affairs provided that these are approved by a general meeting of the members at an AGM or EGM, entering into arrangements with other organisations on terms and conditions that are deemed advantageous to the Chamber, provided that the objectives of these arrangements are not inconsistent with the objectives of the Chamber); *Administrative Duties* (Ensuring that the Secretariat under the management of an appointed Secretary-General correctly interprets policies laid down by the Committee and meets targets set, providing leadership in activities and functions involving the general membership, representing the Chamber and its members in dialogues with government and other business organisations, serving on statutory boards or other public or private bodies whose terms of reference have relevance to the Chamber, and holding meetings with foreign business leaders at international conventions).

The Sub-Committees are an important part of the Chamber. The Metropolitan Chamber has a number of sub-committees. These committees directly or indirectly assist in managing and completing the overall functions of the chamber and are responsible for recommending and supplying reliable information and advice on different trade and industry-related issues. The sub-committees help by providing observations and analysis on economic and commercially important matters to the Chamber. In most cases, members of the Chamber Committee are conveners of the sub-committees. The conveners assemble for regular meetings to perform the functions of the respective committees. The President, the Vice President and other members of the Committee can attend sub-committee meetings, if needed. See Appendix 8 for names of members of subcommittees in 2014.

The number of sub-committees varies, depending on the needs and management of the Chamber. In 2014 the Metropolitan Chamber, for example, had thirteen (13) sub-committees, although this is not a fixed number. In fact, as the Table below indicates, there have been as many as 14 committees in some years.

A year-wise list of numbers of the sub-committees in Bangladesh era should be of interest to many, and is given below¹³⁰:

Year	Numbers	Year	Numbers
1973	6	1986	12
1975	6	1987-88	13
1978	12	1989-99	14
1979	12	2000-04	14
1980-85	13	2005-14	13

¹³⁰ *Annual Reports* of the NCCI, Dacca (1973, 75, 78) and the MCCI, Dhaka (1979-2014).

The Chamber Committee has the power to appoint any departmental committee or sub-committee on a permanent or temporary basis.¹³¹ With the evolution of the Chamber, the sub-committees have at times been changed and renamed. The sub-committees consist of prominent business leaders of the country, including the Chamber President, along with other committee members. The sub-committees function in a variety of areas such as Establishment, Finance & Membership, Commercial Legislations, Tariff & Taxation, Environment & Climate Change, Corporate Governance & CSR, Infrastructure, Export, FTA & WTO, International Trade & Fair, Investment, Industry and International Relations. The sub-committees reflect the Chamber's areas of interest and functions. The nature of Chamber sub-committees in the Colonial period, however, cannot be determined because of the absence of primary sources.

Since 1949, sub-committees on different issues have been regularly formed on the basis of the Chamber's requirements at certain periods of history. So the character of sub-committees depends on the nature of Chamber activities in different situations. For example, the sub-committee on Jute Fabric Shippers was active in the 1960s but this sub-committee disappeared in independent Bangladesh. However, some sub-committees have always been in existence. In the Bangladesh era, the sub-committees on Company Legislation, International Relations, Chamber Establishment, Commercial Legislation and Foreign Investment have been very important and active constituents of the Chamber.

With more intense global competition and liberalization of trade, the role of MCCI has changed considerably. At home and abroad, MCCI has had to operate much more efficiently and effectively than before in order to cope with new and demanding challenges of the era of globalization. Accordingly, new sub-committees have been functioning after the 1990s such as Customs and Shipping, Transport and Shipping, Tariff and Customs, International Trade and Tariff, Transport, Shipping and Other Infrastructure Services, FTA/ WTO, Investment, Corporate Governance and CSR, International Trade and Fair and Environment and Climate Change. These sub-committees have been formed in order to attract foreign investment, to cope with changes in world trade, to fulfill new millennium challenges and to meet new business goals. All these sub-committees have been playing significant roles in the activities of the MCCI and rendering valuable services to society and the nation. See Appendix 9 for the Chamber Sub-Committees of 110 Years of Services to Trade and Industry.

¹³¹ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, MCCI, Article 53/a, Dhaka: 2013, p. 24.

The Chamber Secretariat: The Secretariat conducts the activities of the Chamber. To carry out its activities, the Chamber requires an efficient and professional secretariat. The Metropolitan Chamber has developed its own secretariat and can now claim to have one of the finest secretariats in Bangladesh and neighboring regions.

The MCCI's Secretariat is engaged in delivering both traditional and non-traditional services. The quality of activities of the Chamber has been proven by the degree of acceptance of the activities of its members. As an active and enterprising chamber, MCCI has initiated new programs to attract more members. The Secretariat's prime roles are to implement policies laid down by the Chamber Committee; to achieve targets set by the Committee; to provide periodic reports to the Committee on its progress; to pursue projects and activities that will enable the Chamber to attain its mission; to monitor trends and developments in commerce and industry and alert members accordingly; to provide secretarial support for committee meetings and keep proper record of proceedings; to make recommendations to the Committee and members on policies and activities that will enhance the effectiveness of the Chamber in rendering services to its members; and to handle the day-to-day operations of the Chamber.

The structure of the Secretariat had changed in the course of the Chamber's 110 years of existence. In 1904, the Secretariat of NCC was administered by an Honorary Secretary.¹³² From available sources, scanty though they are, it can be inferred that some minor structural changes occurred in the Chamber Secretariat at around 1947. Secretariat functions were limited before 1947, because of circumstances such as the economic depression of the 1930s, the Second World War from 1939-45, and the political turmoils of the 1940s. The Chamber Secretariat obtained a regular and salaried Secretary after 1949 when the Chamber was re-styled and re-organized under the Company Act of 1913. As the volume of work increased in the 1950s, the Secretariat was strengthened and the Assistant Secretary post was re-designated as 'Deputy Secretary'. Two posts of Joints Secretaries were created for smooth functioning and boosting the activities of the Chamber.¹³³ Prior to 1991, the Secretary was the keyperson who worked as the CEO of the Chamber Secretariat.

¹³² Letters of Correspondences (1914-1947) between the Govt. of Bengal (GOB) and the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce (NCC), *A Proceedings*, GOB, Commerce Dept., Bangladesh National Archives (BNA).

¹³³ The post of Assistant Secretary of the Chamber was created on 14 March 1951, Deputy Secretary in 1954 and Join Secretary in 1958. This information is collected from the relevant *Annual Reports* and *Minutes* of the Chamber.

After 1991, the Secretariat consisted of full-time staff headed by a Secretary-General appointed by the Chamber Committee.¹³⁴ The post was redesignated and upgraded to Secretary-General in 1991. Previously, the designated secretaries were assisted by two Joint Secretaries. At present, the Secretary-General is assisted by two Secretaries, two Joint Secretaries, one Labour Adviser and one Economic Adviser. The size of the current Secretariat is much bigger than it was before. As the size and finances of the Chamber have expanded, some key positions have been created, including the positions of the Secretary-General, the Administrative and Finance Manager, Secretaries and Executive Officers. The Secretariat is the most important operating organ of the Chamber. It is currently manned by a team of over sixty professional employees headed by the Secretary-General who is also the CEO.

The effectiveness of the Secretariat, of course, depends not only on the professional capabilities of the staff, but also on the degree of independence it is given by the Committee to interpret and implement policies. The Chamber Committee usually does not pose any problems in the path of a favourable work environment and encourages independent decision-making to have work completed smoothly. The Chamber employs staff possessing specialized skills ensuing from training in information technology, market research, public relations and marketing.

The Chamber Secretariat, in course of time, has engaged staff specializing in exports, imports, industries, publications, economic research, arbitration etc. It has its own office, the Secretariat, office premises, conference and meeting hall-rooms to perform all of the functions effectively. The Chamber is financed through regular membership subscription and functions on a non-profit, basis.¹³⁵

Secretarial Services to Other Bodies/Associations: In addition to its regular activities, the Chamber has been offering secretarial services to Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF), the lone national level organization of employers in the country dealing with industrial relations, occupational safety and health, work place cooperation, skills development, labor law and other labor-related issues. Before 1998, the name of the Federation was Bangladesh Employers' Association. CK Hyder had acted as its Secretary from 1972-90 and as Secretary-General from 1991-2008; Farooq Ahmed became the Secretary-General from 2009, while in the East Pakistan Employers' Association, J Garcia and MZ Ahmed had acted as Secretaries.

¹³⁴ *Memorandum and Articles of Association, MCCI, Article 53/f, Dhaka: 2013, p. 25.*

¹³⁵ Farooq Ahmed, 'Know Your Chamber', *Chamber News*, August 2013, pp. 5-6.

MCCI has also provided secretarial services to some important organizations such as East Bengal Jute Dealers Association (1950), East Bengal Hides and Skin Shippers Organisation (1950), the Pakistan Jute Association (1950), East Bengal Jute Balers Association (1951), Khulna Mercantile Association (1952), Hydrolic Press Association (1952), East Pakistan Stock Exchange Limited (1952), Pakistan Jute Mills Association (1953), East Pakistan Fabric Shippers' Association (1955), The Eastern Pakistan Jute Brokers' Association (1956), Insurance Association of Pakistan (1960), Pakistan River Transport Operator's Association (1964), and Shipyards' Association of Pakistan (1967).

The practice of providing secretarial services to the Employers' Association of East Pakistan continued in the DNCCI and NCCI era of the Chamber.¹³⁶ Secretarial services to the Shipyards' Association and Bangladesh River Transport Operators' Association were, however, discontinued for some time due to some internal problems of the Chamber after independence.¹³⁷ This service was discontinued thus in 1972.¹³⁸

In 1974, the Chamber decided to offer secretarial services to the Bangladesh Tea Association. The then President of NCCI, Mr Sabethur Rahman, pointed out that the Chairman of the Tea Association was ready to come to a secretarial arrangement with the Chamber. The Committee thanked Mr Rahman and agreed to offer secretarial services for Tk 1000 per month.¹³⁹ This decision was taken in a Committee Meeting held on 8 March. However, in 1976, the Bangladesh Tea Association decided to discontinue this service. The Chamber approved this decision in a meeting held on 1 August, 1976.¹⁴⁰ The Chamber also provided its secretarial services to the Bangladesh Jute Press Owners' Association and allowed them to use the Chamber Assembly Hall. This decision was taken in the Chamber's Committee Meeting held on 9 September and 14 October, 1976.¹⁴¹

Departments/Cells of the Chamber Secretariat: In its 110 years history, the MCCI Secretariat formed a good number of departments or cells to carry out its activities smoothly and effectively. These departments or cells have been playing significant roles in the development of trade, commerce and industry in the country and have provided support services to member-firms. Currently there are five (05) Departments or Cells

¹³⁶ *Annual Report* of the NCCI: Dacca, 1968, p. 9.

¹³⁷ *Minutes* of the NCCI: Dacca, Resolution No 7, July 26, 1972, P. 1144.

¹³⁸ *Minutes* of the NCCI: Dacca, Resolution No 7, July 26, 1972, P. 1149.

¹³⁹ *Minutes* of the NCCI: Dacca, Resolution No 5, March 8, 1974, pp. 1224-25.

¹⁴⁰ *Minutes* of the NCCI: Dacca, Resolution No 10, August 13, 1976, p. 1335.

¹⁴¹ *Minutes* of the NCCI: Dacca, 1976, p. 1341, 1347.

active in the Chamber. These are: (1) Certificate of Origin (CO) Cell, (2) Research and Publication Cell, (3) Accounts Cell, (4) Dispatch Cell and (5) General Services Cell.¹⁴² At present, Chamber activities are mainly managed and regulated by these departments or cells. The Secretary-General coordinates and supervises the work of all the departments or cells with the help of two secretaries.

From its inception in 1904, the Chamber has maintained its Secretariat to serve its members and to develop trade, commerce and industry in the region. In its early days, the Secretariat was small and only offered very particular services to its members and to the Commerce and Industry departments of the Bengal Government. In course of time the Secretariat gradually incorporated some new departments or cells and began performing many other activities relating to trade and commerce. Some departments/cells came into being on the basis of the category of work required and emerging situations. In its overall existence, the Metropolitan Chamber has had jurisdictions in areas such as Administration, Finance, Research and Training, Taxation, Arbitration, Pre-shipment and Quality Survey Cell, Library, Publications, CSR activities, Public Relation, Weighment and Measure, Staff Welfare activities and Cooperation Agreement etc. The Secretariat provides services to the Chamber Committee and Sub-Committees in holding AGMs; handles membership and services; maintains links with the Government, bilateral and multilateral donor agencies and other trade organizations; works in dispute settlement, policy making, monitoring of implementation of projects, coordinating of holding and attending conferences, seminars and exhibitions at home and abroad. MCCI Secretariat also arranges training courses, workshops, discussion meetings and press-meets. As a vital part of the secretarial job, members are kept posted on all important notifications/circulars issued by government and autonomous bodies concerning trade, commerce, industry, money, banking, finance and labour etc. through circulars issued by Secretariat departments or cells.

Through a particular Department/Cell of the Chamber Secretariat, it issues and amends Certificates of Origin (CO), in respect of shipment of goods. The Certificate of Origin (CO) is a mandatory document for export of various goods. Over the years, CO issued by the Chamber Cell has attained high level of trust and confidence among importers/buyers across the world. On request, it also legalizes export documents which are needed by buyers of most countries. The Certificate Department (well-known as CO Section in the Chamber) has been efficiently handling such assignments for decades.

The Research and Publication Cell¹⁴³ is a major and very important department of the Chamber Secretariat. Some major functions of this cell are: collecting data on trade and

¹⁴² <http://www.mccibd.org/pages/secretariat.php>

¹⁴³ CK Hyder, 'Narayanganj Banik Samiti: Ek Biral Sebar 75 Bachhor' (in Bangla), *Dainik Ittefaq*, 20 June, 1979, p. 9.



Library



Publications of the MCCI, Dhaka

commerce of the country, maintaining a data-base and evaluating economic growth, compiling and updating analysis on industry, monthly production figures of major industries, cost of living index, monthly figures on imports and exports and analyzing trends, policy reviews and evaluations, analyzing the budget of the country, and preparing the Chamber's budget, compiling and publishing *Chamber News*, *Quarterly Economic Reviews*, *Quarterly Review*, *Tax News*, *Bangladesh Economy*, *Annual Report*, *Summary of Taxation Rules* in Bangladesh etc. Presently a research team works under the guidance of an Economic Adviser. A leading economist of the country guides this team with the help of senior officers who have postgraduate degrees in Economics, Management etc. This Cell acts as the 'Think Tank' of MCCI in preparing 'Position Papers' on different economic topics relevant to the Chamber's activities and the economic and trade situation of the country. All these papers are used to pinpoint and analyze problem areas of the country's economy.

The General Cell also renders services to member-firms on issues such as disseminating important information from various Government Gazettes, Notifications and Circulars etc. Some other activities undertaken by the General and Dispatch Cells were previously managed by different departments or cells. Taxation Cell, Arbitration, Pre-shipment Quality Survey, Industrial Relations Advisory Cell, Courier Services Section, Telex Service, Library – all were formerly cells or sections of the Chamber Secretariat.

The Accounts Cell is another important department that handles the accounts and finances of the Chamber.¹⁴⁴

¹⁴⁴ *Annual Report* of the NCCI, Dacca, 1978-79, pp. 108-10; Farooq Ahmed, 'Know Your Chamber', *Chamber News*, August 2013, pp. 5-6.

The Dispatch Cell of the Chamber had introduced courier services in the early 1950s. It used to operate Courier Services from Dhaka to two other commercial centers – Chittagong and Khulna. Urgent commercial mail and important documents were collected from member-firms and dispatched to and from these areas by air to be delivered within a day. The Dispatch Cell also used to offer Telex Service. This service helped disseminate urgent messages such as international tenders for various countries. It was also available to member-firms to enable them to dispatch their messages.

The Taxation Cell is usually headed by a retired Commissioner of Income Tax. It prepares the Chamber's proposals for the Government budget, which include suggestions on Income Tax, Sales Tax, Custom Duty, Excise Duty, VAT etc. It provides services to member-firms on their day-to-day tax problems.

Earlier the Pre-Shipment Quality Survey Department used to carry out pre-shipment quality inspection surveys of tea, jute and jute goods.

Arbitration of the Commercial Cell was another important activity of the Chamber through which disputes vis-à-vis trade and commerce used to be settled after 1947. This was one of the most important responsibilities of the Chamber in settling commercial disputes.

The Chamber's Tribunal used to handle all disputes concerning raw jute and jute goods and other relevant problems. The Tribunal adjudicated disputes from the point of reference to the final award. The Tribunal enjoyed the complete trust and confidence of trade and industry, both within the country and outside.¹⁴⁵

The Chamber has a library with a very good collection of rare books on commerce, industry, law, arbitration etc. It also stacks important and rare Gazette Notifications, Tax News, Chamber Bulletins, relevant journals, works on the Bangladesh economy and other commercially important documents, periodicals, and books which are often used even by government offices for reference purpose.



Library

¹⁴⁵ *Annual Report of the NCCI, Dacca, 1978-79, p. 108.*

Secretary and Secretary-General: Ever since 1904, the Secretariat has been an important administrative organ of the Chamber. It was variously headed by an Honorary Secretary or a Secretary or a Secretary-General.

On the basis of archival documents, we have found the following eight names of Honorary Secretaries in the NCC Phase (1904-50):

AL Godden (1917) ¹⁴⁶
RN Story (1924) ¹⁴⁷
JH Kirkland (1930) ¹⁴⁸
H Williams (1940) ¹⁴⁹
Swarup Mukherjee (1947) ¹⁵⁰
Gillespi Allen (1948) ¹⁵¹
Emorphopulas (1949) ¹⁵²
Jack Garcia (1950) ¹⁵³

The Chamber was re-designed, re-styled and re-organized in 1949 when the post of Honorary Secretary was re-designated to Secretary. This continued till the amendment of the Memorandum and Articles of Association on 31 December, 1990.¹⁵⁴

¹⁴⁶ Letter titled 'Proposal to Suppress the Adulteration of Indian Produce before Export' signed by AL Godden, 'A' Proceedings, Government of Bengal (GOB), Commerce Dept., Bangladesh National Archives (BNA), March 1918, File No. 10-A/1, No. 14.

¹⁴⁷ Letter titled 'Cotton Ginning and Cotton Pressing Factories Bill' signed by RN Story, 'A' Proceedings, GOB, Commerce Dept., BNA, January 1925, File No. 1-A/18 (6), No. 40; Letter titled 'Periods of Wage Payment Bill' signed by RN Story, 'A' Proceedings, GOB, Commerce Dept., BNA, June 1925, File No. 1-A/22 (7), No. 9.

¹⁴⁸ Letter titled 'The Draft Indian Partnership Bill' signed by JH Kirkland, 'A' Proceedings, GOB, Commerce Dept., BNA, November 1930, File No. 1-A/5 (5), No. 19.

¹⁴⁹ Letter titled 'The Bengal Shops and Establishments Bill, 1939' signed by H Williams, 'A' Proceedings, GOB, Commerce and Labour Dept., BNA, August 1941, File No. 1-A/5 (193), No. 14.

¹⁵⁰ Name of Swarup Mukherjee has been mentioned in a Message on Diamond Jubilee Celebration by former President CEC Guthrie (1951) as Honorary Secretary for the period of 1947. See - the *Annual Report of NCCI, 1978-79*, p. 94.

¹⁵¹ Name of Gillespi Allen has been mentioned in a Message on Diamond Jubilee Celebration by former President CEC Guthrie (1951) as Honorary Secretary for the period of 1947-48. See the *Annual Report of the NCCI, Dacca, 1978-79*, p. 94.

¹⁵² Name of Emorphopulas has been mentioned in a Message on Diamond Jubilee Celebration by former President CEC Guthrie (1951) as Secretary for the period of 1949. See the *Annual Report of NCCI, Dacca, 1978-79*, p. 94.

¹⁵³ Name of Jack Garcia has been mentioned in a Message on Diamond Jubilee Celebration by former President CEC Guthrie (1951) as Secretary for the period of 1950. See the *Annual Report of NCCI, Dacca, 1978-79*, p. 94.

¹⁵⁴ *Memorandum and Articles of Association, MCCI: Dhaka, 2013*, p. 8.

Jack Garcia, MZ Ahmed and CK Hyder are some of the remarkable personalities who have served the Chamber as Secretary for a long period of time. The Chamber Secretariat passed through its DNCC (1950-52), DNCCI (1952-59), NCCI (1959-79) phases and the first few years of MCCI (1979 onwards) because of the hard-work and vision of these personalities. In 1991, the position of Chamber's Secretary was upgraded and re-designated as Secretary-General. CK Hyder graced the chair then and continued in this position till 2008. Farooq Ahmed joined the Chamber in 2004 as the Secretary and was promoted to Secretary-General in 2008. Because of the work-load and size of the Secretariat, a few new posts (Assistant Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Joint Secretary etc) were created over the years to assist the Secretary and Secretary-General. Since 2009, Absal Shaquib Quoreshi and Md Murshid Alam have been working in the Chamber Secretariat as Secretaries.¹⁵⁵

Only a few chambers can afford to employ personnel with highly specialized skills but a team consisting of carefully selected and suitably qualified staff led by an able Secretary-General can certainly optimize the Chamber's effectiveness and help it in achieving its mission; MCCI, Dhaka is in this position. The Secretary-General is the chief operating officer and holds one of the most vital posts in the MCCI Secretariat. He is responsible and accountable to the Chamber Committee for:

- ✓ proper interpretation and implementation of policies laid down by the Committee.
- ✓ attainment of targets set.
- ✓ rendering regular progress reports to the Committee.
- ✓ recommending to the Committee such changes in policies and directions as are needed to ensure the effectiveness of the Chamber in promoting members' interest.
- ✓ managing the Chamber's funds and properties.
- ✓ submitting an annual budget for the Committee's approval and ensuring that expenditure falls within budgetary limits.
- ✓ planning a Secretariat Organization Structure that is effectively geared to function with maximum efficiency, and to deal with staff recruitment and termination, management, training and motivation.
- ✓ drawing up a work plan and coordinating Secretariat operations, particularly in the areas of membership growth, services and activities, and leading the Secretariat's efforts at revenue generation and fund raising.

¹⁵⁵ See Appendix 10 for year-wise and alphabetic list of Honorary Secretaries/ Assistant Secretaries/ Deputy Secretaries/ Joint Secretaries/ Secretaries/ Secretary-Generals.

As per the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Secretary-General deals with the entire business affairs of the Chamber. He has charge of all correspondence and keeps an account of the funds of the Chamber and the funds connected with or in any way controlled by the Chamber. He issues, within 15 days, accurate minutes of all meetings of the Chamber and of the Committee, the Department Committees and Sub-Committees and of all Associations connected to the Chamber. He takes care of all belongings of the Chamber. With the advice of the President, he gives notice of all meetings of the Chamber, the Committee, the Departmental Committee and Sub-Committees of the Chamber, and of all Associations working with the Chamber. For meetings of the Chamber Committee, at least seven days' notice must be given for regular meetings, and at least twenty-four hours notice for emergency meetings. The Secretary-General duly notifies members or associate members of their election, countersigns all cheques signed by the President or any Chairman of an Association, Fund or Committee, and collects all dues from members, associate members of the Chamber or from any committee or any association working with the Chamber. He prepares the annual report of the Chamber under the guidance of the Committee.¹⁵⁶

List of Names of Honorary Secretaries/Assistant Secretaries/
Deputy Secretaries/Joint Secretaries/Secretaries/Secretary-Generals

Honorary Secretary	
AL Godden, 1917	
RN Story, 1924	
JH Kirkland, 1930	
H Williams, 1940	
Gillespi Allen, 1948	
Swarup Mukherjee, 1947	

Assistant Secretary	
M Ebraheem, 1956-58	JR Khan, 1963-64
AW Chalmers, 1958-61	CK Hyder, 1965-67
MH Kashani, 1959	

¹⁵⁶ *Memorandum and Articles of Association*, Article 54, MCCI: Dhaka, 2013, pp. 25-26.

Deputy Secretary	Joint Secretary
K Mohyuddin, 1954-56	KS Shahabuddin, 1958-59
KS Shahabuddin, 1957	MZ Ahmed, 1958-59
CK Hyder, 1968-70	CK Hyder, 1971

Secretary
Emorphopulas, 1949
Jack Garcia, 1950-57
MZ Ahmed, 1960-61, 1963-69
CK Hyder, 1972-90
Farhad Ahmed Chowdhury, 1997-2003
Farooq Ahmed, 2004-2008
Absal Shaquib Quoreshi, 2009 onwards
Md Murshid Alam, 2009 onwards

Secretary-General
CK Hyder, 1991-2008
Farooq Ahmed, 2009 onwards

The contribution of CK Hyder: A former President of the Metropolitan Chamber, Mr Latifur Rahman, acknowledged the immense contribution of Mr CK Hyder. Mr Rahman said, “CK Hyder inaugurated an era in MCCI, through his invaluable inputs into the Chamber for 44 years. I repeat, he gave 44 years of remarkable, outstanding and uninterrupted service to the Chamber. He is a highly-rated professional and obviously a unique personality.”¹⁵⁷

Mr CK Hyder joined NCCI in 1965 as an Assistant Secretary. He was promoted to Deputy Secretary in 1968. He became the Joint Secretary of

¹⁵⁷ ‘Interview’ of Mr Latifur Rahman, Former President of MCCI, Dhaka, 15 May, 2014.

NCCI at the time of the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. From 1972 to 1990, he served the Chamber as its Secretary. He became the first Secretary-General of the Chamber in 1991 and remained in this position for the next 18 years. After retiring on 31 December 2008, he joined the Chamber Committee as an Adviser and continued in this position till 2011.

In the 104th Annual General Meeting held on 30 December 2008, the Chairman of the meeting, Mr Latifur Rahman, announced the changes that were to be made following the retirement of Mr CK Hyder. Mr Latifur Rahman, the Chairman of the AGM, declared that 'the MCCI is proud of the fact that it is managed by a professional Secretariat and persons like CK Hyder'.¹⁵⁸

In his message, Mr Anis Ud Dowla, a stalwart of the Chamber for many years, wrote about his experience of working with Mr CK Hyder since 1965. In an interview, he credited Mr Hyder for naming the Chamber as the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka, itself - a major milestone in the history of this Chamber.¹⁵⁹ Former President of MCCI, Mr Syed Manzur Elahi termed his Presidential period as a very 'difficult time' in 1989 when there was political turmoil in the Country and noted how he helped steer MCCI in this troubled period.¹⁶⁰

Mr SH Kabir, a former President of the Chamber, also highly praised CK Hyder's contribution to MCCI and said that 'he is a person of high competence'.¹⁶¹

Mr Kamran T Rahman, the President of Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF) in 2008, appreciated Mr Hyder's contribution in the field of Industrial Relations, nationally, as well as internationally.

¹⁵⁸ Proceedings of the 104th Annual General Meeting of the MCCI, Dhaka held at the Chamber Conference Hall, Chamber Building (5th Floor) on 30 December, 2008. See, *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2008, pp. 9-19.

¹⁵⁹ *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2008, p. 15; 'Interview' of Mr Anis Ud Dowla, Former President of MCCI, Dhaka, 11 May, 2014.

¹⁶⁰ *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2008, p. 16; 'Interview' of Mr Syed Manzur Elahi, Former President of MCCI, Dhaka, 10 April, 2014.

¹⁶¹ *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka, 2008, p. 17.

Chapter 4

The Chamber Now: Functions





THE CHAMBER NOW: FUNCTIONS

4.1 Introduction

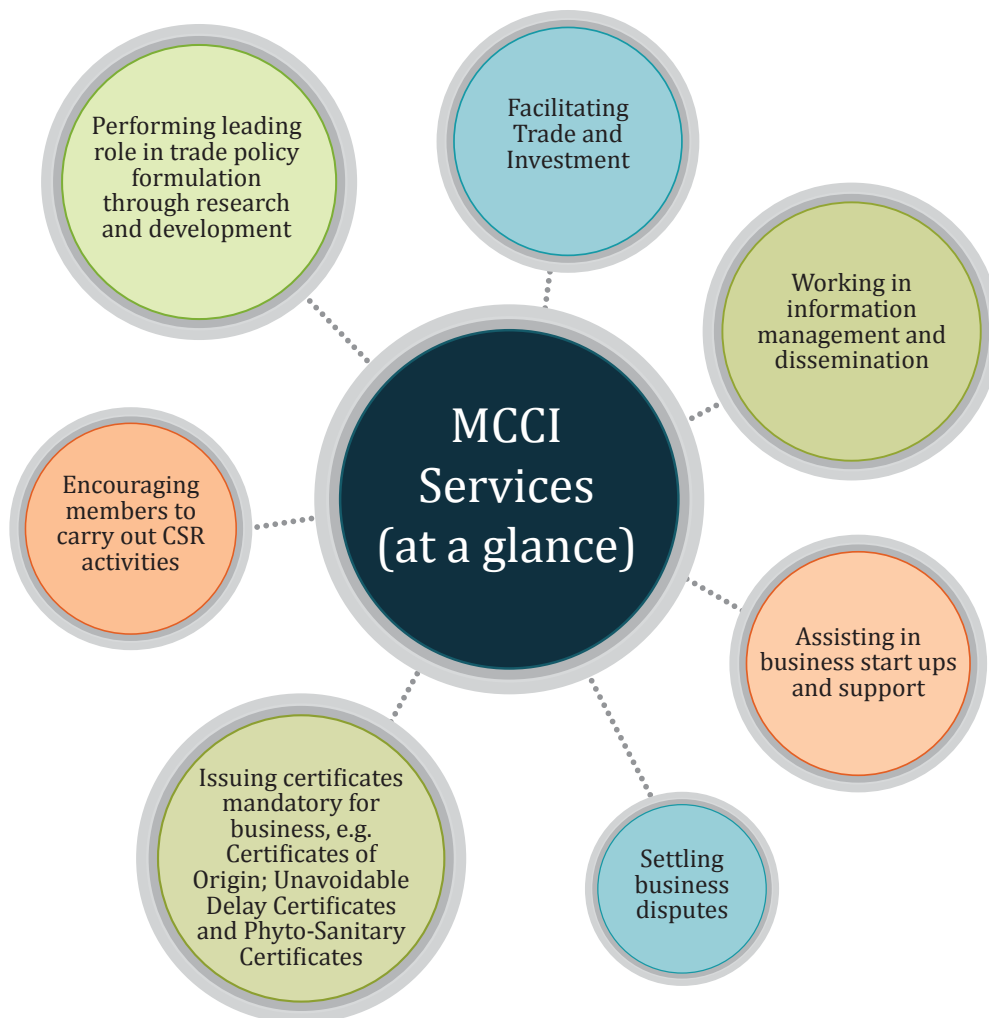
The Chamber renders expert services in specialized areas such as economic policy reform, taxation, trade practices, custom and tariff, and offers advice on important policy instruments. It performs a set of functions which include initiating dialogue with the government on the likely impact of existing and envisaged government policies on the business community; providing effective representations of Chamber members to the government or other authorities on problems faced by businesses; supplying information related to the promotion of trade, investment and technology transfer; disseminating information concerning rules and regulations endorsed by the government and other competent authorities that have a bearing on business; enhancing the capacities of members and their areas of business; and promoting interaction among members. The Chamber strives to create a business-friendly environment and a favourable investment climate in Bangladesh through its operations. The Chamber has been performing the following activities in its 110 years history:

- a) Organizing trade delegations, seminars, symposia and trade fairs, as well as receiving business delegations from abroad;
- b) Cooperating with other chambers of commerce and industry in other countries as well as at home for promotion of bilateral trade and investment;
- c) Undertaking arbitration to settle disputes arising from business transactions that affect its members;
- d) Organizing meetings, seminars, conferences and discussions, and conducting regular training courses and workshops on entrepreneurship for its members;
- e) Maintaining liaison with its members and foreign companies and helping overseas business visitors in order to promote trade and commerce with its members.

It can thus be stated that the Chamber has been performing varied but important functions from its inception to facilitate business transactions and to promote trade and commerce.

Initially, and in its Narayanganj phase, the Chamber’s activities were mainly related to jute trading and industries. Being the most important centre of jute and other industries, Narayanganj was then famous and received special attention of British merchants. Hence, the functions and activities of the Chamber were at first based on the need of these overseas businessmen. The functions of the Chamber relating to these needs continued till 1947.

Some new dimensions were added to the activities of the Chamber after the second partition of Bengal in 1947. Gradually the functions of the Chamber diversified even more in course of time. Indeed, by now, the Chamber has become one of the leading voices of the business community of Bangladesh. Its organizational set-up, dynamism and efficient leadership have made the Chamber a very active and proactive organization.



The major functions of the MCCI may broadly be divided into three categories: (a) offering services to members; (b) formulating views on matters of policy and communicating these views to the appropriate authorities; and (c) representing the business community outside the country. In addition to these three categories, the Chamber conducts other traditional and non-traditional activities. All these functions have, of course, not been practiced consistently throughout the 110 years history of the Chamber, but a few have been carried out over the years, albeit modified from time to time. Inevitably, some activities or functions were carried out only in a particular phase and when needed. What must be remembered here is that since the Metropolitan Chamber is a non-profit, service-oriented organization, its functions or activities are aimed at serving society and the nation in general and the business community in particular and is moulded accordingly.

This chapter will deal with the multidimensional functions of the Metropolitan Chamber under the following headlines: Reviews; International Connections; Representations; Publications and Research Cell; Annual General Meetings (AGM) and Communication. Because of the paucity of sources and research in the area, the functions in the first phase (NCC Phase) of the Chamber (1904-50) could not be fully reconstructed. Adequate information about Chamber functions is available only from 1950 Annual Reports, Chamber News and the minutes of DNCC, DNCCI, NCCI and MCCI, Dhaka. The functions of the Chamber from 1950 onwards have therefore been written mostly in light of these records.

4.2 Reviews

Policy advocacy and conducting reviews are two of the foremost functions of the Metropolitan Chamber. As a proactive body of business, the MCCI has contributed to economic policy through such functions throughout its existence. MCCI anticipates future needs of members, responds to these challenges, and prepares its stakeholders to benefit from these changes and opportunities. Through its linkages with partner chambers, it helps in making the voice of the Bangladeshi business community heard across the country and in lands beyond.

From 1904, the Chamber has taken an active interest not only in areas of direct concern for trade and industry, but also in relevant spheres of the public life of the region. Governments have often referred many important questions about trade and commerce to the Chamber for its opinion. In its early days, the Chamber used to even review Government Acts and Policies e.g. the Company Act 1913, Scheme for the Registration of Property in British India Belonging to Enemies, 1916 etc. Reviews on national budgets, economic decisions taken by the government and its regulations, notifications, circulars, acts,

export-import policies, jute and tea policies, and other significant issues have been core areas of the Chamber's functions. At present, the Research Cell of the Chamber is taking an active part in review matters. In many of these issues the Chamber makes comments before and after policy proposals or the tabling of the National Budget.

The Research Cell has played an important role in reviewing issues relating to trade and commerce or policy matters over the years. Extensive research carried out by commissioned experts on relevant issues make reviews useful to all. A sub-committee is often formed to work on relevant issues under the professional guidance of a leading economist or an academic of the country. For the purpose of review, the Chamber sends representations to various legislative and consultative councils, and also participates in various boards, panels and commissions. At times the Chamber has welcomed policies taken by the Government but at times too it has opposed them, while giving constructive suggestions or recommendations on them.

In many ways, reviewing has been one of the most significant functions of the Chamber. Of course, the review mode has changed in the course of time and with the demand of each era. But perhaps the Chamber's changing review activities and function can be best understood if narrated historically.

NCC Phase (1904-1950): Various acts and policies initiated by the Government of India and the Bengal Government were reviewed regularly in this phase. From archival records, it is evident that there was regular communication between the Chamber and the Commerce, Finance, and Labour Departments of the Bengal Government as well as the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The Honorary Secretary of the Chamber maintained correspondence with these Departments. In this phase, the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce (NCC) reviewed several Government acts, bills and policies. Some NCC-reviewed acts, bills and rules of government were: Bill to Amend the Indian Company Act, 1913; United Kingdom Registration of Business Names Act, 1916; Proposal Amendment of Section 91B of the Indian Companies Act 1913; Trading License 1915; Tariff Policy of the Government of India Trade after the War; Free Trade System; Protection, Imperial Preference, etc; Cotton Ginning and Cotton Pressing Factories Bill; Indian Trade Unions Bill 1924; Periods of Wage Payment Bill 1925; Revision of the Indian Petroleum Act, 1899 (VIII of 1899); Indian Religious Pictures Trade Marks (Prevention) Bill, 1930; The Draft Indian Partnership Bill; The Indian Partnership Bill, 1931; The Indian Petroleum Bill; Bengal Factories Rules, 1935; Indian Electricity Rules, 1922; Proposed extension of the Provisions of the Factories Act to Smaller Factories using Power Machinery; The Bengal

Maternity Bill, 1937; The Bengal Boiler Attendants' Rules, 1939; The Draft Revised Explosives Rules; The Bengal Shops and Establishments Bill, 1939.¹⁶²

The above-mentioned documents are but a few examples that have been collected from the archives of Bangladesh and India on which the NCC Committee carried out research and got back to the Bengal or India government with its opinions. The Honorary Secretary of the Chamber, on behalf of the Chamber Committee, was authorized to send letters with signatures and dates in these matters. The jute business was vital to the Bengal Government of the period. In 1917, the Chamber was asked to review adulteration of jute with a view to eliciting suggestions for a remedy to this practice. The Chamber responded by a noting that it occurred previous to its sale probably because of the *raiyat* and that the jute was often watered and observed but that there was no adulteration of the exported jute.¹⁶³ In 1919, the Chamber Committee carefully studied the Government's proposed Bill of United Kingdom Registration of Business Names Act 1916 and concurred with the terms but suggested some modifications to them.¹⁶⁴ The Chamber reviewed 'the collection of commercial and industrial intelligence in connection with the recommendations of the Indian Industrial Commission' in 1920. The Chamber Committee was in favour of treating commercial intelligence as an imperial rather than provincial affair and commented on the disassociation of commercial from industrial intelligence. The Committee also approved of the suggested reorganization of the staff of the Commercial Intelligence Department.¹⁶⁵

In a review conducted in June 1920, the Chamber welcomed the Government's nomination of representatives and delegates of employers for the International Labour Conference and Commissions of Enquiry under articles 389 and 412 of the Peace Treaty. The Chamber Committee was in favour of the proposal to invite the Employers' Associations to come up with a mechanism whereby a nominated representative of all interests concerned could be selected in the future.¹⁶⁶ In a meeting held on July 1920, the Chamber Committee vehemently criticized the recommendations of the International

¹⁶² Files of the Government of Bengal, Department of Commerce; Commerce and Labour; Commerce, Labour and Industries preserved in the Wooden Bundle in Bangladesh National Archives.

¹⁶³ *A' Proceedings*, GOB, Commerce Dept., 'Proposal to Suppress the Adulteration of Indian Produce before Export', BNA, March 1918, File No. 10-A/1, No. 14.

¹⁶⁴ *A' Proceedings*, GOB, Commerce Dept., 'United Kingdom Registration of Business Names Act, 1916', BNA, October 1919, File No. 1-A/1 (10).

¹⁶⁵ *A' Proceedings*, GOB, Commerce Dept., 'Collection of Commercial and Industrial Intelligence in Connection with the Recommendations of the Indian Industrial Commission', BNA, April 1920, File No. 2-1/3, Nos. 9-10.

¹⁶⁶ *A' Proceedings*, GOB, Commerce Dept., 'Nomination of Representatives and Delegates of Employers for International Labour Conferences and Commissions of Enquiry under Articles 389 and 412 of the Peace Treaty', BNA, April 1921, File No. 8-L/9, No. 76.

Labour Conference. The Committee felt that the proposed changes would not be acceptable to the labourers employed in jute baling. The Committee opined that the restriction of hours in jute baling concerns was undesirable since it would reduce output.¹⁶⁷

The Chamber's review on the Indian Fiscal Commission in this phase, is worth mentioning. It reviewed the Tariff Policy of the government of India adopted after the War, the free trade system, protection etc. Committee members unanimously favored imperial preferences.¹⁶⁸ Constructive criticism of the Government was evident in Chamber reviews undertaken during the NCC era. On the Periods of Wage Payment Bill, the Chamber Committee took into consideration the overall situation of the workers and objected to the application of piecemeal legislation that affected labourers employed by them.¹⁶⁹ For its review of the 'Proposed Legislation for the Investigation and Settlement of Trade Disputes', the Chamber Committee opined that such legislation would be detrimental to both employees and employers. It questioned the feasibility of the Government proposal.¹⁷⁰

The Chamber's review on the Indian Trade Unions Bill 1924, is another important work the Chamber Committee carried out in this phase. The Chamber Committee in its review noted, that there was no indication of any desire by labourers to form a Union. It conceded that while during strikes in mills and factory areas, there were persons who claimed to represent workers, in reality they were political agitators with no genuine connection to the workers and had no true regard for them. The Chamber opined that the introduction of such a Bill would merely encourage the formation of organizations which neither the workers nor employees needed or desired at that time.¹⁷¹

On 'Indian Religious Pictures Trade Marks (Prevention) Bill, 1930' the Chamber's comment was quite significant. The Chamber opposed the Bill, considering it unnecessary and detrimental to the trade bodies who had been using such trademarks over the years. It also pointed out that the proposal embodied in the Bill was impractical, unnecessary and not reflective of public opinion.¹⁷² In 1935, the Chamber Committee reviewed the "Sickness

¹⁶⁷ *A' Proceedings*, GOB, Commerce Dept., 'International Labour Conference held at Washington in October, 1919', BNA, April 1921, File No. 8-L/8, No. 7.

¹⁶⁸ *A' Proceedings*, GOB, Commerce Dept., 'Tariff Policy of the Government of India Trade after the War, Free Trade System, Protection, Imperial Preference, etc.', BNA, May 1922, File No. 8-F/1, No. 24.

¹⁶⁹ *A' Proceedings*, Commerce Dept., 'Periods of Wage Payment Bill', BNA, June 1925, File No. 1-A/22 (7), No. 9.

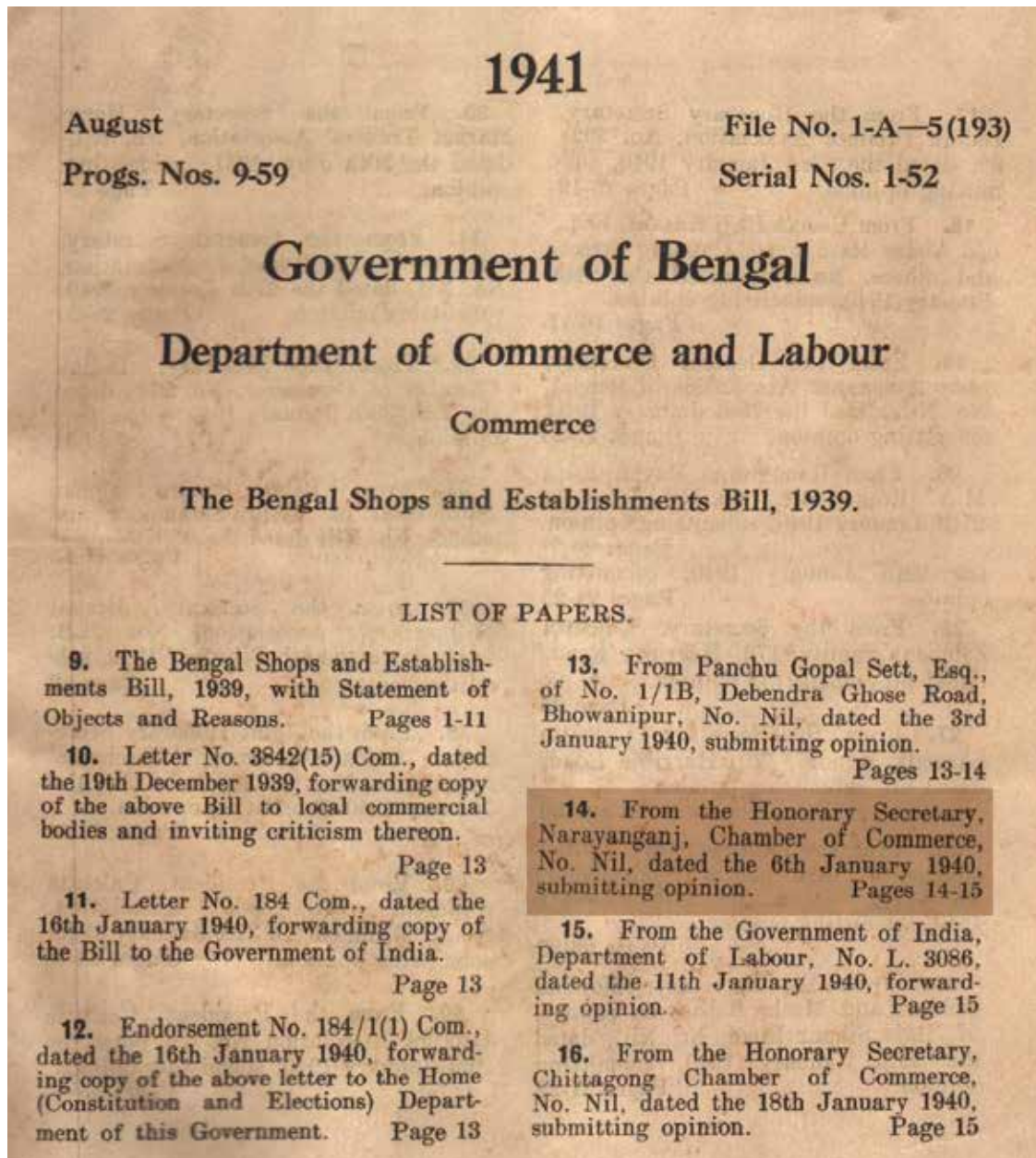
¹⁷⁰ *A' Proceedings*, GOB, Commerce Dept., 'Proposed Legislation for the Investigation and Settlement of Trade Disputes', BNA, January 1925, File No. 1-A/13 (26), No. 208.

¹⁷¹ *A' Proceedings*, GOB, Commerce Dept., 'Cotton Ginning and Cotton Pressing Factories Bill', BNA, January 1925, File No. 1-A/18 (6), No. 40.

¹⁷² *A' Proceedings*, GOB, Commerce Dept., 'Indian Religious Pictures Trade Marks (Prevention) Bill, 1930', BNA, June 1930, File No. 1-A/8 (14), No. 24.

Insurance Scheme" and remarked that such a scheme was feasible. It opined that it had no objection to an enquiry into the merits of the proposed scheme.¹⁷³ The Chamber opposed the Bill of 'Holidays with Pay' as members already had a system in vogue by then by which adequate provision had been made for their employees.¹⁷⁴

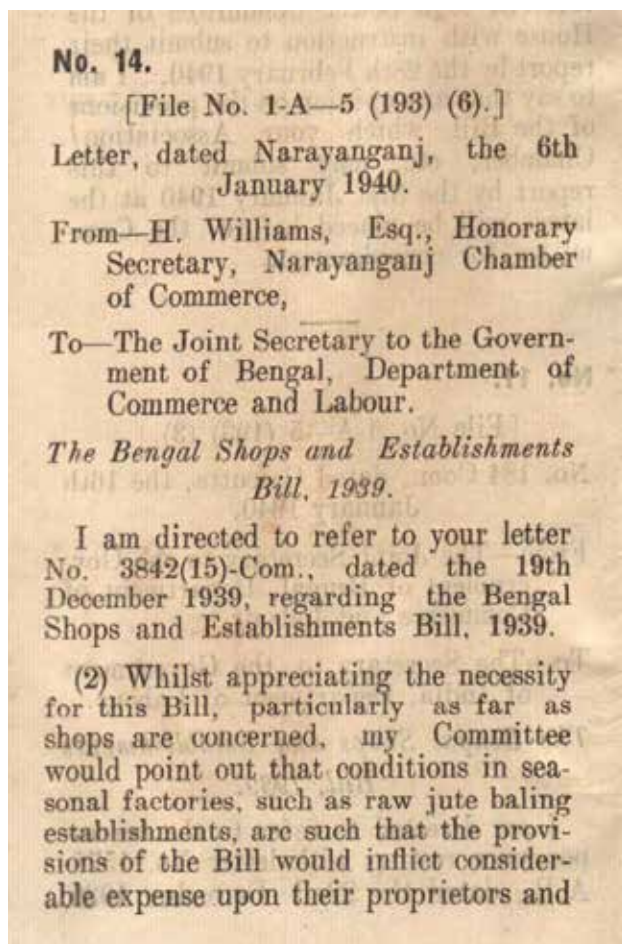
Archival Document: List of Papers between Govt. of Bengal and Other Associations, 1941



¹⁷³ 'A' Proceedings, GOB, Commerce Dept., 'Sickness Insurance', BNA, December 1935, File No. 1-I/5 (5), No. 130.

¹⁷⁴ 'A' Proceedings, GOB, Commerce Dept., 'Holidays with Pay', BNA, April 1935, File No. 2-H/3 (5), No. 9.

Review on a Bill by the NCC, 1940



At times the Chamber reflected on comments made by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce (BCC) in a manner that reflected the good terms existing between NCC and BCC. The Chambers review on ‘The Draft Revised Explosives Rules’ was an example of its stand on review matters. In replying to this notification the Chamber offered no comments but supported the recommendations already made by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.¹⁷⁵

The Chamber’s review on the ‘Bengal Shops and Establishments Bill, 1939’ was also very important for the trade and commerce of Bengal. The Bill was welcomed by the Chamber Committee but they were concerned that proprietors’ and staff’ working hours that had been spelled out by the legislative body and urged the Government to modify the Bill.¹⁷⁶

DNCC Phase (1950-52): In this phase, the Chamber continued conducting reviews on issues similar to the ones undertaken in the NCC phase. In the early 1950s, the Chamber thus offered its views on important Acts and Bills. In 1950, it offered suggestions on housing schemes for industrial workers. The Chamber recommended designs for single, double and three storey buildings, laying down of a minimum space, proper town planning schemes, and prioritizing brick supply. It added that buildings needed to be properly utilized by workers but encouraged industrialists to erect workers quarters with the government’s help so that it could meet the total cost of concrete buildings.¹⁷⁷

¹⁷⁵ *A’ Proceedings*, GOB, Commerce and Labour Dept., ‘The Draft Revised Explosives Rules’, BNA, November 1940, File No. 1-R/55 (4), No. 32.

¹⁷⁶ *A’ Proceedings*, GOB, Commerce and Labour Dept., ‘The Bengal Shops and Establishments Bill, 1939’, BNA, August 1941, File No. 1-A/5 (193), No. 14.

¹⁷⁷ *Minutes* of the DNCC, 17 January, 1950, P. 11.

The Chamber was asked by the Government to review the Factories Act, 1934. The Chamber Committee forwarded its recommendations after reviewing the Act.¹⁷⁸ It commented on the Shops and Establishment Bill and also suggested that some changes be made to it and the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947.¹⁷⁹ In the same year, it gave its opinion on important aspects of the East Bengal (Smuggling of Food Grains) Act, 1950. A draft resolution was submitted by the Chamber Sub-Committee on the Act. It noted its misgivings about the very wide powers given to local officers under the Act, particularly in regard to detention and confiscation through which smuggled or suspected food grains could be discovered. It also criticized the wastage of coal and disruptions in river transport. It was of the opinion that the Government should issue clear instructions to the officers concerned so that suspected goods could be removed promptly from the vessels of carrying companies on issue of a clear receipt, and so that vessels could be allowed to proceed forthwith, unless the detection of smuggled goods on board made it evident that the offence was committed with the knowledge of the owners.¹⁸⁰

In the ASSOCHAP (Associate Chamber of Commerce of Pakistan) Conference, the Chamber suggested a model Provident Fund Rules. The Chamber participated on the questionnaire relating to the Sales Tax and forwarded the Chambers Sub-Committee's views on it to the concerned authority. The Chamber also commented on the Arbitration Rules and the Town Improvement Bill, 1951. In 1951, the Chamber recommended that all government notifications should be issued simultaneously in East and West Pakistan.¹⁸¹

DNCCI Phase (1952-1959): Reviews, as a major function of the Chamber, continued in its DNCCI phase. In 1953, the Chambers Customs and Communications Sub-Committee drafted a procedure for use by the Collector of Land Customs in booking jute to Chalna port. A proposal was sent to the Pakistan Jute Association to formulate a completely new export procedure to be submitted to the Government of Pakistan.¹⁸²

Chamber members became much more preoccupied with import-export policies in this phase. They took to making comments on government policies in earnest. A Chamber Member's remarks and objections on the Government's new Barter Scheme (Import – Export Policy) was an issue that was reviewed by the Chamber Committee.¹⁸³ The Chamber reviewed the new import policy announced by the Pakistan Government which made no

¹⁷⁸ *Minutes of the DNCC*, 25 July, 1950, P. 37.

¹⁷⁹ *Minutes of the DNCC*, 16 April, 1951, P. 66.

¹⁸⁰ *Minutes of the DNCC*, 7 March, 1951, P. 61.

¹⁸¹ *Minutes of the DNCC*, 3 January, 17 January, 1 February and 17 February 1951, p. 52, 53, 56, 58.

¹⁸² *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 3 February, 1953, pp. 185-86.

¹⁸³ *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 24 February, 1953, p. 189.

provisions for imports for the industrial undertakings underway. It was recommended by the Chamber that provisions be made for newcomers to industrial fields who were not registered under the Factories Act.¹⁸⁴ The Chamber supported a Public Notice [No. 8(53)/1, dated 1 March 1953] issued by the Chittagong Chamber on the addition of certain items to the licencable list or items or articles in the import requirements drawn up for the country.¹⁸⁵ The Chamber's interactions with the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce are evident in this instance.

Jute never lost its position as the major concern of the Chamber in this phase. The Chamber reviewed the East Bengal Jute Dealers Registration Act. It believed that the Act should be discussed at length by the Minister and Secretary of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department with a deputation of the Chamber and the Pakistan Jute Association.¹⁸⁶ The Chamber dealt with the issue successfully.

At this stage, the Chamber reacted to a move by Secretary of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department to shift the office of the Deputy Chief Controller Imports and Exports from Chittagong to Dhaka. The Chamber opposed this move. It was later agreed that no change would be made in the location of the office.¹⁸⁷

In 1957, the Chamber, along with the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce, opposed the East Pakistan Development of Industries Control and Regulation Bill, as it would hamper the interests of the business community and recommended removal of some portions of the Act. The Chamber also participated in the award process of the Minimum Wage Board in 1957.¹⁸⁸

NCCI Phase (1959-1979): The Chamber entered into another important phase in 1959, when its review-related function gathered momentum. As this phase offered multidimensional political experiences to the people of the land, the Chamber passed through a challenging time. The outlook, objectives, missions and vision of the Chamber changed completely in this phase. The Chamber gradually transformed itself into an organization of business concerns that bore the definite stamp of the land and its people. It tried to serve the nation faithfully after independence and began to play a significant role in

¹⁸⁴ *Minutes* of the DNCCI, 9 March, 1953, p. 193.

¹⁸⁵ *Minutes* of the DNCCI, 24 March, 1953, pp. 195-96.

¹⁸⁶ *Minutes* of the DNCCI, 18 August, 1953, pp. 223-24.

¹⁸⁷ *Minutes* of the DNCCI, 1 October, 1953, pp. 229-30.

¹⁸⁸ Mr AA Kahlon, President of the Chamber at this time, in his opening address in the 53th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 4 March, 1958 at the Chamber Building in Dhaka mentioned the issue to Mr AK Fazlul Haq, Governor of East Pakistan. See *Annual Report* of the DNCCI, 1958, p. 9.

national business policies. It also employed leading economists to review policy matters methodically. The reviews and suggestions prepared by the Chamber were well received in Bangladesh and lands beyond. The Chamber increasingly participated in policy making at the national level and came up with suggestions and recommendations that were appreciated by relevant bodies.

In this phase, the Chamber circulated all the notifications, circulars, rules and acts, and ordinances as forwarded by the government, Employers' Associations and local Government bodies to its members. In the initial years of this phase the Pakistan government had to adopt many acts and ordinances with amendments as and where required and framed new laws for the country. The Chamber offered suggestions and recommendations after reviewing some of them. In the sixties, the Chamber commented on the East Pakistan Labour Statistics Rules, 1962; Draft Regulation of Social Security, 1962; and East Pakistan Finance Act, 1957. In 1962, the Chamber supported the East Pakistan Employers' Association in its bid to amend the labour law of the country. The Chamber also suggested amendments to the constitution of the Federation and participated in the Government's Economic Policy Coordination Commission in 1966.¹⁸⁹ In the 1960s, the Chamber Committee started reviewing various guidelines prepared by the Securities and Exchange Commission for issue of capital to public limited companies. The Committee submitted its detailed comments to the Securities and Exchange Commission and played an important role in the reformulation of the Commission's policies.

A new form of review was added to the list of the Chamber's review function in the middle of the nineteen sixties. In order to place the viewpoints of member-firms before the Government prior to the preparation of the budget for 1966-67, the Chamber urged the Ministry of Finance to consider its suggestions and recommendations on taxation.¹⁹⁰ It became normal practice for the Chamber in the following years to offer such suggestions and recommendations.

After the emergence of Bangladesh in 1971, the Government aimed to introduce new industrial investment policies for the country and asked the Chamber to come up with its comments and suggestions. The Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomed this invitation to offer policy reviews and began to work together with the government for the economic progress and development of the country.

An emergency meeting of the Chamber Committee was held on 29 March 1972 on the new government's decision to nationalize major industries and control the foreign trade of

¹⁸⁹ *Minutes of the NCCI*, 3 May 1962, p. 530; 28 June 1962, p. 537.

¹⁹⁰ *Annual Report of the NCCI*, 1966, p. 13.

the Country. The Chamber considered the implications of the decision taken by the government and decided to cooperate with it in helping the government to run nationalized units successfully. The Chamber also decided to issue a public statement on nationalization.¹⁹¹

In a subsequent meeting the Chamber Committee again reviewed the prevailing position in trade and industry following the nationalization of major industries. There were detailed discussions on production and marketing, including foreign sales, and the labour situation in respect of nationalized industries, which represented 85% of the total investment in the country, and also in respect of the remaining units that were not nationalized. The meeting felt that the government should remove all uncertainties by announcing its Industrial and Labour Policies and also formulate its long-term objectives vis-à-vis the private sector, particularly with regard to foreign investment. However, the Chamber appreciated the Government's concern to bring about conditions conducive to the quick development of the country, though it felt that conditions then prevailing appeared to pose formidable problems for the reconstruction and development of the economy of the country.¹⁹²

The Chamber's views and comments on suggestions made by different trade organizations for amendments to the Trade Organisations Ordinance, 1961 were important review undertakings of the Chamber in this phase.¹⁹³ In 1977, the NCCI made some valuable recommendations on Company Laws at the suggestion of the Company Law Reform Committee. Suggestions and recommendations on the National Budget, Import and Export Policies continued on a regular basis in this phase.¹⁹⁴

MCCI, Dhaka First Phase (1979-1999): With the change of the name from NCCI to MCCI, the jurisdiction and activities of the Chamber increased manifold. Reviews became an even more crucial function of the Chamber in this phase. Under the guidance of able economists, the Economic Research Cell of the Chamber started playing an active role in the commercial sphere of Bangladesh. This research cell compiled a number of papers which were appreciated by the government and international agencies as well as its own members. In this phase, Bangladesh experienced military rule from 1976 to 1991 and parliamentary democracy from 1991 onwards. Regardless of the political situation, MCCI worked to serve the people, contribute to the economy of Bangladesh, and help the country in attaining economic health. The review activities contributed significantly to these goals.

¹⁹¹ *Minutes of the NCCI*, 29 March 1972, p. 1133.

¹⁹² *Minutes of the NCCI*, 11 April 1972, p. 1137.

¹⁹³ *Annual Report of the NCCI*, 1975, p. 19; *Annual Report of the MCCI*, Dacca 1980, p. 38.

¹⁹⁴ *Annual Report of the NCCI*, 1975, pp. 19-21; *Annual Report of the NCCI*, 1979, p. 40.



Budget Review for 1996-97. Chief Guest: Mr SAMS Kibria, Minister for Finance

The Chamber reviewed most government and semi-government policies affecting economic sectors. It made detailed proposals on various issues relating to trade and industry and also on the National Budget, Five Year Plan, Investment Policy, Industrial Policy, Energy Policy, Import-Export Policy, Bank Rate Policy, Monetary and Fiscal Policy, Industrial Policy, and various acts and ordinances. In this phase, the Chamber also opined on international economic issues pertinent to Bangladesh. The Chamber's review on the situation arising from the currency turmoil in Europe in the 1990s undertaken to protect the country's foreign trade is one such example.¹⁹⁵

The Government published three gazette notifications on (i) The Insurance (Amendment) Ordinance, 1984; (ii) The Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1984; and (iii) Draft Amendments to the Insurance Rules, 1985, laying down terms and conditions for sanctioning new insurance companies in the private sector. The Chamber reviewed these and submitted representations to the Government. The MCCI pointed out in detail, how the terms and conditions could hamper the workings of new insurance companies in the private sector.¹⁹⁶

The MCCI was requested by the Ministry of Commerce to review the Trade Organisations Ordinance and suggest amendments. The Chamber Committee submitted its report to the Ministry of Commerce in 1987. The Chamber was of the view that there should not be any compulsion to join any body and an importer should be free to become member of any trade body which could render requisite services to it.¹⁹⁷

¹⁹⁵ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka 1992, p. 8.*

¹⁹⁶ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka 1985, p. 22.*

¹⁹⁷ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka 1987, p. 25.*

The Government was very concerned about industrial development in the 1980s and frequently requested suggestions from the Chamber. The Ministry of Industries requested the Chamber to help it in preparing feasibility reports on industries where foreign investors would be likely to invest. The Committee agreed that all possible help would be extended to the Ministry of Industries in such cases.¹⁹⁸

The Chamber continued to review the Government's five year plans during this phase. The Chamber Committee considered and finalized two papers on the Second Five-Year plan entitled 'Analysis of 2nd Five-Year Plan, Few Comments and Suggestions' and 'Role of Private Sector in the Second Five-Year Plan'. These papers were forwarded to the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Industries with suggested action programs on how the private sector should be assisted in performing the role envisaged for it in the Plan.¹⁹⁹ The Chamber Committee finalized another comprehensive paper entitled 'Role of the Private Sector Economy in Bangladesh' which was later followed up by meetings held at the Planning Commission.²⁰⁰

In this phase, the Chamber played a key role in the denationalization of Bangladeshi industries. The Chamber's review of the impact of nationalization of industries in the country is noteworthy. The Chamber Committee evaluated the overall impact of nationalization and finalized a paper entitled 'Nationalisation of Industries in Bangladesh – A Review of the Experiment: A Case for Denationalisation' which demonstrated how the economy had to suffer on account of large scale nationalization of industries, and also pointed out how the main objectives of nationalization still remains unfulfilled. The review showed how labour productivity of the nationalized industries had deteriorated and recommended gradual denationalization of jute and textile mills in keeping with the Government's desire to follow a mixed economy in the country.²⁰¹

The Chamber carried out a review of the Banking sector and assessed the Bank Rate of various banks in this phase. Some examples can be given here of the reviews undertaken. In May, 1981 the Committee reviewed the situation created by the employees of the nationalized commercial banks and expressed its concern over its impact on the national economy.²⁰² The Chamber reviewed the Bank Company Ordinance 1991²⁰³ and the Bankruptcy Act.²⁰⁴ In 1994, the Chamber's proposal on the Bankruptcy Act was considered

¹⁹⁸ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka 1980, p. 38.*

¹⁹⁹ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka 1980, p. 36, 37.*

²⁰⁰ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka 1980, p. 36.*

²⁰¹ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka 1982, pp. 24-25.*

²⁰² *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka 1981, p. 37.*

²⁰³ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka 1991, p. 31.*

²⁰⁴ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka 1994, p. 34.*

by the government and its recommendations were reflected in the aforementioned Act. In the wake of the government announcement on the devaluation of the Taka in November 1997, the Chamber Committee expressed concern at the enhancement of the bank rate, particularly when there was a need to support the manufacturing sector to establish its competitive capabilities.²⁰⁵ As requested by the government, the Chamber gave its suggestions on the reduction of the bank rate. The Government subsequently reduced the Bank rate by 1%²⁰⁶, which can be seen as a notable consequence of the Chamber review process.

The 1990s was a significant period in the history of Bangladesh as well as the Chamber. The Chamber welcomed the 12th Amendment Bill 1991 passed to establish parliamentary democracy, reviewed the situation, and issued a press release hailing the event as a 'landmark in the journey to parliamentary democracy'. The Chamber Committee commented that democracy is a reflection of collective wisdom and the wish of the people for their economic welfare and better governance.²⁰⁷

The Chamber reviewed some nationally important agendas in 1991. In this year, the MCCI submitted proposed amendments to the Companies Act and the Excise Act, 1944 to the 12 member Corporate Laws Committee. Moreover, the Committee finalized MCCI's proposal on amendments to the Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962. The Metropolitan Chamber also came up with recommendations on the draft Industrial Policy, 1991 announced that year. The Chamber termed it as a 'major step in the right direction'. In 1992, the Chamber took an active part in the deliberations of the Review Committee which was constituted by the government for the merger of the Capital Issues (continuance of control) Act, 1947 with the Securities Exchange Ordinance, 1969.²⁰⁸

In May 1992, the Chamber, in collaboration with the National Press Club, organized a two-day seminar entitled 'Policy Options for Economic Breakthrough'. As a consequence of this seminar, the Chamber decided to redouble its efforts to define the shape and complexion of the government's 'market friendly role'. The Chamber President suggested that the government must ensure macro-economic stabilization before trade liberalization.²⁰⁹

²⁰⁵ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1998, p. 30.*

²⁰⁶ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1999, p. 31.*

²⁰⁷ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1992, p. 31, 44.*

²⁰⁸ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1992, pp. 31-37.*

²⁰⁹ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1992, pp. 6-7.*

In this phase, the Chamber's contribution to the amendments of the Companies Act was noteworthy. In 1993, the Chamber Committee examined the final version of the proposed Act and came up with several amendments to it which were then handed over to the Commerce Minister.²¹⁰ In the following year, the Committee reviewed the final draft of the new Companies Act in the light of proposals submitted earlier by the Chamber before the Review and Expert Committee appointed by the government. It was evident from the finalized Act that of the Chamber's proposals, the government had accepted six, while one proposal about preparation of Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Accounts by the branches of foreign companies was partially accepted.²¹¹ MCCI also assessed the Trade Organizations Rules, 1994 and expressed its concern over several provisions of the new rules.²¹²

In 1994, the Chamber Committee contributed to a draft Bankruptcy Act. After the draft was finalized, the Committee found that a number of proposals made by it were reflected in the final version.²¹³ Similarly, the Chamber contributed to the enactment of a law for consumers' protection and found some of its proposals incorporated in the Consumer Protection Act, 1995.²¹⁴

During this phase, the Chamber for the first time expressed its concern on environmental issues and began reviewing issues relating to the environment. The Chamber Committee reviewed the proposed action plan of the Ministry of Environment and decided to point out to the government the practical implications of some of the environmental requirements. The Committee felt that while environmental standards ought to be complied with, such compliance should be sought through awareness programs instead of being enforced through punitive legal provisions.²¹⁵

In a country affected by recurring natural calamities the MCCI was always concerned about the economic loss incurred due to floods, cyclones and other natural disasters. After the devastating flood of 1999, the Chamber obtained from its member-firms detailed figures on damage caused by the recent floods to their establishments. It then wrote to the Government seeking policy formulations as well as support for its affected members to

²¹⁰ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka 1993, p. 32.*

²¹¹ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1994, p. 33.*

²¹² *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1994, p. 37.*

²¹³ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1994, p. 34.*

²¹⁴ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1995, p. 30; Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1996, p. 33; Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1997, p. 32.*

²¹⁵ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1996, p. 33.*

help them overcome dislocations caused by the flood. Several proposals were made by the Chamber to deal with the critical situation.²¹⁶

In the context of bilateral trade, particularly with India, the Chamber played a key role on many issues. The Chamber Committee prepared a comprehensive paper to be submitted to the government on the issue of transit facilities to be extended to India through allowing it to use Bangladesh port services.²¹⁷ The Chamber gave its comments on a public notice issued by the Government of India, offering duty concessions on imports from Bangladesh and other SAARC countries. As requested by the Ministry of Commerce, the Chamber came up with comments on duty exemptions given by India on items to be imported from Bangladesh and other SAARC countries.²¹⁸

The Chamber Committee reviewed the government's proposed Telecommunication Policy and offered detailed comments on it.²¹⁹ The Committee reviewed the draft Industrial Policy of the government and gave suggestions on incorporating appropriate Statutory Regulatory Orders (SROs) and other rules and orders necessary to give effect to the various provisions of the proposed policy, such as tax incentives, tariff concessions, interest rates for bank credit facilities, enforceability of Board of Investment decisions etc.²²⁰ The Chamber gave its comments on the Draft National Energy Conservation Law to the Energy Ministry, emphasizing on promotional efforts and fiscal incentives needed to attract consumers.²²¹

The Chamber's suggestion on the Pre-Shipment Inspection (PSI) system was also an important contribution of the Chamber during this phase of its existence. The Pre-Shipment Inspection (PSI) system had been facing an uncertain future as the government was considering dropping the scheme. After a review the Chamber Committee opined that the PSI system could be beneficial for revenue, would limit corruption, and save importers from harassments, and therefore ought to continue, albeit with proper checks and balances.²²² The Chamber Prepared its comments for the Pre Shipment Inspection (PSI) Scheme which was due to be reintroduced by the Government. The Chamber later on Handed over the Comments to the Chairman of NBR.²²³ The Chamber conducted a meeting with the National Board of Revenue on the PSI system.²²⁴ In the end, the system continued

²¹⁶ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1999, p. 29.*

²¹⁷ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1997, p. 32.*

²¹⁸ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1999, p. 29.*

²¹⁹ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1997, p. 32.*

²²⁰ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1998, p. 35.*

²²¹ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1998, p. 36.*

²²² *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1997, p. 7.*

²²³ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1999, p. 32.*

²²⁴ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 2000, p. 27.*

and it can be said that the Chamber thereby played its part in facilitating trade and commerce of the country.

The Chamber's review on the National Energy Conservation Law was an important act of its MCCI phase. After reviewing the draft of the National Energy Conservation Law formulated by the Energy Ministry, the Chamber emphasized the point that promotional efforts and fiscal incentives to consumers were more effective as energy conservation measures than the punitive legal provisions proposed in the draft law. The Chamber suggested that the implementation of the proposed law would only strengthen the hands of corrupt officials and would lead to further harassment of consumers and more system loss.²²⁵

Because of instances of political turmoil, the Chamber felt that, it had to express its concern on its effect on the economy. The Chamber reviewed the political situation regularly in Committee meetings and articulated its unhappiness at the unsettled situation through press releases. As decided by the Committee, several press-releases were issued jointly with other trade bodies on the tense situation. Highlighting the dislocations which were caused by hartals, it urged a dialogue between the major political parties to find a solution to the conflict.²²⁶ In addition to reacting to hartals, the Chamber issued public statements during this phase on other important national issues. Reviewing the law and order situation had become a regular job of the Chamber along with the review of the economic situation by this time.²²⁷ The Chamber Committee assessed the law and order situation periodically and based on its reviews the Committee issued press releases urging the Government to take strong action against such activities for the sake of the country's economy. Along with FBCCI, the Chamber included other trade bodies to arrive at a broad consensus for mobilizing public opinion against the restive situation. Some of these statements are included in the Appendices Section of this book. (See Appendix 22)

MCCI, Dhaka Millennium Phase (2000-Present): In the Millennium Phase of the Chamber, it began to conduct even more reviews and their nature became multi-dimensional. Bangladesh had by then successfully entered the world of information and communication technology. In fact, by now, the country has become significantly digitised and connected with the people and other countries of the world. The use of computers, internet, television, and mobile sets etc. had increased substantially and trade and commercial activities of Bangladesh had also become global. The country's ongoing economic growth and

²²⁵ *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1998, p. 36.

²²⁶ *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka: 2000, p. 25.

²²⁷ *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka: 1993, p. 30.

development was certainly the result of policies adopted by the government and entrepreneurs but the Metropolitan Chamber played its part in upholding the process. The Chamber's review-related activities accelerated in this phase. Besides regular reviews, the Chamber had now begun focusing on issues that made review activities look 'epoch-making'. Macro-economic performance trends and forecasts; socio-economic achievements; position of Bangladesh in various global rankings; international recognitions; key policy agenda of the current government; economic and investment opportunities; potential growth sectors; the government's pledge of Vision 2021; challenges in the path of the transformation of the economy; and "Vision 2050" are some important and interesting matters that have been taken up for review by the Chamber in recent times.

The Chamber, in this phase, continued to review traditional matters as well as matters unique to the era. MCCI actively reviewed draft laws and amendment proposals. Significant reviews undertaken by the Chamber included: National Energy Preservation Act, 2000; Law on the Formation of the Energy Regulatory Commission 2003; Amendments to the Companies Act, 2004; the Draft Industrial Policy 2004; Industrial Policy Order 2004; Repeal of the Bangladesh Flag Vessels (Protection) Ordinance, 1982; the Consumer Protection Ordinance, 2008; Industrial Policy 2009; the Draft Law on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR); VAT and Customs; Draft Direct Tax Act, 2011; Draft VAT Act, 2011; Draft Direct Sales Act, 2011; the Companies Act, 1994; the Trade Organisations Ordinance, 1991; the Societies Registration Act, 1860; Draft Financial Reporting Act, 2010; Draft Companies Act, 2011; Draft Trade Organisation Act 2011; Draft Direct Sales Act–Multilevel Marketing; the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) and Bangladesh Government's Trade Agreement; Draft Competition Act; Strengthening of TCB; Comprehensive Trade Policy; Expediting Regional Trade and Market Access to India; Draft Coal Policy, Coal Extraction; and Most Effective Utilization of Coal.

The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) reviewed the Draft Coal Policy, the government had adopted previously. The Chamber arranged a discussion session titled, 'The Draft Coal Policy, Coal Extraction and Most Effective Utilization of Coal Resources for Industrial Development' featuring experts on coal, economists, researchers, academics, and business leaders on Thursday, 23 February, 2012 at the Chamber Conference Hall. The objective of the discussion session was to exchange ideas and views on the draft coal policy between the business community, academia, media, researchers, and members of the National Committee of the Draft Coal Policy of the

Government. A lively debate ensued in the session on whether Bangladesh should pursue open pit coal mining or underground mining to extract its coal. The Chamber suggested that the ownership of coal should remain with the people of Bangladesh and coal should not be exported anywhere.²²⁸

The Chamber Committee reviewed the National Energy Preservation Act, 2000, enacted by the Government, under which officials of the Energy Cell of the Ministry of Energy were authorized to enter any factory premise to ensure that consumption of electricity was following sanctioned loads and terms. Considering the possibility of the misuse of the Act and its consequent adverse effect on industry, the Chamber asked the Government not to go ahead with the move and held discussions with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and also issued a press-release on the subject.²²⁹

The Chamber's recommendation to the National Committee on Exports was an outcome of the review undertaken by the Chamber. The 8th meeting of the National Committee on Export, headed by the Prime Minister, was held on 22 March, 2001. As requested by the Ministry of Commerce, the Chamber sent a detailed proposal giving suggestions for liberalizing fiscal concessions and monetary facilities for export-oriented industries, promoting regional trade, and improving the capacities of export-oriented industries, such as frozen food, tea, leather, leather goods, garments and agro-processing industries.²³⁰

Among reviews conducted by the Chamber, those on the economic situation prevailing in the country have become a regular undertaking of the organization in recent years. The Chamber Committee reviews the economic situation every three months. The Chamber looks at major indicators of the economy and representations are made to concerned ministries of the Government, some of which are then followed up through meetings and discussions. In particular, the Committee reviews situations relating to trade, commerce and industry. Based on these reviews, meetings are held in the Ministries of Commerce, Industries and Planning as well as international development institutions. Reviews based on comparative data highlight different aspects of the country's economic performance. Most of these reviews are picked up by the press and commented upon editorially in a few papers. Discussions are held with the Ministry of Industries and the Ministry of Commerce on these reports and measures are often taken by the Government to tackle some of the problems in the light of Chamber reports. Relevant portions of these reports are also raised at the meetings of the Consultative Committee for the Ministry of

²²⁸ http://www.mccibd.org/chamber_events.php

²²⁹ *Annual Report* of the MCCI, Dhaka: 2001, p. 31.

²³⁰ *Ibid.*

Industries and the Export Promotion Council. In all these meetings, the Chamber submits detailed comments on the prevailing situation and offers comprehensive remedial proposals. The reviews help the Chamber to remain in the forefront on discussions and interactions with the Government, think-tanks, civil society organizations and others, including the press. Not surprisingly, all financial institutions, both governmental and non-governmental, and even the relevant section of the public, look forward to the quarterly economic review of the Chamber to understand the real economic scenario of the country.

Reviewing the National Budget has become a regular matter of the Chamber for a long time now. In the current phase, Budget reviews have become more effective and research-based. The Chamber organizes discussions on the National Budget before and after the budget proposal is announced. In recent years, the Chamber, in collaboration with Maasranga Television, has been organizing a live TV program on Budget reviews. The MCCI and the Policy Research Institute (PRI) also jointly organize Budget discussions these days. The review discussion focuses on important aspects of macroeconomic growth, major



Budget Reviews for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 by MCCI, Dhaka at Maasranga Television
Chief Guest: Mr AMA Muhith, Minister for Finance

sectoral allocations, ADP allocation, revenue collection targets, taxation, safety nets, social welfare programs, the politics of the budget etc. Major recommendations made during budget discussions include: Limit Bank Borrowing, Modernization of Revenue Administration, Removal of New Tax on Life Insurance Policy, Reduction of AIT on Exports at Source, Capacity Building for Effective and Transparent ADP Implementation, Concession for Undisclosed Income, Increase in Agriculture Subsidy, and Restraining Rising Trends in Para-Tariffs etc.

In post-budget discussion sessions, the views of major business sectors are articulated by their representatives. Renowned economists are usually invited to these sessions. Sectoral representatives hold discussions focusing on trade and industry in the perspective of the proposed national budget. In these discussions the Chamber attempts to scrutinize the budget through critical and constructive analyses. It welcomes a budget if it reflects business concerns. It critiques it in post-budget discussions in case of its failure to meet the challenges of economic development. In this regard the Chamber's post-budget (2006-07 and 2007-08) reviews are worth-mentioning. MCCI was deeply disappointed over the provision of the budget allowing continuation of whitening of black money. Retention of the scheme in the budget was contrary to the expectations of the Chamber. The Chamber was also dismayed by the retention of a provision in the budget with regard to tax governance. The Chamber opined that tariff changes in the budget would hurt the country's industrial sector.²³¹

Highlighting the budget reviews of the Chamber, one of its former Presidents, Mr M Anis Ud Dowla, observed, 'the Government seeks the Chamber's suggestions and proposals for preparing the National Budget. As the MCCI is a research-based organization and is established not on the basis of gaining interest, it works for the broader national interest.'²³²

In this phase, the Chamber frequently urged the government as well as the opposition to keep businesses interests out of any political program. Reviewing the economic situation of the country, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry suggested on one occasion that the government should allow large political gatherings only 'during the weekend' in a bid to ensure smooth traffic in the city. It urges the government to think about introducing such a policy in order to keep public life and the flow of business uninterrupted. The Chamber also requested the government as well as all political parties to shun confrontational politics for the sake of economic growth, poverty reduction and employment creation. The chamber also urged the government to keep its borrowing from banks to a minimum and within the amount projected in the budget. The Chamber urged

²³¹ *Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 2006, p. 125; Annual Report of the MCCI, Dhaka: 2007, p. 43.*

²³² 'Interview' of Mr M Anis Ud Dowla, Former President of the MCCI, Dhaka, 11 May 2014.

the government to maintain a balanced monetary policy, to keep room for special provisions for the productive sectors, and to make credit readily available for the private sector to help boost production in fields and factories, and to assist in bringing prices down. The Chamber also advised the government to revise weekly workdays from the existing Sunday-Thursday routine to Monday-Friday in order to keep pace with international markets. MCCI has always advocated improved management in the banking sector and in capital markets. The Chamber also called upon the government to adopt adequate rules for public-private partnership projects without delay so that it could attract private investment from domestic sources.²³³

4.3 International Connections

Contacts and communication between the Metropolitan Chamber and the external world from 1904 to date have been immensely facilitated by the location of the Chamber, its efficiency and commitment, and its years of responsible service to the people in general and trade and commerce in particular. As the Chamber is located in a 'transition zone' between South Asia and mainland Southeast Asia and is close to the Bay of Bengal, it attracts the attention of business people all over the world.^{233a} Enjoying this strategic location, the Chamber has ventured into lands beyond its geographical jurisdiction from the beginning of the 20th century.

Hence, in this sub-section, we would like to discuss how the Chamber maintains its connections with the outside world. The Chamber always has had effective links with trade bodies from all over the world. Thus it has been playing a vital role in bilateral relationships and representation of Bangladesh to the outside world. The Chamber maintains regular links with foreign delegates, ambassadors, high commissioners, ministers and economists, trade bodies, organizations and leading personalities from politics, society and economic sectors around the globe to secure and expand the trade and business interests of Bangladesh.

The promotion of foreign trade has become one of the most important functions of the Chamber. It has been signing protocols and memorandums of understanding with foreign chambers of commerce for promoting international trade and commerce. The Chamber regularly networks with other chambers of commerce of the world through exchange of delegations, visits and correspondence and receiving international agencies, organizations, associations and government and non-government delegations. From 1979, the Chamber's 'International Relations' sub-committee has been working actively to foster the Chamber's international connections.

²³³ *Daily Star*, Thursday, 23 January, 2014.

^{233a} Aksadul Alam, 'Bengal: The Gateway of Contacts and Communications between India and Southeast Asia - Early Phase', *Dhaka University Studies*, 2012.

NCC Phase (1904-1950): During this phase, the Chamber was completely dominated by foreign merchants and entrepreneurs who constituted its members then. They fixed its vision and mission with the aim of maximizing profit out of the business from the region instead of exploring trade links with the wider world. The early documents, though scanty, indicate that the Chamber had close connections with the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) at its inception. This association provided at least a little scope to NCC to meet a few foreign delegations and business personnel.

After 1947, NCC went under the jurisdiction of the East Bengal provincial government. At this stage, Chamber representatives as well as Chamber Committee Members became proactive regarding the Chamber's global connections and foreign affairs. The Government of Pakistan also made Chamber members part of its representative bodies in international conferences. The Chamber's affiliation with the International Labour Organization at this stage is particularly noteworthy. This is reflected in the Minutes of Chamber Committee proceedings. The 33rd ILO Conference, held in May 1950 in Geneva was a high profile international conference where a Chamber representative was called upon to participate.²³⁴ However, in this phase, no foreign trade missions or business delegates were seen to visit the Chamber.

On the basis of the information found in the Chamber's Annual Reports and Minutes, it can be assumed that this was the embryonic phase of the Chamber's international connectivity. A comprehensive picture of the international affairs of the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce is however yet to be retrieved from the archival materials which no doubt exist somewhere.

DNCC Phase (1950-1952): Since the 1950s, the Chamber started forging connections with the wider world. The Chamber Committee began visiting other Chambers outside the region from time to time to create business friendly environments for the Chamber across the world and to discover new fields of trade and commerce for its members. In 1951, when the Congress of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire was held in London the Federation asked DNCC to participate in discussions.²³⁵

The 17th Congress of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire was held in June 1951 in London. Two Chamber members were then invited to attend the event as delegates. This was no doubt the result of a determined endeavor on the part of the Dacca-Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce.²³⁶

²³⁴ *Minutes of the DNCC*, 4 April 1950, p. 21.

²³⁵ *Minutes of the DNCC*, 8 August 1950, p. 38.

²³⁶ *Minutes of the DNCC*, 19 December 1950, p. 49.

The Chamber continued sending its representatives to ILO conferences in these years. When the Chamber received a request to put forward the name of a delegate for the Fourth Session of the Inland Transport Committee of the ILO to be held in Geneva, the name of Mr AA Kahlon was forwarded.²³⁷ But because of 'technical' difficulties posed by the Pakistan Government, it was not possible for him to attend the conference.²³⁸ Though the Chamber was not represented in the event, the recognition of ILO was of significance as a token of the Chamber's growing international standing.

In 1952, the ILO once again requested the Chamber to nominate four delegates or advisors to the International Labour Conference in Geneva in June of that year. The names of Mr AR Faridi and Mr SE Masood were approved by the Chamber Committee but once again these Chamber representatives failed to join the conference because of the Pakistan Government's attitude.²³⁹ In the same year though, the Pakistan Government asked for applications from one or two candidates of the Chamber for training under the ILO Program of Fellowship.²⁴⁰

During this phase, distinguished visitors including High Commissioners of different countries visited the Chamber to discuss issues relating to the development of trade and commerce. The High Commissioner of India visited the Chamber's office in Narayanganj in July 1952.²⁴¹ The ILO Survey Commission visited the Chamber office in November 1952.²⁴² In December 1952, the High Commissioner for UK, Sir Gilbert Laithwaite, met the Chamber Committee.²⁴³

The DNCC phase was the shortest in its history. But it was in this phase that the Chamber started gaining international recognition from organizations such as ILO and began hosting visits of the High Commissioner of India and other countries.

DNCCI Phase (1952-1959): The Chamber's connections with the wider world increased substantially during this phase. Visits by distinguished visitors as well as meetings of overseas visitors with the Chamber Committee became a regular phenomenon in this period. Invitations from various trade bodies from foreign countries, meetings with international trade missions, trade delegations and prominent figures of foreign countries continued on a regular basis at this time.

²³⁷ *Minutes* of the DNCC, 16 November 1951, p. 92.

²³⁸ *Minutes* of the DNCC, 7 December 1951, p. 94.

²³⁹ *Minutes* of the DNCC, 25 April 1952, p. 114.

²⁴⁰ *Minutes* of the DNCC, 15 April 1952, p. 119.

²⁴¹ *Minutes* of the DNCCI, 12 June 1952, p. 127.

²⁴² *Minutes* of the DNCCI, 11 November 1952, p. 168.

²⁴³ *Minutes* of the DNCCI, 25 November 1952, p. 174.

The Chamber was requested to send delegates and attend the 18th Congress of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire held in Montreal, Canada in 1953.²⁴⁴ In 1955, the Chamber felicitated the British High Commissioner in Pakistan and acknowledging this gesture, the High Commissioner conveyed to the Chamber President and Committee his warm appreciation.²⁴⁵

When the Acting Trade Commissioner of the United Kingdom visited East Pakistan in September 1953, the Chamber decided to invite him to its office.²⁴⁶ In the same year when the American Ambassador visited East Bengal he was invited to the Chamber.²⁴⁷

In 1954, for the first time, the Chamber came to an agreement with the London Chamber of Commerce in response to the latter's request to it to become an examining authority in this part of the world. The Chamber accepted the request and a supervisory committee was set up to deal with the matter. From this time onwards, the Chamber has been conducting examinations which forged a special relationship between DNCCI and the London Chamber.²⁴⁸ The Permanent Secretary to the United Kingdom Board of Trade, Sir Frank Lee, visited the Chamber in 1954 and met Committee members and discussed issues of mutual interest.²⁴⁹

During this phase, the Chamber Committee arranged meetings of its members with an United States Trade Mission. Only one foreign delegate visited the Chamber in 1955, but in the following years the number of such visiting delegates increased remarkably. In 1957, the Chamber hosted a numbers of visitors from countries across the world. Among its visitors were Mr M Haas, French Trade Counselor in Pakistan, and Mr Hernan Romero, an ILO expert on social security.²⁵⁰ In the last year of this phase, important international figures in the field of trade and commerce met the Chamber Committee, effectively enhancing Chamber networking across the world. Among them were: Mr HM Curry, Chief of the Economic Division of the American Embassy, Karachi; Mr Eugene Braderman, Director of International Trade (Far Eastern Division), US Department of Commerce; Mr RF Kinsey and Mr DN Twyford of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation, UK; members of the World Bank's Economic Mission, headed by Mr G Neil Perry; and Mr DGA Bentliffe, UK

²⁴⁴ *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 19 June 1953, p. 212.

²⁴⁵ *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 12 July 1955, p. 82.

²⁴⁶ *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 8 September 1953, p. 227.

²⁴⁷ *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 12 November 1953, p. 241.

²⁴⁸ *Annual Report of the DNCCI: 1954*, p. 12.

²⁴⁹ *Annual Report of the DNCCI: 1954*, p. 97.

²⁵⁰ *Annual Report of the DNCCI: 1957*, p. 32, 33.

Trade Commissioner.²⁵¹ In addition, the Senior Trade Commissioner of the United Kingdom and the UK High Commissioner also visited the Chamber this year.²⁵²

In this phase, the Chamber's international connections developed significantly and meetings and negotiations between the Chamber and trade bodies or the representatives of trade bodies from the United States and United Kingdom increased.

NCCI Phase (1959-1979): This was an even more significant phase in the history of the Chamber's developing international connections. In particular, after the independence of Bangladesh in 1971 the Chamber's international connections flourished. The Chamber's association with international trade bodies continued in the nineteen sixties as it had done in its last phase but at this time the Chamber hosted visits from trade bodies from Japan, France, Germany, Ceylon, Spain and Italy in addition to USA and UK.

A number of meetings were held in the Chamber's office with members of the Burmese Trade Mission, Australian Trade Commissioner, members of the Yugoslav Economic Mission, Commercial Attaché of American Embassy, Karachi, and a visiting ILO expert during 1960-61.²⁵³ A Burmese Trade Mission again visited the Chamber in 1962.

The Director of the US Investment Development Mission thanked and appreciated the Chamber President for its whole-hearted support and cooperation in making its visit a success. The Chamber's contributions in the receptions arranged for the visits of the King and Queen of Malaya²⁵⁴ and the Crown Prince and Princess of Japan and King and Queen of Thailand was appreciated by the Pakistan government.²⁵⁵

In this phase the Chamber was asked to nominate a representative by the Commission on Asian and Far Eastern Affairs for its 18th Session in Tokyo in March 1962. However, the Chamber was not able to send its representatives to Tokyo because of the Government's apathy to the Chamber.²⁵⁶ This was also the case with the Chicago International Trade Fair held in July-August, 1962 where Chamber representatives were once again invited.²⁵⁷

The Chamber received a letter from a mission of French bankers and industrialists in response to the cordiality shown by it. The letter also welcomed Chamber members to visit

²⁵¹ *Annual Report of the DNCCI: 1958*, pp. 33-34.

²⁵² *Annual Report of the NCCI: 1959*, p. 28.

²⁵³ *Annual Report of the NCCI: 1961*, p. 69.

²⁵⁴ *Minutes of the NCCI*, 11 January 1962, pp. 508-09.

²⁵⁵ *Minutes of the NCCI*, 8 February 1962, p. 515; 12 April 1962, p. 524.

²⁵⁶ *Minutes of the NCCI*, 8 February 1962, p. 515.

²⁵⁷ *Minutes of the NCCI*, 12 April 1962, p. 526.

Paris in 1962,²⁵⁸ though the Chamber could not avail the invitation. A French Trade Mission visited the Chamber once again in this phase in 1966.²⁵⁹

A joint meeting of the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Pakistan Jute Association was held with the Italian Trade Delegation at the Chamber Assembly Hall in July 1964. The event was a great success and, as a consequence, the relationship with Italy developed visibly and trade between Italy and Pakistan increased substantially.²⁶⁰

1968 was especially significant for the Chamber for its international connections. A number of trade delegations from Europe, America and East Asia had meetings with NCCI this year. Trade delegations and economic missions from China, Italy, Germany, Spain, Britain and USA came here at this time and discussed various aspects of trade and commerce with Chamber members.²⁶¹

On the basis of the Chamber's Annual Reports and Minutes, it may be concluded that the years between 1969 and 1972 were barren ones for the Chamber's international connectivity, as there is no noteworthy event mentioned in the Annual Reports or Minutes. This could be because of the mass upsurge of the period, the Bangladesh Liberation Movement, and the condition of the country immediately after independence. Clearly, the Chamber could not maintain its global links during this time. The one exception to this was in the year after the independence, when the Bharat Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, offered its help to promote trade and economic collaboration with Bangladesh and extended an invitation to a Trade and Industrial Delegation from NCCI to explore the possibilities of collaboration.²⁶²

The Chamber's international connections through regular visits and meetings between the NCCI and foreign trade bodies continued in this phase. At the request of the Export Promotion Bureau, for example, the Chamber decided to meet the visiting Chief Executive of London Import Opportunities Office in 1976.²⁶³ A trade delegation from Pakistan met Chamber members and discussed issues related to export and import facilities in July, 1976.²⁶⁴ In 1977, a Japanese trade delegation visited the Chamber.²⁶⁵

²⁵⁸ *Minutes of the NCCI*, 24 May 1962, p. 538.

²⁵⁹ *Annual Report of the NCCI*: 1966, p. 12.

²⁶⁰ *Annual Report of the NCCI*: 1964, p. 112-14.

²⁶¹ *Annual Report of the NCCI*: 1968, p. 11.

²⁶² *Minutes of the NCCI*: 4 February 1972, p. 1122.

²⁶³ *Minutes of the NCCI*: 29 January 1976, p. 1304.

²⁶⁴ *Minutes of the NCCI*: 13 June 1976, p. 1325.

²⁶⁵ *Minutes of the NCCI*: 12 April 1977, p. 1387.



Former President of the MCCI Mr M Anis Ud Dowla is seen exchanging greetings with the late Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi, New Delhi, India in 1977.

The Government of Bangladesh requested the Chamber to meet a delegation from China and another one from the Muslim World Economic Council of Indonesia in the same year.²⁶⁶ Also in 1976, the NCCI Committee met a Review Mission from the International Trade Centre, and a National Bank of Paris Representative.²⁶⁷ In 1978-79, the Chamber kept up the pace of such appointments. It conducted high level meetings with the Economic Mission of Italian traders and industrialists, a 10 Member Nepalese Trade Delegation, a Joint Mission from Investment Promotion Services, Switzerland, a 16 Member Trade Delegation from Singapore, a 16 Member General Trade Delegation from Pakistan, the IMF Director Mr Stephenson, the Vice President of US Overseas Private Investment Corporation Mr Robert S Smith, a 12 Member Business Delegation from Republic of Korea, the British Executive Service Director Mr EJ Westnedge, the UNCTAD GSP Project Director Mr H Cabillos, the UNCTAD GSP Project Associate Director, a Trade Mission of the Indian Engineering Industry and so on.²⁶⁸ The Chamber Committee also met Sir Cyrill Pitts, President,

²⁶⁶ *Minutes of the NCCI: 1 March 1977, p. 1383.*

²⁶⁷ *Annual Report of the NCCI: 1978, p. 33.*

²⁶⁸ *Annual Report of the NCCI: 1978, p. 33; Annual Report of the NCCI: 1979, pp. 29-30; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, p. 30.*

India-Pakistan-Bangladesh Association and South Asia Trade Committee of Confederation of British Industry on February, 1979 and discussed the possibilities of more British investments in Bangladesh.²⁶⁹

In this phase, the Chamber Secretary Mr CK Hyder was invited by the Government of the United States to visit that country.²⁷⁰ The President of the Chamber was included in a Government delegation to the Canton Trade Fair.²⁷¹ Later that year, Chamber Committee members accompanied a government delegation to Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Japan to invite foreign investors to Bangladesh.²⁷²

In April 1977, the Secretary of the Chamber attended a conference of the International Labour Organization in Geneva. The Secretary then visited the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris and the London Chamber of Commerce to acquaint himself with their activities at the suggestion of the Chamber Committee.²⁷³

The Chamber's Sub-Committee on International Relations was formed in 1978 to further promote its international connections. In the last year of this phase, the Chamber commissioned a comprehensive paper to assess the merits and demerits of a common market amongst South Asian countries. The Chamber Economic Research Cell played a key role in that initiative.²⁷⁴ In this way the Chamber contributed in the planning stage to the making of a South Asian regional forum.

MCCI, Dhaka: First Phase (1979-1999): The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) has always wanted to connect with the wider world. The Sub-Committee on International Relations organized regular meetings with foreign trade delegations of different countries in and outside Bangladesh in this phase. The Chamber also formed Sub-Committees on Foreign Investment and International Trade Fair and Tariff for this purpose. These committees began to play effective roles in connecting the Chamber and Bangladesh business to the wider economic world.

At the beginning of this phase, the Chamber held meetings with the Consul General for Bangladesh in Istanbul and the CBI Director of Netherlands and discussed the possibilities of trade and commerce between Bangladesh and these two countries.²⁷⁵ Over the next few

²⁶⁹ *Annual Report of the NCCI: 1979*, p. 39.

²⁷⁰ *Minutes of the NCCI*, 29 January 1976, p. 1304.

²⁷¹ *Minutes of the NCCI*, 26 April 1976, p. 1315.

²⁷² *Minutes of the NCCI*, 15 July 1976, p. 1330.

²⁷³ *Minutes of the NCCI*, 12 April 1977, pp. 1396-97.

²⁷⁴ *Annual Report of the NCCI: 1978*, p. 47.

²⁷⁵ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1980*, pp. 30-31.



Mr P Blaker, MP, Hon'ble British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs speaking at a meeting held in 1981 with the business community held at the Conference Hall of MCCI

years the Chamber's activities increased manifold. Chamber members met a Review Mission of the International Trade Centre, Geneva, the Swedish International Development Agency, an 8 Members delegation from the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and another one from the British Executive Service Overseas, representatives from England and South Asian Trade Association- London, a team led by the World Bank's Divisional Chief for Industrial Development and Finance for South Asia, the British Minister for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, a delegation of the Association of Indian Engineering Industry, the World Bank's Mission on Development and Finance Division of South Asia Projects Department, the President of Fuji Economic Planning Corporation of Japan, a World Bank team, representatives from the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, and an Advisor to the Belgian Federation of Industry.²⁷⁶

The Chamber also arranged several meetings and held negotiations with a large number of foreign delegates in this phase. These meetings had important consequence for the economic development of the country. Some of the important meetings held at this juncture included meetings with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the US Centre for Entrepreneurial Management, the Chamber of Commerce Malaya, a Canadian Business team, the Bangladesh Japan Joint Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation, a delegation from PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, India, a 13 member delegation from the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank Team on Investment Financing, a delegation from the Malaysian Overseas Investment Corporation, a British Trade mission, a delegation from the Arab Chamber of Commerce, a high-powered team from IMF, the Commonwealth Development Corporation, the Minister for Science and Technology of the Republic of

²⁷⁶ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1981, pp. 28-29; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1982, p. 19.*

Korea, a delegation of Japan Industrial Development Organization, the Korean Trade and Investment Delegation, an EEC Investors mission, a China Trade and Investment delegation and a Turkish Trade delegation.²⁷⁷

The Chamber arranged a luncheon meeting with a visiting Investment Mission of the Singapore Trade Development Board and Singapore Confederation of Industry at the request of the Board of Investment in November, 1997 where they discussed the possibilities of investment and joint venture investments from Singapore.²⁷⁸ The Chamber held a meeting with the South Asian Group of Eminent Persons in February, 1998. The group recognized the importance of the Chamber and looked forward to more involvement and cooperation from the Chamber in the future while finalizing the formation and location of the “Think Tank” for forging closer economic cooperation within SAARC countries.²⁷⁹

Chamber representatives visited numerous countries in this phase, either as part of government delegations or as part of its teams. A high-powered 10 member delegation representing both the public and private sectors led by the Chamber President visited Delhi, in November 1981. This delegation visited the Indian Industrial Trade Fair and discussed the issue of developing bilateral trade relationships between the trade and commerce sectors of India and Bangladesh.²⁸⁰



Mr Syed Manzur Elahi (4th from left), President of MCCI, welcoming the Indian Investment Delegation from the Confederation of Engineering Industry, India in its Conference Hall on 7 January, 1990

²⁷⁷ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1983, p. 18; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1984, p. 25; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1985, p. 19; Bangladesh Malaysia Joint Colloquium Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1987, p. 22; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1988, p. 22; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1989, p. 26; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1990, p. 40, 44; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1996, p. 25.*

²⁷⁸ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1998, p. 33.*

²⁷⁹ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1998, p. 36.*

²⁸⁰ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1982, p. 26.*

In 1987, the Committee sent a Trade Delegation to Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Australia to explore possibilities of further expansion of trade with these countries. This visit proved to be of importance since it provided opportunities to hold discussions on various issues relating to bilateral trade relationships which were very fruitful both in the short and long term.²⁸¹ In 1989, a Delegation team led by the Chamber's President went to West Germany, Sweden, the UK and Belgium. This visit helped establish institutional contacts with the Confederation of British Industry, the Confederation of the German Chamber of Commerce, the German Employers' Federation and the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's image was no doubt uplifted through the address of the Chamber President at a seminar organized by the Confederation of British Industry of Bangladesh that year.²⁸²

A Chamber delegation went to New Delhi in 1989. Another one left Dhaka to join the 8th Engineering Trade Fair sponsored by the US Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Led by the President, a delegation met the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Calcutta, the Confederation of Indian Chamber of Commerce, and the Punjab-Haryana and Haryana-Delhi Chamber of Commerce. It also held discussions with the Confederation of Indian Engineering Industry. After the visit, a report was submitted to the Ministry as to how bilateral trade between Bangladesh and India could be improved.²⁸³

Represented by its President and the Secretary General, the Chamber Committee participated in the Bangladesh Festival in London in July, 1994. A stall set up by the Chamber displayed important products of some of the member-firms. The Chamber attended a number of international conferences and meetings at the request of different ministries and boards.

At the request of the Board of Investment, the President and the Vice-President went as part of a delegation led by the Minister for Finance to participate at the seminar on 'Bangladesh Investment Climate and Trade Opportunities' in Rome from January 30 – February 1, 1995.²⁸⁴ At the request of the Ministry of Commerce, a member of the Committee attended the 6th Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission in Islamabad in July, 1995.²⁸⁵ The Chamber organized an Investment Seminar jointly with US Foreign Commercial Service, Singapore. Chamber members participated in the 32nd World Congress of the ICC in Shanghai in April, 1997.²⁸⁶ MCCI organized an Investment Seminar in

²⁸¹ Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1987, p. 27.

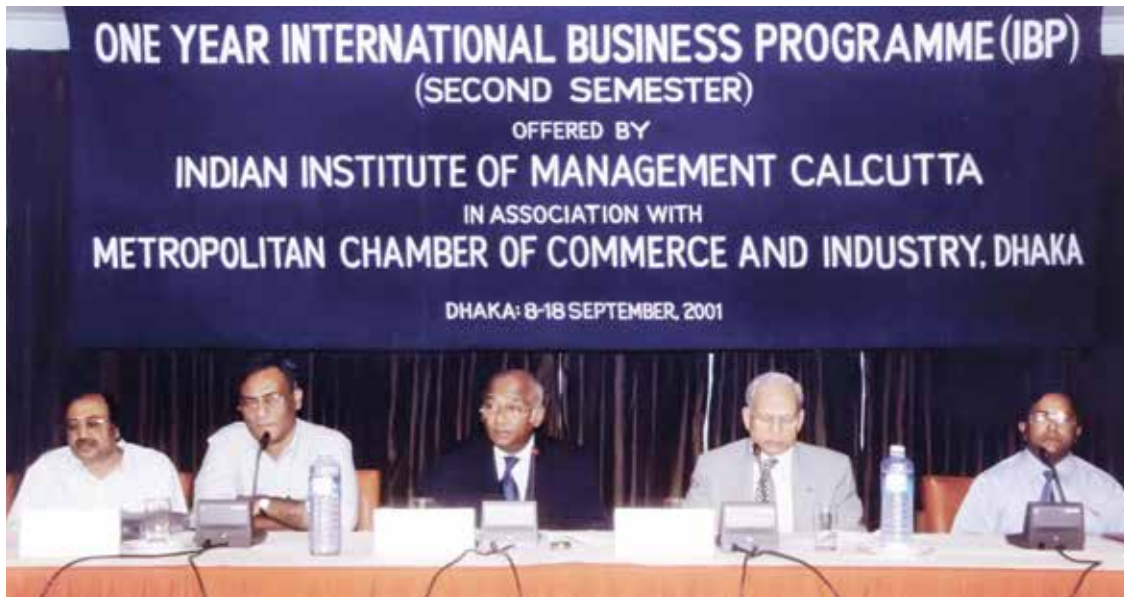
²⁸² *Annual Report* of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1989, p. 37.

²⁸³ *Annual Report* of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1989, pp. 37-38.

²⁸⁴ *Annual Report* of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1995, p. 32.

²⁸⁵ *Annual Report* of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1995, p. 36.

²⁸⁶ Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1997, pp. 33-35.



Celebrating One Year International Business Programme (IBP) in Dhaka, September, 2001

Singapore, jointly with the Singapore Confederation of Industries and Singapore Trade Development Board in 1999 in a bid to impress the businessmen of Singapore on investment opportunities in Bangladesh. The Committee met Dr Joseph Stiglitz, Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President of the World Bank, Washington, the Country Director and other senior officials of the World Bank Resident Mission in Bangladesh in 1997. They discussed the overall economic situation in the country.²⁸⁷ The Chamber Secretary-General attended the 3rd WTO Ministerial Conference in December 1999, in Seattle, USA.²⁸⁸

During this phase, the Chamber developed its relationships with international development organizations, trade delegations and trade missions of different countries. Important discussions and agreements took place between the Chamber and many prominent international bodies. Developing international ties had become even more central to the Chamber's work in the millennium phase of the Chamber's history.

MCCI, Dhaka: Millennium Phase (2000-Present): The Metropolitan Chamber entered its new Millennium phase with substantial structural capacity and a wealth of experience gained from what was by then a 75 year history. In the fast globalizing world, the Chamber has been able to keep pace with the demands of the time. To face the challenges of global trade and commerce and of course, the needs of member-firms, the Chamber has

²⁸⁷ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1999*, pp. 31-33.

²⁸⁸ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2000*, p. 27.

transformed its vision and mission statement in this phase. In regard to its wider world connections, the Chamber has been working persistently to achieve its goals.

Several trade delegations visited the Chamber at the beginning of the phase. Many Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) were signed at this time. In 2000, a trade delegation from Singapore visited Bangladesh; the Chamber penned a MoU with them and provided host facilities. A Sri Lankan Trade Delegation also visited the Chamber the same year.²⁸⁹

In this phase, a number of Trade Missions, delegations and representatives of Multilateral Development Organizations visited the Chamber. The Chamber received business delegations from neighboring and other countries and its members visited numerous countries and participated in many international conferences related to trade and commerce. At the beginning of the millennium, the Chamber President, along with the Secretary-General, was a part of the Bangladesh Delegation of the 4th WTO Ministerial Meeting in Doha, Qatar in November 2001.²⁹⁰ The Chamber became a member of the South Asian Alliance for Responsive Business (SARB), a business bodies' forum created to promote socially responsible business practices in the South Asian sub-region, considering this to be an integral part of corporate social responsibility.²⁹¹

The Chamber held a meeting with Mr Nicholas Stern, Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President of the World Bank, Washington DC in the Chamber Office on 8 January 2002. Mr Abdul Razak Dawood, Minister of Commerce, Industries and Production of Pakistan, visited the Chamber and spoke to members of MCCI on 29 January. The Chamber hosted a luncheon meeting in honour of Mr David Kilgour, MP, Secretary of State for Asia Pacific, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Government of Canada on 1 April, and on 27 August an event in honour of Rt Hon Donald C Mckinnon, Commonwealth Secretary General, at the MCCI office. The Chamber held a discussion meeting on 4 September with the visiting President of the Japanese Commerce and Industry Association and a JETRO Representative at the MCCI office.

In 2003, a Mission of the Asian Development Bank met members of MCCI on 20 July. Dr Joseph E Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate and Professor of Finance and Economics, Columbia Business School, USA addressed members of MCCI, Dhaka at the Chamber office on 13 August in the same year. The Ambassador of USA in Bangladesh, Mr Harry K Thomas, visited MCCI on 24 September. Lord Swaraj Paul, a member of the British House of Lords,

²⁸⁹ Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2000, p. 26.

²⁹⁰ *Annual Report* of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2002, p. 31.

²⁹¹ *Annual Report* of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2004, p. 37.

held a meeting with members of the Chamber on 8 October 2003. The British High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner were present at the meeting. The Chamber held a meeting on 20 October with Mr Guy Gagnon, Director, Asia Bureau, Industrial Cooperation Programme, Canadian Partnership Branch and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), at the MCCI office.

The Australian High Commissioner, Ms. Lorraine Barker, met the Chamber Committee in March 2004 and discussed the possibilities of enhancing trade between Bangladesh and Australia.²⁹² The Chamber held a discussion and dinner meeting on 24 June, 2004 with the Singapore Prime Minister, Mr Goh Chok Tong at a city hotel. In the same year, the Chamber held a meeting on 11 October with the visiting Organisation Development Adviser of the Confederation of Danish Industries at the MCCI office. In 2004, the Chamber signed a MoU with two Australian trade bodies, viz., Australian Business Limited and State Chamber of Commerce (New South Wales) as well as the Confederation of Nepalese Industries.²⁹³ A delegation led by the Minister for Finance and Planning of Bangladesh, attended the World Economic Forum's Summit in New Delhi in December 2004 and the Chamber was an integral part of this delegation.²⁹⁴

In 2005, an 11-member Chinese Government Economic and Trade Delegation headed by Mr Wang Chao, the first Vice-Governor of Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, China visited the Chamber on 8 June. The delegation discussed matters relating to trade between Bangladesh and China. In the same year a 10-member delegation from the Chamber visited Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China from 10 to 17 December at the invitation of the Vice Governor, Dehong Prefecture, Yunnan Province.

A German Business Mission visited and exchanged views with members of the Chamber on 22 May 2006. The visit was organized by the German Asia-Pacific Business Association and was sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Economics & Technology, Germany. The team expressed interest in investing in textile and other sectors in Bangladesh. The MCCI delegation held meetings in March with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and discussed issues relating to the workings of the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) that went into effect from 1 July 2006.

A delegation was sent to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of the Governor of the Yunnan Province of China on December, 2005. Its members talked about

²⁹² *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2004*, p. 34.

²⁹³ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁴ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2005*, p. 30.

border trade and bilateral issues, attended the China-Myanmar Border Trade Fair, and signed two MoUs with the Yunnan Provincial Chamber of Commerce and Yunnan Fujian Chamber of Commerce. Another delegation was sent to Sri Lanka in the same year; it discussed bilateral issues and learnt about the Sri Lankan experience of their Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India. This delegation also discussed the feasibility of using Colombo Port since Singapore Port was becoming more and more expensive.²⁹⁵ The Chamber's former President, Mr M Anis Ud Dowla, and the Secretary-General, Mr CK Hyder participated at the 7th International Conference on Corporate Governance held in London in May 2006.²⁹⁶

Another significant event relating to the international connections of the Chamber took place in 2007. An eight-member MCCI delegation headed by its President attended the Second SAARC Business Conclave held at Bombay, India, on 17-18 February at the invitation of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Conclave was organized to project the strategic outlook and contemporary mindset of SAARC member countries on development issues from a regional as well as a global perspective. The Chamber Delegation called on the Governor, Reserve Bank of India, and Chairman, Bombay Stock Exchange, on 19 February. The delegation was received warmly at both institutions. They exchanged views on bilateral cooperation and discussed issues of mutual benefit.²⁹⁷

A 17-member Thai Board of Investment Delegation visited the Chamber on 28 March 2007. The delegation was led by Mr Vittaya Praisuwan, the Executive Investment Adviser, Thailand Board of Investment. The Thai delegation showed keen interest in Bangladesh's investment climate. Its members indicated that Thai investors would look forward to utilizing investment opportunities in Bangladesh in the near future.

A team of experts from the World Bank visited the Chamber on 14 June, 2004 to hold a pre-consultation meeting with leaders of the private sector to get their views. A German business delegation led by Mr Peter Clasen from the OAV (German Asia-Pacific Business Association), along with officials of the German Embassy in Bangladesh, visited the Chamber on 27 October. The discussion stressed the importance of Germany as a major trading partner of Bangladesh and underscored the need for German investment, particularly in conventional and renewable power generation.²⁹⁸ Delegations from Thailand, the Africa Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), also visited the Chamber during this phase.²⁹⁹

²⁹⁵ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2006*, pp. 24-25.

²⁹⁶ http://www.mccibd.org/chamber_events.php

²⁹⁷ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2007*, p. 31.

²⁹⁸ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2010*, p. 25.

²⁹⁹ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2010*, pp. 31-32.

The Chamber participated in an event titled ‘South Europe Meets South Asia’ in February 2009. This was a technical and business match-making collaboration for IT and IT-enabled services and the Processed Food Sectors. The event was held in Colombo under the auspices of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.³⁰⁰

The Chamber participated in an Investment Seminar on Bangladesh held in Singapore in February, 2010. Ms. Nihad Kabir, the Vice-President of the Chamber, was invited by the Bangladesh Investment Climate Fund (BICF) to attend the Public Private Dialogue Global Workshop in Vienna. Ms. Kabir was able to make various suggestions on policy issues, capacity building and good governance at the workshop.³⁰¹ A 27-member business mission from Thailand visited the Chamber on September, 2010. Its members discussed bilateral relationships, transfer of Thai technology to Bangladesh, and investments in the agro sectors of Bangladesh.³⁰² The Chamber President, Mr M Anis Ud Dowla, participated at the regional conference, “Integrating BIMSTEC 2010” in Assam, India in November 2010.³⁰³

A delegation of business leaders from CII paid a courtesy visit to the Chamber in May, 2011. The Chamber President, Mr Amjad Khan Chowdhury, attended the 1st meeting of the South Asia Forum in New Delhi on September, 2011. He was the only representative from the private sector of Bangladesh in the 13-member delegation. Chamber Vice-President Ms. Nihad Kabir was a speaker at a seminar titled ‘Emerging Business Opportunities in Bangladesh’ held in Singapore, in March 2012.³⁰⁴ In April and May of the same year,



A high-powered delegation from the Republic of Singapore headed by Mr Zulkifli Masagos, Hon'ble Minister of State for Foreign and Home Affairs, visited the Chamber on 4 September, 2012

³⁰⁰ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2009, p. 33.*

³⁰¹ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2011, p. 38.*

³⁰² *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2011, p. 25.*

³⁰³ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2011, p. 27.*

³⁰⁴ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2012, p. 29.*

delegations from the Chamber visited Myanmar and Vietnam respectively. The delegation discussed bilateral trade and cooperation in business matters between Bangladesh and the two countries.³⁰⁵ In 2012, a four member team led by Mr Badal Rag from the Times of India visited the Chamber and proposed to set up a forum partnering with media and business communities from both countries.³⁰⁶



A German(OAV) delegation led by Mr Peter Clasen visited the Chamber on 19 May 2014 and exchanged views with the Business Community.

A business delegation led by the Czech Minister of Industry and Trade, Mr Martin Kuba visited the Chamber and held meetings and took part in a business seminar on 11 March 2013. The Czech delegation consisted of two ministers and 60 members from different sectors. Its members were keen to establish business ties with Bangladesh. In this connection, MCCI's Vice-President Barrister Ms. Nihad Kabir made a presentation on behalf of the Chamber to the Czech Business Delegation highlighting Bangladesh as a potential destination for Czech investment which was well-appreciated by the visitors.³⁰⁷

The Country Representative in Bangladesh for the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Mr Kei Kawano, along with his colleagues, paid a courtesy visit to the Chamber on 8 July 2013. Mr Kawano was keen to promote Japanese investment in Bangladesh and explained the information gaps that existed among potential Japanese investors. MCCI assured all possible cooperation to JETRO and potential Japanese investors so that they could invest in Bangladesh. MCCI declared its intention to work together with JETRO in the future and its keenness to establish a long term working relationship with the organization.³⁰⁸

³⁰⁵ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2011, p. 34.*

³⁰⁶ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2012, p. 27.*

³⁰⁷ http://www.mccibd.org/chamber_events.php

³⁰⁸ http://www.mccibd.org/chamber_events.php

At the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Chamber organized a meeting with private sector representatives of the USA under the Bangladesh-USA Partnership Dialogue (Foreign Secretary Level) held at the Chamber Building on 27 May 2013. The US team consisted primarily of US citizens who were from the Bangladeshi diaspora in USA. The Bangladesh side was led by the Chamber President, Mrs. Rokia A Rahman, and the discussion was moderated by Vice-President Mr Kamran T Rahman. The US Ambassador, Mr Dan W Mozena, joined the discussion along with senior Embassy officials. The US team suggested that such interactions should take place on a regular basis. They expected that a team from the Bangladesh business community should visit the USA soon and interact with different trade and affiliated bodies in USA. They expressed their keenness to facilitate and support such a visit. The issue of the macroeconomic situation of Bangladesh, regulatory measures, tariff policies, investment in Bangladesh and prospects of IT and IT services in Bangladesh were emphasized in the meeting.³⁰⁹ Also at the request of the Ministry of Women's and Children Affairs, the MCCI organized a panel discussion on 'Development of Women Entrepreneurship' that was followed by a dinner at the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel on 18 June 2013, in honour of visiting ministers and delegates of the 10th Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers.³¹⁰

A delegation from MCCI led by its President visited Bhutan during June 17-20, 2013. Its members were well received and had meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr Sonam P Wangdi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, briefed the delegation on the economy of Bhutan and investment opportunities for foreign and local investors in the country. Thereafter, Mr Phub Tshering, the Secretary-General of the Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry received the delegation at its premises. The Chamber delegation had detailed interaction and meetings with the business community of Bhutan during their visit.³¹¹

The Chamber organized a number of international seminars, symposiums and conferences for the enhancement of the country's trade and commerce during this phase. The Metropolitan Chamber also provided financial and logistic support to the International Chamber of Commerce - Bangladesh (ICC-Bangladesh) to help it organize the ICC Asia Conference in Dhaka in November, 2000.³¹² The Chamber co-sponsored with Save the Children, UK, a discussion program of business leaders, NGO heads and donor representatives on the eve of the visit of Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne, in

³⁰⁹ http://www.mccibd.org/chamber_events.php

³¹⁰ http://www.mccibd.org/chamber_events.php

³¹¹ http://www.mccibd.org/chamber_events.php

³¹² *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2001, p. 29.*

November, 2000.³¹³ In 2001, the Chamber collaborated with the Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD) on a study on Global Competition whose outcome was published by the World Economic Forum, Geneva.³¹⁴ Jointly with Singapore Manufacturers' Federation, Singapore Enterprises Ltd., Bangladesh High Commission in Singapore and the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, the Chamber organized an Investors' Conference in Singapore in May, 2004. Prominent Singapore entrepreneurs were present at the event.³¹⁵

As mentioned earlier, NCC was dominated by British businessmen in its NCC phase. Their focus was maximizing business interests through the Chamber. However, any kind of worldwide networking and developing connections for the development of 'East Bengal' was absent in their agenda at the time. In the DNCC phase, the Chamber worked in tandem with the Pakistan Government. International activities of the Chamber were at times hampered by it in this phase, since the Chamber had to cope with the government's 'biased' decisions. In the DNCC phase, the Chamber was forced to cancel its nomination for representatives to attend the conference of the International Labour Organization.³¹⁶ During the DNCCI phase, the Chamber wanted to meet the Indian High Level Trade Delegation which was visiting Pakistan in an effort to reach a trade agreement in 1955. The Indian Delegation was accompanied by two representatives of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. But the Government of Pakistan did not allow DNCCI members to meet the Indian delegation. The Chamber did not even get permission to send its representatives. As a result, the Chamber failed to contribute to the important agreement signed between India and Pakistan. Such non-cooperation from the Pakistan Government towards the Chamber in East Bengal is in evidence throughout the DNCCI phase. Similar obstacles were also posed by the government on other occasions, in the first part of the NCCI phase relating to international networking. The Chamber had to overcome many obstacles, including non-cooperation of the Central Government, until 1971. The Chamber's international connections became easier and highly functional only in independent Bangladesh. In the MCCI, Dhaka phase, and even more obviously during this new millennium, the international associations of the Chamber have increased manifold.

Mr Farooq Ahmed, the current MCCI Secretary-General of the Chamber, opines on its international connections – 'MCCI is one of the 28 partners of SAARC Trade Promotion Network and the only private sector Liaison Center in the network of Enterprise Outreach Service (EOS) of the World Bank Group in Bangladesh. Members of the Chamber have

³¹³ *Annual Report* of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2001, p. 30.

³¹⁴ *Annual Report* of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2001, p. 33.

³¹⁵ *Annual Report* of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2004, p. 34.

³¹⁶ *Minutes* of the DNCC, 7 December 1951, p. 94.

access to this network and can connect with private sectors around the world through it. The Chamber also maintains links with other important trade bodies in the region which is of great support to its members'.³¹⁷

The Chamber has a reputation of working with development partners such as the World Bank (WB), International Finance Corporation (IFC), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Currently, the Chamber has undertaken a joint study with Nepal entitled, 'Analysis of Prevailing Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) in SAARC' to identify non-tariff measures within SAARC. It is taking part in another study with the Institute of Development Economies of Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO), entitled 'Current State of Industrial Sub-Sectors in Bangladesh' to address the status of the industrial sub-sectors of Bangladesh. These studies are expected to lead to adoption of guidelines to identify and remove trade barriers amongst SAARC countries and provide for a course of action in generating employment.³¹⁸

The Chamber has thus been having regular and continuous interactions with the wider world. In the process, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries has achieved eminence not only in Bangladesh but also beyond its geographical territory. The Chamber has consistently been engaged in policy formulation, review and global networking in upholding the interests of its members as well the nation.

4.4 Representations

The Chamber has been representing the interests of its members to various important government, semi-government and autonomous bodies since 1904. Through nomination and representation in various bodies, the Chamber has been able to represent the views of its members on trade and commerce. Examples of such representations are (a) Eastern Bengal Labour Advisory Board from 1952 to 1963; Bangladesh Shipping Corporation in 1981 and (b) Non-government bodies such as the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Narayanganj Education Society.

The Chamber has in its membership roll most of the leading commercial and industrial organizations of Bangladesh, including public sector corporations and multinational companies. It holds a unique position because of its affiliation with prestigious and recognized commercial and industrial organizations. At present, many established organizations in the private and public sectors representing manufacturing, banking, non-banking financial institutions, insurance companies, IT and IT enabled

³¹⁷ Farooq Ahmed, 'Know Your Chamber', *Chamber News*, 14 August 2013, p. 6.

³¹⁸ Farooq Ahmed, *Chamber News*, 14 August 2013, p. 5.

technology-related services and health and media services, are members of the Chamber.³¹⁹ The Chamber's Committee consists of leading businessmen and professionals from both the public and private sectors.

The Chamber provides its services to public and private sectors by sending representatives to national and international bodies. Currently, it is represented in sixteen advisory committees of the Government, viz. National Committee of Export headed by the Prime Minister; Consultative Committee for Ministry of Commerce; National Council for Industrial Development (NCID); Consultative Committee for the National Board of Revenue; National Export Council; Transport Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Communications; Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Jute; Advisory Committee for the Ministry of Textiles; Chittagong Port Advisory Committee; Custom House Advisory Committee, Chittagong; National Consultative Committee on Power; Standing Committee on Export Credit; Bangladesh Institute of Management; Council of Bangladesh Standards & Testing Institution; ICD (Inland Container Depot) Advisory Committee Dhaka and the Advisory Committee for Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition to advisory support in policy formulation, the Chamber provides many essential services to the business community through its expert and experienced members.

The Chamber is regularly invited to send representatives to national and international bodies, both in the public and private sector.

A list of Chamber representatives (Phase Wise) to various committees and organizations from the very inception is included in an appendix (See Appendix 11). This list was prepared on the basis of the information available in Chamber documents such as *Minute Books, Annual Reports* and *Chamber News*.

Representations (Historical Outline): From the book written by CWE Cotton³²⁰ and from Thacker's *Directory*³²¹ it can be seen that representation was an integral part and major function of the Chamber during its first phase, i.e. from 1904 to 1950. During this period, the Chamber was represented in the East Bengal Board of Industries (JWE Berry, 1950),³²² the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire (Hamer & Bodly, 1950)³²³ and ASSOCHAP (Guthrie & MM Ispahani, 1950).³²⁴ NCC usually followed the policies of the

³¹⁹ <http://www.mccibd.org/pages/representative-character.php>

³²⁰ Cotton, CWE, *Handbook of Commercial Information for India*, 3rd edition, New Delhi: Government of India, 1937.

³²¹ *Thacker's Indian Directory*, A Directory of the Chief Industries of India (The Fiftieth Issue of The Bengal Directory), Calcutta: Thacker, Spink & Co., 1905-07, 1912.

³²² *Minutes* of the DNCC, 19 December 1950, p. 48.

³²³ *Minutes* of the DNCC, 19 December 1950, p. 49.

³²⁴ *Minutes* of the DNCC, 19 December 1950, p. 48.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce (BCC) situated in Kolkata. In addition to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce also sent representatives to government bodies through their nominations to boards, committees and councils.

In the second phase (1950-52), the Chamber continued to have representation in government and non-government bodies, advisory committees and councils. The Chamber representation to Employers Association (MM Ispahani, 1951),³²⁵ East Bengal Board of Industries (JWE Berry, 1952),³²⁶ Foreign Trade Development Council (A Jalil, 1951),³²⁷ Jute Brokers Association (1951),³²⁸ and Narayanganj Municipality (1952)³²⁹ are some examples.

The DNCCI Phase (1952-59) saw the Chamber make nearly 35 representations to various committees or organizations.³³⁰ In this phase, most importantly, the Chamber offered representations in educational institutions as well as government and non-government bodies and committees such as the Board of Governors, Viqarunnissa Noon School (MM Ispahani, 1956, 1957),³³¹ Court of the University of Dhaka (MM Ispahani, 1956, AA Kahlon, 1957),³³² and the Government College of Commerce, Chittagong (MM Ispahani, 1953).³³³

In the NCCI Phase (1959-79), the Chamber was represented in 90 committees or organizations of government, semi-government and autonomous institutions.³³⁴ From this number, it can be easily seen how the Chamber became the biggest representative trade organization of the country. From this phase onwards its representational function became an integral part of the Chamber's work. Along with public ones, the Chamber got involved in numerous bodies, councils and committees of non-government and autonomous institutions. Some new and noteworthy representations in this phase were in the Central Advisory Council for the Ministry of Commerce (YA Bawany, 1965, M Ilahi & Rashid Ahmed, 1969, M Ilahi, 1968),³³⁵ Advisory Council for Ministry of Commerce &

³²⁵ *Minutes of the DNCC*, 1 February 1951, p. 29.

³²⁶ *Minutes of the DNCC*, 8 February 1952, p. 102.

³²⁷ *Minutes of the DNCC*, 18 April 1951, p. 68.

³²⁸ *Minutes of the DNCC*, 22 September 1951, p. 86.

³²⁹ *Minutes of the DNCC*, 8 February 1952, p. 147.

³³⁰ For detail see Appendix.

³³¹ *Annual Report of the DNCCI: 1956*, p. 49; *Annual Report of the DNCCI: 1957*, p. 21.

³³² *Annual Report of the DNCCI: 1956*, p. 49; *Annual Report of the DNCCI: 1957*, p. 21.

³³³ *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 1953, p. 218.

³³⁴ For detail see Appendix.

³³⁵ *Annual Report of the NCCI: 1965*, p. 29; *Annual Report of the NCCI: 1969*, p. 26; *Annual Report of the NCCI: 1968*, p. 10.

Foreign Trade (FK Ghuznavi, 1968, 1975),³³⁶ Dacca-Narayanganj Electricity Advisory Committee (M Ilahi, 1963, 1969),³³⁷ Import Advisory Committee of the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports (M Anis Ud Dowla, 1975),³³⁸ Management Board for Abandoned Properties for Dacca City and Adjoining Areas (M Anis Ud Dowla, 1975),³³⁹ Narayanganj Town Development Committee (MA Sattar, 1977),³⁴⁰ Bangladesh Industrial Facilities Board (ASF Rahman, 1979),³⁴¹ and the District Committee for Organizing Cottage and Small Industries (Mohsen Ali, 1977, ASF Rahman, 1979).³⁴²

In 1979, the Chamber was renamed the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI, Dhaka). The MCCI phase is divided into two parts. In the first part of this phase (1979-1999), the Chamber continued to help build up a strong economic base for the country and was represented in important public bodies as well as autonomous committees and organizations. At least 65 such representations were made³⁴³ by the Chamber and it worked successfully to give suggestions and offer its views in these bodies, committees and organizations. Some selected important examples of representations of this phase are as follows: Advisory Committee to the Commissioners of Taxes (K Kamrul Hoda, 1979; KA Huque, 1985, 1990, 1997, 1999),³⁴⁴ Advisory Committee for Securities and Exchange Commission (Samson H Chowdhury, 1997; Mahbub Jamil, 1999),³⁴⁵ Bangladesh Bank's Co-ordinations Committee (SH Kabir, 1979; Rashid-ul Hasan, 1985; AKM Ghaffar, 1990),³⁴⁶ Consultative Committee for the National Board of Revenue (MR Siddiqi, 1985; Syed Manzur Elahi, 1990; Samson H Chowdhury, 1997; Mahbub Jamil, 1999),³⁴⁷ Training & Employment of Advisory Committee of Dacca Polytechnic Institute (FK Ghuznavi, 1978-79),³⁴⁸ Institute of Business Administration, Dhaka University (M Anis Ud Dowla, 1982; SH Kabir, MR Siddiqi, 1978-79),³⁴⁹ Inter-Ministerial Committee on Labour

³³⁶ *Annual Report of the NCCI: 1968, p. 10; Annual Report of the NCCI: 1975, p. 17.*

³³⁷ *Annual Report of the NCCI: 1969, p. 27; Annual Report of the NCCI: 1963, p. 23.*

³³⁸ *Annual Report of the NCCI: 1975, p. 17.*

³³⁹ *Annual Report of the NCCI: 1975, p. 17.*

³⁴⁰ *Minutes of the NCCI, 30 June, 1977, p. 1413.*

³⁴¹ *Annual Report of the NCCI: AR-1979, p. 32.*

³⁴² *Minutes of the NCCI, 1977, p. 1404; Annual Report of the NCCI: 1979, p. 31.*

³⁴³ For detail see Appendix.

³⁴⁴ *Annual Report of the NCCI: 1978-79, p. 31; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1985, p. 18; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1990, p. 30; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1997, p. 26; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1999, p. 24.*

³⁴⁵ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1997, p. 27; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1999, p. 25.*

³⁴⁶ *Annual Report of the NCCI: 1978-79, p. 31; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1985, p. 18; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1990, p. 30.*

³⁴⁷ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1985, p. 17; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1990, p. 29; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1997, p. 25; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1999, p. 23.*

³⁴⁸ *Annual Report of the NCCI: 1978-79, p. 33.*

³⁴⁹ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1982, p. 18; Annual Report of the NCCI: 1978-79, p. 33.*

(FK Ghuznavi, 1979, 1985; Laila Rahman Kabir, 1997, 1999),³⁵⁰ and National Consultative Committee on Power (M Anis Ud Dowla, 1979; Syed Manzur Elahi, 1985; SA Azim, 1990; Azimur Rahman, 1997).³⁵¹

In the new millennium the Chamber's representational functions have become even more important than in earlier years. It now has more representations in public bodies, advisory committees, advisory boards and advisory councils; consultative committees of various ministries; trade organizations; financial institutions; various commissions and enquiries; urbanization and town development bodies; ports and ICD; the health sector; educational and other institutions. Some selected important representations of this current phase have been as follows: Advisory Committee for the Ministry of Textiles (MA Awal, 2002, Abdul Hafiz Chowdhury, 2008, Kutubuddin Ahmed, 2008, 2013),³⁵² Advisory Committee for Securities and Exchange Commission (Abdul Hafiz Chowdhury, 2002, 2004, 2008, Anis Ud Dowla, 2010, Nihad Kabir, 2013),³⁵³ Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Commerce (Tapan Chowdhury, 2002, Kutubuddin Ahmed, 2004, Latifur rahman, 2008, Anis Ud Dowla, 2010, Rokia Afzal Rahman, 2013),³⁵⁴ Jute & Textile Council of the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (AK Shamsuddin, 2002, Kamran T Rahman, 2008, 2010),³⁵⁵ National Committee on Exports (Tapan Chowdhury, 2002, Kutubuddin Ahmed, 2004, Latifur Rahman, 2008, Anis Ud Dowla, 2010, Rokia Afzal Rahman, 2013),³⁵⁶ National Council for Industrial Development, NCID (Tapan Chowdhury, 2002, Kutubuddin Ahmed, 2004, Latifur Rahman, 2008, Anis Ud Dowla, 2010, Rokia Afzal Rahman, 2013).³⁵⁷

³⁵⁰ *Annual Report of the NCCI: 1978-79*, p. 31; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1985*, p. 18; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1997*, p. 26; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1999*, p. 24.

³⁵¹ *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1978-79*, p. 31; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1985*, p. 18; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1990*, p. 30; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1997*, p. 26.

³⁵² *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2002*, p. 23; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2008*, p. 32; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2013*, p. 19.

³⁵³ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2002*, p. 24; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2004*, p. 25; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2008*, p. 32; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2010*, p. 21; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2013*, p. 19.

³⁵⁴ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2002*, p. 22; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2004*, p. 23; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2008*, p. 31; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2010*, p. 20; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2013*, p. 18.

³⁵⁵ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2002*, p. 23; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2008*, p. 32; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2010*, p. 21.

³⁵⁶ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2002*, p. 22; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2004*, p. 23; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2008*, p. 31; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2010*, p. 20; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2013*, p. 18.

³⁵⁷ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2002*, p. 22; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2004*, p. 23; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2008*, p. 31; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2010*, p. 20; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2013*, p. 18.

As was mentioned earlier, almost all leading industrial organizations in the private and public sectors are at present members of the Chamber and Chamber representatives have been playing significant roles in decision and policy-making in almost all public and private bodies, committees and councils of Bangladesh. In serving business responsibly in its 110 years history, the Metropolitan Chamber has given representations to over a hundred government, non-government, semi-government and autonomous committees and organizations.

Representations in Public Bodies: The Chamber's representations to public advisory committees, advisory boards and advisory councils have been regular features in the post-partition phase of the Chamber's existence. Chamber members have been nominated

Representations in Public Bodies (Selective)
Advisory Committee of Customs and Excise
Advisory Committee for Ministry of Textiles
Bangladesh Industrial Facilities Board
Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA)
Bangladesh Shipping Corporation
Bangladesh Tea Board
Chittagong Port Advisory Committee
Consultative Committee for the National Board of Revenue
Custom House Advisory Committee (Chittagong)
Custom House Advisory Board (Dhaka)
East Bengal Labour Advisory Board
East Bengal Regional Employment Advisory Committee
East Pakistan Railway Advisory Board
Export Promotion Council
Foreign Trade Development Council
Import Advisory Committee
National Advisory Council for Small Industries
National Council for Industrial Development
National Committee for Development of Small & Cottage Industry
National Council of Shippers
Palli Daridra Bimochan Foundation
Research Advisory Committee
Standing Committee on Income Tax

to such bodies regularly and have worked there conscientiously. For example, its representations to the East Bengal Board of Industries and the East Bengal Labour Advisory Board continued till the middle of the 1950s. In addition, the Chamber also had representations in the Narayanganj Municipality; Associated Chamber of Commerce of Pakistan; Pakistan Tea Board and Pakistan Tea Licensing Committee. In 1953, two of the Chamber representatives were nominated for the Regional Employment Advisory Committee for East Bengal. In the same year the then President of the Chamber, Mr A Jalil, became a member of the Executive Committee of the Governor's Refugee Relief Fund.³⁵⁸ In the Pakistan Tea Board, the former Chamber President Mr MM Ispahani was active for a couple of years as a member of the Tea Board.³⁵⁹ Mr DS Jamal was re-nominated as the Chamber's representative on the East Bengal Railway Advisory Committee after completing his two years in 1955.³⁶⁰ In a meeting held on 13 September 1977, the Chamber's representatives on the Panel of Advisers for Private Sector Industries constituted by the Planning Commission were chosen. Mr M Anis Ud Dowla and Mr Zeaul Huq were selected for two years to represent NCCI in the committee.³⁶¹

Representations in Educational Institutions: Chamber members were represented in various educational and professional institutions of government, semi- government, or

Representations in Educational Institutions (Selective)
Bangladesh Council of Scientific Industrial Research
Bangladesh Management Development Centre
Chittagong Government College of Commerce
Commerce Faculty of Dacca University
Institute of Business Administration – Dhaka University
Institute of Development Studies
Narayanganj Education Society
Pakistan Council of Scientific & Industrial Research Laboratories, Rajshahi
Research Advisory Committee
Training & Employment of Advisory Committee of Dacca Polytechnic Institute
The Board of Education
Trade Union Worker's Training Institute
Viqarunnissa Noon School Governing Body

³⁵⁸ *Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1954, p. 28.*

³⁵⁹ *Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1954, p. 29.*

³⁶⁰ *Minutes of the DNCCI, 26 July 1955, p. 86.*

³⁶¹ *Minutes of the NCCI, 13 September 1977, p. 1425.*

autonomous bodies. In 1956 and 1957, the Chamber nominated Mr MM Ispahani and Mr AA Kahlon to the Court of the University of Dhaka.³⁶² In 1977, the Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, University of Dhaka, informed the Chamber that Mr Rashid Ahmed had completed his two years tenure and a replacement would be considered on expiry of the term.³⁶³ This is evidence of the Chamber's continued representation in the Commerce Faculty of the University of Dhaka in that period.

Representations in Consultative Committees of Ministries: Representations to consultative committees of various ministries constitute an important activity of the Chamber. Since its NCCI phase (1959-1979), the Chamber has been working with numerous ministerial committees. The Ministry of Commerce, Commerce and Foreign Trade, Commerce and Industry, Communication and Textile are where the Chamber is represented most actively on a regular basis. Mr M Ahad and Mr MH Adamjee represented it in an Advisory Council of the Ministry of Commerce in 1963.³⁶⁴ Mr FK Ghuznavi represented the Chamber in the Advisory Council for Ministry of Commerce and Foreign Trade in 1968 and 1975.³⁶⁵ The Chamber was represented in the Advisory Council for Ministry of Commerce (Central) by Mr YA Bawany, Mr M Ilahi and Mr Rashid Ahmed in the 1960s.³⁶⁶ In the MCCI phase, representations in the ministries became even more significant. Mr Mostaque Ahmed Siddique and Mr MA Awal represented the Chamber in the Advisory Committee for the Ministry of Textiles in 1997 and 1999.³⁶⁷ Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Jute & Textiles, Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Industries, Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Commerce, Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Communications are a few bodies in this phase where Mr Syed Mohsen Ali, Mr SH Kabir, Mr Syed Manzur Elahi, Mr Samson H Chowdhury, Mr Mahbub Jamil, Mr MA Sattar MP, and Mr MH Khan represented the Chamber and contributed significantly to proceedings.³⁶⁸

³⁶² *Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1956, p. 49; Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1957, p. 21.*

³⁶³ *Minutes of the NCCI, 8 June 1977, p. 1409.*

³⁶⁴ *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1963, p. 23.*

³⁶⁵ *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1968, p. 10; Annual Report of the NCCI, 1975, p. 17.*

³⁶⁶ *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1965, p. 29; Annual Report of the NCCI, 1969, p. 26; Annual Report of the NCCI, 1968, p. 10.*

³⁶⁷ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1997, p. 26; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1999, p. 23.*

³⁶⁸ *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1978-79, p. 31, 32; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1985, p. 17; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1990, p. 29; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1997, p. 25; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1999, p. 23.*

Representations in Consultative Committees on Various Ministries (Selective)
Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Industries
Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Communications
Tripartite Consultative Committee of ILO
Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Textiles
Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Jute
Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Jute & Textiles
Consultative Committee for the Jute Division
National Consultative Committee on Power
Consultative Committee for the National Board of Revenue
Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Industries
Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Commerce
Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Industries and Commerce
Consultative Committee on Remittances and Problems of Wage Earners

Representations in Trade Organizations/Associations: The Chamber became a member of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of India (ASSOCHAM) sometime in 1930s and continued to be a member till 1947. It received membership in the Associated Chamber of Commerce of Pakistan (ASSOCHAP) in 1960s. The Chamber sent representatives to the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire in 1950,³⁶⁹ to the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry in 1968,³⁷⁰ and to the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) in 1975.³⁷¹ The MCCI, Dhaka, is still a member of FBCCI and the two organizations have been working together for the betterment of trade and commerce in Bangladesh. The Chamber's members were represented in the Pakistan National Committee of International Chamber of Commerce,³⁷² as well as the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Pakistan. In addition, the Chamber was represented in many other trade organizations and associations. In the 1950s the

³⁶⁹ Hamer & Bodly (representatives), Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire; *Minutes of the DNCC*, 19 December, 1950, p. 49.

³⁷⁰ M Ilahi & SM Doja (representing industry), *Annual Report of the NCCI*, 1968, p. 9.

³⁷¹ FK Ghuznavi (General Committee), *Annual Report of the NCCI*, 1975, p. 17.

³⁷² *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 1955, p. 86.

Chamber sent representatives to the Jute Brokers Association³⁷³ and the East Bengal Jute Dealers Association. The Chamber had representations in export and import-related organizations such as the National Export Council, the Export Promotion Council etc. Given below is a list of some organizations where the Chamber was represented.

Representations in Trade Organizations/Associations (Selective)
Asian and Far Eastern Affairs of the International Chamber of Commerce (CAFEA)
Associated Chamber of Commerce of India (ASSOCHAM)
Associated Chamber of Commerce of Pakistan (ASSOCHAP)
Bangladesh Jute Press Owners Association
Chief Controller of Import and Export
East Bengal Jute Dealers Association
Bangladesh Employers' Association
Employers' Association of East Pakistan
Export Promotion Council
Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire (FCCBE)
Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI)
Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Pakistan (FCCP)
Foreign Trade Development Council
Jute Brokers Association
National Committee on Export
National Export Council
National Council for Shippers
Pakistan Jute Mills Association
Pakistan Economic Association
Standing Committee of Export Credit
Task Force on Export

Representations in Financial Institutions: The Chamber has also been represented in various financial institutions such as stock exchanges, banks and insurance companies. In its DNCC phase, Chamber representatives played active roles in the Pakistan Insurance Corporation (1951). In the MCCI, Dhaka phase, Mr Samson H Chowdhury (1997) and

³⁷³ Jute Brokers Association; *Minutes* of the DNCC, 22 September, 1951, p- 86.

Mahbub Jamil (1999) were actively engaged in working with the Advisory Committee for the Securities and Exchange Commission.³⁷⁴ Mr SH Kabir (1978-79), Mr Rashid Ul Hasan (1985), and AKM Ghaffar (1990) represented the Chamber in Bangladesh Bank's Co-ordinations Committee.³⁷⁵

Representations in Financial Institutions (Selective)
Advisory Committee for Securities and Exchange Commission
Bangladesh Bank's Co-ordination Committee
Board of Directors of Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd
Council of the Dhaka Stock Exchange
Insurance Advisory Committee
Pakistan Insurance Corporation
Sadharan Bima Corporation
State Bank of Pakistan Coordination Committee

Representations in Commissions and Enquiries: The Chamber's representations in committees of various commissions and enquiries formed by the government have also been important in terms of its representational functions. The earliest representations of the Chamber on Commissions and Enquiry Committees are Land Reforms Commission (1940), Economic Appraisal and Development Enquiry Committee (1952), Commodity Price Commission (1952) etc. Other such bodies where the Chamber has been represented are listed below:

Representations in Various Commissions and Enquiries (Selective)
Commodity Price Commission
Credit Enquiry Commission
Jute Enquiry Commission
Law Reform Committee
Land Reform Commission
Law Reform Committee
Maritime Commission
Planning Commission Advisory Panel
Sugar Commission
Textile Enquiry Commission
Taxation Enquiry Committee

³⁷⁴ Samson H Chowdhury; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1997*, p. 27; Mahbub Jamil; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1999*, p. 25.

³⁷⁵ *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1978-79*, p. 31; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1985*, p. 18; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1990*, p. 30.

Representations in Urbanization and Town Development Bodies: The Chamber has nominated its members to different committees constituted for Narayanganj and Dhaka Improvement Trust and development bodies. They have played an important role in town development. One of the earliest example of representations in such bodies is to be found in the workings of the Narayanganj Municipality.³⁷⁶

Representations in Urbanization and Town Development Bodies (Selective)
Dacca-Narayanganj Electricity Advisory Committee
Dacca Traffic Committee
Dhaka Improvement Trust (DIT)
Dhaka-Narayanganj Traffic Committee
Dhaka City Traffic Committee
Narayanganj Municipal Committee
Narayanganj Town Development Committee
Provincial Transports Authority

Representations in Ports and ICD: The Chamber's participation and representation in committees on Ports and ICD (Internal Container Depot) formed by the government have also been very important in terms of its representational functions. The Chamber contributed actively to such bodies by nominating members for representation of its interests in them. Some of the earliest representations have been in bodies such as the Chittagong Port Authority (1959),³⁷⁷ Chalna Anchorage Advisory Committee (1959)³⁷⁸ and Chittagong Port Advisory Committee (1984)³⁷⁹. The Chamber has been regularly represented in these bodies since then.

Representations in Ports and ICD (Selective)
Chittagong Port Advisory Committee
Chittagong Port Authority
Chalna Anchorage Advisory Committee
Chalna Port Authority
ICD (Internal Container Depot) Advisory Committee, Dhaka
ICD (Internal Container Depot) Advisory Committee, Chittagong

³⁷⁶ Minutes of the DNCC, 8 February, 1952, p. 147.

³⁷⁷ MM Ispahani; *Annual Report of the NCCI*, 1960, p. 64.

³⁷⁸ NA Mecklai; *Annual Report of the NCCI*, 1960, p. 65.

³⁷⁹ Iftekhharul Alam; *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca*, 1984, p. 23.

Representations in Health Sector: The Chamber had contributed significantly to the health sector of the region in general and Bangladesh in particular through its representatives in these bodies, councils or committees of the health sector and hospitals. In the NCC and DNCC phase, the Chamber nominated two members to the Managing Committee of the Victoria Hospital of Narayanganj in 1951.³⁸⁰ In 1952, the DNCC nominated Mr EG Stevenson and Mr CEC Guthrie to the 'Poor Patient Fund' of the Victoria Hospital Committee.³⁸¹

Representations in Health Sector (Selective)
Araggya Niketan, Dhaka
Health Exhibition Committee
Holy Family Hospital Scheme Sub-committee
Narayanganj Victoria Hospital Committee
Public Health Day and Dacca Cleanup Campaign

Representations in Various Government and Other Committees: Representations of the Chamber in government and others non-government and semi-government committees have also been very important for it. Some examples of such representations are given below:

Representations in Various Government and Other Committees (Selective)
Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority
Customs House Advisory Committee, Chittagong
Customs House Advisory Committee, Dhaka
Dacca District Trade Advisory Committee
District Committee for Organizing Cottage and Small Industries
Inland Transport Committee of the ILO
Management Board on Abandoned Industries
Minimum Wage Board Committee
Remittances and Problems of Wage Earners
River Police Committee of East Pakistan
Trade Union Workers Training Scheme

³⁸⁰ *Minutes of the DNCC, 2 May 1951, p. 70.*

³⁸¹ *Minutes of the DNCC, 25 April, 1952, p. 115.*

The above list clearly indicates the contribution the Chamber has made to the eastern part of Bengal as a whole and to Bangladesh in particular. Representations in these sectors have facilitated regular dialogue with government, provided scope for advocacy, and allowed it to offer feedback on policies and legislation affecting business practices as well as to serve on statutory boards and government committees to help formulate policy guidelines and set standards that have contributed to the business climate and enhanced members' competitiveness.

4.5 Publications

The Chamber has been publishing journals which are quite distinctive and have been well-appreciated at home and abroad. Circulars and bulletins issued at periodic intervals are supplied to members by the Chamber free of charge. Providing details of government and semi-governments notifications; reporting on the impact of legislation; judicial decisions in respect of business matters of general interest or significance; publicizing trade inquiries and trade and business opportunities; providing information about new technologies and opportunities for technology transfer, areas of collaboration, investment trends, economic indicators, comparative data and analysis of such data, important events within the country and overseas, trade fairs and exhibition of special importance, visiting missions and dignitaries; reporting on important activities involving members and other similar information have made these publications useful and desirable.

Publications are an essential function of the Chamber and a service it offers to its members and the nation. Through its publications, the Chamber attempts to collect and disseminate information on business, including export, import, investment and tax regulations. The Chamber usually collects government circulars, notices, and statistical data from government and other bodies and disseminates information relating to trade, commerce and industry among members. It also prepares 'Position Papers' on various issues and circulates the Chamber's decisions to its members, the society and the nation. As such, its publications have been playing a significant role in the growth and development of trade and commerce in the land. The Chamber has various publications and they are published regularly. Some publications of the Chamber are *Chamber News*, *Annual Report*, *the Summary of Taxation Rules*, *Quarterly Review*, *Tax News*, *Chamber Bulletin*, *Telephone Directory* and the *Diamond Jubilee Celebration Volume*. In the millennium phase (2000 onwards), the Chamber entered the digital world and information about it is available on the website of MCCI.³⁸²

³⁸² <http://www.mccibd.org>

Official Website of the MCCI, Dhaka



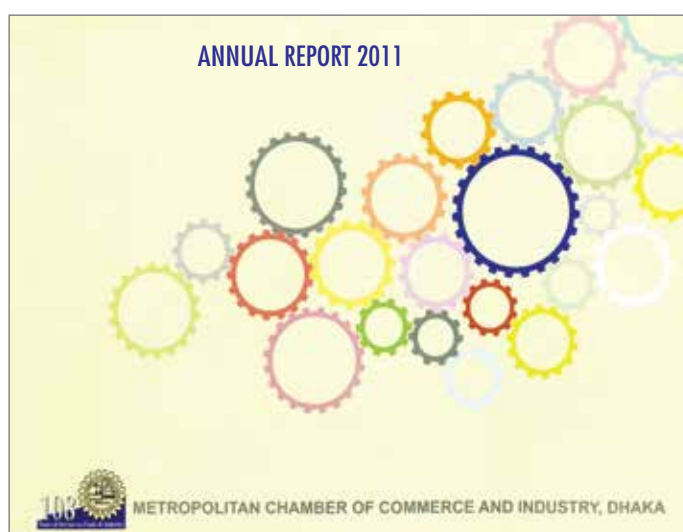
Research Cell and Preparation of Position Papers: Some major functions of the cell are: collecting data on trade and commerce ; maintaining a data-base and evaluating economic growth; compiling and analyzing monthly figures of production in major industries, cost of living index, monthly figures on import and export, and analyzing trends, policy reviews and evaluation; examining the budget of the country; preparing the Chamber’s budget proposals, and compiling and publishing periodicals.

The Chamber usually offers its views and ideas on different issues relating to trade, investment and macroeconomic policies based on its research counterparts. Research and analytical studies are key tools in coming up with information necessary to provide policy and advocacy support to the government and to members. MCCI has the capacity to conduct qualitative and quantitative research. From time to time, the Chamber conducts joint studies and organizes events such as seminars and conferences with government and leading research organizations at home and abroad.³⁸³ Its regular publications reflect the views and particular position of the Chamber on any number of issues.

For preparing position papers professionally, the research cell of the Chamber makes use of the best and most recent data relating to the issue at hand and presents an analysis of the relevant data. The analysis provided often indicates how business interests are being hurt by existing or proposed regulatory and tax structures and what measures should be adopted to relieve the business community in order to promote business development. The papers are the basis of the Chamber's lobbying activities and position on issues disseminated through publications in the periodicals of the Chamber.

Regular Publications

Annual Report: The earliest and foremost publication of the Chamber is its Annual Report. This has been in regular publication since 1904. Due to political turmoil in Bengal (1903-08), the First and Second World War (1914-19, 1939-45), the Great Economic Depression (1930s), the Great Bengal Famine (1943), Partition of India (1947), Natural calamities and the War of Independence (1971),

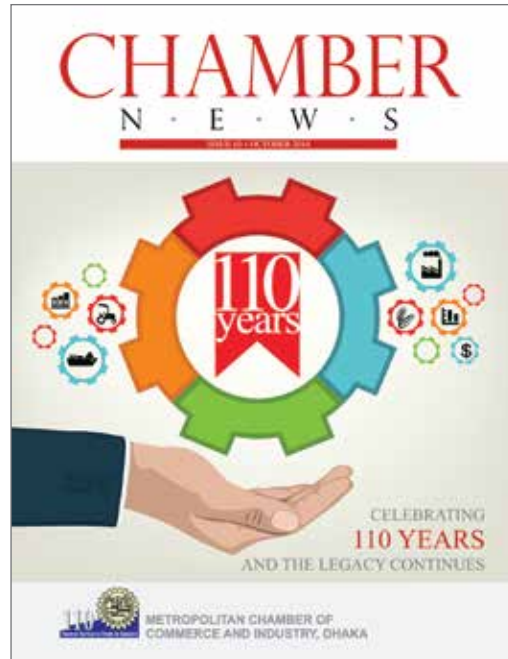


very few of these reports survive. However, Annual Reports published since 1954 are still available. These have become valuable records of the economic development of the region.

³⁸³ CK Hyder, 'Narayanganj Chamber – 75 Years of Rare Service', *Annual Report of 1978-79*, Diamond Jubilee Year (1904 – 1979), Dhaka: 1979, pp. 104-10; *Daily Ittefaq*, 20 June, 1979, p. 9.

All Reports contain important statistical data covering different aspects of the Country’s economic activities, along with other valuable information.

Chamber News is a monthly publication. It contains mainly information on recent national and international economic events, news about Chamber members, country profiles, Chamber matters, updates on new products, statistical overviews of different aspects, articles, news briefs on national and international business, trade enquiries and business proposals, review-related matters etc. Chamber News was first published in 1977. From 1978, this monthly News has been published with the help of advertisements provided by member-firms. In the millennium phase, digital technologies have been adapted in the make-up and get-up process and *Chamber News* has now got an attractive look. This publication has earned

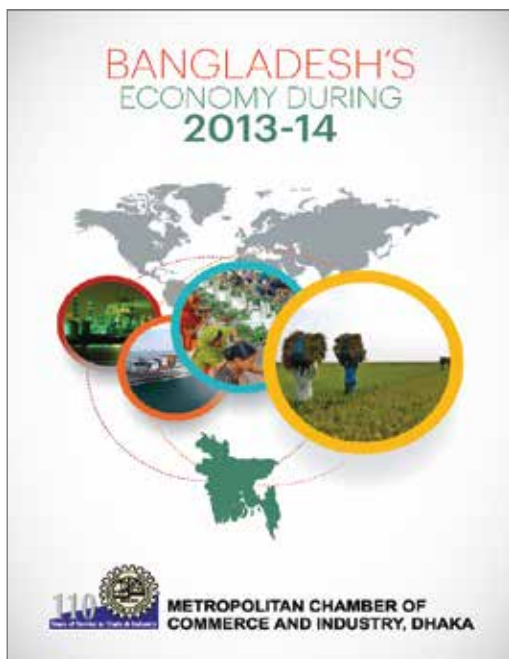


both national and international reputation as one of the leading economic magazines of the region. This in-house magazine is distributed primarily to its members but because of its high quality and acceptability, it is also distributed amongst government departments, diplomatic missions, Bangladesh missions abroad, international economic agencies and research institutions at home and abroad.



Quarterly Review: This is an important quarterly publication of the Chamber that focuses on the economic situation of Bangladesh and highlights performances in different macro economic sectors connected with trade and industry. It publishes interviews of leading entrepreneurs and is aimed at building confidence among businessmen and members of the Chamber. The *Quarterly Review* has earned recognition as a quality business magazine.

Bangladesh Economy: The Chamber's Research Cell prepares a booklet named *Bangladesh Economy* for its members as well as general readers. Every aspect of the Bangladesh economy as well as the economic performance of the Country in a fiscal year is covered in



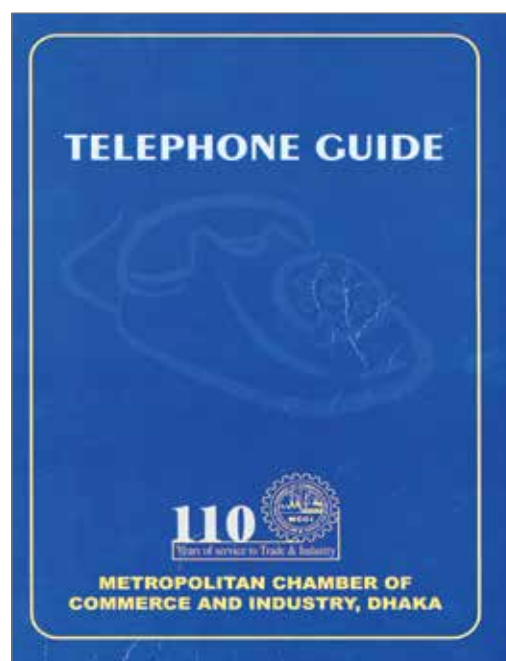
it. Business growth, agriculture, industry, services, investment and saving, monetary development, export-import, balance of payments, remittance, foreign aid, foreign direct investment, foreign exchange reserves, the National Budget and new investments are some of the topics featured in *Bangladesh Economy*.

Summary of Taxation Rules: This is a yearly publication of the Chamber. It is published after the announcement of the Government's Annual Budget. Through the *Summary of Taxation Rules*, the Chamber attempts to explain the requirements of the laws in the field of income tax, customs and excise duties

and other taxes mentioned in the Budget.

Telephone Directory: Another yearly publication of the Chamber is *Telephone Guide*. This useful publication of the Chamber compiles telephone numbers of important government officials, diplomatic missions, financial institutions, trade bodies, stock exchange etc. In this Guide, telephone numbers of members of the Chamber Committee, Chamber Secretariat and Bangladesh Employers Federation are included. Important phone numbers of semi-government, non-government departments and leading autonomous organizations are also included in this directory.

Major Economic Indicators of Bangladesh is prepared by the Economic Research Cell of MCCI. Population and mainly macroeconomic





The Release of the Publication: Global Economic Prospects - 2005

aspects, including details of GDP, growth, per capita GDP, agriculture, industry etc. of Bangladesh are included in the publication. The major economic indicators of Bangladesh are updated annually through this publication.

Occasional Publications

The Diamond Jubilee Publication was brought out in 1979 to commemorate 75 years of the Chamber. On that occasion, the Chamber published not only the Annual Report of 1978-79 as its Diamond Jubilee Year, 1904-1979, but also a particular section separately titled Chamber’s Diamond Jubilee Celebration, 1904-1979. In 1987, the Chamber published “Industry in Bangladesh” jointly with the Ministry of Industries, Government of Bangladesh, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).³⁸⁴

Contact with the Media

The Metropolitan Chamber maintains close contact with the press and electronic media in order to:

- Disseminate information to the public;
- Create public opinion against any changes in government policy which adversely affects the interests of the business community;
- Publicize the activities of the Chamber;
- Provide instant reaction to a public policy or decision;
- Provide publicity for any offer of training programs, workshops, seminars and for trade delegations;
- Circulate news on changes in the chamber e.g. new office bearers;
- Create public opinion against political activity that disrupts business and commerce.

³⁸⁴ Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1987, p. 25.

Initially the Chamber would issue press releases irregularly to articulate its concerns on the proposed budget by the government. But from the phase of MCCI, Dhaka (1979-99), it started issuing press releases on a regular basis to articulate its concerns not only on the proposed budget but also on significant events relating to politics and the economy of the country. To create a better socio-political environment, the Chamber urged political parties to lower the frequency of *hartals* and strikes. The Chamber, along with, other leading trade bodies of the country, jointly issued press releases to condemn *hartals* and urged exploring alternate means of expressing political differences.

In the Millennium phase, the Chamber continues to issue public statements and press releases to articulate its concerns and convey its stand-point to the public on nationally and internationally important issues. In this phase, the Chamber has also begun to issue joint statements with BGMEA, DCCI, CCCI, FICCI, BTMA, FBCCI and other important trade bodies in Bangladesh so that the voice raised by the businessmen is united, powerful and more effective than before. Some selected press releases are reproduced from the *Annual Reports* of the Chamber in the Appendices Section. See appendix 22.

4.6 Communication Development

The Chamber operated a courier service from Dhaka to Chittagong and Khulna, from the early 1950s. Urgent commercial mail and important documents were collected from member-firms and dispatched by air through this service. The Chamber introduced its courier service at the beginning of its DNCC phase.³⁸⁵ Subsequently, the Chamber operated its courier service from Dhaka to other parts of the country as well.³⁸⁶ With the advent of private courier services, the Chamber discontinued its courier service in 1989.

The Chamber also offered Telex Service to member-firms at an earlier period. This service helped disseminate urgent messages, like international tenders. It was available for member-firms.³⁸⁷

During the DNCCI and NCCI phases, the Chamber gave great emphasis on the communication sector. It dealt with frequent complaints regarding communication, including posts and telegraph, teleprinter services, postal deliveries, communications between East and West Pakistan, local telephone charges, railway transport, inland water transport and so on.³⁸⁸ For inter-wing shipping communication, the Chamber worked to ease problems relating to coastal shipping.³⁸⁹

³⁸⁵ *Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1954, p.8.*

³⁸⁶ CK Hyder, 'Narayanganj Chamber - 75 Years of Rare Service', *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1978-79, pp. 104-110; Daily Ittefaq, 20 June 1979, p. 9.*

³⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸⁸ *Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1956, pp. 57-66.*

³⁸⁹ *Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1957, pp. 33-36; Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1958, pp. 29-30; Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1959, pp. 26-27.*

For the Teleprinter service, endeavor was made from 1955 onwards for the installation of a teleprinter in the Chamber for use of members.³⁹⁰ The Chamber worked hard to increase the Trunk Calls circuits between Dacca and Khulna via Kushtia.³⁹¹

The Chamber used to assist individual members with telephone service in the 1960s.³⁹² At that time, the Chamber was greatly concerned about the condition of the Dacca-Narayanganj Road. It eventually contributed to the reconstruction of the road.³⁹³

Because of technological developments in communication and other developments, the Chamber now does not need to offer these services.

4.7 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Chamber organizes its Annual General Meeting (AGM) every December or at another convenient time.

List the Chief Guests in the AGMs (1951-1972)	
1951 Sir Frederick Bourne Governor of East Bengal	1959 Zakir Hossain Governor of East Pakistan
1953 Ghulam Mohammed Governor General of Pakistan	1960 Lt General Azam Khan Governor of East Pakistan
1954 Iskender Ali Mirza <i>Governor of East Bengal</i>	1963-66 Abdul Monem Khan Governor of East Pakistan
1956 AK Fazlul Haque Governor of Bengal	1969 Vice Admiral SM Ahsan Governor of East Pakistan
1958 AK Fazlul Haque Governor of East Pakistan	1972 MR Siddiqi Minister for Trade and Commerce Govt. of Bangladesh

During the pre-liberation period of Bangladesh, the Chief Minister or Governor of East Bengal, East Pakistan's Governor, and sometimes the Governor-General of Pakistan, would grace AGMs as the chief guest, which were followed by dinner. During the NCCI phase, Chamber's AGMs were graced by the Governor-General of Pakistan or the Chief Minister of

³⁹⁰ *Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1958, p. 30; Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1959, p. 27.*

³⁹¹ *Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1958, p. 31.*

³⁹² *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1961, pp. 22-23.*

³⁹³ *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1963, pp. 11-12.*

East Bengal or the Governor of East Pakistan. In 1953, the Governor General of Pakistan Ghulam Muhammed was present as a Chief Guest at the AGM of the Chamber. He accepted the invitation to open the new Chamber Building.³⁹⁴ AK Fazlul Haq, Governor of East Bengal, addressed the Chamber as the Chief Guest in 1956.^{394a} A large number of dignitaries were also invited to be present at the AGM session in this phase. Among them were Mr G David (Deputy High Commissioner of UK in East Pakistan) and Mr Goro Tsukamoto (Consul for Japan in East Pakistan) who were present in 1956.³⁹⁵ In this phase, Prime Minister of Pakistan, HS Suhrawardy, was invited as the Chief Guest but was unable to accept the invitation due to other preoccupations.³⁹⁶



Mr SH Kabir, newly elected President of the MCCI, Dacca
addressing the members at its AGM on 28 December, 1983

In the first part of its NCCI phase, governors of East Pakistan would be regularly present at AGMs. Mr Zakir Hossain, the Governor of East Pakistan, addressed the Chamber in 1959 and Mr Azam Khan, Governor of East Pakistan in 1960. Mr Abdul Monem Khan attended the Chamber AGM on four occasions in the 1960s.³⁹⁷ During this phase distinguished guests from Diplomatic Corps, government departments, and trade and industry would attend the session. In the Presidential Address the President would talk about the overall situation of the country, especially economic challenges that were to be

³⁹⁴ *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 20 January, 1953, p. 184.

^{394a} Mr AK Fazlul Haq, Governor of East Bengal, delivered his first speech as the Chief Guest in the 51st Annual General Meeting of DNCCI held on 6 April, 1956. This speech has been compiled in the *Annual Report of 1956*, PP. 19-33. Mr Haq delivered a speech again as the Chief Guest in the 53rd Annual General Meeting of DNCCI held on 4 March, 1958. This second speech was published in the *Annual Report of the Chamber of 1958*, PP. 16-20. See Appendix 15.

³⁹⁵ *Annual Report of the DNCCI*, 1956, p. 1.

³⁹⁶ *Annual Report of the DNCCI*, 1957, p. 3.

³⁹⁷ *Annual Report of the NCCI*, 1963-66.

overcome. It also covered a wide range of subjects, both national and international. The Governor in his address discuss issues raised by the Chamber President.³⁹⁸

In independent Bangladesh, the Chamber came out of its practice of inviting a Chief Guest at the main session of the Annual General Meeting. Instead, the Chief Guest would now be invited only to its dinner or luncheon sessions. In 1972, Mr AR Siddiqi, Minister for Trade and Commerce, was the first such Chief Guest in independent Bangladesh.³⁹⁹ In a meeting held in 1974, the Chamber Committee decided that no Chief Guest would henceforth be invited to the AGM of the Chamber.⁴⁰⁰



A partial view of an AGM of MCCI

³⁹⁸ No dignitary names are found in *Annual Reports* during this phase.

³⁹⁹ *Minutes* of the NCCI, 1972, p. 1125.

⁴⁰⁰ *Minutes* of the NCCI, 10 January, 1974, p. 1214.

Ms Rokia Rahman, President of MCCI,
addressing the 109th Annual General Meeting in 2013.



Chapter 5

The Chamber and the Nation





THE CHAMBER AND THE NATION

The activities of the Metropolitan Chamber are evidence of its concern not only for the interest and well-being of its members, but also for the social and humanitarian causes, benefitting the nation over the decades. Since its inception, the Chamber has stood by the people of Bangladesh and has contributed to the establishment of sectors such as education, health and environment.

Encouraging members to take part in social and humanitarian services is one of the primary objectives of MCCI. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has always been an important focus of the Chamber. In fact, a sub-committee, named 'Corporate Governance and CSR', has been working actively to this end from 2010. This sub-committee was formed to serve the nation in all possible ways and was not confined to trade and business-related activities. Over the years, the Chamber has rendered many services to the nation by contributing financially as well as helping otherwise as part of its social and humanitarian commitment to the nation. CSR has become an integral part of the Chamber's mission.

The Metropolitan Chamber has been playing a leading role primarily to help in the economic progress of the country. But, it is aware that such progress depends on taking comprehensive and sustainable initiatives elsewhere and these involve making contributions to the nation on social and humanitarian fronts. The Chamber has contributed immensely to public sectors such as, education and health and has earned a solid reputation thereby. It has taken some notable initiatives on environmental issues and these are going to be highlighted in this chapter along with the Chamber's involvement in other CSR issues.

5.1 Education Sector

As a part of the benevolent work and social responsibility that it sees as integral to its mission, the Metropolitan Chamber has contributed significantly to the education sector of the eastern part of Bengal and Bangladesh over the decades. However, because of the paucity of sources, the complete picture of Chamber's philanthropic activities in its NCC phase (1904-1950) could not be fully presented.

It can be inferred though, that the Chamber had some sort of connection to the establishment of Narayanganj High School (1885) and Morgan Girls School (1910) in its first phase. In fact, these two educational institutions were established with the financial help of some merchants of Narayanganj who were believed to be actively involved in the formation of the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce. Narayanganj High School was an English medium school. It became a middle school in 1876 and finally a high school in 1885. The school was located on the bank of the Sitalakhya near Netaiganj from 1885 to 1907. After 1907, this school received donations from NCC on many occasions and gradually became a reputed institution of the area. From 1922 to 1948 the reputation of this institution spread far and wide.

In 1937, when Narayanganj Women's College was established, local merchants were approached for financial assistance. Mr RP Saha, the eminent philanthropist and merchant of Narayanganj, made a significant contribution to the college. In the 1940s, this college became Tolaram Women College. Madanlal Saragi, son of Tolaram Saragi, donated a sum of Rs 25 thousand to the College for its development. Tolaram Company was a Marwari firm in Narayanganj and a prominent member of the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce. Not only Mr Tolaram, but other merchants of the city associated with NCC, also extended their help to the college on various occasions.

5.1.1 Viqarunnisa Noon School: In 1952, Viqarunnisa Noon School was established in Dhaka by Lady Noon, the wife of Mr Feroj Khan Noon, Governor of East Bengal. The Chamber had an important role to play in establishing the school, though economically the Chamber was going through a difficult time.⁴⁰¹ The school began functioning in Bailey Road, initially as a preparatory school. In 1952, Viqarunnisa Noon appealed to well-to-do people including the Chamber of Commerce for financial help. Mr AR Faridi, the Chamber President at the time, received a letter of appeal for funds of a school which was to be built along the lines of an English Public School to accommodate approximately 700 pupils to be instructed with the help of well-qualified staff.

⁴⁰¹ *Minutes of the DNCC, 29 May, 1952, p 123.*

In June 1952, the Chamber received a letter from the District Magistrate of Dacca mentioning the donation of Rs 10,000 by the Burmah Oil Co. Ltd. towards the school. Meanwhile, MM Ispahani and AD Boldy agreed to organize a proper campaign to collect funds for the school.⁴⁰²

In January and February, 1953, the Chamber circulated an appeal to its members and collected Rs 28,500. This sum was donated to the school fund.⁴⁰³ The Chamber continued its efforts to come up with a substantial donation. Subsequently, Lady Noon corresponded once more with the Chamber. Members of the Chamber and affiliated Associations contributed Rs 61,750/- to Viqarun Nisa Girls School.⁴⁰⁴ In 1953, the Chamber President Mr RWN Ferguson was appointed as a member of the Governing Body of the School.⁴⁰⁵ Later, Mr MM Ispahani was also nominated to the Governing Body of the school.

5.1.2 Udayan Bidyalay: Presently known as Udayan Higher Secondary School Dhaka, this private higher secondary school was established in 1955 by the University of Dhaka. It is a co-educational institution and currently one of the most well-known schools of Dhaka. In a Committee meeting held on 27 November, 1973, the Chamber changed its earlier decision to make a monthly donation of Tk 250 to the school. Udayan School Authorities had requested the Chamber Committee to consider donating a lump sum so that the money might be utilized towards the extension of the school building which was needed to meet the great rush of students following liberation. The Committee decided that member-firms be requested to contribute at the following rates: Ordinary Member Tk 500 and Associate Member Tk 125.⁴⁰⁶

The Chamber made further donations to this school afterwards. In a meeting held on 15 February, 1974, the Chamber Committee noted that it had made a total donation of Tk 11,500. The Chamber President mentioned in a meeting that the authorities of the Udayan School had again approached him to consider giving some more financial assistance to help them complete the school building. The Committee then decided to donate Tk 10,000 more to Udayan School.⁴⁰⁷ In 1975, the Chamber again donated Tk 10,000 to the institution.⁴⁰⁸

⁴⁰² *Minutes of the DNCC*, 29 May, 1952, p. 123.

⁴⁰³ *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 9 March, 1953, p. 192.

⁴⁰⁴ *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 14 April, 1953, p. 198.

⁴⁰⁵ *Ibid.* The DNCCI made a total amount of Rs 58000 till April, 1953. Another cheque for Rs 1250 was issued to Begum Noon till 31 July 1954. See, *Annual Report of the DNCCI*, 1954, p. 56; *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 3 February 1953, p. 186; *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 18 August 1953, p. 224.

⁴⁰⁶ *Minutes of the NCCI*, 15 February, 1974, p. 1217.

⁴⁰⁷ *Minutes of the NCCI*, 18 December 1974, p. 1248.

⁴⁰⁸ *Annual Report of the NCCI*, 1975, p. 18.

5.1.3 The Narayanganj Education Society: The Narayanganj Education Society was formed in 1956 under the Society Registration Act, 1860. The aim of the Society was to promote quality education among the people of Narayanganj regardless of caste, creed and religion. The first Executive Committee, consisting of 12 members, included Mr Hanif Adamjee of Adamjee Jute Mills Ltd, Mr Ahmad Dada, Mr AKI Abrehani of R Sim & Co. Ltd., Mr SL Husain, a banker, Mr JA Hume of Pakbay Co. Ltd., Mr GL Jain, a businessman, Dr AWF Rahman, a medical practitioner, Mr AKK Haque of Muslim Commercial Bank Ltd., Mr AG Jiwani of Bawa Jute Mills, Mr AK Chatarjee, a legal practitioner and Mr HA Ghani, a businessman. Most of them were members of DNCCI. When the Society appealed to the Chamber for donations the Chamber forwarded the appeal to its member-firms so that they could contribute.⁴⁰⁹

In 1960, the Chamber offered to donate its Henderson Road land to the Education Society for the construction of a school building. However this was not possible due to legal complications.⁴¹⁰

5.1.4 Polytechnic Education in East Bengal: In 1953, the East Bengal Government appealed to the Chamber for a donation of Rs 7,20,000 for the development of the newly established Polytechnic at Tejgaon (Dacca) in East Bengal.⁴¹¹ The Chamber circulated this request to its member-firms. In 1954, Mr A Khalilee, Secretary-Commerce, Labour Industries, inquired about the progress of the donation scheme⁴¹² and a sub-committee recommended a guideline for contributions. In the end, the Chamber managed to collect a good amount, which was then handed over to the Project Authority. The fund provided by the DNCCI was mainly used for the scholarships of Polytechnic students. In 1955, the Chamber received a reminder letter to provide a Stipend Fund for students of the Institute. The Chamber provided as many scholarships to the Polytechnic students as it could for three more years.⁴¹³

⁴⁰⁹ *Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1958, p. 33.*

⁴¹⁰ *Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1958, p. 33; Minutes of the NCCI, 12 June, 1970, p. 949.*

⁴¹¹ *Minutes of the DNCCI, 28 July, 1953, p. 219; Minutes of the DNCCI, 10 September, 1953, p. 226; Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1954, p. 55.*

⁴¹² *Minutes of the DNCCI, 5 January, 1954, p. 251.*

⁴¹³ *Minutes of the DNCCI, 8 March, 1955, p. 61; Minutes of the DNCCI, 5 April, 1955, p. 66.*

5.1.5 Chittagong Public School: In 1953, an appeal to the Chamber was made by Mr MM Ispahani to lend support to the construction and running of a public school being set up in Chittagong.⁴¹⁴ Mr Ispahani, then Director of PIDC, suggested that jute press house owners and shippers could each contribute half an anna per bale on all pucca bales handled by them. The Chamber agreed in principle to help the Ispahani School but considered giving one anna per jute bale too high an amount.⁴¹⁵ The Chamber, however, circulated the request and in the end a good sum was collected for this purpose.

5.1.6 Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka: University of Dhaka, with the help of the Ford Foundation, set up the Institute of Business Administration. Dr Olescanin, the first Adviser of this Institute, invited the Committee members of NCCI and



Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka

they met him under the leadership of Mr YA Bawani, the then President of the Chamber. A two year course was started in that year with 35 students. The idea was to provide students with an education which would be different from traditional business education. Students would now be trained to hold senior positions in business and handle day to day as well as long-term financial and marketing problems. The Government provided a set up fund

⁴¹⁴ *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 13 October, 1953, p. 234.

⁴¹⁵ *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 1 October, 1953, p. 230; *Minutes of the DNCCI*, 27 October, 1953, p. 237.

of Rs 30,000. NCCI took great interest in this project and was of the view that this would go a long way towards fulfilling the genuine need for trained senior executives in the province. The Chamber assured the Adviser, that it would do everything possible to make the Institute a success. After independence, MCCI continued to nominate members to IBA. MR Siddiqui (1979-80 and 1986-89), M Anis Ud Dowla (1982) and SH Kabir (1983-85) were thus nominated to its Academic Board.⁴¹⁶

5.1.7 Narayanganj Chamber Benevolent and Scholarship Fund: The deed of the 'Narayanganj Chamber Benevolent and Scholarship Fund' was registered in 1979. Subsequently, the Fund was approved by the National Board of Revenue and it came into existence after the necessary formalities were completed, on 3 July, 1979.⁴¹⁷

5.1.8 Jamiat-ul-Falah: The Committee considered a request for donation to the Jamiat-ul-Falah, a philanthropic organization entrusted with the setting up of an Islamic Research Centre, Welfare Complex and a mosque in Chittagong. The Committee considered the request and decided that Chamber members should donate generously to the Fund. The Chamber approached a number of selected member-firms and arranged for a substantial donation to the Fund.⁴¹⁸

5.1.9 Eighth Pakistan Science Conference: The Chamber received an appeal from the "8th Pakistan Science Conference" for a donation to meet the costs of the conference, which was to be attended by distinguished scientists from abroad. The Committee considered that this was a cause worthy of support and a circular was issued to members recommending that they should contribute. In the Committee's view, a donation of Rs 100 was considered reasonable and a recommendation to members was made accordingly.⁴¹⁹ In 1968 and 1970, the Chamber contributed towards the expenses of the "All Pakistan Science Conference."⁴²⁰

The Chamber worked assiduously with schools, colleges, institutes, training companies, madrashas and other educational bodies (government and non-government) and assisted them in various ways. In January 1965, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (Dacca Region) asked the Chamber to contribute for the

⁴¹⁶ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1980, p. 33; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1982, p. 18; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1983, p. 17; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1984, p. 24; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1985, p. 18; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1987, p. 22; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1988, p. 22; Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1989, p. 27.*

⁴¹⁷ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1979, p. 39.*

⁴¹⁸ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1980, pp. 42-43.*

⁴¹⁹ *Minutes of the DNCCI, 1955, p.108.*

⁴²⁰ *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1968, p. 10; Minutes of the NCCI, 1970, 16 January, p. 227.*

construction of their building.⁴²¹ The Chamber agreed to do so and asked its member to donate a sum of Rs 100 each to this Institute. Apart from the above mentioned educational institutes, the Chamber extended its generous help to set up the Narayanganj HE School (1953), Trade Union Workers Training Institute (1955), Dacca Law College (1957), University Officers Training Corps. (UOTC) (1958), St. Joseph's School, Dacca (1959), Narayanganj Senior Islamia Madrasha (1960), East Regional Laboratory Science High School (1968), and Narayanganj English Preparatory School (1968). Donations were made to St. Joseph's School (1959) and Udayan School, Dacca (1957) for construction of their buildings and expansion of rooms. The Chamber also came forward to provide financial help for the East-Pakistan Educational Week and Pakistan History and Museum Conference (1953), and for an excursion tour undertaken by Tolaram College students to travel to West Pakistan in 1970.⁴²² The Chamber also extended its help to Mr Harun-ur Rashid, a lecturer of the University of Chittagong for working on his PhD in Japan in 1977.⁴²³

5.2 Health Sector

As a part of its benevolent work and social responsibility, the Metropolitan Chamber has always contributed handsomely to the health sector in this region. The Chamber made a noteworthy contribution to Victoria Hospital in Narayanganj in 1950s and Holy Family Hospital in Dhaka in the 1950s and 60s.

5.2.1 Victoria Hospital: Victoria Hospital was the first hospital set up in Narayanganj. It was established in 1885 by the municipality with financial contributions from Harakanta Banerjee.⁴²⁴ Subsequently, it was handed over to the municipality. In 1939, the Chamber Committee extended its help for development of the Hospital. The Chamber received an appeal for donations for the maintenance and upkeep of the institution which was run on voluntary subscription.⁴²⁵ The donation made to Victoria Hospital was one of the much appreciated initiatives undertaken by the Chamber in the 1950s.⁴²⁶

The Honorary Secretary of Victoria Hospital requested Narayanganj Chamber to provide financial help to it in 1950 and the Chamber did so. At the request of the Hospital Committee, member-firms of the Chamber contributed to the Victoria Hospital's 'Poor Patient Fund'⁴²⁷ for a long time. To increase its assistance, the Chamber made an appeal to

⁴²¹ *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1965, p. 30.*

⁴²² *Minutes of the NCCI, 1970, 20 July, p. 956.*

⁴²³ *Minutes of the NCCI, 1977, 16 August, p. 1419.*

⁴²⁴ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narayanganj>

⁴²⁵ *Minutes of the NCC, 1950, 31 January, p. 13; Minutes of the DNCC, 1951, 20 March, p. 64.*

⁴²⁶ *Minutes of the NCC, 1950, 31 January, p. 13.*

⁴²⁷ *Minutes of the DNCCI, 1953, 28 April, p. 202; Minutes of the DNCCI, 1955, 8 March, p. 61; Minutes of the DNCCI, 1955, p. 91.*

its member-firms for voluntary subscriptions. A Women's organization also approached the Chamber for donation to the female ward of Victoria Hospital.⁴²⁸ The Chamber referred its appeal to members. In a meeting held on 1 May 1951, the Chamber received a proposal from the Sub-Divisional Officer, Narayanganj to send a representative to the Hospital Committee so that member-firms could continue their donations to the Hospital. The Chamber Committee accepted the offer and pointed out that most member-firms were donating money to the Hospital on a regular basis.⁴²⁹

In 1952, DNCC nominated Capt. EG Stevenson of Bangla-Assam Steamship Co. Ltd. and Mr CEC Guthrie of IGN & RSN Co. Ltd. to the 'Poor Patient Fund' of the 'Victoria Hospital Committee'.⁴³⁰ As per records, though Victoria Hospital was under the management of the Municipality, the management of this fund was under the disposal of the Hospital Committee. In 1956, the Chamber Committee decided that the balance of the fund would be donated to Holy Family Hospital on certain terms and conditions. In 1959, the SDO of Narayanganj again requested the Chamber to continue contributing to Victoria Hospital.

5.2.2 Dacca Ladies Club Poor Patients Fund: In response to a request from Dacca Ladies Club, in 1953, the Chamber contributed Rs 150 from its own fund and requested the Pakistan Jute Association to consider donating a similar amount for the Club's "Poor Patients Fund".⁴³¹

5.2.3 Holy Family Hospital Scheme: In March 1953, the Chamber President Mr RWN Ferguson was approached by the sisters of Holy Family Hospital to contribute to the Holy Family Hospital Scheme. In response, the Chamber initiated a scheme for medical treatment of Chamber employees based on donations made to Holy Family Hospital.⁴³² In order to implement the scheme, an Adhoc Committee was formed consisting of Mr AD Boldy and Mr AB Baike of the Chamber. In June 1953, the Chamber issued a circular in regard to donation policy and a sub-committee was assigned to draw up recommendations on donations and the medical scheme. Mr MM Ispahani, Mr Ferguson and Mr Boldy were members of the Sub Committee.⁴³³

DNCCI gave donations for the development of Holy Family Hospital in return for treatment facilities for Chamber staff. In 1956, the balance of the 'Poor Patient Fund' was handed over to Holy Family Hospital on condition that a certain number of beds would be

⁴²⁸ *Annual Report of the DNCC, 1951, p. 64.*

⁴²⁹ *Minutes of the DNCC, 1951, 1 May, p. 70.*

⁴³⁰ *Minutes of the DNCC, 1952, 25 April, p. 115.*

⁴³¹ *Minutes of the DNCCI, 1953, 1 October, p. 231.*

⁴³² *Minutes of the DNCCI, 1953, 7 December, p. 244.*

⁴³³ *Minutes of the DNCCI, 1953, 12 May, p. 206; Minutes of the DNCCI, 1953, 27 October, p. 237.*



Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital, Dhaka

reserved in the maternity wards for poor patients from Narayanganj who would be screened by the Fund managers and sent to Holy Family Hospital for free treatment through a Screening Committee.⁴³⁴ However, this idea was ultimately dropped as some donors balked at this system and since the government did not approve the transfer of the 'Poor Patient's Fund' to this hospital. In 1958, the Chamber Secretariat arranged for treatment of some of daily patients without prior appointment in the Hospital.⁴³⁵

In 1959, the Hospital Contact Committee of the Chamber consisted of Mrs. Conventry, Mr Naser-ud-Deen Khan and Mr Heald, who continued to meet once every month with the Holy Family Hospital authorities when matters raised by members of the scheme were discussed and reasons for complaints investigated. The Chamber tried to solve all problems through regular coordination with the Hospital administration, doctors and patients.⁴³⁶

In 1962, a few member-firms complained about the services. The Chamber took note of the matter and discussed the issue in detail with the Hospital authority.⁴³⁷ In 1965, when Holy Family Hospital raised its fees, NCCI agreed to pay according to the revised rate. This arrangement with Holy Family Hospital continued till the 1960s.

⁴³⁴ *Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1956, pp. 47-48.*

⁴³⁵ *Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1958, p. 33.*

⁴³⁶ *Annual Report of the DNCCI, 1959, p. 28.*

⁴³⁷ *Minutes of the NCCI, 1962, 10 September, p. 550.*

5.2.4 Dacca Shishu Hospital: After liberation, the Chamber gave donations to the Shisu (Children) Hospital Project, Dacca in 1977. In a meeting held on 12 April 1977 with hospital authorities the Chamber supported the cause, noting that Shishu Hospital was a unique project and that member-firms of the Chamber would surely give it spontaneous support.⁴³⁸

5.2.5 Others: Apart from these medical schemes, the Chamber extended its support to many other health care programs and medical institutions. In the 1950s, for example, the Chamber made donations to the “Women’s Small Pox Prevention Committee”. The Chamber donated to the program for prevention of Blindness in East Bengal; it also donated to the Public Health Day observance events in 1958 and the Malaria Eradication Program. Upon a request of Dr Mohammed Ibrahim for construction of the Diabetic Clinic at Segunbagicha, NCCI and its member-firms regularly contributed to the Diabetic Association of Pakistan from 1963 to 1965.⁴³⁹ In 1966, the Chamber gave donations to the fund set up for Disabled Air Force Personnel, injured during the 1965 war.

Apart from the Chamber making donations to health-related projects, member-firms donated to the Health sector on their own. For instance, Mr MM Ispahani of the Ispahani Group established the Ispahani Eye Hospital at Dhaka while Mr RP Saha of Kumudini Welfare Trust of Bengal established the biggest private sector hospital in the country in the 1960s, namely Kumudini Hospital at Mirzapur, Tangail.

5.3 Environment Sector

Presently, the Chamber has been making a significant contribution to the environmental sector of Bangladesh. MCCI promoted ‘Environmental Management Program’ with the World Bank in 2000; it has taken a part in the campaign launched by the *Daily Star* for ‘clean rivers’ in 2009; and most importantly, it has introduced an Award on the Environment in 2009.

5.3.1 Environmental Management Program: In response to a proposal from the World Bank’s Dhaka office, the Chamber Committee agreed to join its Environmental Management Programme for the industrial sector. Under this program, 20 member-organizations of the Chamber were selected, whose employees were given training on Environmental Management Systems by World Bank experts.⁴⁴⁰

⁴³⁸ *Minutes of the NCCI, 1977, 12 April, p. 1395.*

⁴³⁹ *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1965, p. 30; Annual Report of the NCCI, 1968, p. 10.*

⁴⁴⁰ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2000, p. 25.*

5.3.2 Discussion on 'Climate Change and Business opportunities': The chamber is concerned about the impact of climate change and is aware that it is a critical issue for many countries, including Bangladesh. It thus organized a discussion meeting on 25 August 2010 entitled 'Climate Change and Business opportunities' where some members took part and exchanged views on the issue. Dr Aynun Nishat, Vice-Chancellor of BRAC University, and an eminent environmentalist, apprised members of the latest developments on the issue.⁴⁴¹

5.3.3 Environmental Initiatives to Prevent Water Pollution: The Chamber associated itself with the campaign launched by *Daily Star* for clean rivers (Buriganga, Sitalakhya, and Turag) as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The committee noted that nearly 7500 industrial units have been polluting the three rivers around Dhaka city by



The Chamber President, Mr Abdul Hafiz Choudhury, FCA, presenting a crest to Mr Mahfuz Anam, expressing MCCI's solidarity with the 'Clean River' Campaign

discharging toxic waste, mainly, textile dyes, printing and washing chemicals and effluent waste of tanneries. The Committee felt, that MCCI's association with the campaign would make the business community more sensitive to the issue of environmental degradation and induce business enterprises to introduce effluent treatment measures. Accordingly, a delegation from the Chamber called on the editor of the *Daily Star* on June 06, 2009, to articulate the chamber's desire to support the campaign to mitigate the consequences of polluted river water.⁴⁴² The editor and publisher of *Daily Star* Mr Mahfuz Anam expressed gratitude for MCCI's support in favour of the campaign launched by *Daily Star* for clear rivers. The committee also recognized the need for sending invitations to other leading trade bodies to join with MCCI in expressing the business community's solidarity with the campaign for clean rivers.⁴⁴³

⁴⁴¹ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2009-10, p. 6.*

⁴⁴² *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2009, p. 41.*

⁴⁴³ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2009, p. 39.*

As part its drive to support the *Daily Star's* Clean Rivers Campaign, the Chamber organized a meeting with the heads of some major trade bodies and associations at the Chamber Building on 15 July 2009 to discuss the issue of environment pollution, particularly the pollution of the three rivers encircling Dhaka City and the role and responsibilities of the business community in this matter. As a follow up to the solidarity expressed for the clean rivers campaign, the Committee decided to invite Mr Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Environment for the Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of Forest and Environment.⁴⁴⁴



MCCI's Award Giving Ceremony, June 2, 2010

5.3.4 Introducing Award on Environment: The Chamber continued its support towards environment protection and the clean river campaign initiated by the *Daily Star* in 2009. The Chamber Committee decided to grant three awards; two to deserving journalists in the print and electronic media for outstanding investigative reporting on the clear river campaign and one to an enterprise for having taken a commendable program on setting up an effective effluent treatment plant (ETP). A 5-member committee was set up for selecting deserving candidates.⁴⁴⁵ The award comprised a cash grant of Tk 1 lac; on annual subscription to international magazines, reports and publications on environmental issues for a value of up to Tk 50 thousands to deserving journalists and conductors of TV programs, and a certificate with a crest to the deserving enterprise. The first Award Selection Committee was headed by Dr Akbar Ali Khan, former Adviser to the Caretaker

⁴⁴⁴ *Annual Report* of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2009, p. 41.

⁴⁴⁵ *Annual Report* of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2009-10, p. 23.

Government. After a vigorous selection process, it selected Mr Pinaki Roy of the *Daily Star* as the best investigative journalist, Mr SM Babu of ATN Bangla as the best investigative conductor of TV program on environmental pollution, and Echotex Limited as the best enterprise for exemplary initiative undertaken for effluent treatment in 2009.⁴⁴⁶ The Award Selection Committee invited nominations of newspaper reports, TV programs, TV feature films and commendable initiatives for different treatment and control of effluent discharge through newspaper advertisements and by issuing letters to TV channels, press clubs, editors of newspapers, trade bodies and associations and entrepreneurs. The first award giving ceremony was held on 2 June, 2010. As per the announcement made by MCCI, Mr Pinaki Roy and Mr SM Babu received Taka one lac each, annual subscriptions of international magazines, reports and publications up to Taka fifty thousand, and an MCCI plaque. Echotex Limited also received an MCCI plaque as a special award.⁴⁴⁷

5.3.5 Roundtable on Environment and River Pollution: The Chamber organised a roundtable discussion among members of the business community, civil society, media, and policy makers at the Chamber's Conference Hall on 26 July, 2009. Mr Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Hon'ble Member of the Parliament and Chairman of the Environment Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment and Forests, was present in the session as the Chief Guest. Other members of Parliament, presidents and chairmen of leading trade bodies, the editor of the *Daily Star*, members of the business community, media professionals and past presidents of the Chamber were present and took part in the discussion that focused on the respective roles and responsibilities of the business community and the government in mitigating environmental challenges. The Chamber expressed its commitment to spontaneously support any national program on environmental issues, particularly for saving rivers based on the historic 11-point directive of the High Court issued on 25 June, 2009. The role of the media, particularly, that of *Daily Star*, was praised, for developing public awareness on the environment. The Honourable members of Parliament present commended the role of the Chamber, and thanked it for organizing such an event.⁴⁴⁸

⁴⁴⁶ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2010, pp. 23-24.*

⁴⁴⁷ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2010. p. 35.*

⁴⁴⁸ <http://www.mccibd.org/>

5.4 Other Services to the Nation (Selective)

- *Road Repairs (1952)*: Mr Baikie drew the attention of the Chamber Committee to the shocking condition of roads in Narayanganj and Dacca. The Chamber wrote to the Local-Self Government Department, Government of East Bengal, to take necessary actions for immediate repair of roads.⁴⁴⁹
- *Food Supplies (1955)*: There appeared to be a shortage of rice in Dacca and Narayanganj, causing a steep rise in prices. A large number of 'fair price' shops had been opened at Dacca, but it appeared that there was a shortage of supplies in Narayanganj. The Chamber urged the government to give priority to food supplies to industrial areas and to open more 'fair price' shops in Narayanganj.⁴⁵⁰
- *Chief Minister's Flood Relief Fund (1955)*: Mr Ispahani advised members that he had recently been reminded by the Chief Secretary about the Chief Ministers' Flood Relief Fund. 'The Chief Secretary was somehow under the impression that the Chamber was not doing its best in contributing to the relief work'. The amount hitherto received by the Chamber amounted to nearly Rs 8,000. It circulated a reminder to member-firms to come forward and do their best in the situation.⁴⁵¹
- *Double Tract Road (1962)*: The Chamber took the initiative to help build a double tract road in Narayanganj as the only road in the city was getting more and more congested every day.⁴⁵²
- *Henderson Road (1970)*: The Chamber decided to assist in repair work of Henderson Road in Narayanganj.⁴⁵³
- *Donations to the East Pakistan Relief Fund (1970)*: The Committee noted that total donations to the Presidents' East Pakistan Relief Fund amounted to Rs 27,700. It was agreed that as soon as this amount exceed Rs 30,000, a cheque would be handed over to the Governor.⁴⁵⁴
- *Donation to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund (1974)*: The President appealed to member-firms for donations to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to help provide succor to the flood-stricken people. The minimum and maximum donations

⁴⁴⁹ *Minutes of the DNCCI, 1952, 5 August, p. 144.*

⁴⁵⁰ *Minutes of the DNCCI, 1955, 15 November, p. 106.*

⁴⁵¹ *Minutes of the DNCCI, 1955, 2 September, p. 91.*

⁴⁵² *Minutes of the NCCI, 1962, 11 October, p. 553.*

⁴⁵³ *Minutes of the NCCI, 1970, p. 949.*

⁴⁵⁴ *Minutes of the NCCI, 1970, 28 August, p. 961.*

recommended to member-firms were Tk 1000 and Tk 5000. The President informed them that in response to his appeal, a total donation of Tk 64,000 had been received by 5 August, 1974 which, along with a donation of Tk 6,000 from the Chamber, he handed over to the Prime Minister on the same day. The committee was informed that subsequently two cheques for Tk 5,000 each were received which were then forwarded to the Prime Minister.⁴⁵⁵

- *Donation to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund (1975)*: In accordance with its past practice the Chamber Committee considered an appeal for donation to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to help provide succor to flood-stricken people. On the recommendation of the chamber, donations from member totalling Tk 69,000 was received. With the Chamber's own donation of Tk 6,000, a total sum of Tk 75,000 was donated to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.⁴⁵⁶
- *Flood in the Country: Donation to President's Relief Fund (1980)*: The Chamber Committee discussed the situation arising from the floods in the country in August, 1980 and in response donations were received and cheques for a total of Tk 2,10,000 were handed over to the Hon'ble Vice-President. The committee also decided that member-firms, who had been approached for flood relief by their workers actually affected by the floods, should consider giving them one month's salary recoverable in six monthly installments.⁴⁵⁷
- *Donation to the Presidents' Relief and Welfare-Fund (1984)*: The committee considered an appeal for donation to the President' Relief and Welfare-Fund in view of widespread damage to crops and properties caused by the devastating flood in May-June, 1984, and decided that an appeal be made to all members of the Chamber to pay at least a sum of Tk 5,000 to the fund. In response to the appeal, a total of Tk 3,35,500 was received and handed over to the President's Secretariat.⁴⁵⁸
- *Donation to the Presidents' Relief & Welfare Fund (1988)*: In response to an appeal made by the President of the Chamber, donations were received from some member-firms and a total of Tk 7,83,626 (inclusive of chamber's donation of Tk 2,50,000) was handed over to the President of the country.⁴⁵⁹

⁴⁵⁵ *Minutes of the NCCI, 1974, 20 August, p. 1240.*

⁴⁵⁶ *Annual Report of the NCCI, 1975, pp. 17-18.*

⁴⁵⁷ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1981, p. 32.*

⁴⁵⁸ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dacca, 1984, p. 42.*

⁴⁵⁹ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1988, p. 26.*

- *Donations to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund (1991)*: The Chamber decided to issue an appeal for generous donations to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the cyclone and tornado damage suffered by mills and factories in Chittagong and the colossal loss of lives and properties in the coastal areas experienced on 29 April in 1991. There was a good response to the appeal and cheques amounting to Tk 21 lakhs were handed over to the Prime Minister.⁴⁶⁰
- *Donation of Winter Clothes to Prime Minister's Relief Fund (1998)*: To mitigate the sufferings of the poor who were badly affected by the cold winter that the country had experienced, the Chamber donated a sizable quantity of winter clothing to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.⁴⁶¹
- *Contributions to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund (1999)*: As decided by the Chamber Committee, the Chamber contributed relief goods worth Tk 5 lacs from its own fund and also raised another Tk 11 lacs as contributions from member-firms and donated the amount to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for distribution to flood-affected people.⁴⁶²
- *Donation to the Liberation War Museum (2001)*: The Chamber contributed an amount of Tk 5 lac toward the creation of an 'Endowment Fund' for the Liberation War Museum.⁴⁶³
- *Donation to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund (2005)*: As decided by the Committee, an appeal was made to member-firms for donations through the Chamber to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to provide relief to flood-affected people. A sum of Tk 13 lac was received from 22 member-firms Tk 5 lacs from the Chamber's own funds who added and the total amount was handed over to the Prime Minister on 2 August, 2004.⁴⁶⁴
- *Beautification and Maintenance of Road Island (2005)*: The Chamber was asked by the Government to take up the work of beautification and maintenance of the traffic island from Bijoy Sarani to Farm Gate Police Box as part of the beautification programme of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC). The Chamber took up the work and six member-firms, viz. Apex Tannery Ltd., Advanced Chemical Industries Ltd., Renata Limited, Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Transcom Limited

⁴⁶⁰ *Annual Report* of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1991, pp. 36-37.

⁴⁶¹ *Annual Report* of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1998, p. 35.

⁴⁶² *Annual Report* of the MCCI: Dhaka, 1999, p. 29.

⁴⁶³ *Annual Report* of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2001, p. 34.

⁴⁶⁴ *Annual Report* of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2005, p. 28.

and Reliance Insurance Ltd contributed Tk 3 lac each and Nestle Bangladesh Ltd contributed Tk 1 lac to meet the expenditure incurred in the project.⁴⁶⁵

- *Donations to the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund (2008)*: The Chamber appealed to its members for generous donations to the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund to provide urgent relief and succor to the flood and 'Sidr'-affected people in the northern and south-western regions of the country. The member's contributions were handed over to the Chief Adviser to the Government of Bangladesh.⁴⁶⁶

5.5 Donations/ Contributions as CSR at a Glance (Selected)

Some examples of the Chamber's contributions to Government-sponsored programs and charitable, cultural and sports organizations are as follows:

- During the first phase of the Chamber (NCC, 1904-1950), Dacca Club (1911), Dacca Museum (1913) and Narayanganj Club were supported either by the Chamber itself, or by its members, who were active members of these clubs.
- 1943: The government opened a 'Gruel Kitchen' for feeding famine-stricken people. The Narayanganj Chamber came forward to help distressed people and approached member-firms to do their best for the sufferers. As a result, mill owners opened ration-shops.
- 1950: The Chamber donated enthusiastically to the Government Refugee Fund. The Chamber also nominated MM Ispahani (1955), WR Longwill (1955), JM Diza (1956), M Naser-ud-din Khan (1957) to the Government Refugee Relief Committee.
- 1952: Donations were made to the Pakistan Hockey Team. Each member of the Chamber contributed Rs 100.
- 1953: A donation was made to the Lawn Tennis Association.
- 1953: The Chamber presented a large bore rifle as prize at the Shooting Championship of the Quaid-e-Azam Rifle Club.
- 1954: Rs 250 was contributed to the Sir Stafford Cripps Memorial Trust by each member-firm of the Chamber upon the request of the Governor-General.
- 1954: Donation was made to the Bengal Combined Forces Flag Day.

⁴⁶⁵ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2005, p. 31.*

⁴⁶⁶ *Annual Report of the MCCI: Dhaka, 2008, p. 45.*

- 1954: The Chamber participated in the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.
- 1955: DNCCI contributed to the 6th Pakistan Economic Association Conference held in Chittagong.
- 1955: A donation was made to the Sir Stafford Cripps Memorial Trust.
- 1955: The Chamber and its members donated Rs 25,735 to the Chief Minister's Flood Relief Fund.
- 1955: The Chamber contributed Rs 10,000 to the Union Training Scheme.
- 1956: The Chamber donated to the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Fund on the occasion of Combined Forces Flag Day.
- 1956: The DNCCI participated, hosted and shared the cost, along with the Chittagong Chamber and other Trade organizations of hosting a dinner party for the Prime Minister of Pakistan.
- 1956: The Chamber received an appeal to donate money to the National Relief Association of Pakistan and requested member-firms to contribute to it.
- 1956: A donation was made to the Pakistan Conference for Social Work.
- 1957: The Chamber contributed to the celebration of Universal Children Day.
- 1957: The Chamber circulated a request to its members for donating money to Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage.
- 1957: AK Fazlul Haque, Governor of East Pakistan, made an appeal for donation to the Governor's Relief Fund to help distressed people. The Chamber responded positively and came up with a huge contribution.
- 1958: The DNCCI made a donation to the EP Sports Federation.
- 1958: The Chamber took up a cleanup program named the Dacca Cleanup Campaign.
- 1958: Chief Minister Aaur Rahman Khan approached the Chamber for funds for the victims of famine and epidemics in some parts of East Pakistan. In response, the Chamber donated a sizeable amount to the Governor's Wife's Relief Fund.
- 1959: The Chamber made donations to the Horse and Cattle Show in Dhaka.
- 1961: NCCI donated money to the Businessmen Seminar held in Dacca.
- 1969: In accordance with past practice, the Chamber Committee considered various appeals and made donations to the Governor's Cyclone Relief Fund; the Defence of Pakistan Day; and the 5th Pakistan Boy Scouts National Jamboree Fund.

- 1970: A severe cyclone devastated the country on 12 November. The Chamber Committee appealed to member-firms to donate to the President's East Pakistan Relief Fund. Apart from individual contributions the Chamber handed over Rs 25,000 to the Military Secretary to the Governor.
- 1970: A donation was made to All Pakistan's Science Conference.
- 1977: A donation was made to the Press Institute of Bangladesh.
- 1999: Contributions were made by the Chamber to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.
- 2004: The Chamber organizes donations to flood-affected people.
- 2007: MCCI, Dhaka made donations to the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund.
- 2014: The Chamber, jointly with the Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, distributed blankets among the poor and vulnerable people of Rangpur.

Chapter 6

Conclusion: Into the Future





CONCLUSION: INTO THE FUTURE

In its 110 years history, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) has undergone numerous changes and overcome innumerable vicissitudes as it traversed the twentieth century. However, it has entered the new century and millennium as a vibrant organization, eager to build on the experience it has accumulated in its evolutionary phase, and poised not only to assist its members proactively in their business dealings but also to contribute positively to the trade and commerce of the nation in every possible way.

When MCCI began its journey in Narayanganj, as the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce in 1904, it was an organization consisting of British business people, focused almost entirely on the trading of one commodity, jute. Its second phase, as the Dhaka-Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce, lasted only from 1950 to 1952 and not much could be claimed for its workings at that time, for two years is never enough to leave a mark in any sphere. The third phase of MCCI's evolution, when it became the Dacca-Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry, although once again brief (1952-59), marked a decisive alteration in the Chamber's orientation as well as membership, as local business people now began to take an active part in it and as the business interests of its members began to diversify significantly. The fourth phase was in every way momentous, for between 1959 and 1979, East Pakistan had become Bangladesh, and the political process that led to the liberation of the country in 1971 led to intrinsic changes in the membership of the Chamber as well as the trade and business activities of its members. And from 1979 onwards, the Chamber has gone from strength to strength; it is now accustomed to play the role of the premier organization of its type of a country whose economy has been expanding significantly and whose business interests now have truly global dimensions.

This book has attempted to present the rich history of MCCI and trace its development from a fledgling body to a sizable organization that has now become a considerable presence in the region. But, the Chamber is determined to build on the reputation it has acquired and forge ahead in the new millennium when the demands of globalization and

the advent of new forms of businesses and technological innovations are transforming the business environment everywhere rapidly. There are also new problems that MCCI and its members are trying to solve together or in league with other agencies and organizations, such as environmental degradation. In the new millennium, MCCI is also trying to disseminate the philosophy of corporate social responsibility in a much more systematic and comprehensive manner than ever before. Certainly, this book has tried to reflect such preoccupations of the Chamber in its current phase.

MCCI can, however, confidently look forward to a future in which it will continue to play a leading role in contributing to business affairs of the country and in pioneering paths to prosperity and development in alliance with governmental and non-governmental agencies working for a Bangladesh dedicated to realizing the United Nations' millennial goals. The Chamber is determined to utilize its resources for proactively promoting trade and industry in the region. It is also bent on continuing to be an effective channel of communication between the country's business community and the government.

This book, published on the anniversary of the 110 years of MCCI's existence, is thus an occasion for looking back and reflecting on the circumstances of the birth and growth of the chamber. It will, hopefully, allow its readers to consider the achievements of the Chamber to date and will introduce them to the rich tradition to which its members are heirs. Hopefully, too, it will inspire members to think of future roads to be taken and heights to be scaled so that MCCI can continue to play a lead role in contributing to business in Bangladesh and in promoting regional and international business alliances in the coming decades of the new millennium.

This book is by no means an exhaustive record of the Chamber's evolution and activities over the decades. A fuller work could surely have been contemplated based on a more thorough reading of existing historical documents and reports of the Chamber, more access to other archival material stored in libraries in Britain and India, and more extensive interviews taken with Chamber personalities still living. But perhaps the preceding pages have allowed readers more than a glimpse of the varied and essential features of the Chamber's evolution and have given them a better understanding and appreciation of the Chamber's progress than can be found in any other source at present. No doubt a more substantial history of the Chamber is still to be written; all we can hope is that this work will be seen as a notable attempt at recording the main phases and features of MCCI's history and a work worthy of an organization observing its 110th anniversary.

Selected Events/Activities (1904-2014)

1904

- The establishment of the Chamber, consisting of sixteen members, including the President, Vice-President and Honorary Secretary.

1913

- The Honorary Secretary of NCC submits opinion on 'A Bill to Amend the Indian Companies Act, 1913', to the Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department, on August 26, 1913.

1917

- Mr AL Godden (Honorary Secretary of NCC) gives an opinion on 'Proposal to Suppress the Adulteration of Indian Produce before Export' to the Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Commerce Department, on October 17, 1917.

1921

- The Chamber unanimously favors the imperial preference on the 'Tariff Policy of the Government of India Trade after the War, Free Trade System, Protection, Imperial Preference, etc.' through a letter to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Commerce Department, November 19, 1921.

1924

- NCC participates in the formation of 'The Indian Trade Unions Bill 1924', forwarding its opinion to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Commerce Department, November 12, 1924.
- Mr RN Story (Honorary Secretary of NCC) comments on 'Periods of Wage Payment Bill' to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Commerce Department, on November 25, 1924.

1930

- The Chamber participates in the preparation of the 'The Draft Indian Partnership Bill', forwarding the committee meeting decisions to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Commerce Department. It is represented by Mr JH Kirkland (Honorary Secretary of NCC), March 1, 1930.

1940

- The Chamber contributes to the passing of 'The Bengal Shops and Establishments Bill, 1939'. Mr H Williams, the Honorary Secretary of NCC, communicates the Chamber's views to the Joint Secretary, Government of Bengal, Commerce and Labour Department, on January 6, 1940.

1949

- Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted by special resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 11 April, 1949.
- Mr Graham, President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Pakistan, visits NCC and meets committee members.

1950

- NCC sends some suggestions to Associated Chambers of Commerce of Pakistan for adoption.
- NCC takes an initiative to open a Dacca City Office in a committee meeting held on 4 April.
- 'Dacca' was included in the altered name of the Chamber at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 12 May.

1952

- 'Industry' is included in the name of the Chamber on 15 July at an Extraordinary General Meeting and the committee approves 'Dacca-Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry' as the new name; believing that the industrialization of East Pakistan will make it of increasing importance.

1953

- Begum Viqarun Nisa Noon, wife of His Excellency, the Governor of East Bengal, addresses the Chamber on 3 February. The Chamber President is nominated to serve on the Governing Body of the Viqarun Nisa Noon School. The Chamber donates Rs 61,750 to the school.
- The Chamber takes an initiative on 10 March regarding the improvement of telegraphic communication between East Pakistan and United States and approves the scheme of a radio link through Manila.

- The Chamber, in its committee meeting held on 22 June, decides to publish a monthly bulletin from July 1953. The Chamber also considers bringing out a commercial periodical in the future.
- The Chamber is invited by the Chancellor of the University of Dhaka to nominate a member to the Court of the University.

1954

- The Honorable Prime Minister is present at the Annual General Meeting on 8 January and gives an address.
- His Excellency Sir Gilbert Laithwaite, High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Pakistan, visits the Chamber and has a meeting with committee members (14-15 January).
- The Chamber is requested, in March 1954, by the London Chamber of Commerce to act as an examining authority in the eastern part of Bengal. The proposal is accepted by the Chamber and a supervisory committee is appointed for this purpose.

1955

- United States Trade Mission visits DNCCI on 21 August.
- The Chamber donates Rs 10,750 to the Trade Union Workers Training Scheme, introduced by the Government of East Bengal on 11 October.
- The 6th All Pakistan Economic Conference is held in Chittagong from 26-30 December. The Chamber participates and contributes actively to proceedings.

1956

- Sir Alexander Symon, High Commissioner for United Kingdom, visits the Chamber and meets Committee members on 16 January.
- Reception to the Governor General of Pakistan, Major General Iskander Mirza and Begum Mirza on 24 January.
- AK Fazlul Haque, Governor of East Pakistan, attends the AGM of DNCCI on 6 April as the Chief Guest and delivers a speech.
- Mr Mohammad Ali, Prime Minister of Pakistan, delivers a speech to members of DNCCI on 30 April.

- Sir Alexander Symon, High Commissioner for United Kingdom, visits the Chamber on 16 January and meets committee members.

1957

- Mr Haas, French Trade Counsellor in Pakistan (27 March), and Mr M Kadir, Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (7 January), visit the Chamber and interact with members.
- Dr Hernan Romero, ILO Expert on Social Security, visits DNCCI on 20 December.

1958

- Mr RF Kinsey and Mr DN Twyford of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation, UK visit DNCCI on 23 January.
- The Chamber committee has a discussion meeting Mr Eugene Braderman, Director of International Trade, US Department of Commerce, USA on 30 January.
- AK Fazlul Haque, Governor of East Pakistan, attends the 53rd AGM of DNCCI on 4 March as Chief Guest and delivers a speech.
- Members of the World Bank's Economic Mission, headed by Mr G Neil Perry, visit the Chamber on 3 June.
- The 54th AGM is held on 9 December in the Chamber Office. Mr Zakir Husain, Governor of East Pakistan, is present as the Chief Guest.
- An Extraordinary General Meeting is held, on re-organization of the Chamber, on 20 December.
- Mr Zulfiquar Ali Bhutto, Minister for Commerce of the Government of Pakistan, meets the Chamber committee on 26 December.

1959

- The government renames and reorganizes the Chamber as the 'Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry' by issuing a letter and license on 20 March which is approved unanimously in an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Chamber held on 11 August.

1960

- Members of the US Trade Mission visit the Chamber on 11 February and meet the Chamber Committee.
- The Chamber decides on 23 May to donate the Henderson Road land to the Naryanganj Education Society with the stipulation that the Society will change its name to the 'Naryanganj Chamber Education Society' and that the Chamber will have a certain number of representatives on the Board of Directors.

1961

- The Chamber participates in the Asian Trade Seminar held in Karachi for 6 days from 28 December 1961 to 2 January 1962.
- Under pressure from the Chamber, the Minister for Commerce, on 14 September, finally announces 34 percent reduction in the export duty on tea.

1962

- NCCI and DCCI reach an agreement in regard to the jurisdiction of these two Chambers as follows: 1. Narayanganj Chamber: Bhairab, Tongi, Faridpur and Goalundo; 2. Dacca Chamber: Tangail and Tejgaon.
- Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) asks NCCI on 23 February to nominate a delegate to the 46th session of the ILO Conference.
- The Chamber Committee meets French team of bankers and industrialists on 15 March.
- The Chamber protests the newly framed rules on 'Trade Organization Ordinance 1961' and resolves accordingly at a committee meeting held on 7 June.
- NCCI receives an invitation from the Chicago Chamber of Commerce on 12 April and representatives attend the Chicago International Trade Fair from 25 July to 12 August.

1963

- Abdul Monem Khan, Governor of East Pakistan, joins the AGM of the Chamber held on 31 January as the Chief Guest.
- NCCI participates in the convention of the All Pakistan Chamber of Commerce held on 24 September and the All Pakistan Exporter's Convention held on 16 November.

- The Chamber sanctions a donation on 10 October to the Economics Department of Dhaka University for organizing an exhibition on the Economic Development of Pakistan.
- An Extraordinary General Meeting is held and the Articles of Association of NCCI is amended on 15 October.

1964

- An important meeting is held on 5 March between the Federation of British Industries Group led by Mr FJE Tearle and the NCCI Committee.
- An Italian Trade delegation visits the Chamber on 16 July and has a joint meeting with NCCI and the Pakistan Jute Association.

1965

- The Chamber forwards concrete suggestions on taxation policy to the Ministry of Finance on 11 March.
- Cyclone-affected employees of the NCCI and member firms are given one month's gross salary for quick recovery.
- The President of Pakistan and the Governor of the East Pakistan call upon the business community on 18 August to help in the war effort. NCCI handles the situation tactically and says that this matter should be taken up by the zonal committee of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).
- NCCI takes an initiative on 25 November to set up a proper Business Administration Institute in University of Dhaka after conducting a meeting with Dr Den Orescanin, Advisor of the Institute.

1966

- Major General HWG Wijeyekoon, Ceylonese High Commissioner in Pakistan, visits the Chamber on 17 November.

1967

- Michael Montague and Ian F Trevor, Chairman and Executive Secretary of the British National Export Council's Asia Committee visit NCCI on 16 October and meet the Chamber committee.
- NCCI purchases Al-Bawany Chamber Building (122/124, Motijheel, Dhaka) on 1 November and sets up the new office of the Chamber.

- NCCI sells its old building (87/88, Motijheel, Dhaka) to the Pakistan Red Cross Society for Rs 6 lakh 50 thousand on 2 November.
- Chinese Trade Delegation and German Economic Mission come to the Chamber office and have meetings on 31 October and 17 November.
- In order to raise money to purchase 'Al-Bawany Chamber' in Dacca, the Chamber building in Narayanganj is sold to the Pakistan Jute Association in November for Rs 6 lakhs.

1968

- The Chamber receives and holds meetings with the US Trade and Investment Mission (19 February), the Spanish Trade Delegation (20 March) and the Italian Trade Delegation (23 March).

1970

- Vice-Admiral SM Ahsan, Governor of East Pakistan, joins the second part of the 65th AGM held on 6 May and delivers his speech at Hotel Inter-Continental.
- 8 delegates from NCCI join the Businessmen's Convention in Dacca in July and project the Chamber's point of view.

1971

- In a meeting, held on 12 March, the Chamber decides to break from its tradition of non-involvement in political movement of any kind. Deeming the current movement a people's one, the Chamber Committee unanimously agrees to get involved with it under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- The Chamber decides in a committee meeting on 22 December to congratulate the Mukti Bahini and offer thanks for its services towards the freedom of the country. The meeting demands immediate release of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- The Committee decides that the Chamber pledge its whole-hearted support to the government in its task of building a prosperous country free from exploitations.
- NCCI condemns the inhuman massacre of intellectuals and demands an enquiry into the matter in a committee meeting held on 22 December.

1972

- In a committee meeting held on 4 February the Chamber decides to arrange a tea party instead of their regular annual dinner party in keeping with the need for austerity.

- An Extraordinary General Meeting is held and the Articles of Association of NCCI are amended on 18 March.
- Mr MR Siddiqi, Minister for Trade and Commerce, delivers a speech at the AGM held on 23 March.

1974

- The Chamber Committee decides at meetings on 10 January and 18 December that no function will be organized and that no Chief Guest will henceforth be invited to AGMs.
- NCCI meets the Minister for Industries to present its views on measures needed to be taken for the improvement of investment in the country.

1975

- The Chamber Committee submits proposals for Import and Export Policies for the July-December 1975 shipping period and for the 1975-76 financial years, respectively.
- The Committee discusses the question of affiliation of the Chamber with the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry and decides to join the Federation.
- NCCI successfully opposes a proposal on the formation of a Federation of Bangladesh Export Organisation by the Ministry of Commerce.

1976

- The 71st AGM is held on 17 February and Dr MN Huda, member of the Advisory Council to the President of Bangladesh and Chief Martial Law Administrator, joins the annual dinner, which is followed by the AGM.
- The Chamber President informs the committee on 30 June that the Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh, had asked the Chamber to arrange a meeting with the Trade Delegation from Pakistan.
- President of the NCCI is included in the Committee on New Design and Reconstruction of Shaheed Minar on 9 September.
- The Chamber is invited to be part of a delegation to Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan to invite foreign investors to Bangladesh.
- The NCCI President has a meeting with the Chief Martial Law Administrator held on 8 December.

1977

- The Chamber committee meets a Belgian Delegation of Industrialists on 17 January.
- An Extraordinary General Meeting is held and the Articles of Association of NCCI are amended on 24 March.
- The Chamber Committee has a meeting on 10 May with Mr Claude Vidalain, Charge De Mission, French External Trade Council.
- Japanese Trade Delegation visits NCCI.
- Two delegates from the NCCI join a Six-Week International Training Course on 'Export Development for Private Businessmen' in Canberra (Australia) from 1 November to 14 December.

1978

- Mr Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Member of the President's Council of Advisors, in-charge of the Ministry of Industries, delivers a speech at the Chamber's luncheon on 2 March in reply to the address by the Chamber President, Mr Anis ud Dowla.
- Economic Mission of Italian Traders and Industrialists and 10-Member Nepalese Trade Delegation visit NCCI and have meetings with the Chamber committee on 7 February and 27 March respectively. A mission from Investment Promotion Services, Switzerland is received by the Chamber.
- The Chamber continues to conduct examinations of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry held during the months of December (1977) and May (1978) respectively.
- At the request of the Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh, a seminar on the Two-Year Plan is held at the Chamber Building on 20 June to reflect the views of trade and industry to the draft plan. NCCI presents 3 papers on the issue at the meeting.

1979

- NCCI celebrates the Diamond Jubilee of the Chamber (1904-1979) and publishes an Annual Report (1978-79) with 11 messages from past presidents, dignitaries as well as 3 special articles. Supplements are published in four local dailies.
- The Chamber Committee finalizes its suggestions for the Import Policy for 1979-80 which are forwarded for consideration to the Ministry of Commerce. Most of the suggestions are accepted by the government.

- Mr Saifur Rahman, Minister for Commerce of Government of Bangladesh, delivers a speech in reply to the address by the President of NCCI at the Diamond Jubilee Celebration on 20 June.
- The National Board of Revenue approves the Narayanganj Chamber Benevolent and Scholarship Fund on 3 July.
- Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dacca (MCCI), emerges replacing NCCI the requirements of government regulations. This change is approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 20 December.

1980

- MCCI members attend the Third General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) held in New Delhi from 21 January to 8 February and a member presents a paper on 'Industrialisation in the 1980s and Beyond: Its Logic and Policies'. The Chamber hands over a copy of the paper to the Deputy Prime Minister in-charge of the Ministry of Industries, Government of Bangladesh.
- Mr Jamal Uddin Ahmad, Deputy Prime Minister in-charge of the Ministry of Industries, Government of Bangladesh, delivers a speech at the Annual Dinner on the occasion of the 75th AGM of the Chamber on 15 March.
- The Chamber committee has a series of meetings with Dr WJ Rijpma, Director, CBI, Rotterdam, The Netherlands on 4 February; the Review Mission of the International Trade Centre, Geneva and the Swedish International Development Agency on 23 October; and Mr EJ Westnedge, Director of British Executive Service Overseas (BESO) and others on 24 November.

1981

- Representatives of the British and South Asian Trade Association, London and President of the Fuji Economic Planning Corporation of Japan and other representatives visit MCCI on 29 January and 14 April respectively.
- An Extraordinary General Meeting is held and Articles of Association of MCCI are amended by a special resolution on 7 February.
- Justice A Sattar, Vice President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, delivers a speech at the Annual Dinner on the occasion of the 76th AGM of the Chamber on 2 April.
- Two important delegations come to the Chamber this year – one an eight-member delegation of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and

Industry and the other a delegation of the Association of Indian Engineering Industry. Both meetings prove mutually fruitful.

- Two-member and Five-member World Bank Teams have meetings with the Chamber Committee on 15 October and 23 October respectively.
- MCCI submits a paper on 'Credit Policy' to Bangladesh Bank.

1982

- The Chamber has meetings with Ministers for Industries, Finance and Planning and recommends denationalization of jute and textile, submitting a written paper on 'Nationalisation of Industries in Bangladesh – A Review of the Experiment: A Case for Denationalisation'.
- MCCI congratulates the government for announcing a liberal industrial policy. The committee also examines the newly promulgated Ordinance – Drugs (Control) Ordinance, 1982 which prohibited manufacture and import of a large number of pharmaceutical products.
- Mr AJ Cliff, Chief of the Bangladesh Division of the World Bank and the World Bank Mission, visits MCCI on 7 October.

1983

- The Chamber Committee meets Dr HA Wuttke, the Executive Vice-President of International Finance Corporation, an affiliate of the World Bank and his team, in the first week of January.
- MCCI meets with the Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt General HM Ershad on 4 May, and the President and the immediate past President of the Chamber deliver their speeches highlighting import, export and other relevant policies for 1983-84. The meeting is attended by Ministers, Heads of Diplomatic Missions, Secretaries of different Ministries, senior civil and military officials and members of trade and industry.
- The Chamber considers a proposal for formation of a Joint Chamber of Commerce between MCCI and the Chamber of Trade of Nepal and for sending a trade delegation to Nepal sometime in October or November.
- Bangladesh-Japan Joint Committee for Commercial and Economic Co-operation led by Mr Kiku Ikeda has a meeting with the Chamber Committee, followed by lunch, on 21 November.
- Memorandum of Association amended by Special Resolution is passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 28 December.

1984

- A number of important visitors and delegations visit MCCI during the year. Among them are: a Delegation from Engineering Export Promotion Council of India led by Mr JL Anand (11 April), a 13 Member delegation from the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (23 July) and a World Bank/ADB Team on 17 October.
- The Committee finalizes the Chamber's comments on two important documents for the Planning Commission – 'Thoughts on the Third Five-Year Plan (1985-90)' and 'Thoughts about Perspective Plan (1980-2000)'.
- The Committee considers the invitation of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Paris, for affiliation with them, and decides to join the ICC.

1985

- The Trade Organisations Rules, 1985, is finally gazetted on the 25 April and most of the views of the Chamber, earlier submitted to the government, are accommodated.
- A delegation from the Arab Chamber of Commerce and a high-powered team from International Monetary Fund visit the Chamber and have meetings with the Committee on 20 April and 11 July respectively.
- The Chamber Committee meets the World Bank Team of experts on Energy Conservation and Development Programme, where views are exchanged for further development of the energy sector.
- The President of the MCCI is made a member of the 29-Member Council of the National Council for Industrial Development constituted by the Government of Bangladesh.

1986

- A large number of visitors, including Mr Anwar Hossain, Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, visit the Chamber to meet member-firms. Several missions from international agencies such as World Bank, Asian Development Bank and International Trade Centre visit the Chamber and hold discussions on a number of issues.
- An Extraordinary General Meeting is held and the Articles of Association of MCCI are amended by a special resolution on 10 July.

- The Chamber continues to conduct examinations of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

1987

- World Bank, Bangladesh Malaysia Joint Colloquium and Swedish Trade Delegation hold discussions on a number of issues with the Chamber Committee.
- MCCI publishes a book titled Industry in Bangladesh.
- The Chamber sends a trade delegation to Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Australia to explore possibilities of further expansion of trade with these countries.
- The Chamber has a post-budget meeting on 6 July where the Deputy Prime Minister, Deputy Minister for Finance, Chairman of National Board of Revenue, Governor of Bangladesh Bank and Commerce Secretary are present. A number of member-firms raise different problems and issues relating to new import and export policies.

1988

- Messrs Don Westmore and Peter Collins, Department of Commerce, Government of the USA visit Chamber on 27 March and address members.
- Ms Page Ramsey Hays from United States Export-Import Bank addresses members of the MCCI on 8 May.
- A number of trade missions and missions from international agencies, such as World Bank, Asian Development Bank, International Finance Corporation and Commonwealth Development Corporation, hold discussions with the Chamber on a number of issues relating to the development of trade and commerce.
- The Chamber prepares a paper in August on increased electricity tariff and its adverse effects on Jute, Textile and other industries. Suggestions for Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources are put forward but no action is taken by the government
- MCCI expresses concern at loss of working hours during November and December. It issues press releases showing that, out of 51 working days, mills and factories had lost of 232 hours production and increased losses of Tk 345 Crore.

1989

- Dr Hyung S Choi, Ex-Minister for Science and Technology, Republic of Korea, and a delegation from the Confederation of Engineering Industry of India (CEI) meet members of the Chamber.
- The Chamber Committee has a series of meetings with the Prime Minister, Finance Minister, Minister for Planning, Commerce Minister, and the Secretary of the Ministry of Industries and other important officials.
- The Committee approves a paper incorporating the Chamber's suggestions for the Fourth Five-Year Plan. The paper is handed over to the Minister for Planning.
- A Press release is issued and letters are sent to the President and the Vice President of the Government of Bangladesh by MCCI on the government's decisions on Insurance Business. In these letters it is pointed out that restrictions on the sponsors of banking companies to sponsor insurance companies has been retained, apparently to stop monopolistic trends in the economy, but such restrictions would eliminate the scope of involving many enterprising businessmen in the insurance industry. MCCI advises government to withdraw these restrictions.
- The Chamber's Trade Delegation visits some European countries. They hold successful business meetings with the Confederation of British Industry, Confederation of German Chamber of Commerce, German Employers' Federation and Stockholm Chamber of Commerce.
- An Extraordinary General Meeting is held and Articles of Association of MCCI are amended by a special resolution on 4 September.

1990

- The Chamber Committee submits its suggestions to the government for amendments to the Customs Act, 1969, and the Excise Act, 1944.
- MCCI produces a short video film with the help of the Board of Investment to depict prospects of industrialization in the country.
- Mr Bernard Vieux, Inspector General of Finance, Government of France, visits MCCI on 31 October and delivers a speech.
- An Extraordinary General Meeting is held and the Articles of Association of MCCI are amended by a special resolution on 31 December.

1991

- The Chamber Committee welcomes the 12th Constitution Amendment Bill, 1991 and issues a press release declaring that it is a landmark in the journey to parliamentary democracy.
- MCCI expresses deep concern in a press release on 6 March over some provisions of the Financial Sector Adjustment Credit (FSC) agreement which the Government had concluded with the World Bank.
- On behalf of the business community, the Chamber requests the Finance Minister to solicit public opinion on 'Banking Companies Bill, 1991' introduced in the Parliament in May. MCCI claims that the bill contains some provisions which are contrary to the existing Companies Act and Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962.
- MCCI, DCCI and CCCI issue a joint press release on 5 June expressing concern and disappointment at the recent publication of a list of defaulters by the Bangladesh Bank. The press release emphasizes that Bangladesh Bank's list actually has worked to protect defaulters.
- The Chamber members attend a meeting to discuss recently introduced VAT system on 4 July and feel that the system will prove to be beneficial for the country in the long run.
- Mr Richard D Harding, the visiting Director of South Asian Affairs, Department of Commerce, Government of the USA, in a meeting with MCCI members held on 16 July pledges continued support of his government to help promote Bangladesh's export in the USA.

1992

- The Chamber issues a press release on 17 March expressing gratitude to parties who refused to extend support to SKOP's strike programme, thereby establishing an example of keeping national interests above political expediency.
- The Chamber, in collaboration with the Jatiyo Press Club, organizes a two-day seminar on 10-11 May entitled 'Policy Options for Economic Breakthrough' which is inaugurated by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia MP and where the closing session is graced by the Opposition Leader of Parliament, Sheikh Hasina MP.
- MCCI issues a press release on 19 June on Budget for 1992-93 and expresses its deep concern about importance of protecting local industries by mentioning appropriate measures to be taken to safeguard their interest.

- An 11-member delegation from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by Mr Mumtaz Ahmad meets the members of the MCCI and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between MCCI and BCCI is signed on 1 November envisaging expanded industrial co-operation between India and Bangladesh.
- A large number of visitors, including Mr M Saifur Rahman, Minister for Finance, visit the Chamber to meet member-firms. Several missions from international agencies such as Royal College of Defence Studies, UK, visit the Chamber. Discussions are held with Chamber members on important issues of mutual concern.

1993

- MCCI and the World Bank jointly organize a seminar on 'Expanding Private Investment' where the key-note speaker is Dr Hernan Buchi, former Minister for Finance of Chile.
- The Chamber issues a press release on 12 May stating that SKOP's strike has been overwhelmingly ignored and that workers of mills and factories in Dhaka, Khulna and Chittagong did not respond to the strike call.
- Mr S Venkitaramanan, former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, visits MCCI and delivers the key-note speech on 'Foreign Exchange De-Regulation' in a meeting held on 27 September.
- Minister for Finance, Minister for Industries, Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources and Minister for Communications, separately visit the Chamber and meet its members in the course of the year.
- Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Chairman of NBR, addresses members of the Chamber on 13 September and 7 December.

1994

- A High-powered VAT Task Force consisting of senior officials of the government of Nepal meets members of the Chamber in its Conference Hall on 4 January.
- MCCI urges the government not to declare any public holiday on 30 January on the occasion of the City Corporation Elections in the 4 cities. It issues a press release on 26 January and mentions that one day's production loss in non-agricultural activities amounts to at least Tk 150 crore.
- A Turkish Delegation headed by Mr Tavfik Isil UNEL, Prime Minister's Under Secretary of Treasury and Foreign Trade, along with Mr Kutlu Ozguvene, Turkish

Ambassador to Bangladesh, calls on the President and the Secretary General of the Chamber on 4 April.

- The Chamber Committee continues to review the meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Economic Committee which consists of representatives of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Chamber. Meetings are held every month, alternatively in Dhaka and New Delhi or Kolkata.
- The Chamber organizes a seminar with the World Bank on 'South Asian Economies in the 21st Century', on 4 May. Lord Meghnad Desai, Professor of Economics of London School of Economics, is the key-note speaker. A large number of businessmen, diplomats, academics, journalists, trade union representatives and members of parliament take active part in the discussions that ensue.
- MCCI-CII Joint Task Force Members attend a series of meetings during the year.
- Dr Manmohan Singh, Indian Finance Minister, addresses the members of the Chamber in a meeting organized by the MCCI-CII Joint Task Force on 12 July.
- An Extraordinary General Meeting is held and the Articles of Association of MCCI are amended by a special resolution adopted on 1 November.

1995

- MCCI receives a letter from the Ministry of Commerce authorizing only the Export Promotion Bureau to issue Certificates of Origin (COO) in respect of textile products to European Union (EC) countries, under Rule 4 of the government's Textile Trade and Quota Administration Rules, 1991. The Chamber decides to take up the matter with the government, pointing out that under the Trade Organisation's Rules, 1994, the Chamber of Commerce has full authority to issue COO.
- The President and the Vice President of the Chamber go to Rome to participate in a seminar on 'Bangladesh Investment Climate and Trade Opportunities' held from 30 January to 1 February.
- Mr Binod Dubey, Director of World Bank, and a group of Thai businessmen visit the Chamber and meet members.
- The Chief of the World Bank Resident Mission, Dhaka, Mr Pierre Landell-Mill, along with his senior colleagues, meets the Chamber Committee on 27 March.
- MCCI releases a book entitled "Shaping South Asia's Future – Role of Regional Cooperation" on 19 April. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr ASM Mostafizur Rahman, is present on the occasion.

- The Ministry of Commerce requests the Chamber to attend the 6th Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission to be held in Islamabad on 25 July. The Committee sends a member to join the meeting.
- MCCI welcomes the trade and investment delegation from the People's Republic of China to the Chamber on 12 September.
- A British Infrastructure and Technology Mission, led by Mr Peter Lee, meets members of the Chamber on 25 November.

1996

- A large number of visitors, including Advisers of Caretaker government, Mr Syed Manzur Elahi, Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud, Mr Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed and Minister for Commerce and Industries, Mr Tofael Ahmed, the NBR Chairman, Dr Akbar Ali Khan, visit and meet members of the Chamber over the course of the year. Mr David N Merrill (US Ambassador) and Ms Renee Veyret (French Ambassador) also hold meetings with the Chamber Committee.
- 13-member delegations from the Indian Foreign Service Institute meet members of MCCI on 13 May. The delegation is headed by Mrs Sujatha Singh.
- The 15th Batch of the BCS (Taxation) Officers meet Chamber members on 20 April.
- The World Bank Resident Representative, Mr Pierre Landell-Mills, along with other senior colleagues, meets the Chamber Committee on 30 June.
- Mr Samson H Chowdhury, Chamber President, hands over a copy of the Chamber's publication entitled 'Economic Agenda of the New Government' to Mr Tofael Ahmed MP, Minister for Commerce and Industries, on 28 July.
- The Chamber issues a press release on 29 July praising the budget of 1996-97 and mentioning several welcome features which would help improve the investment climate in the country.
- A Turkish Trade Delegation led by Mr Omer Besim Kufrevi, Vice-President, Executive Board, Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, meet the Chamber Committee on 27 July and Mr Kufrevi delivers a speech.
- A Thai Trade Mission headed by Mr Photipong Lamsam, along with Mr Sunthorn Vidhyameth, Ambassador of Thailand in Bangladesh, meets members of MCCI on 8 October.
- A British Trade Mission, headed by Mr David Walker, the British High Commissioner, and Ms Miriam R McIntosh, British Deputy High Commissioner in Bangladesh, meets the members of MCCI on 26 October.

- The country's trade and industry welcomes the historic agreement reached in Singapore by 128 member nations of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on 13 December. Chamber representatives take an active part as part of the Bangladesh delegation.
- MCCI welcomes the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty and issues a press release on 18 December signed by the President Samson H Chowdhury to that effect.

1997

- Mr Tofael Ahmed MP, Minister for Commerce and Industries, addresses a discussion meeting on 'Outcome of the 1st Ministerial Conference of World Trade Organization' organized by DCCI and MCCI on 5 January.
- Members of the British Overseas Trade Board Mission meet the members of MCCI on 26 January.
- MCCI urges the government, on behalf of the country's trade and industry, that the weekly holiday be changed from Friday to Sunday. In a press release issued on 20 March, the Chamber states that importers and exporters have been losing business opportunities for 2 days of the week from September 1982 onwards, when the weekly holiday was suddenly changed from Sunday to Friday without any consultation with trade and industry.
- A delegation from MCCI-CII Joint Economic Council (JEC) meets the Indian Prime Minister Mr IK Gujral in New Delhi on 28 May. The Indian Prime Minister appreciates the proactive role of the MCCI-CII JEC and shows considerable interest in supporting the strengthening of ties between the two countries.
- A Dutch delegation, headed by Mr W De Vries, Director for Commercial Affairs, City of Groningen, meets members of the Chamber on 22 June.
- An MoU is signed between MCCI and the Confederation of Singapore Industries on 10 July after a seminar on 'Investment Opportunities in Bangladesh' held in Singapore.
- The Chamber initiates a series of seminars to develop awareness on quality improvement and competitiveness, at the advent of globalization. Dr Madhab Mehra, President of World Quality Council, is the Resource Speaker at the first seminar held on 20 November.
- Members of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry meet members of MCCI on 26 December.

- Several meetings are held with Ministers for Finance and Commerce and Industries during the year and the Chamber discusses the Share Market Scam and submits proposals to the government in this regard.

1998

- The members of the Chamber Committee meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 7 January and discuss issues relating to the Chittagong Port, Power Supply, Labour Sector Reforms etc.
- Dr William P Fuller, President of the Asia Foundation and Dr Karen L Casper, Representative of the Asia Foundation, Dhaka, meet members of the Chamber and speak to its members on 14 January.
- MCCI has a meeting with the 'South Asian Group of Eminent Persons' on 9 February. They exchange views with members and acknowledge the Chamber's capacity to contribute in the formulation of policy guidelines for the development of the region.
- MCCI receives Mr Anthony Png Choo Ling, leader of the Singapore Trade and Investment Mission and his 12-member team at the Chamber office on 23 March and discusses trade and investment issues.
- The Minister for Finance, Mr SAMS Kibria MP, addresses members of MCCI at a pre-budget discussion meeting held on 1 April.
- The Minister for Commerce and Industries, Mr Tofael Ahmed MP, addresses the members of MCCI at a pre-budget discussion meeting held on 27 April.
- The Chamber and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies jointly organizes a Workshop on 'Dissemination of Awareness on Environmental Conservation Act 1995 and Rules 1997', on 14 May. The workshop identifies several problem areas for industries arising from the legal requirements of obtaining environmental clearance.
- A large number of visitors and a number of missions visit MCCI during the year. Among the visitors are: Ms Renee Veyret (French Ambassador), Ms Cristina Funes-Noppen (Belgian Ambassador), Mr Andre Lorent (Belgian Trade Commissioner), Dr William P Fuller (President, The Asian Foundation) and Dr Chakradhari Agrawal (Secretary General, World Association of Small and Medium Enterprises).
- Missions are received from the World Bank, IMF, Confederation of Indian Steel Industry and TDB SCI Singapore Infrastructure Mission. A French Trade Delegation and a delegation from the Indian Foreign Service also visit the Chamber.

1999

- The Commerce Secretary, MCCI President, ICC-Bangladesh President and DCCI President meet delegates of the governments of SAARC countries at a meeting hosted by the MCCI on 31 January to discuss main features of the 3rd Tariff Agreement under SAPTA.
- Dr Joseph Stiglitz, Chief Economist and Senior Vice President of the World Bank, visits the Chamber and meets committee members on 15 March to discuss economic issues.
- MCCI, FICCI, BEAF, BGMEA, Bangladesh Knitwear Manufactures and Exporters Association, Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association and Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association jointly present a press release urging reconsideration of hartal programme declared by political parties. The press release is issued on 12 April.
- The Chamber extends host facilities to a Taiwan Turnkey, Engineering & Electronic Trade Mission from 8-9 April.
- Missions of the European Unions meet with members of the Chamber Committee on 11 April to discuss economic issues.
- Dr M Farashuddin, Governor of Bangladesh Bank, visits the Chamber on 17 May to discuss issues relating to the financial sector.
- A delegation from the Chamber visits Singapore to attend a seminar on 'Business Opportunities in Bangladesh' organized by the Chamber, jointly with the Bangladesh High Commission in Singapore, Singapore Confederation of Industries and Singapore Trade Development held on 14 July.
- A Business Delegation from FKCCI visits MCCI office and signs Business Cooperation Agreement on 27 July.
- A 15-member Trade and Investment Delegation from Singapore Confederation of Industry (SCI) and Singapore Trade Development Board (STDB), led by Mr Ridzwan Dzafir, meets members of MCCI on 12 October.
- The Chamber Committee meets the Minister of Commerce and Industries on 31 December to discuss key issues.

2000

- MCCI organizes a day-long workshop on 'Energy Management' at the Chamber's Conference Hall on 24 January.

- Dr David Carter, the British High Commissioner in Bangladesh, visits the Chamber on 14 February.
- The Joint Economic Council of the Confederation of Indian Industry - Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CII-MCCI JEC) holds its second meeting on 23 February and discusses various aspects of Indo-Bangladesh co-operation on trade and industry.
- The members of the Chamber meet the Finance Minister, Mr Shah AMS Kibria, for a pre-budget discussion meeting held in the Chamber office on 28 March.
- Several training courses such as 'Marketing Strategies and Sales Promotion', and 'Production Planning and Quality Control' are organized by the Chamber under the 'Management Development Programme' during the months of January-March, August, September and October.
- The Chamber organizes a two-day visit of a forty-member trade delegation from Sri Lanka-Bangladesh Business Council (SLBBC), Colombo, which explores business and investments prospects in Bangladesh, during March 29-30. The delegation has a bilateral business meeting with Chamber members where the Commerce Minister is present as the Chief Guest.
- The Chamber President, Mr Latifur Rahman, presents a paper on 'Public and Private Sectors of the Bangladesh Economy' at the Administrative Staff College in Mirpur, Dhaka on 29 March.
- Mr Jan Axel Voss, Deputy Head of Mission of German Embassy in Bangladesh, meets the President and Secretary-General of the Chamber on 6 July and discusses issues of bilateral interest.
- The Chamber, jointly with Save the Children, UK, sponsors the launching ceremony of a publication "Big Business, Small Hands: Responsible Approaches to Child Labor" on 21 November. HRH Princess Anne of the United Kingdom graces the occasion.

2001

- Several training courses are organized by the Chamber under the rubric of 'Management Development Programme' during the months of August, September and December.
- The Chamber organizes a half-day discussion meet on World Trade Organization (WTO) and issues arising from its programmes for phasing out of tariff and non-tariff barriers by January 1. Mr Muchkund Dubey, former Permanent

Representative of India to the WTO, is the Guest Speaker. Mr MA Jalil, Minister for Commerce, inaugurates the Meeting.

- A Chamber delegation headed by its President meets Chief Adviser of the Caretaker Government on 26 August. MCCI submits several proposals, relating to the development of the economy of Bangladesh, at the meeting.
- A two-day workshop on 'Strategies for Competitive Success' is organized by MCCI in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, from 19 to 20 November. Professor Ranjan Das of IIM, Calcutta, delivers his speech as the Resource Person.

2002

- Under its management development programme, the Chamber organises third semester classes of the One Year International Business Programme (IBP) offered by the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta (IIMC), in association with the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka, from 5 to 15 January.
- The Chamber meets with Mr Nicholas Stern, Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President of the World Bank, Washington DC, at the Chamber's office on 8 January.
- Mr Abdul Razak Dawood, Minister of Commerce, Industries and Production of Pakistan, visits the Chamber and delivers a speech to members of MCCI on 29 January.
- The Chamber, under its energy management programme, organises a two-day workshop on 'Energy Management in Industrial Practice' on 17-18 February.
- The Chamber has a meeting with the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) at the Chamber Office on 7 March and discusses issues of mutual interest, including possibilities of more investments in the EPZs of the country.
- The Chamber jointly with the Asian Centre for Democratic Governance and the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute organises a conference on 'Strengthening Democratic Governance', on 17-18 March.
- A Chamber Delegation meets the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Begum Khaleda Zia, at the Prime Minister's office on 30 March.
- The Chamber hosts a luncheon meeting in honour of Mr David Kilgour, MP, Secretary of State for Asia Pacific, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Government of Canada, on 1 April.
- Under its ongoing Management Development Programme, the Chamber organizes a 5 day training course on 'Strategic Planning in Marketing of Products and Services', from 24 to 30 April.

- MCCI meets members of the Economic Reporters Forum on 15 May to share the Chamber's views on the upcoming budget and other aspects of the economy of Bangladesh.
- The Chamber under its Management Development Programme organizes a five-day training course on 'Developing Team Leadership Skills for Organisational Growth' from 3 to 7 August.
- The Chamber under its Energy Management programme organises a two-day workshop on 'How to Economise Energy Cost', on 17-18 August.
- The Chamber under its Management Development Programme organizes a five-day training course on 'Marketability through Effective Distribution Network', from 24 to 28 August.
- The Chamber hosts a luncheon meeting on 27 August in honour of HE Rt Hon Donald C Mckinnon, Commonwealth Secretary General, at the MCCI office.
- The Chamber holds a discussion meeting at the MCCI office on 4 September with the visiting President of the Japanese Commerce and Industry Association and JETRO Representative.
- An Extraordinary General Meeting is held and Articles of Association of MCCI are amended by a special resolution on 12 September.
- The Chamber discusses bilateral trade issues with a visiting business delegation from the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on 19 September.
- The Chamber organises a round table discussion on 1 October on (1) merits of the tariff concessions recently given by the Government of India and (2) national preparedness to meet contractual obligations under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) of the WTO. Minister for Commerce attends the discussion as Chief Guest.
- The Chamber under its Management Development Programme organizes a five-day training course on 'Business Communication Skills' from 5 to 9 October.
- The Chamber organizes a round-table discussion on 29 October on trade and industry's expectations from 'Economic Diplomacy'. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr M Morshed Khan MP, attends the round-table discussions as Chief Guest.
- The Chamber under its Management Development Programme organizes a five-day training course on 'Financial Management for Non-Financial Managers' from 26 to 30 October.

2003

- The Chamber Committee holds a meeting on 2 January with Mr Mohammad A Vayid, CMG, Chairman & Managing Director, Strategic Management Consultants Ltd of Mauritius, to discuss possibilities of expanding business and economic co-operation between Mauritius and Bangladesh.
- The Chamber under its Management Development Programme organizes a five-day training course on 'Improving Employee Performance: Professional Way of Coaching and Counselling' from 18 to 23 February.
- A Thai Trade Delegation headed by Mr Prachuab Chaiyasan meets members of MCCI, DCCI and ICC-Bangladesh at the MCCI Conference Hall on 31 March.
- A Chamber Delegation meets the Prime Minister, Government of Bangladesh, at the Prime Minister's office on 1 April.
- Dr M Yunus, Managing Director of Grameen Bank, visits the Chamber in April and has discussions on the Bank's programme for alleviation of rural poverty and for education and health-care activities in rural areas.
- A Chamber Delegation meets the President of Sri Lanka, Mrs Chandrika Kumaratunga, during her visit to Dhaka in April.
- Under its Management Development Programme, the Chamber organises a four-day training course on 'Developing Effective Marketing Strategies' from 27 to 30 April.
- The Chamber under its Management Development Programme organises a four-day training course on 'Team Building for Organisational Growth' from 18-21 May.
- MCCI issues a press release on 13 June, expressing its reaction to the budget for 2003-04 and points out that 'the provision of conversion of black money into white money by investing in capital market is a retrograde step and this may discourage those who have been paying taxes regularly and honestly'.
- The Indian Minister for External Affairs, Mr Yashwant Sinha, has a meeting with MCCI on 15 July. Foreign Minister and Commerce Minister of Bangladesh and the Chamber President are also present on the occasion.
- A Mission of the Asian Development Bank meets members of MCCI on 20 July.
- Dr Joseph E Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate and Professor of Finance and Economics, Columbia Business School, USA, addresses the members of MCCI, Dhaka, at the Chamber office on 13 August.

- Ambassador of USA in Bangladesh, Mr Harry K Thomas, visits MCCI on 24 September and delivers a speech.
- Lord Swaraj Paul, a member of the British House of Lords, meets the members of the Chamber on 8 October. The British High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner are also present at the meeting.
- The Chamber holds a meeting at the MCCI office on 20 October with Mr Guy Gagnon, Director, Asia Bureau, Industrial Cooperation Programme, Canadian Partnership Branch and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

2004

- The Chamber Committee, along with some of its past presidents, meets Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, MP, on 12 January.
- High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, Ms Veena Sikri, visits MCCI on 15 January and 7 October.
- In March, the Chamber signs Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with Australian Business Limited and State Chamber of Commerce (New South Wales).
- Dr Muhammad Yunus, the Managing Director of Grameen Bank, addresses members of MCCI on 17 April at the Chamber Conference Hall.
- The Chamber meets Mr Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, in May and discusses the law and order situation, overall governance, policy support to industry, free trade with India, port facilities and other important issues.
- The Chamber, jointly with Singapore Manufacturer's Federation, Singapore Enterprises Ltd., Bangladesh High Commission in Singapore and the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, organizes an Investors' Conference in Singapore on 20 May. A large number of Singaporean entrepreneurs attend the conference.
- The Chamber holds a discussion and dinner meeting at a city hotel on 24 June with the Singapore Prime Minister, HE Mr Goh Chok Tong.
- The Chamber holds a discussion meeting on 27 June with Mr AKM Mosharraf Hossain, MP, Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, Government of Bangladesh, at the MCCI office.
- The Chamber meeting decides to celebrate its centenary in a befitting manner. A committee under a former president is set up to chalk out a detailed program.

- The Chamber holds a meeting on 11 October with the visiting Organisation Development Adviser of the Confederation of Danish industries at the MCCI office.
- The Chamber organizes a seminar on 9 December on the occasion of the release of the World Bank's flagship publication, Global Economic Prospects-2005. Mr Uri Dadush, Director, Trade Department and Mr Richard Newfarmer, Lead Economist from the World Bank's Washington Office, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh, and Country Director, World Bank, Dhaka, among others, are present attend the seminar.
- The 100th AGM of MCCI is held on 30 December at the Chamber's Conference Hall. 39 members attend.

2005

- A Chamber delegation, headed by the President, visits Chittagong Port on 12 January and meets the Chairman and other senior officials of the Chittagong Port Authority to discuss issues pertaining to enhancing the operational efficiency of Chittagong Port and privatization of some of the port services.
- The Chamber Committee meets the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr M Morshed Khan MP, at his office on the 15 January and donates books worth Taka one lac for the library of the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, India.
- A Chamber Delegation, led by its President, calls on the Governor, Bangladesh Bank, Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, on 18 April.
- A delegation from the Chamber headed by its President, Mr Kutubuddin Ahmed, along with some former Presidents, calls on the Hon'ble Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, MP, at her office on 4 May. The delegation discusses key issues concerning the economic interest of the country, including increase in Bank interest rates; liquidity crises in the banking sector; continuation of Tax Holiday scheme which was supposed to be terminated on 30 June, 2005; and national minimum wages. The Prime Minister appreciates the Chamber's concern on the above issues.
- An 11-member Chinese Government Economic and Trade Delegation headed by Mr Wang Chao, the first Vice-Governor of Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, China, visits the Chamber on 8 June. The delegation discusses matters relating to trade between Bangladesh and China.
- The Chamber Committee meets the Finance Minister, Mr M Saifur Rahman, MP, at his office on 27 June and discusses important issues.

- A delegation from the Chamber meets the Governor, Bangladesh Bank, on 9 July to discuss the possibility of US Dollar scarcity in the market distorting trade and commerce in the country. The delegation also hands over a strategy paper suggesting possible steps to be taken by the Central Bank to stabilize the currency market.
- The Minister for Commerce visits the Chamber on 30 August. The Chamber informs the Minister about the impact of price hike of essential commodities and suggests remedial measures including steps to be taken to boost the country's export.
- A 10-member delegation visits Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China, from 10 to 17 December at the invitation of the Vice Governor, Dehong Prefecture, Yunnan Province.

2006

- A Chamber delegation consisting of the President, Vice-President, two former Presidents and the Secretary-General participates at the 'Partnership Summit 2006' organized jointly by the CII and the Government of West Bengal in Kolkata from January 18–20. The Summit is inaugurated by the Indian President, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. The Summit is attended by important and international dignitaries.
- A delegation from the Chamber participates at the 'IMEXPRO 2006' held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from March 16–18. MCCI signs an MoU with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce during the visit in order to enhance mutual cooperation between the two bodies.
- A delegation from the Chamber, led by its President, Mr Latifur Rahman, calls on the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia MP, at her office on 19 April. The delegation discusses various issues concerning the economy of the country including: high interest rates and the credit squeeze; increase in government borrowing from the banking sector: threat to industrial and other sectors; withdrawal of Tax Holiday; worsening electricity situation; impact of import liberalization on industries; withdrawal of tax concession to whiten black money. A Chamber Delegation accompanies the Prime Minister during her visit to India from 22 to 24 March.
- A Chinese Delegation led by Mr Si Wei, Director of Dehong Commerce Bureau, the People's Republic of China, visits the Chamber office on 17 April.
- A survey on 'HR Practices in Bangladesh' is jointly carried out by the Chamber and Ernst & Young, India. The inaugural session is held on 18 May in Dhaka. Mrs Renata Lok Dessalien, the UNDP Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Bangladesh, graces the occasion with her presence.

- A German Business Mission visits and exchanges views with members of the Chamber on 22 May. The visit is organized by the German Asia-Pacific Business Association and sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Economics & Technology, Germany. The team expresses keen interest in investing in the textile as well as other sectors in Bangladesh.
- MCCI delegation holds meetings in March with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and discusses issues relating to the implementation of the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) which would take effect from 1 July 2006.
- A delegation of MCCI, headed by its President, meets the Chairman of NBR on 13 April to discuss the Chamber's proposals for the 2006-2007 Budget.
- The Chamber participates in the 7th International Conference on Corporate Governance held in London on 11 and 12 May. Former President, Mr M Anis Ud Dowla and the Secretary-General, Mr CK Hyder are among the participants.
- In a press release issued on 9 June, MCCI expresses its disappointment over the budget of 2006-07 announced by the Finance Minister Mr Saifur Rahman. MCCI is distressed over the provision in the new budget for continuation of the tax concession for black money.
- The Chamber, along with other trade bodies and the Bangladesh Employers' Federation, makes a representation to the Government for changing weekly holidays from Friday and Saturday to Saturday and Sunday so as to ensure uniformity of weekly holidays with other countries in the global market. The issue is discussed with the Prime Minister when an MCCI delegation meets Her Excellency but no decision is taken by the Government in this regard.
- The Chamber Committee discusses several times during the year the situation arising from political unrest and enforcement of hartals. Individually as well as jointly with other like-minded trade bodies, several representations and meetings are held to request the Government as well as the opposition parties to avoid confrontational politics as the country's trade and industry, particularly small entrepreneurs, are being badly affected by it. Regrettably, such representations do not yield any improvement in the overall situation.

2007

- Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, the Hon'ble Chief Advisor (CA), Caretaker Government, meets a delegation of newly elected office bearers of MCCI, led by its President, Mr Latifur Rahman, along with some former Presidents, at his office on 7 February. The delegation provides an overview of the economic situation of the

country. The delegation appreciates the positive drive and sincere efforts being taken by the Caretaker Government to bring back normalcy and hold free and fair elections in the country. The CA welcomes the delegation, stating that the Caretaker Government was trying its best to discharge its responsibilities. He seeks full support of the business community. The CA interacts freely with members of the delegation. He thanks the Chamber for the proposals submitted to him for the greater economic interest of the country. The MCCI delegation is in fact the first amongst private sector trade bodies to call on the CA.

- An MCCI Delegation of eight members, headed by its President, attends the Second SAARC Business Conclave held at Bombay, India on 17-18 February, at the invitation of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- A Chamber Delegation calls on the Governor, Reserve Bank of India, and Chairman, Bombay Stock Exchange, on 19 February. The delegation is received warmly at both institutions. The delegation exchanges views on bilateral cooperation and discusses mutual benefits from such cooperation.
- A delegation from the Chamber calls on the Advisor for Ministry of Finance and Planning, Commerce, Post and Telecommunication, Dr AB Mirza Azizul Islam, at his Finance Ministry office on 22 February.
- A discussion meeting on 'Promotion of Trade and Economic Cooperation' is organized by MCCI in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on the occasion of the SAARC Car Rally 2007 on 14 March in the Chamber Conference Hall.
- A 17-member Thai Board of Investment Delegation visits the Chamber on 28 March. The delegation is led by Mr Vittaya Praisuwan, the Executive Investment Adviser, Thailand Board of Investment. The Thai Delegation shows keen interest in Bangladesh's investment climate. It indicates that Thai investors will look forward to utilizing business opportunities in the near future.
- Advisor in Charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, meets Chamber members on 6 May and has discussions on various issues. MCCI expresses its view-points on issues relating to implementation and follow-up of India's announcement at the 14 SAARC Summit that products of SAARC LDCs would be duty-free and quota-free by the end of 2007.
- The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Dr YV Reddy, meets Chamber members at the Chamber Building on 17 May. In his detailed speech, the RBI Governor points out how India was able to earn international confidence and gather significant strength through financial sector reforms.

- MCCI issues a public statement on 8 June expressing its concern about the budget provisions for reduction of duty on imported products and their competitive advantage vis-à-vis similar local products. The Chamber brings these issues up before the Chief Adviser of the Caretaker Government.
- In a public statement issued on 10 September, MCCI expects that two events held during the previous 7 days - (1) the business community's dialogue on business environment with the Chief Adviser of the Caretaker Government and the Army Chief and (2) the visit of Dr Craig R Barrett, Chairman of Intel Corporation, will prove to be of significance to the national economy.

2008

- A non-resident Bangladeshi team from the USA, led by Mr Hansen H Clarke, Senator of Michigan State Senate, the USA, visits MCCI on 2 January.
- A delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has discussions with MCCI in Dhaka on 10 March.
- A MCCI delegation led by its President Mr Latifur Rahman meets Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, Advisor in charge of the Ministries of Commerce and Education, on 13 April.
- A delegation from the Chamber, led by its President, calls on the Chairman of NBR, on 28 April, to discuss MCCI's proposals for the upcoming budget 2008-09.
- The Chamber holds a series of meetings with Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Governor of Bangladesh Bank, on 30 March, 16 April and 24 April, to discuss interest rates, credit and other issues of Bangladesh Bank's 4th Mid-Year Monetary Policy Statement.
- In a public statement issued on 10 June, MCCI expresses happiness after seeing that education has been given the third largest share in the ADP and special attention has been given to the development of agriculture.
- The Chamber opposes the PDB's proposals for increasing electricity tariff and Petrobangla's proposal for increasing gas tariff early this year. MCCI suggests that both PDB and Petrobangla should be more mindful about reduction of system loss before proposing such tariff increases.
- The 104th AGM is held on 30 December at the Chamber Conference Hall and 39 members are present.

2009

- A delegation from MCCI led by its President, Mr Abdul Hafiz Choudhury, FCA, calls on the Minister for Commerce, Mr Muhammad Faruq Khan, MP, at his office on 13 January.
- An MCCI delegation led by its President calls on the Minister for Finance, Mr Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, MP, at the latter's office on 21 January. Major issues are discussed with the Minister included measures to face the challenges of economic revitalization at the time of global recession; high food prices, and the government's plan for inflation control; the volatile situation in the capital market; the law and order situation, and economic losses resulting from the prevailing shortage of gas and electricity.
- A delegation from the Chamber, led by its President, calls on Mr Dilip Barua, the Minister for Industries at the latter's office on 8 February.
- The Chamber participates in a 2-day International Event (the multi-country match-making project) entitled 'South Europe Meets South Asia 2009', funded by the European Commission which is held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 27-28 February. Bangladesh has the highest number of participants of all guest countries- Spain, Greece, Italy, Slovenia and Nepal. The entrepreneurs from Bangladesh who participate in the events are satisfied and feel that this event will be helpful in opening new business possibilities and networking.
- The Chamber presents its views on the proposal to increase electricity tariffs at the retail level, at the open session of the hearing, organized by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), on 4 March.
- MCCI has a meeting with the Chairman of NBR on 11 March to discuss the Chamber's budget proposals for the upcoming 2009-2010 fiscal year.
- The Chamber puts forward a set of proposals for the economic agenda of the new government to face global economic recession and discusses various other issues with the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, MP, at her office on 18 March. The President of the Chamber presents a crest to the Prime Minister. The Chamber takes note of the Prime Minister's views on the areas where MCCI could be involved.
- A delegation led by the Chamber's President calls on the Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Dr Atiur Rahman, at the latter's office on 10 June. MCCI members in the delegation raise important issues with the Governor.
- A team of experts from the World Bank pays a visit to the Chamber on 14 June to hold a pre-consultation meeting with leaders of the private sector to get the views

of the business community on what the goals, objectives and strategy of the World Bank's Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) for the upcoming 2010-2013 period could be.

- The Chamber organizes a roundtable discussion among members of the business community, civil society, media, and policy makers in the Chamber's Conference Hall on 26 July. Mr Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Member of Parliament, and Chairman of the Environment Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment and Forests, is the Chief Guest. The Chamber expresses its commitment to support any national program on environmental issues.
- A German business delegation led by Mr Peter Clasen from the OAV (German Asia-Pacific Business Association), along with officials of the German Embassy in Bangladesh, visits the Chamber on 27 October. The ensuing discussions emphasize the importance of Germany as a major trading partner and underscores the need for German investment, particularly in power generation.
- Mr James F Moriarty, the Ambassador of the United States of America in Bangladesh, and other officials of the US Embassy, visit the Chamber on 16 November and discuss issues of mutual interest. The Chamber urges the US Government to allow 100 percent duty-free market access to Bangladeshi products. The Ambassador appreciates the Chamber's concerns and suggests that the text of TIFA should be made public by the concerned authorities and an agreement on TIFA could act as the gateway of greater cooperation between the two countries.
- The 105th AGM is held on 31 December in the Chamber Conference Hall and 52 members are present.

2010

- A delegation from the Chamber, formed by the newly elected office bearers and led by the President, Mr M Anis Ud Dowla, calls on the Minister for Commerce, Mr Muhammad Faruk Khan, MP, at his Secretariat office on 5 January.
- An MCCI delegation led by its President calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Begum Matia Chowdhury, MP, at her office on 17 January, and discusses issues relating to the development of the agricultural sector of Bangladesh.
- Dr Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Laureate and the Managing Director of Grameen Bank, invites MCCI office bearers to his office on 15 February. The Chamber

invites him to visit MCCI and deliver a lecture on 'the Concept of Social Business—a Model for Creating a New Economic and Social Order'.

- The Chamber participates in an Investment Seminar on Bangladesh, held in Singapore on 23 February. At the seminar, Mr M Anis Ud Dowla, the Chamber President, presents a keynote paper titled 'Key Sectors and Projects for Investment on Private-Public Partnership Basis'.
- A delegation of the Chamber, led by its President, calls on the Minister for Finance, Mr Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, MP, at his office on 16 March. The delegation hands over a copy of the detailed budget proposal for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year, previously submitted to the National Board of Revenue, and discusses it with the Finance Minister.
- A delegation from the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET), led by Mr KY Amaoko, former UN Under-Secretary-General of Economic Commission for Africa, visits the Chamber on 27 March. The delegation discusses the common economic challenges faced by 'Least Developed Countries' (LDCs).
- Business leaders from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) pay a courtesy visit to the Chamber on 12 April. The Chamber President receives them in the Chamber Conference Hall.
- The Chamber organizes a seminar on 'US-Bangladesh Trade and Economic Cooperation' on 6 May in the Chamber Conference Hall to discuss issues related to bilateral trade and economic cooperation between Bangladesh and USA. Ambassador, Mr Humayun Kabir, presents the keynote paper. High officials of the US embassy, leaders of the business community and trade bodies, senior government officials, and representatives of the media and civil society attend the seminar.
- MCCI introduces Annual Awards on environmental issues and holds its first award giving ceremony on 2 June. The Selection Committee, after vigorous examination and scrutiny, selects Mr Pinaki Roy of the Daily Star as the best investigative journalist, Mr SM Babu of ATN Bangla as the best investigative conductor of TV programmes on environmental pollution, particularly river pollution, and Echotex Limited as the best enterprise for exemplary initiative taken for effluent treatment.
- A Post-Budget discussion session is jointly organized by the Chamber and the Policy Research Institute in the Chamber Conference Hall on 20 June, where

views of the major business sectors are discussed by their respective representatives on the proposed National Budget of 2010-2011. Two renowned economists and former advisers to the Caretaker Government, Dr AB Mirza Azizul Islam and Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud, are present at the session as Special Guests.

- A seminar is jointly organized by the Chamber and the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport on 'Traffic Congestion and its Impact on Business: Some Remedial Measures' in the Chamber Conference Hall on 21 July. Different speakers and discussants suggest specific steps to be taken as short and long term measures to resolve traffic congestion in Dhaka City. The summary of the discussions at the seminar are sent to all concerned ministries and departments.
- A seminar is organized by the Chamber on 'Bangladesh-India Trade: A Closer Look' in the Chamber Conference Hall on 5 August. Various dignitaries including the Commerce Minister, Advisor to the Prime Minister, members of Parliament, former diplomats, economists, business leaders, and media personnel are present in the seminar. Mr Dipankar Chatterji, Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)- North East Council, India, presents his views on Bangladesh-India Trade.
- The first 'E-Content and ICT for Development Award 2010' is introduced jointly by the Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology of Bangladesh Government, and DNet, a private sector ICT company, at a ceremony held on 9 August, 2010. This award, in the first year of introduction, is given to Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) for its contribution to development of trade and commerce with a special focus on ICT promotion. The Chamber President, Mr M Anis Ud Dowla, on behalf of the Chamber, receives a memento from the organizers.
- The Chamber organizes a discussion meeting on 'Climate Change: Business Opportunities' on 25 August at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. The focus of the discussion is on the issues of climate change and business opportunities arising from it. Eminent environmental scientist and the Vice-Chancellor of BRAC University, Professor Ainun Nishat, is the keynote speaker.
- A delegation from the Chamber calls on the Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Barrister Shafique Ahmed, at his office on 13 October. The delegation discusses the issue of constituting a draft law on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) on VAT and Customs.
- The Chamber President, Mr M Anis Ud Dowla, on behalf of the Chamber, participates at the regional conference entitled 'Integrating BIMSTEC 2010' held

on 12 November in Guwahati, India. The Chamber President stresses the importance of concluding the regional BIMSTEC agreement at the earliest, in view of the setback in the negotiation of the Doha Round of WTO.

- The Chamber organizes a high level discussion on investment entitled 'Bangladesh: The Next Investment Destination' on 1 December. Among the distinguished persons who attend the discussion session as speakers are: Dr Jomo K Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, Mr Ashish Bharat Ram, Managing Director SRF Limited, India; and Mr Ulrik Federspiel, Vice President, Haldor Topsoe, Denmark.
- The Chamber decides to set up an Investment Facilitation Centre (IFC) with assistance from an international funding agency. The primary objective of the Centre is to provide a special role for MCCI as an organization capable of promoting and facilitating investment in the country.
- The 106th AGM is held on 27 December in the Chamber Conference Hall and 57 members are present.

2011

- A delegation from the Chamber, constituted by its newly elected office bearers and led by the President, Maj Gen Amjad Khan Chowdhury (Retd), calls on the Minister for Industries on 12 January, Minister for Commerce on 13 January and Minister for Foreign Affairs on 9 March. The Ministers congratulate the newly elected office bearers and take note of the concerns raised by the Chamber and thank the delegation for addressing issues crucial to the development of Bangladesh.
- An MCCI delegation, led by its President, calls on the Honorable Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, MP, at her office on 3 February. The members of the delegation present the Chamber's submission to the Prime Minister on a number of important issues relating to trade, commerce, investment, and employment. The Prime Minister takes keen interest in the Chamber's concerns and suggestions and thanks the delegation for addressing these important issues.
- MCCI, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, organizes a stakeholder consultation meeting on 6 March in the Chamber Conference Hall. Various dignitaries, including the Minister for Food and Disaster Management, diplomats, economists, representatives from development partners, members from the business community, financial

institutions, think-tanks, civil society, stakeholders from the agricultural sector, and media personnel are present at the meeting to discuss the Country Investment Plan (CIP).

- Business leaders from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) pay a courtesy visit to the Chamber on 8 May.
- The Chamber organizes a discussion meeting on 'Middle East and Japan Crises: Possible Impact on Bangladesh Economy' in the Chamber Conference Hall on 16 May. A keynote paper entitled 'Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Japan Crises: Evidence from Macroeconomic Review and Call Reports', prepared by Mr Mamun Rashid and his team, is presented at the session.
- The Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Mr Rajeet Mitter, pays a courtesy visit to the Chamber on 23 May to meet its members. The issues of bilateral trade and economic cooperation are discussed. Among other issues, the concerns of the Business Community of Bangladesh over hurdles of obtaining a visa, and the prevailing Non-Tariff Barriers to trade, are addressed.
- MCCI organizes a High Profile Discussion Session on the theme 'Asia 2050 and Bangladesh' on 26 May at the Westin Hotel, Dhaka. This is in the context of a recently published report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), entitled, 'Asia 2050: Realizing the Asian Century'. Dr Atiur Rahman, Governor of Bangladesh Bank is the keynote speaker and Dr Gowher Rizvi, Special Adviser (International Affairs) to the Prime Minister, is present as the Chief Guest.
- MCCI and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) jointly organize a seminar on 'Prosperity and Growth through Regional Cooperation' on 28 July at the Pan-Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka. Dignitaries, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs, diplomats, economists, representatives from development partners, members from the business community, financial institutions, think-tanks, civil society and media personnel are present at the seminar and participate in the discussion.
- The Chamber organizes a discussion session entitled 'Higher Education vis-à-vis Skills Development: Exploration of Appropriateness' in the Chamber Conference Hall on 23 November. The Education Minister Mr Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, attends as the Chief Guest and Professor AK Azad Chowdhury, Chairman of the University Grants Commission, presents the keynote paper.
- The Chamber organizes a discussion session with its general members on Chamber matters at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on 17 December where all

member-firms are invited. The Minister for Industries Mr Dilip Barua is present at the dinner as the guest of honor.

- The 107th AGM is held on 27 December in the Chamber Conference Hall and 57 members are present.

2012

- A memorial meeting to pay homage to Late Samson H Chowdhury is organized jointly by ICC-Bangladesh, FBCCI, MCCI, DCCI and CCCI on 14 January. Mr Samson H Chowdhury, who passed away on 5 January 2012, was a former President of MCCI and one of the most illustrious business leaders of Bangladesh.
- A 4-member team, led by Mr Badal Rag from Times of India, the 3rd largest circulating newspaper in India, visits the Chamber on 24 January. The delegation discusses the importance of strengthening Bangladesh-India relationship and steps needed for further development.
- A delegation from the Chamber, led by one of the Chamber's Former Presidents, Mr M Anis Ud Dowla, visits Vietnam from April 6 to 9.
- An MCCI delegation led by the Chamber President, Maj Gen Amjad Khan Chowdhury (Retd), along with a few other members of the Committee, and general members and the Secretary-General of the MCCI, Mr Farooq Ahmed, visit Myanmar from 7 to 10 May.
- A luncheon is hosted on 23 May in honour of Former President, Mr Latifur Rahman, for receiving the Oslo Business Award for Peace 2012. 9 out of 13 former Presidents attend the ceremony.
- MCCI jointly organizes a pre-budget discussion with Maasranga Television on 15 May at Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel, Dhaka, which is telecast live. The Chamber Vice-President, Barrister Ms Nihad Kabir, moderates the session, which is participated by eminent economists, journalists, business leaders, politicians, bureaucrats, and ordinary people from all walks of life. Stimulating discussions are held on major issues, including the macroeconomy, revenue collection, taxation and annual development.
- MCCI organizes a post-budget conference on the 'Budget 2012-2013' with the media in the Chamber Conference Hall on 13 June, jointly with the Policy Research Institute (PRI). Among important recommendations made during the budget discussions are: Limit Bank Borrowing; Modernise Revenue

Administration; Remove the new tax on Life Insurance Policy; Reduce of AIT on Exports at Source; Capacity Building for Effective and Transparent ADP Implementation; Concession for Undisclosed Income; Increase in the Agriculture Subsidy; and Restraining the Rising Trend in Para-Tariffs.

- MCCI and Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) jointly organize a discussion session on 'Bangladesh Trade Policy Framework for the Next Decade', on 3 July at Lakeshore Hotel, Dhaka.
- The Institute of Developing Economies, a specialized research wing of Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO), Japan requests the Chamber to conduct a joint research study entitled 'Current State of Industrial Sub-sectors in Bangladesh'. MCCI Secretariat and a team of consultants will conduct an enterprise level survey on nine industrial sectors during a 2-year period, starting July.
- MCCI wins a contract on 18 July from German International Development Cooperation (GIZ) through competitive bidding to conduct a study on 'Analysis of the Prevailing Non-Tariff Measures in SAARC Region'.
- The Industries Ministers and representatives of D-8 member countries, namely Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey, attend a 3 day-long event from October 8 to 10. The Chamber hosts a dinner on 10 October in honour of the D-8 delegation members at Hotel Ruposhi Bangla. Over 400 guests, including 6 ministers from Bangladesh and 5 ministers from D-8 member countries, attend the dinner.
- The Chamber organizes a discussion session on 'Trade Potentials in Russian Federation, Belarus, Ukraine, and Beyond' at the Dhaka Westin Hotel on 13 November. This is a follow-up event to the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Belarus to Bangladesh on November 11-13.
- The 108th AGM is held on 12 December in the Chamber Conference Hall and 40 members are present.

2013

- An MCCI team led by the Chamber President Ms Rokia Afzal Rahman meets the Governor, Bangladesh Bank, Dr Atiur Rahman, during the public consultation held on 18 January on formulating the next Monetary Policy Statement for January-June 2013 period.
- MCCI's Vice-President, Barrister Ms Nihad Kabir, makes a presentation on behalf of the Chamber to the Czech business delegation highlighting Bangladesh as a

potential destination for Czech investment when a Czech business delegation led by their Minister of Industry and Trade, Mr Martin Kuba, visits the Chamber and holds meetings and participates in a business seminar on 11 March.

- A seminar entitled 'EU-India FTA: Possible Impact on Bangladesh's Export' is jointly organized by the MCCI and Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI) in the Chamber Building on 20 March. Participants appreciate the initiative and consider it worthwhile to alert the business community on the possible impact.
- The Chamber, in collaboration with Maasranga Television, jointly organizes a live TV programme on 'Budget 2013-2014: Our Expectations' at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on 11 May. The programme is moderated by Barrister Ms Nihad Kabir, former Vice-President of the Chamber. Minister for Finance, Mr Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, MP, is present as the Chief Guest.
- At the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Chamber organizes a B2B meeting with private sector representatives of the USA under Bangladesh-USA Partnership Dialogue (Foreign Secretary Level) which is held at the Chamber Building on 27 May. The US team consists mainly of US citizens of Bangladesh, origin. The US Ambassador in Bangladesh, Mr Dan W Mozena, speaks on the occasion.
- The Chamber organizes a dialogue jointly with Policy Research Institute (PRI) on 'Emerging from Rana Plaza Tragedy: A 10 Point Reform Roadmap for a Sustainable Bangladesh RMG Sector' at Dhaka on 30 May.
- At the request of the Ministry of Women's and Children Affairs, MCCI organizes a panel discussion on 'Development of Women Entrepreneurship' which is followed by dinner at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel on 18 June, in honour of the visiting ministers and delegates of the 10th Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting (10WAMM) held in Dhaka. The Chamber President, Ms Rokia A Rahman, presents the keynote paper and the discussion is moderated by Mrs Luna Shamsuddoha.
- A discussion session on 'Views of the Business Community' on Budget 2013-2014 is jointly organized by the MCCI and Policy Research Institute (PRI) in the Chamber Building on 23 June.
- The Country Representative in Bangladesh for Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Mr Kei Kawano, along with his colleagues, pay a courtesy visit to the Chamber on 8 July. MCCI conveys its desire to work with JETRO and indicates its

keenness to establish a long term working relationship between the two organizations.

- The 109th AGM is held on 21 December at the Lakeshore Hotel.

2014 (till April 30)

- A Chamber delegation, led by its President Ms Rokia Afzal Rahman, meets the Finance Minister Mr AMA Muhith on 22 January and Industries Minister Mr Amir Hossain Amu on 23 January.
- A Chamber delegation, led by its President, meets the Commerce Minister Mr Tofael Ahmed on 23 January.
- The Chamber, jointly with the Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, distributes blankets among the poor and vulnerable people of Rangpur in the last week of January.
- The Chamber hosts a dinner in honour of Mr Dipak C Jain, INSEAD Chair Professor of Marketing, and member of the Board of Directors of the Asian University of Women, in Dhaka on 6 February.
- An exchange of views on 'Introduction of Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) in Bangladesh', organized by MCCI, in collaboration with the National Board of Revenue (NBR), is held in Dhaka on 19 February.
- A delegation of the Chamber meets Dr Atiur Rahman, Governor of Bangladesh Bank, on 20 February and discusses important economic issues.
- The Chamber holds a luncheon meeting at the Chamber on 24 February where Mr Pankaj Saran, the High Commissioner of India, is the Chief Guest.
- The Chamber arranges a joint meeting of the business community with the Minister for Finance, Mr AMA Muhith MP, Minister for Commerce, Mr Tofael Ahmed MP and Minister for Industries, Mr Amir Hossain Amu MP, in the Chamber Office on 30 March.
- An MCCI delegation led by its President Ms Rokia Afzal Rahman visits New Delhi on 13-14 April and formally hands over the Chamber's letter of invitation to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India, to be the keynote speaker during the Chamber's 110th anniversary celebration scheduled to be held on 18 October.
- A Chamber delegation calls on the President and Director General of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on 14 April in New Delhi and invites them to participate in the Chamber's 110th anniversary celebration.
- A delegation from MCCI meets the Chairman of NBR at his office on 20 April and discusses the Chamber's proposals for the Government Budget 2014-15.

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Appendix -1

[No. 35.] [FILE No. 12-P-5 (1).] 10

Dated Narayanganj, the 7th July 1920.

From—The Honorary Secretary, Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Commerce Dept.

Homeward passages, season 1921.

In reply to your No. 133 T.—Com., dated the 15th June 1920, I am directed to say that my Committee are in favour of the institution of some sort of passage control in India for the coming season, in the event of no such control of passages to India being found possible at Home.

As regards the lines on which such control should be based, it appears to my Committee that the system of blue, red and white certificates suggested by you would, as nearly as possible, meet the case. My Committee also agree that these certificates should be used only for accommodation in steamers sailing between 14th February and 14th June. They would, however, suggest that all intending travellers from Home should be warned, when booking passages, that unless they can show that they had to come to India during the cold weather on *bonâ fide* business, they cannot expect anything but a white certificate, which would give *bonâ fide* business-people and residents of India preference over them in the allotment of berths for the journey back from India to England.

[No. 8.] [FILE No. 7-M-1 (8).]

Dated Narayanganj, the 13th December 1921.

From—The Honorary Secretary, Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce,

To—The Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

With reference to your letter No. 5366 Com., dated the 30th November 1921, I have the honour to inform you that this Chamber considers the suggestion for the outgoing mail to leave Bombay on a Friday and the incoming mail to arrive on a Saturday a very excellent arrangement, and has no comments to pass so long as the mail is weekly and regular.

Appendix - 2

[Sir William H Vincent, Secretary to the Govt. of India, Legislative Dept. wrote letters on "A Bill to Amend the Indian Companies Act, 1913" to the Secretaries/ Chief Secretaries/ Assistant Secretaries to the Provincial Govt. and Chief Commissioners of the Provinces. After receiving this letter the Under Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal forwarded a copy of the Bill to the Head/ Secretary of the relevant Departments, Trade Bodies, Associations, Chamber of Commerce and Industries. Here is a letter written by the Honorary Secretary of the NCC in replying to the Chamber's opinion to the Under-Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal reproduced from the original documents.]

Government of Bengal, Financial Department
Commerce, No 40, File 4A/7

Dated: Narayanganj, the 26 August 1913.

From- The Honorary Secretary, Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce,

To- The Under-Secretary, to the Govt. of Bengal, General Dept.

I BEG to acknowledge your letter No. 789 T. – G., dated the 5 June 1913, and subsequent reminders.

I beg to apologize for the delay in answering this, and I am directed by the Committee to inform you that, as the firms in Narayanganj are practically all connected directly or indirectly with Calcutta Houses, the Narayanganj Chamber would not wish to express any separate opinion of its own on the question of amending the Indian Companies' Act 1913, but would prefer to follow the opinion expressed by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Appendix - 3

[Govt. of India, Dept. of Commerce and Industry, No 9196, dated the 8 August 1917, and enclose, requesting that the opinion of this Govt. may be submitted with the views of the local Chambers of Commerce on the "Proposal to Suppress the Adulteration of Indian Produce Before Export" and measures suitable to remedy it. Mr AL Godden, the Honorary Secretary of the NCC replied with the Chamber's view to the Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India, Dept. of Commerce and Industry on 7 September, 1917. On 17 October 1917, Mr Godden forwarded a copy of this letter to the Under-Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal, Commerce Dept. Here is two letters written by AL Godden, the Honorary Secretary of the NCC, in replying with Chamber's opinion to the Deputy Secretary of the Govt. of India and a forwarding letter to the Under-Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal reproduced from the original documents.]

No 14

File 10-A - 1(5)

Dated: Narayanganj, the 17 October 1917

From- AL Godden, Honorary Secretary, Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce,

To- The Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Commerce Department.

With reference to your letter No. 5423 Com., dated Calcutta, the 13 October 1917, I have the honour to send you herewith copy of my letter, dated the 7 September 1917.

Dated: Narayanganj, the 7 September 1917

From- AL Godden, Esq., Honorary Secretary, Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce,

To- The Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce of Industry.

Referring to your letter No. 9196 Department of Commerce and Industry, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated Simla, the 8 August 1917, a copy of which was sent to me by the Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Calcutta, I have the honour to state that, as regards the adulteration of jute, this only occurs previous to its sale by the raiyat to the buyer when the jute is often watered. Government has already stated it is impossible to legislate against this. There is no adulteration of export jute.

Appendix - 4

[Govt. of India, Dept. of Industries and Labour, No 1192, dated the 9 October 1924, forwarding for this Govt.'s opinion copy of a Bill titled "Periods of Wage Payment Bill" introduced in the Legislative Assembly to make provision for the payment of wages on a weekly basis. After receiving this letter from the Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal (No 2157 T.Com., dated 22 October), Mr RN Story, the Honorary Secretary of the NCC wrote back a letter with the Chamber's opinion/view to the Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal, Dept. of Commerce on 25 November, 1924. Here is the letter written by Mr Story, the Honorary Secretary of the NCC, to the Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal reproduced from the original documents.]

No. 9**File No. 1A - 22 (8)**

Dated: Narayanganj, the 25 November 1924

From- RN STORY Esq., Honorary Secretary, Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce,

To- The Secretary, to the Government of Bengal, Commerce Department.

Periods of Wage Payment.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt to your letter No. 2157 T. -Com., dated 22 October 1924.

In reply, I am directed to state that this Chamber strongly object to the application of piecemeal legislation to labour in their employ.

Whatever may be the case in mills in Bombay, worker in jute factories and other concerns in this area are not required to subsist on credit for any time, as a system of advances against wages is in general use.

In fact it is frequently the employer who has to wait several months for a return against the money so advanced.

A less serious objection is the extra clerical work and consequent expense of settling accounts 52 times in a year instead of 12 times as at present under a monthly basis; but in the case of Inland Navigation Companies, whose labour is constantly on the move, the difficulty of arranging payment at regular intervals would be practically unsurmountable.

The Chamber also consider that the effect on labour would be to encourage the unsatisfactory type of worker who changes his employment continually throughout the season. The ideal of such continuity of employment as to maintain efficiency of work is sufficiently difficult to achieve without shortening the contract basis of time, and it is doubtful whether such a measure would be welcome to the worker themselves.

Appendix - 5

Govt. of India, Dept. of Industries and Labour, No L-925, dated the 30 August 1924, forwarding Trade Union Bill and requesting the views of this Government. After receiving this letter from the Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal, Commerce Dept. (Letter No 1073 T. Com., dated 8 September), the Honorary Secretary of the NCC wrote back a letter with the Chamber's opinion/view to the Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal, Dept. of Commerce on 12 November, 1924. Here is the letter written by the Honorary Secretary of the NCC to the Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal reproduced from the original documents.

No 155

File No 1-A - 14 (27)

Dated: Narayanganj, the 12 November 1924.

From- Honorary Secretary, Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce,

To- The Secretary, to the Government of Bengal, Commerce Department.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt to your letter No. 1073 T. -Com., dated 8 September 1924.

In reply, I am directed to state the members of this Chamber are of the opinion that as far as the jute trade, which they represent, is concerned, the need for trade union legislation has not yet arisen. There is as yet no indication of any desire by labour here to form a union; it is true that in the mill areas during strikes there have been persons who claimed to represent the workers, but these have been proved to merely political agitators with no genuine connection with the workers, and without any true regard for their welfare.

This Chamber therefore consider that the introduction of such a bill would merely encourage the formation of organizations which neither the workers nor employers need or desire at present.

Appendix - 6		
LIST OF FORMER PRESIDENTS WITH NAMES OF THEIR COMPANIES		
Year	Former Presidents	Company
1947	CEC Guthrie	IGN & RSN Co. Ltd
1948	CEC Guthrie	IGN & RSN Co. Ltd
1949	DP Fafalios	Rally Brothers Ltd
1950	AC Baxter	-----
1951	CEC Guthrie	IGN & RSN Co. Ltd
1952	AR Faridi	Burmah Shell Oil Storage & Distributing Co. of Pakistan Ltd
1953	RWN Ferguson	Kilburn & Co. (Pakistan) Ltd
1954	A Jalil	Amin Jute Baling Co. Ltd
1955	MM Ispahani	MM Ispahani Limited
1956	MM Ispahani	MM Ispahani Limited
1957	AA Khalon	The Pakbay Co. Ltd
1958	WR Longwill	James Finlay & Co. Ltd
1959	M Naser-ud-Deen Khan	Burmah-Shell Oil Storage & Distributing Co. of Pakistan Ltd
1960	MM Ispahani	MM Ispahani Limited
1961	AA Khalon	The Pakbay Co. Ltd
1962	A Ahad	Orr, Dignam & Co.
1963	MH Adamjee	Adamjee Jute Mills Ltd
1964	M Ilahi	Amin Jute Baling Co. Ltd
1965	YA Bawany	Aesons Limited
1966	AA Khalon	The Pakbay Co. Ltd
1967	M Ilahi	Amin Jute Baling Co. Ltd
1968	M Ilahi	Amin Jute Baling Co. Ltd
1969	Rashid Ahmed	Sinclair Murray (Pakistan) Ltd
1970	Rashid Ahmed	Sinclair Murray (Pakistan) Ltd
1971	A Qayyum	Pakistan River Steamers Ltd.
1972	Kamruddin Ahmed	Orr, Dignam & Co.
1973	Kamruddin Ahmed	Orr, Dignam & Co.
1974	Kamruddin Ahmed	Orr, Dignam & Co.
1975	FK Ghuznavi	ICI Bangladesh Ltd
1976	Rashid Ahmed	Sinclair Murray (Bangladesh) Ltd
1977	M Anis Ud Dowla	Bangladesh Oxygen Ltd
1978	M Anis Ud Dowla	Bangladesh Oxygen Ltd

1979	SH Kabir	Pfizer Laboratories (BD) Ltd
1980	Mushfeq-US-Saleheen	International Finance & Investment Co. Ltd
1981	M Morshed Khan	Pacific Motors Limited
1982	M Morshed Khan	Pacific Motors Limited
1983	Zeaul Huq	Orioxi Ltd
1984	SH Kabir	Pfizer Laboratories (BD) Ltd
1985	MR Siddiqi	SIDKO Limited
1986	MR Siddiqi	SIDKO Limited
1987	Habibullah Khan	Ganges Motors Limited
1988	Habibullah Khan	Ganges Motors Limited
1989	Salman F Rahman	Bangladesh Export Import Co. Ltd
1990	Syed Manzur Elahi	Apex Tannery Limited
1991	Syed Manzur Elahi	Apex Tannery Limited
1992	M Morshed Khan	Pacific Motors Limited
1993	Latifur Rahman	Transcom Limited
1994	Latifur Rahman	Transcom Limited
1995	M Anis Ud Dowla	ACI Limited
1996	Samson H Chowdhury	Square Pharmaceuticals Limited
1997	Samson H Chowdhury	Square Pharmaceuticals Limited
1998	Laila Rahman Kabir	Kedarpur Tea Company Ltd
1999	Mahbub Jamil	Singer Bangladesh Limited
2000	Latifur Rahman	Transcom Limited
2001	Latifur Rahman	Transcom Limited
2002	Tapan Chowdhury	Square Pharmaceuticals Limited
2003	Tapan Chowdhury	Square Pharmaceuticals Limited
2004	Kutubuddin Ahmed	Envoy Garments Limited
2005	Kutubuddin Ahmed	Envoy Garments Limited
2006	Latifur Rahman	Transcom Limited
2007	Latifur Rahman	Transcom Limited
2008	Latifur Rahman	Transcom Limited
2009	Abdul Hafiz Choudhury, FCA	Rahman Rahman Huq
2010	M Anis Ud Dowla	ACI Limited
2011	Amjad Khan Chowdhury	Agricultural Marketing Co. Ltd
2012	Amjad Khan Chowdhury	Agricultural Marketing Co. Ltd
2013	Ms Rokia Afzal Rahman	Arlinks Limited

Appendix - 7

LIST OF CHAMBER COMMITTEES (1949-2014)

1949

President: DP Fafalios, AC Baxter; **Vice President:** SL Gold; **Members:** CEC Guthire, IGH Ariff, AB Baikie, AD Boldy, PN Flangini, ARY Smith, MM Ispahani; **Secretary:** Jack Garcia

1950

President: AC Baxter, AD Boldy; **Vice President:** SL Gold, CEC Guthire; **Members:** IGH Ariff, AB Baikie, MM Ispahani, JM Addison Scott, PN Flangini, ARY Smith, W Leslie; **Secretary:** Jack Garcia

1951

President: CEC Guthire, DP Fafalios; **Vice President:** MM Ispahani; **Members:** AB Baikie, DP Fafalios, A Jalil, AA Kahlon, VAD Howard, OW Lugg, AR Faridi, JW Young, TF Stainthorpe, W Leslie, ARY Smith, JM Addison Scott, IGH Ariff, AB Fairfoul; **Secretary:** Jack Garcia

1952

President: AR Faridi, RWN Ferguson; **Vice President:** TL Swales, A Jalil; **Members:** MM Ispahani, AB Baikie, DP Fafalios, AD Boldy, AA Kahlon, TF Stainthrope, JW Young, RWN Ferguson, KM Nasimullah, M Vlasto, NG Smith; **Secretary:** Jack Garcia

1953

President: RWN Ferguson, A Jalil (Acting President); **Vice President:** A Jalil; **Members:** AB Baikie, MM Ispahani, AD Boldy, AA Kahlon, TL Swales, RBF Garrard, M Heald, RWN Ferguson, AR Faridi, AB Fairfoul, RT Neimeyer; **Secretary:** Jack Garcia

1954

President: A Jalil; **Vice President:** WR Longwill; **Members:** AB Baikie, AD Boldy, DL Penny, TAT Whitby, MM Ispahani, AA Kahlon, TL Swales, DP Fafalios; **Secretary:** Jack Garcia; **Deputy Secretary:** K Mohyuddin

1955

President: A Jalil, MM Ispahani; **Vice President:** WR Longwill; **Members:** TL Swales, AB Baikie, A Dada, DL Penny, TAT Whitby, M Heald, DCW Watkin, MM Ispahani, WR Longwill, GC Maclean, H Wintle, AA Kahlon; **Secretary:** Jack Garcia; **Deputy Secretary:** K Mohyuddin

1956

President: MM Ispahani; **Vice President:** H Wintle; **Members:** Mohamed Hanif Adamjee, JM Dizer, Ahmed Dada, M Heald, M Ilahi, AA Kahlon, TL Swales; **Secretary:** Jack Garcia; **Deputy Secretary:** K Mohyuddin; **Assistant Secretary:** M Ebraheem

1957

President: AA Kahlon; **Vice President:** WR Longwill; **Members:** MM Ispahani, H Wintle, DL Penny, Ahmed Dada, M Naser-ud-Deen Khan, M Heald, TL Swales; **Secretary:** Jack Garcia; **Acting Secretary:** K Mohyuddin; **Deputy Secretary:** KS Shahabuddin; **Assistant Secretary:** M Ebraheem

1958

President: WR Longwill; **Vice President:** M Naser-ud-Deen Khan; **Members:** M Heald, MM Ispahani, AA Kahlon, RH Martin, DL Penny, TL Swales, JR Williamson; **Joint Secretaries:** KS Shahabuddin, MZ Ahmed; **Deputy Secretary:** KS Shahabuddin; **Assistant Secretaries:** M Ebraheem, AW Chalmers

1959

President: M Naser-ud-Deen Khan; **Vice President:** JR Williamson; **Members:** A Ahad, MH Adamjee, M Heald, MM Ispahani, AA Kahlon, WR Longwill, TL Swales; **Joint Secretaries:** KS Shahabuddin, MZ Ahmed; **Assistant Secretaries:** AW Chalmers, MH Kashani

1960

President: MM Ispahani; **Vice President:** WR Longwill; **Members:** MH Adamjee, A Ahad, AR Cavers, M Heald, AA Kahlon, M Afzal Khan, GR Mothersill; **Secretary:** MZ Ahmed; **Assistant Secretary:** AW Chalmers

1961

President: AA Kahlon; **Vice President:** WR Longwill; **Members:** A Ahad, AR Cavers, M Heald, MM Ispahani, A Jalil, M Afzal Khan, DL Penny; **Secretary:** MZ Ahmed; **Assistant Secretary:** AW Chalmers

1962

President: A Ahad; **Vice President:** GR Mothersill; **Members:** WR Longwill, MH Adamjee, MM Ispahani, A Jalil, M Afzal Khan, M Heald, WHS Ravenscroft, AFR Stephen; **Secretary:** MZ Ahmed

1963

President: AH Adamjee; **Vice President:** WHS Ravenscroft; **Members:** M Ilahi, AA Kahlon, M Afzal Khan, OW Lugg, GR Mothersill, R Rahman, AFR Stephen; **Secretary:** MZ Ahmed; **Assistant Secretary:** JR Khan

1964

President: Maqbul Ilahi; **Vice President:** OW Lugg; **Members:** R Amin Ahmed, Rashid Ahmed, M Yawer Ali, Munsurul Ameen, Mohsin Asgar, YA Bawany, M Heald, KM Nasimullah; **Secretary:** MZ Ahmed; **Assistant Secretary:** JR Khan

1965

President: YA Bawany; **Vice President:** WR Longwill; **Members:** A Ahad, R Amin Ahmed, Rashid Ahmed, M Yawer Ali, Mansurul Amin, Mohsin Asgar, M Heald, AA Kahlon, Y Amanullah Khan; **Secretary:** MZ Ahmed; **Assistant Secretary:** CK Hyder

1966

President: Anwar a Kahlon; **Vice President:** M Heald; **Members:** AG Adamjee, A Ahad, R Amin Ahmed, Mansurul Amin, Mohsin Asgar, SM Doja, Aziz A Khan, Y Amanullah Khan, WR Longwill; **Secretary:** MZ Ahmed; **Assistant Secretary:** CK Hyder

1967

President: Maqbul Ilahi; **Vice President:** WR Longwill; **Members:** AG Adamjee, A Ahad, R Ameen, SM Doja, FA Dossani, R Grant, Anwar A Kahlon, Aziz A Khan, Y Amanullah Khan, KS Shahabuddin; **Secretary:** MZ Ahmed; **Assistant Secretary:** CK Hyder

1968

President: Maqbul Ilahi; **Vice President:** SM Doja; **Members:** AG Adamjee, Rashid Ahmed, M Ahsanullah, M Yawer Ali, R Ameen, YA Bawany, FA Dossani, JHA Gibson, A Qayyum, Aziz A Khan, KS Shahabuddin; **Secretary:** MZ Ahmed; **Deputy Secretary:** CK Hyder

1969

President: Rashid Ahmed; **Vice President:** KS Shahabuddin; **Members:** R Amin Ahmed, Erfan Ahmed, M Ahsanullah, M Yawer Ali, Rafiqul Ameen, YA Bawany, FA Dossani, JHA Gibson, M Ilahi, CM Murshed, A Qayyum; **Secretary:** MZ Ahmed; **Deputy Secretary:** CK Hyder

1970

President: Rashid Ahmed; **Vice President:** KS Shahabuddin, R Amin Ahmed; **Members:** Erfan Ahmad, M Ahsanullah, M Yawer Ali, Rafiqul Ameen, YA Bawany, Mansurul Ameen, A Latif, WR Longwill, Mohammad Bhai, CM Murshed, Y Amanullah Khan, Nawab Khaja Hasan Askari, A Qayyum; **Secretary:** MZ Ahmed; **Deputy Secretary:** CK Hyder

1971

President: A Qayyum; **Vice President:** WR Longwill; **Members:** Nawab Khaja Hasan Askari, Mohammad Bhai, SM Doja, R Grant, Anwar A Kahlon, Amanullah Khan, CM Murshed, Md. Saifur Rahman, Mansurul Ameen, A Latif, R Amin Ahmad, Sabethur Rahman; **Secretary:** MZ Ahmad; **Joint Secretary:** CK Hyder

1972

President: A Qayyum, Kamruddin Ahmad; **Vice President:** Md. Saifur Rahman; **Members:** Nawab Khaja Hasan Askari, SM Doja, R Grant, Sabethur Rahman, Amanullah Khan, CM Murshed, Rafiqul Ameen, M Anis ud Dawla, Qazi Fazlur Rahman, K Atkinson, Mansurul Ameen, Zeaul Huq, Ahmad Yusuff, HHV Spreadbury; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1973

President: Kamruddin Ahmad; **Vice President:** Md Saifur Rahman; **Members:** Rafiqul Ameen, M Anisuddowla, Nawab Khwaja Hasan Askari, K Atkison, FK Ghuznavi, Zeaul Huq, Ghulam Husein, Ashfaque Hussain Khan, Sabethur Rahman, EC Rebeiro, HHV Spreadbury; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1974

President: Kamruddin Ahmad; **Vice President:** FK Ghuznavi; **Members:** M Anis ud Dowla, K Atkison (BR McEntegart), Ghulam Husein, Sabethur Rahman, EC Rebeiro, Rafiqul Ameen (MA Sattar), Rashid Ahmed, Ashfaque Hussain Khan, M Mashiur Rahman, CM Murshed; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1975

President: FK Ghuznavi; **Vice President:** BR McEntegart; **Members:** Rashid Ahmed, K Kamrul Hoda, Zeaul Huq, Ghulam Husein, Ashfaque Hussain Khan, Manzur Morshed Khan, RGI Leonard, CM Murshed, M Masihur Rahman, EC Rebeiro, MA Sattar; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1976

President: Rashid Ahmed; **Vice President:** BR McEntegart; **Members:** RGI Leonard (JG Perkins), JA Noe, Rezaur Rahman, EC Rebeiro, K Kamrul Hoda, Zeaul Huq, Manzur Morshed Khan, MA Sattar, M Mashiur Rahman, Tofael Ahmad; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1977

President: M Anis ud Dowla; **Vice President:** M Morshed Khan; **Members:** Badruddin Ahmad, K Kamrul Hoda, Zeaul Huq, SH Kabir, BR McEntegart, JA Noe, Rezaur Rahman, Sabethur Rahman, EC Rebeiro, MA Sattar, Tofael Ahmad, KA Rashid; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1978

President: M Anisuddowla; **Vice President:** SH Kabir; **Members:** Badruddin Ahmed, M Tofael Ahmed, Syed Mohsen Ali, FK Ghuznavi, JA Noe, ASF Rahman, Sabethur Rahman, KA Rashid, EC Rebeiro, Mushfeq-us-Saleheen; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1979

President: SH Kabir; **Vice President:** M Mushfeq-us-Saleheen; **Members:** Badruddin Ahmed, Syed Fazle Ali, M Anisuddowla, Ghulam Husein, Sabethur Rahman, M Shamsul Alam, Syed Mohsen Ali, FK Ghuznavi, ASF Rahman, KA Rashid, MR Siddiqi; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1980

President: M Mushfeq-us-Saleheen; **Vice President:** M Morshed Khan; **Members:** Rashid Ahmed, Syed Fazle Ali, SA Azim, RW Keast, ASF Rahman, M Shamsul Alam, Syed Mohsen Ali, FK Ghuznavi, Ghulam Husein Padamsee, KA Rashid, MR Siddiqi; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1981

President: M Morshed Khan; **Vice President:** Rashid Ahmed; **Members:** M Shamsul Alam, SA Azim, Zeaul Huq, Hafizul Islam, Ghulam Husein Padamsee, Anwarul Amin, AKM Mosharaf Hossain, KA Huque, RW Keast, MR Siddiqi, AM Agha Yusuf; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1982

President: M Morshed Khan; **Vice President:** Rashid Ahmed; **Members:** Iftekhharul Alam, M Anisuddowla, AKM Mosharaf Hossain, KA Huque, Aminul Islam Khan, Anwarul Amin, SA Azim, Zeaul Huq, RW Keast, Ghulam Husein Padamsee, AM Agha Yusuf; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1983

President: Zeaul Huq; **Vice President:** SH Kabir; **Members:** Iftekhharul Alam, Anwarul Amin, FK Ghuznavi, AKM Mosharaf Hossain, Sabethur Rahman, Syed Mohsen Ali, Syed Manzur Elahi, Rashid-ul Hasan, KA Huque, AM Agha Yusuf; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1984

President: SH Kabir; **Vice President:** Syed Mohsen Ali; **Members:** Iftekhharul Alam, Alan J Cooper, FK Ghuznavi, Admiral MH Khan, Sabethur Rahman, Samson H Chowdhury, Syed Manzur Elahi, Rashid-ul Hasan, MR Siddiqi; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1985

President: MR Siddiqi; **Vice President:** Syed Manzur Elahi; **Members:** Syed Mohsin Ali, Alan J Cooper, Ashrafal Haque, SH Kabir, Ghulam Husein A Padamsee, Samson H Chowdhury, FK Ghuznavi, Rashid-ul Hasan, Rear Admiral MH Khan, Md Nefaur Rahman, Sabethur Rahman; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1986

President: MR Siddiqi; **Vice President:** Habibullah Khan; **Members:** Samson H Chowdhury, AKM Ghaffar, Kazi Kamrul Hoda, Zeaul Haq, Admiral MH Khan, Alan J Cooper, GG Hardwicke, AKM Mosharaf Hossain, AHM Kamaluddin; Harunar Rashid Khan, Ghulam Husein A Padamsee; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1987

President: Habibullah Khan; **Vice President:** HR Khan; **Members:** AKM Ghaffar, KK Hoda, Zeaul Huq, A Hasnat Khan, Salman F Rahman, GG Hardwicke, AKM Mosharaf Hossain, AHM Kamaluddin, Ghulam Husein A Padamsee, Latifur Rahman, Ramzul Seraj; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1988

President: Habibullah Khan; **Vice President:** HR Khan; **Members:** SA Azim, K Kamrul Hoda, AHM Kamaluddin, Salman F Rahman, Ramzul Seraj, AKM Ghaffar, Zeaul Huq, A Hasnat Khan, Latifur Rahman, AG Stuart, Mohd. Toha; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1989

President: Salman F Rahman; **Vice President:** Syed Manzur Elahi; **Members:** Zamal Uddin Ahmed, M Anis Ud Dowla, Samson H Chowdhury, AHM Kamaluddin, Latifur Rahman, Iftekharul Alam, SA Azim, M Dumetz, Abul Hasnat Khan, Md Nefaur rahman, Ramzul Seraj; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1990

President: Syed Manzur Elahi; **Vice President:** Samson H Chowdhury; **Members:** Jamal Uddin Ahmed, M Shamsul Alam, M Anis Ud Dowla, Abdul Hafiz Choudhury, Mahbub Jamil, Iftekharul Alam, M Sekander Ali, SA Azim, M Dumetz, M Morshed Khan, Md Nefaur rahman; **Secretary:** CK Hyder

1991

President: Syed Manzur Elahi; **Vice President:** Samson H Chowdhury; **Members:** Jamal Uddin Ahmed, M Shamsul Alam, Khurshid Azam, M Dumetz, Mahbub Jamil, Iftekharul Alam, M Anis Ud Dowla, Abdul Hafiz Choudhury, Zeaul Huq, M Morshed Khan, Azimur Rahman; **Secretary-General:** CK Hyder

1992

President: M Morshed Khan; **Vice President:** Latifur Rahman; **Members:** M Shamsul Alam, Malcolm Fry, Zeaul Huq, SH Kabir, Azimur radhman, Khurshid Azam, K Kamrul Hoda, Mahbub Jamil, Habibullah Khan, Salman F Rahman; **Secretary-General:** CK Hyder

1993

President: Latifur Rahman; **Vice President:** Azimur Rahman; **Members:** Khurshid Azam, M Ahsanul Haque, Zeaul Haq, Habibullah Khan, Salman F Rahman, AKM Gaffar, K Kamrul Hoda, SH Kabir, Joya Pati, IS Sangster, Feisal Siddiqi; **Secretary-General:** CK Hyder

1994

President: Latifur Rahman; **Vice President:** Azimur Rahman; **Members:** M Anis Ud Dowla, Gen Amjad Khan, M Ahsanul Haque, Habibullah Khan, Salman F Rahman, SA Azim, AKM Gaffar, K Kamrul Hoda, Joya Pati, IS Sangster, Feisal Siddiqi; **Secretary-General:** CK Hyder

1995

President: M Anis Ud Dowla; **Vice President:** Samson H Chowdhury; **Members:** Iftekharul Alam, SA Azim, Gen Amjad Khan, Frank Gamble, Joya Pati, Syed Tareque Md Ali, Abdul Hapiz Choudhury, A Rahim Chowdhury, M Ahsanul Haque, Afroz Rahim, Feisal Siddiqi; **Secretary-General:** CK Hyder

1996

President: Samson H Chowdhury; **Vice President:** Gen Amjad Khan Chowdhury; **Members:** Zafar Ahmed, M Shamsul Alam, M Anis Ud Dowla, Abdul Hapiz Choudhury, Laila Rahman Kabir, Iftekharul Alam, Syed Tareque Md Ali, SA Azim, Frank Gamble, Golam Mustafa, Afroz Rahim; **Secretary-General:** CK Hyder

1997

President: Samson H Chowdhury; **Vice President:** Laila Rahman Kabir; **Members:** Zafar Ahmed, M Shamsul Alam, Syed Tareque Md Ali, A Hapiz Choudhury, Asghar Karim, Iftekharul Alam, Muhammad A Ali, M Anis Ud Dowla, Mahbub Jamil, Golam Mustafa, Afroz Rahim; **Secretary-General:** CK Hyder

1998

President: Laila Rahman Kabir; **Vice President:** M Shamsul Alam; **Members:** Zafar Ahmed, MA Awal, A Rahim Chowdhury, Asghar Karim, Ramzul Seraj, MC Alam, AQI Chowdhury, Mahbub Jamil, Latifur Rahman, Feisal Siddiqi, Geoff Williams; **Secretary-General:** CK Hyder

1999

President: Mahbub Jamil; **Vice President:** Asghar Karim; **Members:** CM Alam, Waliur Rahman Bhuiyan, A Rahim Chowdhury, KZ Islam, Latifur Rahman, MA Awal, AQI Chowdhury, Francis Dubus, Habibullah Khan, Ramzul Seraj, Feisal Siddiqi; **Secretary-General:** CK Hyder

2000

President: Latifur Rahman; **Vice President:** CM Alam; **Members:** A Rahim Chowdhury, Abdul Hafiz Choudhury, Tapan Chowdhury, KZ Islam, Ramjul Seraj, MA Awal, AQI Chowdhury, Waliur Rahman Bhuiyan, Habibullah Khan, Feisal Siddiqi; **Secretary-General:** CK Hyder

2001

President: Latifur Rahman; **Vice President:** Tapan Chowdhury; **Members:** CM Alam, SA Azim, Maj Gen Amjad Khan, AKM Rafiqul Islam, Masih Ul Karim, Jean Alfonsi, Abdul Hafiz Choudhury, Syed Fazlul Haque, KZ Islam, Habibullah Khan, Shahab Sattar; **Secretary-General:** CK Hyder

2002

President: Tapan Chowdhury; **Vice President:** Abdul Hafiz Choudhury; **Members:** Jean Alfonsi, Muhammad A (Rume) Ali, Maj Gen Amjad Khan, Md Nurul Islam, Masih Ul Karim, Feroz Rahim, Syed Anwarul Azim, Syed Fazlul Haque, AKM Rafiqul Islam, AK Shamsuddin Khan, Shahab Sattar; **Secretary-General:** CK Hyder

2003

President: Tapan Chowdhury; **Vice President:** Abdul Hafiz Choudhury; **Members:** Syed Anwarul Azim, David JH Griffiths, AKM Rafiqul Islam, Masih Ul Karim, Feroz Rahim, Maj Gen Amjad Khan, Md Nurul Islam, Mahbub Jamil, AK Shamsuddin Khan, Rokia A Rahman; Shahab Sattar; **Secretary-General:** CK Hyder

2004

President: Kutubuddin Ahmed; **Vice President:** Shahab Sattar; **Members:** Abdul Hafiz Choudhury, David JH Griffiths, AKM Rafiqul Islam, AKM Shamsuddin Khan, Feroz Rahim, Tapan Chowdhury, Md Nurul Islam, Obaidur Rahman Khan, Syed Nasim Manzur, Rokia A Rahman, Waliur Rahman Bhuiyan; **Secretary-General:** CK Hyder

2005

President: Kutubuddin Ahmed; **Vice President:** AKM Rafiqul Islam; **Members:** AKM Shamsul Alam, Abdul Hafiz Choudhury, M Anis Ud Dowla, Obaidur Rahman Khan, Feroz Rahim, Steve Banner, Tapan Chowdhury, Md Nurul Islam, Syed Nasim Manzur, Rokia A Rahman, Shahab Sattar; **Secretary-General:** CK Hyder

2006

President: Latifur Rahman; **Vice President:** AKM Rafiqul Islam; **Members:** Kutubuddin Ahmed, M Anis Ud Dowla, Imtiyaz Husain, Syed Nasim Manzur, M Shamsul Alam, Steve Banner, Md Nurul Islam, Obaidur Rahman Khan, Feroz Rahim, Shahab Sattar; **Secretary-General:** CK Hyder

2007

President: Latifur Rahman; **Vice President:** Feroz Rahim; **Members:** M Shamsul Alam, Nasir A Choudhury, M Anis Ud Dowla, Md Nurul Islam, Nihad Kabir, Steve Banner, Maj Gen Amjad Khan Chowdhury, Imtiyaz Husain, Mahbub Jamil, Obaidur Rahman Khan, Syed Nasim Manzur; **Secretary-General:** CK Hyder

2008

President: Latifur Rahman; **Vice President:** Abdul Hafiz Choudhury; **Members:** M Anis Ud Dowla, Nasir A Choudhury, Maj Gen Amjad Khan Chowdhury, Nihad Kabir, Steve Banner, Anjan Chowdhury, M Azizul Huq, Imtiyaz Husain, Mahbub Jamil, Obaidur Rahman Khan, Syed Nasim Manzur; **Secretary-General:** CK Hyder

2009

President: Abdul Hafiz Choudhury; **Vice President:** Syed Nasim Manzur; **Members:** Syed Abu Naser Bukhtear Ahmed, Nasir A Choudhury, Maj Gen Amjad Khan Chowdhury, AKM Rafiqul Islam, Nihad Kabir, M Anis Ud Dowla, Anjan Chowdhury, M Azizul Huq, Anis A Khan, Obaidur Rahman Khan, Golam Mainuddin; **Adviser to the Committee:** CK Hyder; **Secretary-General:** Farooq Ahmed

2010

President: M Anis Ud Dowla; **Vice President:** Syed Nasim Manzur; **Members:** Syed Tareque Md Ali, Anjan Chowdhury, M Azizul Huq, Nihad kabir, Golam Mainuddin, Abdul Hafiz Choudhury, Maj Gen Amjad Khan Chowdhury, AKM Rafiqul Islam, Anis A Khan, Kamran T Rahman, Mamun Rashid; **Adviser to the Committee:** CK Hyder; **Secretary-General:** Farooq Ahmed

2011

President: Maj Gen Amjad Khan Chowdhury; **Vice President:** Nihad Kabir; **Members:** Syed Tareque Md Ali, Akhter Matin Chaudhury, Anjan Chowdhury, M Azizul Huq, AKM Rafiqul Islam, Habibullah N Karim, Anis A Khan, Adeeb Hossain Khan, Golam Mainuddin, Feroz Rahim, Kamran T Rahman; **Adviser to the Committee:** CK Hyder; **Secretary-General:** Farooq Ahmed

2012

President: Maj Gen Amjad Khan Chowdhury; **Vice President:** Nihad Kabir; **Members:** Syed Tareque Md Ali, Akhter Matin Chaudhury, Anjan Chowdhury, M Azizul Huq, AKM Rafiqul Islam, Anis A Khan, Adeeb Hossain Khan, Golam Mainuddin, Feroz Rahim, Rokia Afzal Rahman, Kamran T Rahman; **Secretary-General:** Farooq Ahmed

2013

President: Rokia Afzal Rahman; **Vice President:** Kamran T Rahman; **Members:** Syed Tareque Md Ali, Tabith M Awal, Akhter Matin Chaudhury, Anjan Chowdhury, M Azizul Huq, AKM Rafiqul Islam, Habibullah N Karim, Anis A Khan, Adeeb Hossain Khan, Golam Mainuddin, Feroz Rahim; **Secretary-General:** Farooq Ahmed

2014

President: Rokia Afzal Rahman; **Vice President:** Anis A Khan; **Members:** Syed Tareque Md Ali, M Anis Ud Dowla, Tabith M Awal, Akhter Matin Chaudhury, AKM Rafiqul Islam, Md Saiful Islam, Habibullah N Karim, Adeeb Hossain Khan, Golam Mainuddin; **Secretary-General:** Farooq Ahmed

Appendix - 8

NAMES OF MEMBERS OF SUB-COMMITTEES – 2014

Commercial Legislations: Anis A Khan, M Anis Ud Dowla, Abdul Hafiz Choudhury, FCA, Tapan Chowdhury, AKM Rafiqul Islam, FCA, Adeeb H Khan, FCA, Akhter Matin Chaudhury, FCA, Jamal Uddin Ahmad, FCA, Rafique-ul Huq, Nihad Kabir, Golam Mainuddin

Corporate Governance & CSR: Anis A Khan, Nasir A Choudhury, Adeeb H Khan, FCA, Akhter Matin Chaudhury, FCA, Rafique-ul Huq, Nihad Kabir, Kamran Bakr, Andrew Tilke, Muhammad A. (Rume) Ali

Environment & Climate Change: Anis A Khan, Zahur Ahmed, PhD, FH Ansarey, Golam Mainuddin, Md Hedayetullah, Niaz Rahim, Aryn Saleh.

Establishment: Rokia Afzal Rahman, Anis A Khan, Maj Gen Amjad Khan Chowdhury (Retd), M Anis Ud Dowla, Abdul Hafiz Choudhury, FCA, Latifur Rahman, Mahbub Jamil, Laila Rahman Kabir, Tapan Chowdhury, Syed Manzur Elahi

Export: Kamran T Rahman, Anjan Chowdhury, Feroz Rahim, Md Saiful Islam, Arif Dowla, PhD, Ardashir Kabir, Syed Nasim Manzur, Alamgir MZ Rahman

Finance & Membership: Anis A Khan, AKM Rafiqul Islam, FCA, Syed Tareque Md Ali, Nasir A Choudhury, Md Nurul Islam, Adeeb H Khan, FCA, Kamran T Rahman

FTA & WTO: Nihad Kabir, Habibullah N Karim, Ardashir Kabir, Syed Nasim Manzur, Tahmid Ahmed, Zafar Ahmed, Sharif Bhuiyan, PhD

Industry: Akhter Matin Chaudhury, FCA, Kamran T Rahman, Md Saiful Islam, Syed Nasim Manzur, Syed Nasim Manzur, Md Aziz Khan, Sakif Ariff Tabani, Kamran Bakr, Tabith M Awal, A Matin Chowdhury, Wafi Shafique Menhaz Khan, Andrew Tilke

Infrastructure: M Anis Ud Dowla, Syed Tareque Md Ali, Nasir A Choudhury, Zafar Ahmed, Anjan Chowdhury, Waquer Hossain, Habibullah N Karim, ASM Mainuddin Monem, Feroz Rahim

International Trade & Fair: Akhter Matin Chaudhury, FCA, Arif Dowla, PhD, AQI Chowdhury, OBE, Mamun Rashid, M Azizul Huq, Rubaiyat Jamil, Obaidur Rahman Khan, Munawar Misbah Moin

International Relations: Alamgir MZ Rahman, M Azizul Huq, Kamran Bakr, M Salman Ispahani, Aziz Al Kaiser, AM Hamim Rahmatullah, N Janakiram Raju

Investment: Kamran T Rahman, Golam Mainuddin, Imran Ahmed, Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, Md Aziz Khan, Salahuddin Kasem Khan, Mohammed Habibus Samad, Sakif Ariff Tabani

Tariff & Taxation: Anis A Khan, Abdul Hafiz Choudhury, FCA, Tapan Chowdhury, AKM Rafiqul Islam, FCA, Adeeb H Khan, FCA, Akhter Matin Chaudhury, FCA, Nihad Kabir, Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Vivek Anand, Abdul Khalek, FCA, A Qayyum Khan, PhD, Hasan Mahmood, FCA, Md Samsul Alam Mallick, FCA

Appendix - 9

SUB-COMMITTEES (Year Wise)

NCC, 1904-1950

Communications & Customs
Finance, Currency and the Income Tax
Finance & Income Tax
Finance & Taxes
Import & Export
Labour
Law & Legislation
Licensed Measurers Department
Rail, River, Customs, Import, Export

DNCC, 1950-52

Communications & Customs
Finance & Income Tax
Finances & Taxes
Labour
Law & Legislation
Licensed Measurers Department
Import/Export

DNCCI, 1952-58

Arbitrations
Buildings
Communications & Customs
Development
Finance
Law & Legislation
Licensed Measurers Department
Law & Taxation
Import
Import & Export
Import Trade Control
Industries
Industries & Exports
International Arbitration
Jute Fabric Shippers
Taxation

NCCI, 1959-78

Arbitration
Building
Building Development
Building & Chamber Development
Chamber Development
Customs & Communications
Chamber Finance
Chamber Services Reorganization
Chamber Services Organization
Chamber Building & Development
Company Law
Export
Exports/Shipping
Finance
Finance & Chamber Development
Holidays
Law
Law & Taxation
Import
Imports & Exports
Imports, Exports & Shipping
Industry
Industries
International Relations
Jute Fabric Shippers
Jute & Jute Fabric Shippers
Jute Shippers
Selection
Taxation
Trustees for the Chamber Provident Fund

MCCI, Dhaka 1979-2000

Arbitration
Building Development
Chamber Finance & Membership
Chamber Establishment
Company Law
Company Legislation
Commercial Legislation
Customs & Shipping
Export
Exports & Shipping

Foreign Investment

Holiday

Import

Imports & Tariff

Industry

International Relation

Selection

Taxation

MCCI, Dhaka 2000-Present

Arbitration

Building Development

Chamber Finance & Membership

Chamber Establishment

Commercial Legislations

Corporate Governance & CSR

Customs & Shipping

Environment & Climate Change

Export

Foreign Investment

FTA & WTO

Holiday

Imports & Tariff

Industry

Infrastructure

International Relations

International Trade & Fair

International Trade and Tariff

Investment

Selection

Tariff and Customs

Tariff & Taxation

Taxation

Transport and Shipping

Transport, Shipping and Other Infrastructure Services

Appendix - 10

**LIST OF HONORARY SECRETARIES/ ASSISTANT SECRETARIES/ DEPUTY SECRETARIES/ JOINT
SECRETARIES/ SECRETARIES/ SECRETARY-GENERALS**

AL Godden, Honorary Secretary
1917

RN Story, Honorary Secretary
1924

JH Kirkland, Honorary Secretary
1930

H Williams, Honorary Secretary
1940

Swarup Mukherjee, Acting Honorary Secretary
1947

Gillespi Allen, Honorary Secretary
1948

CK Hyder, Secretary-General
1991-2008

CK Hyder, Adviser to the Committee
2009-11

Farooq Ahmed, Secretary-General
2009 onwards

Emorphopulas, Secretary
1949

Jack Garcia, Secretary
1950-57

K Mohyuddin, Acting Secretary
1957

MZ Ahmed, Secretary
1960-61, 1963-69

CK Hyder, Secretary
1972-90

Farhad Chowdhury, Secretary
1997-2003

Farooq Ahmed, Secretary
2004-2008

Absal Shaquib Quoreshi, Secretary
2009 onwards

Md Murshid Alam, Secretary
2009 onwards

KS Shahabuddin, Joint Secretary
1958-59

MZ Ahmed, Joint Secretary
1958-59

CK Hyder, Joint Secretary
1971

K Mohyuddin, Deputy Secretary
1954-56

KS Shahabuddin, Deputy Secretary
1957

CK Hyder, Deputy Secretary
1968-70

M Ebraheem, Assistant Secretary
1956-58

MH Kashani, Assistant Secretary
1959

AW Chalmers, Assistant Secretary
1958-61

JR Khan, Assistant Secretary
1963-64

CK Hyder, Assistant Secretary
1965-67

Appendix - 11

REPRESENTATIVES (Year Wise) TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND ORGANISATION

NCC, 1904-1950

East Bengal Board of Industries
East Bengal Labour Advisory Board
Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire
Narayanganj Municipality
Pakistan Association
Pakistan Tea Board
Pakistan Tea Licensing Committee

DNCC, 1950-52

Employers Association
Employers Association of East Pakistan
East Bengal Board of Industries
Foreign Trade Development Council
Jute Brokers Association
Narayanganj Municipality
Pakistan Insurance Corporation

DNCCI, 1952-58

Board of Commercial Education, Government of East Bengal
Board of Governors, Viqarunnissa Noon School
Court, Dacca University
Dacca and Narayanganj Municipalities
Dacca Traffic Committee
Dacca University
East Bengal Jute Dealers Association
East Bengal Railway Local Advisory Committee
Employment Advisory Committee for the Regional Employment Exchange
Employers' Association of East Pakistan
Employment Exchanges
Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire
Food and Agricultural Council
Foreign Trade Development Council
Governor's Refugee Relief Fund
Government College of Commerce, Chittagong
Import Control Advisory Committee
Import Trade Control

Inland Water Transport
 Original Civil Jurisdiction of High Courts
 Pakistan Jute Mills Association
 Pakistan Tea Board
 Provincial Industrial Advisory Council
 Provincial Transport Authority Committee
 Regional Employment Advisory Committee
 Research Advisory Committee
 Textile & consumers Goods
 Trade Union Workers Training Scheme
 Viqarunnissa Girl's School
 West Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry

NCCI, Dacca: 1959-79

Advisory Committee to the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports
 Advisory Committee to the Commissioner of Taxes
 Advisory Committee to relating to Custom & Excise, Dacca
 Advisory Council for Ministry of Commerce
 Advisory Council for Ministry of Commerce (Central)
 Advisory Council for Ministry of Commerce & Foreign Trade
 Asian and Far Eastern Affairs of the International Chamber of Commerce (CAFEA)
 Bangladesh Bank's Co-ordination Committee
 Bangladesh Industrial Facilities Board
 Bangladesh Jute Press Owners Association
 Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority
 Board of Trustees, Dacca Improvement Trust
 Board of Governors of the Bangladesh Management Development Centre
 Bureau of National Reconstruction
 Chalna Anchorage Advisory Committee
 Chalna Port Advisory Committee
 Chittagong Central Excise and Land Customs Advisory Committee
 Central Savings Board, Government of East Pakistan
 Chittagong Port Advisory panel
 Chittagong Customs' Advisory Body
 Commercial Advisory Committee for East Pakistan
 Central Excise and Land Customs Advisory Board, Dacca
 Central Excise and Land Customs Advisory Board, Khulna
 Central Excise and Land Customs Advisory Board, Chittagong
 Central Excise and Land Customs Advisory Committee
 Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Jute

Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Industries
Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Communications
Custom House Advisory Committee, Chittagong
Dacca Improvement trust
Dacca-Narayanganj Electricity Advisory Committee
Dacca Traffic Committee
District Committee for Organizing Cottage and Small Industries
East Bengal Railway Local Advisory Committee
East Pakistan Transport Authority Committee
East Pakistan Labour Advisory Board
EPIWT Authority Advisory Committee
Exports Credits Guarantee Scheme
Export Promotion Council, Ministry of Industries
Formation of Co-Ordination Committee at Dacca on Banking Services
Income-Tax Commissioner's Advisory Committee
Industrial Advisory Council for Bangladesh
Industrial Advisory Council for Ministry of Industries
Industrial Advisory Council for East Pakistan
Import Advisory Committee for East Pakistan
Import Advisory Committee for Dacca Division
Import Advisory Committee for Dacca Region
Import Advisory Committee of the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports
Inter-Ministerial Committee on Labour
Jurisdiction of Chambers of Commerce & Industry
Jute & Textile Divisional Council of the Bangladesh Standards Institutions
Jute & Textile Council of the Bangladesh Standards Institutions
Labour Advisory Board
Management Board for abandoned Properties for Dacca City and Adjoining Area
Narayanganj Municipality
Narayanganj Town Development Committee
National Advisory Council for Small Industries
National Committee for Development of Small & Cottage Industry
National Council of Shippers
National Consultative Committee on Power
Nomination on Pakistan Council of Scientific & Industrial Research Laboratories, Rajshahi
Pakistan Eastern Railway Local Advisory Committee
Pakistan Labour Advisory Board
Pakistan Standards Institution General Council
Pakistan Tea Board
PE Railway Local Advisory Committee

Planning Commission
 Inland Water Transport Panel
 Provincial Transports Authority
 Provincial Tripartite Advisory Committee
 Regional Employment Advisory Committee
 Inland Transport Committee of the ILO
 Central Statistics Bureau
 Standing Committee on Export Credit
 Labour Committee
 East Pakistan Labour Advisory Board
 The Advisory Committee on Customs and Excise, Dacca
 Sadharan Bima Corporation
 The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry
 The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry
 The Narayanganj Town Development Committee
 The National Committee for Development of Small and Cottage Industries
 The Pakistan Institute of Industrial Accountants
 The Taxes Commissioner's Advisory Committee
 Trade Organizations Ordinance
 Training & Employment Advisory Committee of Dacca Polytechnic
 Tripartite Consultative Committee of ILO

MCCI, Dhaka: 1979-1999

Advisory Committee to the Commissioners of Taxes
 Advisory Committee Relating to Custom & Excise, Dacca
 Advisory Committee relating to Custom & Excise, Dhaka
 Advisory Committee for the Ministry of Textiles
 Advisory Committee for Securities and Exchange Commission
 Bangladesh Bank's Co-ordinations Committee
 Bangladesh Industrial Facilities Board
 Bangladesh Institute of Management
 Bangladesh Management Development Centre
 Bangladesh Management Development Centre, Ministry of Industries
 Bangladesh Shipping Corporation
 Bangladesh Shipper's Council
 Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority
 Board of Trustees, Dhaka Improvement Trust
 Chittagong Port Advisory Committee
 Chittagong Port Authority Advisory Committee
 Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Textiles

Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Jute
Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Jute & Textiles
Consultative Committee for the Jute Division
Consultative Committee for the National Board of Revenue
Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Industries
Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Commerce
Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Communications
Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Industries and Commerce
Consultative Committee on Remittances and Problems of Wage Earners
Customs House Advisory Committee, Chittagong
Customs House Advisory Committee, Dhaka
Council of the Dhaka Stock Exchange
District Committee for Organizing Cottage and Small Industries
Dacca District of Bangladesh Small Cottage Industries Corporation
Drugs Price Fixation Committee
EPB's Management Board
Export Promotion Council
National Council for Industrial Development
Ministry of Industries
Import Advisory Committee of the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports
Institute of Business Administration, Dhaka University
Insurance Advisory Committee
Inter-Ministerial Committee on Labour
ICD (Internal Container Depot) Advisory Committee, Dhaka
ICD (Internal Container Depot) Advisory Committee, Chittagong
ICD (Inland Container Depot) Advisory Committee, Dhaka
ICD (Inland Container Depot) Advisory Committee, Chittagong
Jute & Textile Council of the Bangladesh Standards Institutions
Jute & Textile Council of the Bangladesh Standards & Testing Institution
Management Board for Abandoned Properties for Dacca City and Adjoining Area
Narayanganj Town Development Committee
National Committee for Development of Small & Cottage Industries
National Committee on Exports
National Consultative Committee on Power
National Export Council
Standing Committee on Export Credit
Standing Committee on Income Tax
Steering Committee for Implementation of Uruguay Round Agreement
Task Force on Exports
The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry

Training & Employment of Advisory Committee of Dacca Polytechnic Institute
Tripartite Consultative Committee of ILO
Transport Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Communications
Transport Consultative Committee

MCCI, Dhaka: 2000-Present

Advisory Committee to the Commissioners of Taxes
Advisory Committee for the Ministry of Textiles
Advisory Committee for Securities and Exchange Commission
Bangladesh Institute of Management
Board of Directors of Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd.
Chittagong Port Advisory Committee
Committee alteration of Infrastructure draft National Preservation Law Implementation Sangstha
Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Textiles
Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Jute
Consultative Committee for the National Board of Revenue
Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Industries
Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Commerce
Consultative Committee on Remittances and Problems of Wage Earners
Customs House Advisory Committee, Chittagong
Customs House Advisory Committee, Dhaka
Council of the Dhaka Stock Exchange
Council of Bangladesh Standards & Testing Institute
Free Trade Group
Insurance Advisory Committee
Inland Container Depot (ICD) Advisory Committee, Dhaka
Inland Container Depot (ICD) Advisory Committee, Chittagong
Jute & Textile Council of the Bangladesh Standards & Testing Institution
National Committee on Exports
National Consultative Committee on Power
National Export Council
National Council for Industrial Development (NCID)
Palli Daridra Bimochan Foundation
Standing Committee on Export Credit
Standing Committee on Income Tax
Task Force on Exports
Transport Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Communications

Appendix - 12

amendments

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

OF

METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, DHAKA

(Registered under Sec. 26 of the Companies Act 1913 as adapted for Bangladesh)

*Adapted by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 11th April, 1949*

*As amended by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 15th July 1952*

*As amended by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 20th December 1958*

*As amended by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 11th August, 1959*

*As amended by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 15th October, 1963*

*As amended by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 18th March, 1972*

*As amended by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 24th March, 1977*

*As amended by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 20th December, 1979*

*As amended by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 7th February, 1981*

*As amended by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 28th December, 1983*

*As amended by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 10th July, 1986*

*As amended by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 4th September, 1989*

*As amended by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 31st December, 1990*

*As amended by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 1st November, 1994*

*As amended by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 12th September, 2002*

*As amended by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 22nd October, 1012*

Appendix - 13

amendments

MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION

OF

METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, DHAKA

(Registered under Sec. 26 of the Companies Act 1913 as adapted for Bangladesh)

*Adapted by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 11th April, 1949*

*As amended by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 15th July, 1952*

*As amended by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 20th December, 1979*

*As amended by Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting
held on the 28th December, 1983*

Appendix - 14

Mr AK Fazlul Haq

Governor of East Pakistan (1958)

[Mr AK Fazlul Haq, Governor of East Bengal, delivered his first speech as the Chief Guest in the 51st Annual General Meeting of DNCCI held on 6 April, 1956. This speech has been compiled in the Annual Report of 1956, PP. 19-33. Mr Haq delivered a speech again as the Chief Guest in the 53rd Annual General Meeting of DNCCI held on 4 March, 1958. This second speech was published in the Annual Report of the Chamber of 1958, PP. 16-20 as follows]

Mr President, Members of the Dacca-Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Gentlemen,

I deem it a great privilege to be your Chief Guest at the Annual General Meeting of the Dacca-Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry. I am grateful to you, Mr President, for the warm welcome you have so kindly extended to me.

Mr President, you have referred to so many points in your address that it will not be possible for me to dilate on all of them. I would only touch the important features of them and assure you that everything you have said will receive the careful consideration of the Provincial and Central Governments.

I entirely agree with your remarks, Mr President, when you say that the primary producing countries all over the world seem to be incurring a substantial deficit on their trade with the rest of the world. This is, of course, due to the reasons already expressed by you in your speech, but as long as we are aware of the trends in this regard we need not to be alarmed about the future.

With regard to the inflationary tendencies in the country which you have just referred to in your speech I can assure you, Mr President, that this has been causing all of us a great deal of anxiety. You may rest assured that both the Provincial and the Central Governments are doing and will do their utmost to meet the threat of inflation. Corrective measures in the field of credit control have already been taken. The Government have, however, in hand various measures which are expected to offer an effective check to inflationary tendencies. Among these may be mentioned intensive drive to combat tax evasion, collection of arrears of revenues, investigation of new sources of revenue by the Tax Inquiry Committee, expansion of agricultural production, particularly food by increasing credit facilities for agriculturalists by implementing other short and long term measures.

I am happy to note that you, as representatives of commerce and industry, are stressing for greater attention to be paid to agriculture. There is no doubt whatsoever that agriculture is our basic industry and it is for this reason that my Government as well as the Central Government are determined to concentrate all our energies on its improvement. The increase of agricultural production is depend, however, upon the use of machinery, large size of the farm, high quality of basic research, a very effective agricultural extension service and last but not the least the price support policy of the Government. In a free economy, the price incentive is the best incentive and

following this policy my Government have recently raised the procurement price of rice in east Pakistan. Other incentives to production of crops are also being provided. Chemical fertilizers are being sold at about one-third of the cost price and plan protection measures adopted by Government have been made available to every farmer, entirely free of cost.

Another important fact is that our agricultural production depends very largely on rainfall and its excess or shortage alter the picture very much. Floods and droughts have played havoc with our efforts to step up agricultural production and ruined our ideal. Many successive devastating floods visited our country and occasional droughts in both the wings have created further serious difficulties. My Government has given the agricultural development the top-most priority in its planning and we propose to maintain pressure for increase in agricultural production until we achieve self-sufficiency in food as well as desired production of raw materials. Our first objective is the immediate building up of food reserve. We, therefore, propose to start with a modest reserve of 2.5 lakh tons of rice in East Pakistan and 2.5 lakh tons of wheat in West Pakistan this year. We are also concentrating effort on providing an extra crop in East Pakistan during the dry winter months through lift irrigation. In this connection I may mention that we have received 1,000 pumping sets this winter for irrigating lands which get dry during winter and for which irrigation is available. Already 600 of these pumps are under use.

I am very happy to note that your Chamber has appreciated the Government's effort to eradicate the menace of smuggling which has caused so much loss to this country. We will welcome the continued co-operation of important public bodies and members of the public in fighting this evil. Unless popular co-operation is continuously and ungrudgingly extended it will not be possible for Government to achieve satisfactory results of a permanent result. Intensive anti-smuggling drive, I can assure you, will continue as long it is necessary.

Mr President, you have complained that you and your associates are not consulted in matters of trade and commerce and industry by the Government. This is not quite correct. I can assure you that the Central and Provincial Governments are always anxious to have the advice of the trade decisions concerning commercial issues. The Central Government have recently decided to set up a Committee called the Import Control Advisory Committee including representatives of Trade and Industry from the different regions to advise Government in framing the import licensing policy in each shipping period, the procedure of licensing and allied matters. The enactment of the particular Act referred to by you, namely, the East Pakistan Development of Industries (Control and Regulation) Act, 1957, was necessary only because the Constitution generally placed industries under the control of the Provincial Government. As this Act was drawn up on the lines of the Development of Industries (Federal Control) Act of 1949 the provisions of which had been in force for the last eight years it was not felt quite necessary to consult the trade afresh on them. Government will always welcome any constructive suggestions and will give their fullest consideration in order to improve upon the existing Act, if that is possible.

The improvement of Inland Water Transport system is a provincial responsibility. Our Central Government is fully aware of the need of improving the Inland Water Transport system in East Pakistan. The Central Government has also made a preliminary approach under the ICA Aid programme for the provision of a loan of 4.03 million Dollars over a period of three years from the United States Development Loan Fund for the development and improvement of Inland ports and

waterways. You can rest assured that my Government will leave no stone unturned for the development of waterways and water transport of the Province.

As regard the Chalna anchorage, the Central Government have moved for a loan of one million Dollars under the ICA programme to purchase the hulk of a ship to use as floating warehouse with offices for custom and other officers to clear the goods for transit in the interior stations.

Mr President I am glad that the improvement in the over-all working of the Chittagong Port has been appreciated by you. Government are doing everything in their power to facilitate further development of trade of two wings of Pakistan. As Chittagong is now the principal port in the Eastern Zone of Pakistan, appreciable development expenditure has been incurred on improving the port and its facilities.

Your suggestion to include in Government Committee experience business executives representing trade organizations such as yourselves is a good one and I will certainly ask my Government to make a note of it and I am sure it will receive the Government's fullest consideration.

I can assure that Government are very earnest to see that industrial peace which is so essential for the development of the country is not disturbed. Government are determined to deal with the illegal and frivolous strikes very firmly. But at the same time the Government are determined that the labourers get just wages and other amenities. The government have, therefore, set up a Minimum Wages Board which will recommend to Government the minimum wages which are to be paid to the various classes of labour. Compulsory recognition of trade unions has already been legislated by the Government which will foster healthy trade unionism. The intention of Government is to ensure that the labourers get a reasonable wage for their toils consistent with the policy that the industrials also get a fair return on their investment. Government hope that both the employers and employees will recognise the importance of industrial peace in the life of growing Nation and will strive to maintain it in the best interest of the country and to their mutual benefit.

It is heartening to note that you are alive to the necessity of securing to the cultivator of a fair return for his jute. I can assure that it is not the aim of the Government's jute policies to raise the jute prices higher and higher. The Government are anxious to see that production is so regulated that jute price is maintained at a level, which is not only fair to the grower but economic to the importer as well. The Government are fully alive to the danger of substitutes and it is not their intention to frame the jute policy in such a way that Pakistani jute is priced out of the international market. The policy of Government is to strike a balance among the conflicting interests of growers, traders, industrialists and the consumers, so that while the growers get a fair price, the substitutes do not oust the jute from its legitimate places in the world market.

As I mentioned to the President of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce the drought caused a serious reduction last year's tea crop which is regretted by all of us. However, by intensifying efforts, and by increasing the area under cultivation, the industry can ensure its own prosperity.

I will now conclude my address by tanking you Mr President and Members of your Chamber once again for extending your kind invitation to me to address this meeting.

Appendix - 15

Mr Abdul Monem Khan

Governor of East Pakistan (1963)

[Mr Abdul Monem Khan, Governor of East Pakistan, delivered his Speech as the Chief Guest in replying to the presidential address in the 59th Annual General Meeting of NCCI held on 19 December, 1963. This Speech has been compiled in the Annual Report of 1964, PP. 16-22 as follows]

Mr President, Members of the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industries (NCCI), Gentlemen,

I am grateful to you for your kind invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting of your Chamber and to have the opportunity of exchanging views with your members. It is needless to mention that a well organized Chamber of Commerce and Industry, promoted by considerations of national interest, can play a very useful role in helping Government in formulating policies, economical, fiscal or otherwise, in the best interest of the country. In fact the views and suggestions of Chambers are always given due consideration by Government before policy decisions are made. I am glad to note that your Chamber has been playing its part well and I would like to record my appreciation for the same.

2. In your address you have covered a wide range of subjects, both in the national and international spheres including fiscal and monetary policy of the country. Many of your suggestions in fiscal and monetary and socio-economic spheres fall within the jurisdiction of the Central Government. I have no doubt that the relevant authorities of the Central Government will carefully consider your suggestions in formulating policies for the future. In so far as they may relate to the sphere of the Provincial Government, I can assure you that the Provincial Government will give their best consideration in removing any difficulty which the Trade and Industry may encounter in maintaining steady and buoyant growth.

3. It is heartening to note that the forecast for the current year does not portend any recession and the boom already evidenced is likely to continue. It needs, however, to be pointed out that in spite of the improved outlook in the agricultural commodity market, the downturn, noticed in some of the important commodities produced by Pakistan, has continued, affecting the economy of the country as a whole, and of this Province in particular. The specific points you have made in regard to this aspect will be dealt with in the appropriate place. I would like to mention here that there is a good deal of difference in the approach in this respect between the Trade and the Government and the part played by the Trade in this respect cannot always be looked upon with equanimity.

4. We are now passing through the transitory phase of transformation into a semi-industrial economy. It is satisfactory to note that the industrial production showed an increase of 13.4 percent. In spite of overall decline in the growth rate in the national income during 1962-63 and that response from the private sector was satisfactory.

5. About 80 percent of our people live in villages and, therefore, the development of rural areas and

improvement of standards of living of the masses should be uppermost in the minds of our planners. All our future plans programmes must be made with this object in view. We must industrialise our country and increase the contribution of Industry to the gross national product but the development of agriculture and improvement of communication, educational, medical and other facilities in the villages should go hand in hand with the development of Industry, in order that the entire nation can benefit from the development efforts.

6. I entirely agree with you that the decline in prices of agricultural exports and corresponding increase of those of the manufactured goods pose a serious problem for most of the developing countries like ours, when it is viewed against an ever rising trend in the price of raw materials and manufactured goods, including machinery, which we have to import in order to establish new industries and maintain the old ones. The unit values of Pakistan's total export have generally been on the decline except during years of temporary boom in the price of our exportable commodities and her terms of trade, which during the period of April, 1948 was 100 fell to 60.1 in October-December, 1962. Although our export earnings are increasing but this increase is largely offset by the fall in price of Pakistan's major exports in agricultural raw materials. Diversification of the economy by rapid industrialization of the country and lessening the dependence on exports of primary commodities seem to be the only answer to this. This imposes a heavy responsibility to our industrialists to take all steps to increase the tempo of production and to produce quality goods at a cheaper and competitive price and to explore new markets for the same. Similar steps are necessary to be taken in regard to agricultural commodities, especially jute. In order to meet the challenge of substitutes we must produce our golden fibre at still cheaper price and take steps to find out varied uses of jute fibre.

7. Mr President I entirely agree with you that the private sector should be allowed to play its rightful role in the speedy development of the country. That is in fact one of the objectives of the Second Five-Year Plan and it has been reiterated on numerous occasions. This will be amply demonstrated if we examine the revised investment schedule which has raised the private sector investment figure from Rs 69.96 crores to Rs 95.44 crores of East Pakistan alone. It is proposed to give greater importance to private sector investment during the Third plan. The public sector investment has generally been confined to heavy capital-intensive and less remunerative industries in which private enterprise has not been forthcoming either generally or in particular regions.

8. In this context I like to touch very briefly on the subject of taxation and probable anti-cartel measures which you have mentioned in your address. Government is anxious to give all facilities to the private sector for capital formation and for setting up industries very rapidly. At the same time the benefits of the industrialization should be shared by other agencies contributing to the growth of national product either in the form of cheaper or finished products, or in the form of equitable wages for the labourers. No Government having the good of the people at heart can play a silent role while concentration of wealth in the hands of a few is giving rise to general discontent. Our labour legislation and taxation measures have been designed to maintain the social equilibrium and the same time to ensure steady industrial progress in order that the entire nation can participate in the prosperity generated by the industrial development of the country and to enjoy greater social and economic benefits. I can give you assurance that while these principles will be kept in view, nothing will be done to the detriment of legitimate interests of the private sector. I am aware that no Cartel

as such has been formed but what we are anxious to avoid is the effect which concentration of trade and industry in a few hands is likely to produce to the detriment of the interest of the nation as a whole.

9. Whilst on the subject of labour I think I hardly need emphasise that the relationship between employer and employees is a relationship that involves a balance of both rights and obligations of either side. This naturally requires a certain amount of human understanding, co-operation and appreciation of each others view point. I would, however, request you to remember that under the conciliation procedures Government has no power to compel any party, whether be labour or the management, to concede anything. It is only after conciliation fails that the parties become entitled to seek redress of their grievances through the process of adjudication in the industrial Court. It is well to remember that happy and contended labour is also efficient labour. As the persian saying runs:

*Mazdoor Khus Dil
Kunad-Kar Besh*

I would like to appeal to labour to maintain discipline and not to do anything which impairs the capacity of industries to pay them adequate wages, by resorting to strike or lockout on insufficient grounds or use force in forcing their will on others, as such action has the effect of reducing the output and earning of the industry. Every man-hour lost means loss of output and earnings of the Industry and is a national loss as it reduces the national product. We assure them that their legitimate grievances will always receive the most sympathetic consideration of Government.

10. In regard to import under AID licensing mentioned by you, I may point out that due to rather tight foreign exchange position, it has not been possible to import all the requirements of raw materials under cash licensing. However, your suggestion regarding placement of spare parts and machineries on cash licensing is being sent to the Ministry of Commerce for their consideration. The real remedy to this situation is to quickly augment the foreign exchange earnings. You have referred to increase the foreign exchange earnings during 1962, but most of this is due to increase in the earnings of one commodity, namely, cotton. There has not been significant increase in the contribution of other commodities either agricultural or industrial. Government have adopted several measures to boost up exports and are endeavoring to give more and more encouragement to export industries. The export bonus Scheme which you have mentioned is but one of the many measures taken towards this end and it is up to the industries to take advantage of these measures to augment exports and exports earnings instead of merely continuing their sale to the sheltered home market.

11. In jute export, quota system and price advantage to the small shippers have obviously been retorted to for broadbasing this trade and to boost up small Pakistani shippers. Jute marketing Corporation is at a disadvantage as compared to other shippers because it has to carry out the directives of Government about lifting of jute from uneconomic centres, particularly border areas and at a fixed price – a job which other buyers were not too enthusiastic to do in the past. Besides, the Corporation is also to hold the buffer stock. For all these considerations, the price advantage which the Jute Market Corporation is enjoying with other small shippers may not be grudged.

12. Government are also keen to see the Jute Industry developed as much and as fast as possible. It is the single largest industry in this Province. The target for jute loomage during the Second Plan period has been raised to 18,000 and sanction for installation of another 2,000 looms has already been given. The expansion programme of the existing mills from 250 to 500 loomage has also been taken in hand. I am happy to find that this industry is steadily making progress.

13. We have taken note of your suggestions regarding the economic size of Textile Mills. We are trying to get a larger allocation of spindles in East Pakistan and this request of yours will be taken into consideration along with other factors.

14. Your request to extend the Export Bonus Scheme beyond the period of the Second Plan will be placed before the Central Government.

15. You have mentioned about the condition of certain roads in the Province. I have already touched on the need for improvement of communications all around – road, rail and water. You are aware of the difficulty and cost of making roads and maintaining them in this Province. I would like to consider that at the time of independence we in East Pakistan inherited only 240 miles of paved roads. By 1962-63 the total mileage of paved roads in the Province have increased to 1,400 miles of which more than 500 miles have been constructed during the first three years of the Second Five-Year Plan. I can, however, assure you that the roads you have mentioned are within our plan of improvement of trunk and local roads and the work would be taken up in due course as additional funds are available.

16. In regard to Tea, we are in an unfortunate position. The consumption is increasing at a rate faster than the production can increase under normal circumstances. The production as you know is subject to variation due to climatic factors and during two years recently production went down by 30 and 12 percent respectively. Government have launched a scheme of expansion of areas in the existing gardens and of setting up new gardens and have provided all possible facilities in regard to credit, tax holidays and moratorium in regard to payment of Government revenues. The industry which is making not inconsiderable profit should come forward to undertake schemes of irrigation so that the fall in production from drought can be prevented and per acre production can be increased substantially. We can then keep pace with the increased demand and can also spare a sizeable quantity for the export market.

17. As regards hides/skins, our Industry should now aim at processing the bulk of hides and skins produced locally and convert them into finished goods as far as possible so that our export can take the shape of finished leather or leather goods. Our leather goods have already established a market in some foreign countries and there is scope for further increase.

18. It is gratifying to note that the plans the major IWT operators for modernization, rehabilitation and expansion of their fleets are now well under way. It is hoped that much greater attention will be paid by them in future to augment the passenger capacity with improved standard of comfort, safety and speed, and to acquire additional river-cum-sea transport capacity for serving the Chittagong Port.

19. It seems to me that the plans for changeover from coal-fired vessels to diesel propelled ones were not dictated by the merits of the cheaper fuel costs alone but also for other important reasons such

as (i) the relative advantages of volume weight/power ratio of diesel engines, thereby making more space available on the vessels for carriage of cargo and passengers, (ii) maximum operational flexibility inherent in a diesel installation and (iii) less fuel consumption for keeping the vessels in readiness. In the ultimate analysis, there should be savings in the direct operational costs of diesel vessels even with the increased fuel costs.

20. After making detailed study of the impact of increased duty on fuel oils on the operating costs, the IWTA have already authorised an increase of 7 per cent. in the "special rates" of major operators.

21. For a short period power supply from the Kaptai Hydro station was interrupted due to faults due to fault developing in the generators on account of certain manufacturing defects. One of the machines has already been repaired and is operating satisfactorily to meet the full demand and the other will be put back into service within a short period. But I do not think I can agree with you in doubting the total wisdom of setting up the Kaptai project. It is well to remember that the Kaptai project is a multi-purpose project. It has contributed towards saving the Karnafhuli and Halda basin from the extensive ravages of floods. It has proved useful for navigation purposes. Since its commission, the Hydro generating station has contributed in less than two years 365 million kilowatt-hours of energy worth about Rs 30 million in the cost of fuel alone which would have to be imported otherwise. To have thermal station in each district, running on imported fuel would be a costly affair. However, with the discovery of natural gas proposals are already in hand for planning additional thermal power stations in the province. The general question of reducing power rates in East Pakistan is already being actively considered by Government.

22. I thank you once again Mr Chairman and Members of your Chamber for having given me this opportunity of coming into contact with you and acquainting myself with the problem faced by trade and industry. I can assure you that we shall spare no pains to meet your legitimate demands.

Appendix - 16 (1)

CERTIFICATE OF NAME CHANGE

Issue No. 1220

**IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES
UNDER ACT OF VII OF 1913**

**IN THE MATTER OF NARAYANGANJ CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

122-124, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka

I do hereby certify that pursuant to the provisions of Section II, sub-section (5), Act VII, 1913 (the Companies Act, 1913), and under order of the Government of Bangladesh conveyed by their No. 2 (23)/79, T.O. Department, Ministry of Commerce dated the 4th December/79 to the address of Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 122-124, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dacca, the name of Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry has this day been changed to Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka and that the said Company has been duly incorporated as a Company under the provisions of the said Act.

Dated this 21st day of December, One thousand Nine hundred and Seventy nine.

Sd/-

(Mohammad Ali)

Registrar,

Joint Stock Companies,

Bangladesh

SEAL

J. S. C. 39

P C P P D -II Shift-2362/69-70 (c)-(c-432)-24-3-70-1. 500.

Appendix - 16(2)



CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

C/76

No. 1305-E.P. of 1959-1960
34

I hereby certify that Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry is this day incorporated under the Companies Act VII of 1913.

Given under my hand at Chittagong this eight day of October, One thousand Nine hundred and Fifty nine.

SEAL
Registrar of Joint Stock Companies,
East Pakistan

Sd/- **B. Huq.**
Registrar of Joint Stock Companies,
EAST PAKISTAN

Appendix - 16(3)

LICENCE



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

Ministry of Commerce

Licence

No. 3

Issued under Section 26th of the Companies Act, 1913.

WHEREAS it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Central Government that an association calling itself Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been formed for promoting trade, commerce or industry and representing and protecting the interests of persons engaged in trade, commerce or industry and doing acts and things connected there with or incidental thereto and that it applies its profits or other income in promoting its object and prohibits the payment of any divided to its members:

NOW, THEREFORE, in pursuance of Section 26th of the Companies Act, 1913 (VII OF 1913), the Central Government by this licence is pleased to direct that the said association be registered as a company with limited liability without the addition of the word 'Limited' to its name,

THIS LICENCE is granted subject to:-

- (a) The fulfillment by the said association of the requirement of the paragraphs I to 14 of the Central Government Resolution No. 333/101/57-EP, III, dated the 18 November, 1958 as amended, from time to time, except where any exemption is granted by the Ministry of Commerce; and
- (b) The conditions and regulations contained in the Memorandum and the Article of Association of the said association, a copy of which is hereto annexed, to the extent such conditions and regulation are not inconsistent with the said Resolution.

GIVEN under the hand Abbas Khaleeli, Secretary to the Government of Pakistan in the Ministry of Commerce, this 16th day of March, 1959.

Mc, 3-Spl
GPPK-H51 Commerce-232-59-500

Sd/-Abbas Khaleeli
Secretary to the Government of Pakistan

Appendix - 17			
Office-bearers for 2014			
01.	Rokia Afzal Rahman	President	Chair, Arlinks Limited
02.	Anis A Khan	Vice-President	Managing Director & CEO, Mutual Trust Bank Ltd
03.	Syed Tareque Md Ali	Member	Managing Director, Kushtia Cold Storage Ltd
04.	M Anis Ud Dowla	"	Chairman, Advanced Chemical Industries Ltd
05.	Tabith M Awal	"	Managing Director, Kay & Que (Bangladesh) Ltd
06.	Akhter Matin Chaudhury, FCA	"	Chairman & Managing Director, Nuvista Pharma Ltd
07.	AKM Rafiqul Islam, FCA	"	Chairman, Rangamati Water Front
08.	Md Saiful Islam	"	Managing Director, Picard Bangladesh Ltd
09.	Habibullah N Karim	"	Managing Director, Technohaven Company Ltd
10.	Adeeb H Khan, FCA	"	Senior Partner, Rahman Rahman Huq
11.	Golam Mainuddin	"	Chairman, British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company Limited
12.	Kamran T Rahman	"	Managing Director, Pubali Jute Mills Limited
13.	Mamun Rashid	"	Vice Chairman, BD Venture Limited

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Farooq Ahmed

Source: <http://www.mccibd.org/pages/office-bearers.php>

Appendix - 18**MCCI, Dhaka: Member List (September 30, 2014)****ORDINARY MEMBERS****A**

aamra Networks Limited
aamra Technologies Limited
AB Bank Limited
Abdul Monem Limited
Abdul Monem Sugar Refinery Limited
ACI Foods Limited
ACI Formulations Limited
ACI Godrej Agrovet Private Limited
ACI Logistics Limited
ACI Motors Limited
ACI Pure Flour Limited
ACI Salt Limited
Acnabin
Advanced Chemical Industries Ltd
AEG Engineering Limited
AEI-English Electric of Bangladesh Limited
Aftab Automobiles Limited
Aftab Bahumukhi Farms Ltd
Aftab Feed Products Ltd
Agrani Bank Ltd
Agricultural Marketing Co Ltd
A. K. Khan & Company Limited
Albert David (Bangladesh) Limited
Alltex Industries Ltd
Alpha Tobacco Mfg Co Ltd
Amann Bangladesh Limited
Ambee Pharmaceuticals Limited
American Life Insurance Company
A M Foods Limited
Apex Footwear Limited
Apex Foods Limited
Apex Lingerie Limited
Apexpharma Limited
Apex Spinning & Knitting Mills Ltd
Apex Textile Printing Mills Ltd
Apex Tannery Limited
Apex Weaving & Finishing Mills Ltd
Apex Yarn Dyeing Ltd

Archroma (Bangladesh) Ltd
Arlinks Limited
Asian Surveyors Limited
Astras Garments Limited
Avery Bangladesh Limited

B

Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation
Bangladesh Development Bank Ltd
Bangladesh Export Import Co Ltd
Bangladesh Insulator & Sanitaryware Factory Limited
Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation
Bangladesh Jute Mills Limited
Bangladesh Lamps Limited
Bangladesh Paper Mills Limited
Bank Asia Limited
BASF Bangladesh Limited
Basundhara Garments Limited
Bata Shoe Co (Bangladesh) Ltd
Bayer Crop Science Limited
BD Venture Ltd
Bengal Fisheries Limited
Bengal Glass Works Limited, The
Bengal Shipping Line Ltd
Bengal Steel Works Limited
Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited
Beverage Distribution Ltd
Beximco Apparels Limited
Beximco Pharmaceuticals Limited
Birds Bangladesh Agencies Limited
BRAC Bank Limited
BRAC Impact Venture Ltd
BRAC Net Ltd
British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company Ltd
Bureau Veritas (BIVAC) Bangladesh Ltd

C

Cemex Cement (Bangladesh) Ltd
Central Depository Bangladesh Ltd
Chandpur Jute Mills Limited
Citibank NA
City Brokerage Ltd
Coats Bangladesh Limited
Coca-Cola Far East Limited
Concord Condominium Limited

Concord Engineers & Construction Limited
Concorde Garments Limited
Consolidated Chemicals Limited
Consumer Products Limited
Cosmos Shipping Lines (Pvt) Ltd
Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC

D

Dacca Dyeing & Mfg Co Ltd, The
Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation Ltd
Delta Ties Limited
Desh Garments Limited
Dhaka Regency Hotel & Resort Ltd
DHS Motors Ltd
Dipon Infrastructure Services Ltd
Dr Kamal Hossain & Associates
Duncan Brothers (Bangladesh) Ltd
Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited

E

East Asia Tanneries Limited
East Coast Shipping Lines Ltd
Eastern Bank Limited
Eastern Housing Limited
Eastern Progressive Shoe Industries Limited
edotco Bangladesh Co Ltd
Elite International Limited
Elite Iron & Steel Industries Ltd
Emerging Credit Rating Ltd
Energypac Power Generation Ltd
Envoy Garments Limited
Eskayef Bangladesh Limited
Essential Drugs Company Limited

F

Federal Insurance Company Ltd

G

General Electric Company of Bangladesh Limited, The
GK Garments Limited
GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh Ltd
Gonoshasthaya Pharmaceuticals Ltd
GrameenPhone Limited
Green Delta Securities Ltd
Green Delta Insurance Company Limited

H

H & H Company
Hives Engineering Limited
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, The
Holcim Cement (Bangladesh) Limited
Hotel Sarina Ltd
HRC Shipping Ltd
HRC Syndicate Ltd
Huq and Company

I

IBCS-PRIMAX Software (Bangladesh) Ltd
ICE Retail Initiative Ltd
ICE Technologies Limited
Imtiyaz Husain Securities Limited
Industrial and Infrastructure Development Finance Co Ltd
IDLC Finance Limited
Impress Telefilm Ltd
Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd
Industrial Promotion and Development Company of Bangladesh Limited
Information Solutions Limited
Integrated Foods & Beverages Private Ltd
International Finance Investment and Commerce Bank Limited
International Leasing & Financial Services Limited
Investment Corporation of Bangladesh

J

Jamuna Oil Company Limited
Jamuna Resort Ltd
Janata Bank Limited
Janata Jute Mills Limited
Jaroms Consultants Limited
JF (Bangladesh) Limited
Joongbo Multimode Chemicals Limited

K

Karim Jute Mills Limited
Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Ltd
Karnaphuli Limited
Kay & Que (Bangladesh) Ltd
Kedarpur Tea Company Ltd
Khulna Power Co Ltd
Khulna Power Company Unit II Limited
Knit Asia Limited
Kumudini Welfare Trust of Bengal (Bangladesh) Limited

L

Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd
Lal Teer Livestock Limited
Latif Bawany Jute Mills Limited
Libra Infusions Limited
Linde Bangladesh Limited
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Company Limited, The

M

Maersk Bangladesh Limited
Magnum Steel Industries Limited
Malek Spinning Mills Limited
Meenhar Sea Foods Limited
Meghna Jute Mills Limited
Meghna Petroleum Limited
Milnars Pumps Limited
Mirpur Ceramic Works Limited
MJ Abedin & Co
MM Ispahani Limited
Moazzem Knit & Dyeing Industries Limited
Mohsen Jute Mills Limited
Monno Ceramic Industries Limited
Monno Fabrics Limited
Mutual Food Products Limited
Mutual Trust Bank Limited

N

National Brokers Limited
National Housing Finance and Investments Ltd
National Tea Company Limited
Navana Limited
Navana Pharmaceuticals Ltd
Nestle Bangladesh Limited
New Dacca Industries Limited
New Zealand Dairy Products Bangladesh Ltd
Nirman International Limited
Nitol Insurance Company Ltd
Novartis (Bangladesh) Limited
Nuvista Pharma Limited

O

Octagon Fibres & Chemicals Ltd
Olympic Industries Limited
Omnichem Limited

Omnitrans International Limited

Opex Garments Limited

Orr, Dignam & Co

P

Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Ltd

Pacific Industries Limited

Pacific Motors Limited

Pacific Traders Limited

Padma Oil Company Limited

Paragon Ceramic Industries Ltd

Paragon Poultry Limited

Partex Jute Mills Ltd

Picard Bangladesh Limited

Pioneer Insurance Co Ltd

Pragati Insurance Limited

Pragati Life Insurance Limited

Premiaflex Plastics Limited

Prime Bank Limited

Prime Composite Mills Limited

Prime Steel Re-Rolling Mills Ltd

Powerpac-Mutiara Keraniganj Power Plant Limited

Pubali Bank Limited

Pubali Jute Mills Limited

Q

QC Shipping Limited

Quantum Consumer Solutions Limited

Quantum Pharmaceuticals Limited

R

Radiant Pharmaceuticals Ltd

Rahimafrooz Accumulators Ltd

Rahimafrooz Batteries Limited

Rahimafrooz Distribution Ltd

Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy Ltd

Rahimafrooz Globatt Ltd

Rahman Rahman Huq

Raj Lanka Power Co Ltd

Rangamati Waterfront

Rangpur Foundry Limited

Rangs Limited

Rangs Properties Limited

Reckitt Benckiser (Bangladesh) Limited

Reliance Insurance Limited

Rema Tea Company Limited

Remfry & Son Limited
Renata Agro Industries Limited
Renata Limited
Robi Axiata Limited
Rupali Bank Limited
Ruposhi Bangla Hotel

S

Sadat Jute Industries Limited
Sadharan Bima Corporation
Sajida Foundation
Samah Razor Blades Industries Limited
Sanofi Bangladesh Ltd
Sathgao Tea Estate
Sena Kalyan Sangstha
SF Ahmed & Co
Shaw Wallace Bangladesh Ltd
Sheltech (Pvt) Limited
Shinepukur Ceramics Limited
Shohagpur Textile Mills Limited
Sidko Limited
Siemens Bangladesh Limited
Singer Bangladesh Limited
Sinha Dyeing & Finishing Limited
Social Marketing Company
Soiltech International Limited
Sonali Bank Limited
Southeast Bank Limited
Square Food & Beverage Ltd
Square Fashions Limited
Square Hospitals Limited
Square Informatix Limited
Square Pharmaceuticals Limited
Square Textiles Limited
Square Toiletries Limited
Square Yarns Limited
Stainless Industrial Corporation Ltd
Standard Asiatic Oil Co Ltd
Standard Bank Limited
Standard Chartered Bank
Star Particle Board Mills Limited
Summit Bibiyana – I Power Co Ltd
Summit Bibiyana – II Power Co Ltd
Summit Communications Ltd
Summit Industrial & Mercantile Corporation (Pvt) Ltd

Summit Meghnaghat Power Co Ltd
Summit Narayanganj Power Ltd
Summit Power Ltd
Summit Oil & Shipping Co Limited
Supreme Pharmaceuticals Ltd
SW Multimedia Ltd
SW Shipping Limited
Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed & Associates
Syngenta Bangladesh Limited

T

Tea Holdings Limited
Technohaven Company Ltd
Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Ltd
Tetley ACI (Bangladesh) Ltd
Tradexcel Graphics Limited
Transcom Beverages Limited
Transcom Consumer Products Ltd
Transcom Electronics Limited
Transcom Limited
Transcom Technologies Limited
Transmarine Logistics Limited
Tricorp Limited
Trinco Limited

U

Unilever Bangladesh Ltd
United Insurance Company Limited
United Jute Mills Limited
United Leasing Company Limited
Uttara Bank Limited

W

Wilhelm G. Classen (Bangladesh) Ltd
W Rahman Jute Mills Limited
Wyeth-Ayerst International Inc

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

A

ACI HealthCare Limited
Ayna Broadcasting Corporation Ltd
Azim & Son (Pvt.) Ltd

B

Beximco Fashions Limited

I

IT Connect Ltd

K

Kushtia Cold Storage Limited

M

Maasranga Broadcasting Network Ltd
Maasranga Communications Ltd

S

Square Air Limited
Square Formulations Ltd
Square Herbal & Nutraceuticals Ltd

T

Transcraft Limited
Transcom Cables Limited
Transcom Foods Limited
Transcom Mobile Ltd

V

Vision Technologies Limited

Appendix - 19

Selected MESSAGES for the Chamber's Diamond Jubilee Celebration (1904-1979)

Published in the Annual Report of 1978-1979

Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce & Industry (NCCI)

19 (a)

Kamruddin Ahmad

On the 16th of December 1971, Pakistan armed forces surrendered and 'War of Liberation' came to an end. Bangladesh emerged as a sovereign People's Republic, but I was still in the custody of the Pakistan Army. The Jail Gate was opened on the 17th morning by the 'Muktibahini' and I came out as free citizen of a newly independent state.

On the 18 December 1971, I joined my Firm Orr, Dignam & Co, and within a week I received a cable from Lord Incharge Group from London to accept its offer to become the President of Pakistan Rivers Steamers Limited (later came to be known as BDRS). By the end of the year, I had to accept the Chairmanship of Ralli (Bangladesh) Limited, Carew & Co. and the Directorship of Gladstone Wyllie, Shaw Wallace, Industrial Promotion Services and Dalhousie Co. Ltd., I could appreciate the reason behind those offers. They all wanted to take advantage of my detention by the Pakistan Army.

Shortly afterwards, the General Manager of PRS Mr A Qayyum indicated to me that he would like to propose my name as the President of the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry. I hesitated firstly because I was inherently a professional man and had never anything to do with Commerce & Industry except their legal parts, secondly I had never attended any Chamber meeting though I joined their annual Dinners First contact of most of their members began since 1969-70 when I specialized in Management-Labour Relations Law.

In the Tripartite Standing Committee meeting and Tripartite Labour Conference in 1970, I was chosen as the spokesman of the East Pakistan Employer's Association in Karachi. Thus, I became the President of the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry and had to continue for three consecutive years, the longest period one is allowed under the Chamber constitution to hold that post.

But, I did not invite either the Minister of Commerce or Industry to address the Chamber Members during my time as I did not agree with their views. The Dacca Chamber of Commerce under its almost permanent President Mr Motiur Rahman, another Minister took full advantage of my policy but I must say I was fully supported by the Chamber members and faced the consequent unhappy relationship with the Government in power. I knew it was risky but I stuck to my principle and I paid the penalty which I never divulged to any one and kept up my appearance. During those three years I never took advantage from the Chamber or the Government and I acted more as its solicitor than as President.

I am, however, still extremely grateful to those members of the Chamber apart from the Secretary of the Chamber who extended financial assistance to Udayan School, which used the fund to construct a big room for students of Nursery class.

Sd Kamruddin Ahmad

President (1972, 73, 74)

19 (b)**CEC Guthrie**

It was a great privilege to be the President of the Chamber on two occasions i. e. for 1947-48 and again in 1950-51.

After the end of world War-II, the Chamber was very nearly non-existent but with the energetic endeavours the number of member firms was quickly increased. During my first term of office, Swrup Mukherjee was Acting Hony. Secretary. Then the late Gillespi Allen took over until Mr Emorphopulas was installed as Secretary of the Chamber. He was followed by Mr Jack Garcia who was Secretary until I retired in July 1956 (31.7.56 to be correct.)

The Chamber of Commerce had no office of its own and usually met in Narayanganj Club Committee Room or in the Institute and thereafter in Dacca at the Secretary's residence.

My first AGM was held in the institute and was a short meeting owing to the sudden death of a prominent national leader.

During my second term of office the Chamber sent a delegation to Karachi which I had the pleasure of leading to the Special Meeting held in the Sind Club. The AGM that year was addressed by the Governor of East Pakistan.

The Chamber had many dealings with the Jute Board during the different period just after partition in 1947 and their endeavours greatly benefited the export of Jute to Calcutta under export bonus.

Sd **CEC Guthrie**,
President (1948, 1951)

19 (c)

M Mehdy Ispahani

I have had been associated with Dacca Narayanganj Chamber now Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry for over thirty years. I have very pleasant memories of how closely the Mercantile community worked amongst themselves and with other sectors of our society. Unlike today, the Mercantile community was held in high esteem by the people and Government. People rejoiced when an industry whether jute Mill or Cotton Mill was established.

When our advice was sought by Government, like today we placed national interest above our community interest. Whether politicians or Civil servants, there was regular exchange of views with us and this team work produced results for the good of the country.

Neither the politician or Civil servants nor the businessmen professed to know everything. Loyalty and nationalism were not the monopoly of any one section and no one was challenged on these two counts. Merchants and Industrialists were inducted by Government were entrusted with nation building tasks. It is to the credit of our community that such tasks whether in the field of Commerce or Banking or Industry were performed with great devotion and zeal.

If we, as a nation, are to keep up the old spirit de corps, it would do well for all of us to emulate the noble example set by the pioneers.

On this great occasion of the Diamond Jubilee celebration, may I wish the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry a long life and continued service to the people and the country.

Sd M Mehdy Ispahani,
President (1955, 1956, 1960)

19 (d)**A QAYYUM**

I am very happy to learn that to mark the 75th year of its existence the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry is going to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee very shortly. I had the honour and privilege of having been associated with this premier Chamber of the country for many years both as a Member of the Executive Committee and, for one term in 1971, as its President. My experience during my term of office as the President of the Chamber was indeed unique, for although a purely non-political organisation and devoted entirely to furthering the cause of commerce and industry, it was, perhaps, for the first time in its entire history that in 1971 the Chamber took an unprecedented decision of making a substantial donation for a political cause, thereby fully identifying itself with the political aspirations of the people of this country. For several months immediately prior to the Pak Army crackdown, this Chamber had also the rare privilege of having been constantly consulted by the principal political party of that time to provide advice and guidance on all matters concerning trade, commerce and industry.

The Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry has undoubtedly been playing a very active role in serving the nation and I felicitate the Chamber on this happy occasion of its Diamond Jubilee. I also hope that the collective endeavours of all members of this Chamber will be so directed as will ensure a balanced and healthy growth of trade, commerce and industry. In this country and thereby enrich our nation.

Sd/- **A Qayyum**
President (1971)

Appendix - 20

Names and Addresses of the Chamber Subscribers in 1949/ Founding Members in the New Phase (1949)		
SL	Names	Address and Descriptions of Subscribers
1	DP Fafallios	Merchant- Rally Brothers Ltd, EP Branch, Narayanganj
2	LK Nixon	Managing Director- R Sims & Co Ltd, Narayanganj
3	G Allan	Director- Sonakhunda Baling Co Ltd, Narayanganj
4	Ismail GH, Ariff	Agent- Bengal Assam Steamship Co Ltd, Narayanganj
5	SW Alexander	Manager- Ludlow Pakistan Co Ltd, Narayanganj
6	KP Matthews	Join Agent- IGN & RSN Co Ltd, Narayanganj
7	JA Coldwell	Manager- M Sarkies & Son, Narayanganj

Witness to the above:

Singature: GP Henwood

Appendix - 21**Objectives of the Chamber**

- 1) To promote and protect the trade, commerce and industry and manufactures of Bangladesh and in particular, the trade, commerce, industry and manufactures of Dhaka and Narayanganj.
- 2) To watch over and protect the general commercial and industrial interests of Bangladesh or any part there of and the interests of persons engaged in trade, commerce, industry or manufactures in Bangladesh and in particular in Dhaka and Narayanganj.
- 3) To consider all questions connected with trade, commerce, industry and manufactures.
- 4) To collect and circulate statistics and other information relating to trade, commerce, industry and manufactures.
- 5) To promote or oppose legislative and other measures affecting, trade, commerce, industry and manufactures.
- 6) To adjust controversies between members of the Association.
- 7) To arbitrate in the settlement of disputes arising of commercial transactions between parties willing or agreeing to abide by the judgment and decision of the Association.
- 8) To established just and equitable principles in trade.
- 9) To form a code or codes of practice to simplify and facilitate transaction of business, industry.
- 10) To maintain uniformity in rules, regulations and users of trade.
- 11) To communicate with Chambers of Commerce and other mercantile and public bodies throughout the world, and concert and promote measures for the protection of trade, commerce, industry and manufactures and persons engaged therein.
- 12) To acquire by purchase, taking on lease, or otherwise lands and buildings and all other property, moveable and immoveable which the Association, for purposes thereof, may, from time to time, think proper to acquire.
- 13) To sell, improve, manage, develop exchange, lease or let under lease, sublet, mortgage, dispose of, turn to account or otherwise deal with, all or any part of the property of the Association.
- 14) To construct upon any premises acquired for the purpose of the Association, any building or buildings for the purposes of the Association and to alter, add or remove any building upon such premises.

- 15) To borrow or raise any money required for the purposes of the Association upon such terms and in such manner and on such securities, as may be determined, and in particular by the issue of debentures charged upon all or any of the property of the Association.
- 15a) To, devote apply or subscribe any money securities stocks or share s bequeathed or made over to the Association to such charitable or benevolent object, or for any public general or useful object or purpose as the donor may direct or, where no such directions are given, as the Association may in General Meeting from time to time determine.
- 15b) To establish and support, or aid in the establishment and support of Association, Institutions, Funds, Trusts and conveniences calculated to benefit employees or ex-employees of the Association or the dependents or connections of such persons and to grant pensions and allowances.
- 16) To subscribe to, become a member of, and co-operate with any other Association whether incorporated or not, whose objects are altogether or in part similar to those of this Association such information as may be likely to forward the objects of this Association.
- 17) To do all such other things as may be conducive to the extension of trade, commerce, industry or manufactures, or incidental to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

Appendix - 22**PRESS RELEASES (SELECTIVE)**

The Chamber issued a number of public statements or press releases, some jointly with other trade bodies, to express its views, concerns and reactions on some of the nationally or internationally important issues during last 35 years. They have started publishing public statement from 1979 at the time of their Diamond Jubilee Celebration. Some selected statements or press releases are reproduced below:

Appendix - 22 (1)**MCCI, DHAKA WELCOMES
THE GANGES WATER SHARING TREATY**

(Reproduced from the Annual Report, For the Year ended 31 July 1997, MCCI, Dhaka, P. 43)

We welcome the recently concluded Bangladesh-India Water Sharing Treaty. It not only resolves an issue of long outstanding differences between the two countries, but also marks a break-through in the over-all relationship of the two countries which will obviously lead to further expansion of co-operation in different areas, particularly, in trade and industry. In this perspective, we compliment the Prime Ministers of the two countries and all others who have played key roles in the conclusion of the treaty. Their achievement shows that given collective commitment, it is possible to rise above the confines of narrow interests and contribute to the common welfare.

It is now our expectation that with the break-through in the water sharing issue, early attention will be given to exploration of the areas of long-term economic co-operation between the two countries in the same way regional co-operation is being importance throughout the world. Our Chamber, along with representative trade bodies of India, have been stressing for expeditious resolution of all tariff and non-tariff barriers, which now effect economic co-operation between the two countries. We are convinced that an early break-through in the economic relationship between the two countries, as well as amongst the countries in the sub-region, will contribute immensely to the welfare of the common people. It is well established today that regional co-operation will be major, if not central, feature of global economic scenario in the post-WTO agreement.

Dated, Dhaka
The 18 December, 1996

Sd/-
(Samson H Chowdhury)
President, MCCI, Dhaka

Appendix - 22 (2)

WEEKLY HOLIDAY

(Reproduced from the Annual Report, For the Year ended 31 July 1997, MCCI, Dhaka, P. 46)

In September, 1982, the weekly holiday was suddenly changed by the then Government from Sunday to Friday without any consultation with trade and industry. Since then, the changes has cost the economy very dearly, as with nearly 30% of the economy being externalized and the main trading partners observing Sundays as weekly holidays, the country's importers and exporters have been losing business transactions for two days in a week. Quite naturally, no economy can continue to suffer in this manner without any valid justification as the recess of 1.5 hours which was allowed in Fridays, proved to be adequate for Jamma prayers.

We, therefore, urge upon the Government, on behalf of the country's trade and industry, to withdraw the imposition and let the business and industry take decisions according to their business requirements. We are convinced that the sooner the weekly holiday is changed from Friday to Sunday, it will prove to be beneficial to the economy.

Dated, Dhaka,
The 20 March, 1997

Sd/-
(Samson H. Chowdhury)
PRESIDENT
Metropolitan Chamber of
Commerce and Industry, Dhaka

Sd/-
(Mahbub Jamil)
PRESIDENT
Foreign Investors Chamber
of Commerce and Industry

Sd/-
(Imtiyaz Husain)
CHAIRMAN
Dhaka Stock Exchange

Sd/-
(Mustafa Golam Quddus)
PRESIDENT
Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers &
Exporters Association

Appendix - 22 (3)**THE BUDGET FOR 1998-99**

(Reproduced from the Annual Report, For the Year ended 31 July 1998, MCCI, Dhaka, PP. 171-72)

The 1998-99 budget presented by the Finance Minister, Mr SAMS Kibria has many progressive features, indicating an emphasis on fiscal policy for economic growth rather than merely revenue collection. We assume that the Finance Minister has targeted a growth rate of 6.3% of the FY 1998-99 as projected in the Fifth Five Year Plan. We congratulate the Finance Minister for having accepted a fairly challenging target.

The Finance Minister held several pre-budget meetings with various chambers and associations. We are pleased to see that many of the suggestions from the MCCI and others are reflected in the budget.

We welcome the various measures to boost industrial growth and export such a reduction of duties of raw materials and intermediate goods, continuation of 25% support for textile exports, concrete measures to address the problem of the sick industry, export support to jute industry, incentive in agro-processing, leather, plastics and computer sector.

Also welcome are the measures to boost the capital market but it is hoped that the previously allowed tax exemption up to Tk 30,000 divided income will continue for the benefit of the small investors. Measures to improve public transport and contain environment pollution from two-stroke engines are steps in the right direction. While reduction of corporate taxes on listed financial institutions is welcome, general reduction in corporate tax was expected. Imposition VAT on cement, CI sheet and MS products as infrastructure building materials is counter productive for development and should be reviewed.

A major area of concern in unabated revenue expenditure increase on unproductive heads which leads to stagnant ADP contribution from domestic resources. We hope that the substantial increase in allocation for the police will not be spent on manpower alone but also for much needed improvement in the logistics so that the investment translates into an improvement in the deteriorating law and order situation.

Also, fiscal incentives to boost economic growth will be negated unless reforms are strengthened and drainage of resources through SOEs is stop through privatization, and close watch is kept on monetary policy and interest rates.

With increasing and large foreign investments in the oil, gas, and electricity sectors, there will be huge and growing foreign exchange outflows in the coming years. Therefore, rapid export earnings growth is badly needed, particularly in view of the already fragile reserves position. There is not much in the budget to indicate a major export thrust, particularly in view of the loss in competitiveness due to continued appreciation of the Taka against the South Asian and South East Asian currencies. In particular, it is imperative that the existing exchange rate policy be reviewed to directly address the issue of the competitiveness of our tradeables against Indian goods.

Dated, Dhaka.
June 12, 1998

Sd/-
(Laila Rahman Kabir)
PRESIDENT
MCCI, Dhaka

Appendix - 22 (4)

CONCERNED OVER THE FREQUENCY OF HARTALS

(Reproduced from the Annual Report, For the Year ended 31 July 1998, MCCI, Dhaka, P. 43)

The trade and industry is quite concerned over the frequency of hartals which are being called. Hartal may be fundamental right to express one's grievances but it is established that it seriously affects the economy, particularly the smaller section of the business community. What is more regrettable is that for enforcing hartal, wide- spread violence is being resorted, which provide anti-social element with opportunities to indulge in looting, breaking of means of transportation, etc. Quite naturally, such a trend will endanger the fragile socio-economic fabric of the country and will pose a serious threat to the country's future. There is no way for Bangladesh to survive in the global market if the socio-political environment remains hostile to investment and economic activities. This will be dangerous as a country with 30% unemployment cannot but seek investments to create employment opportunities. In any case, hartal which has been so indiscriminately called the recent years, no longer signifies anything except imposition of suffering on the people by sheer force and violent means.

The trade and industry, therefore, expects all political parties will make an objective review if hartal serves any purpose. It is our sincere expectation that an alternate means of expressing political differences may be found which will not compromise on the future of the teeming millions of a poor country like that of ours.

Dated, Dhaka,
November 30, 1998

Sd/-
(A. S. M. Quasem)
PRESIDENT
The Dhaka Chamber of
Commerce & Industry

Sd/-
(Mustafa Golam Quddus)
PRESIDENT
Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers &
Exporters Association

Sd/-
(Rokia A Rahman)
PRESIDENT
Bangladesh Employers' Association

Sd/-
(Mahbub Jamil)
PRESIDENT
Foreign Investors Chamber
of Commerce and Industry

Sd/-
(Samson H. Chowdhury)
PRESIDENT
MCCI, Dhaka

Sd/-
(Md. Shahjahan)
CHAIRMAN
Bangladesh Textile Mills Association

Appendix - 22 (5)

**APPEAL TO POLITICAL PARTIES TO MAKE AN OBJECTIVE REVIEW
IF HARTAL SERVES ANY PURPOSE**

(Reproduced from the Annual Report, For the Year ended 31 July 1998, MCCI, Dhaka, P. 52)

Trade industry regrets that is repeated appeals in the last several years to political parties to make an objective review if hartal serves any purpose, do not appear to have been given due consideration. The trade and industry recognises that hartal is a fundamental right to express one's grievances. At the same time, it expects that there will not be differences of opinion that hartal affects the economy, particularly the smaller section of the business community and causes inexplicable sufferings to the people. In a poor country like ours, dislocation of the economy and sufferings of the people cannot strengthen any cause. In facts political programmes which do not take onto account the representative feelings on such issues not only do not help in achieving their objectives but also erode the confidence of the public on political parties which undertake them. In view of the critical period through which our economy is passing due to the South East Asian economic crisis, we once again appeal to all political parties to refrain from using hartals as the means of expressing political differences at present and also in future, because of them harm the inflict on the economy.

Dated, Dhaka
July 06, 1998

Sd/-
(R. Maksud Khan)
PRESIDENT
The Dhaka Chamber of
Commerce & Industry

Sd/-
(A. K. M. Shamsuddin)
PRESIDENT
Foreign Investors Chamber
of Commerce and Industry

Sd/-
(Md. Shajahan)
CHAIRMAN
Bangladesh Textile Mills Association

Sd/-
(Laila Rahman Kabir)
PRESIDENT
MCCI, Dhaka

Sd/-
(Mustafa Golam Quddus)
PRESIDENT
Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers &
Exporters Association

Sd/-
(Md. Golam Mostafa)
PRESIDENT
Bangladesh Foreign Foods
Exporters Association

Appendix - 22 (6)

**HIGH CONCERN OVER THE ISSUE OF WARRANTS OF ARRESTS
AND HARASSMENTS OF RESPECTED CITIZENS**

(Reproduced from the Annual Report, For the Year ended 31 July 2007, MCCI, Dhaka, P. 37)

The business community is deeply shocked and highly concerned over the issue of warrants of arrests against Prof Rehman Sobhan, Mr M Sayeduzzaman, Mr Syed Manzur Elahi, Mrs Laila Rahman Kabir and Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya. The warrants have been issued on the petition of the Executive Chairman, Board of Investment, Mr Mahmudur Rahman, as a follow-up to the controversies generated following his unusually harsh allegation that the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) provided fictitious information about the country's economy.

In his petition Mr Mahmudur Rahman alleged that CPD at its Press Conference on 8th August 2006, had labelled him as a Razakar, thereby tarnishing his reputation. It is now evident from the TV recordings which were extensively broadcast by various TV Channels on 9 August 2006 that CPD did not make any allegation about Mr Mahmudur Rahman being a Razakar. Therefore, it is now clear that the very premise on which the warrants were arrests were issued was totally baseless.

The entire situation arose out of the Executive Chairman's apparent attitude that he is the sole custodian of correct information and data on investment position. It appears that since CPD's work in compiling information and data relating to investment was not necessarily in tune with Bol's own projections, it brought about the discourteous, unseemly and unacceptable accusatory remarks about CPD.

It must be categorically stated that anyone including trade bodies of Bangladesh, have the right to compile data and information and make analysis on any aspect of the country's activities, including its economy. Differences of views and opinions can and will exist in a free, pluralistic and democratic society. Such differences can always be discussed and debated in a civilized manner. Resorting to criminal proceedings which has resulted in arrest warrants against such eminent citizens of the country, including economists, former ministers/ bureaucrats and leaders of trade organizations are totally unwarranted and must be condemned in the strongest manner.

The business community fears that such attempts as harassment will only damage the country's image and investment climate. The business community appeals to the highest authority of the government to intervene immediately and ensure that the country's think-tanks, civil society and trade organizations are not threatened and harassed by high-handed legal and administrative mechanism.

Dated: 10 August 2007

Sd/-
(Mir Nasir Hossain)
President
The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of
Commerce & Industry

Sd/-
(Hossain Khaled)
Acting President
The Dhaka Chamber
of Commerce and Industry

Sd/-
(Saifuzzaman Chowdhury)
President
Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Sd/-
(M. Shamsul Alam)
Chairman
Bangladesh Insurance Association

Sd/-
(A. K. Azad)
President
Bangladesh Chamber of Industries

Sd/-
(S. M. Fazlul Hoque)
President
Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers &
Exporters Association

Sd/-
(Mahbubur Rahman)
President
ICC-Bangladesh

Sd/-
(Latifur Rahman)
President
Metropolitan Chamber of
Commerce & Industry, Dhaka

Sd/-
(Md. Fazlul Hoque)
President
Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers
& Export Association

Sd/-
(O. R. Khan)
Vice President
Bangladesh Employers' Federation

Appendix - 22 (7)

EXPECTATION OF PEACEFUL ELECTION

(Reproduced from the Annual Report, For the Year ended 31 July 2002, MCCI, Dhaka, P. 33)

The economic stake at the forthcoming national election is far too great to be enumerated. Quite naturally, the business community sincerely expects that the election will be held peacefully and will provide a stable government to give leadership to economic progress which is required for the country's teeming millions. To ensure a peaceful environment during the election, the administrative and security measures which have been taken are fairly exhaustive. We trust that the Government machinery and the law enforcing agencies entrusted with the election process will discharge their sacred duties fairly and courageously.

What is important is the goodwill of the political parties and more particularly, their commitment to strengthening of the democratization process. The major political parties have already committed themselves to peaceful election and its results. On behalf of the business community, we sincerely hope that through graceful acceptance of election results, our political parties will show to the world that the national aspirations for democracy and economic stability are much above the party interests.

It is well-known that the country's export earnings are under threat particularly due to the recent turmoil in the international arena. The garments sector which is more threatened than at any time before, has already reported loss of orders worth millions of U.S dollars. It falls on all political parties to the looming economic crisis by ensuring peaceful environment during the election and accepting the people's verdict.

Dated, Dhaka.
29 September, 2001

Sd/-
(Benajir Ahmed)
President
The Dhaka Chamber
of Commerce and Industry

Sd/-
(Latifur Rahman)
President
Metropolitan Chamber of
Commerce & Industry, Dhaka

Sd/-
(Kutubuddin Ahmed)
President
Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers &
Exporters Association

Appendix - 22 (8)**MCCI, DHAKA CONGRATULATES THE CARETAKER GOVERNMENT
FOR IMPROVING THE OPERATIONS OF CHITTAGONG PORT**

(Reproduced from the Annual Report, For the Year ended 31 July 2007, MCCI, Dhaka, PP. 41-42)

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) congratulates the Caretaker Government for the measures it has taken to improve the operations of Chittagong Port. The measures have already helped improve efficiency in cargo handling and privatization of the country's soon to be operational New Mooring Container Terminal. The Chittagong Port efficiency featured consistently in the proposals, which our Chamber has been submitting to the Government for improving the country's economy. We discussed the issue with the Chief Adviser and then with the Advisers in charge of the Ministers of Finance, Commerce in the recent meetings. We are grateful that they have taken the requisite moves, which were pending for many years.

It may be recalled that Chittagong Port, which handles 80% of the country's foreign trade, became famous for its slow cargo handling, congestions and corruption. The turn-around time for feeder vessels in Chittagong is on an average 10 days compared with 2 days in Bangkok, 1 day in Singapore, 3 days in Mumbai and 5 days in Kolkata. The average cost of handling a 20 feet container at the Chittagong Port is around 300% higher than those of other regional hub ports like Singapore, Colombo, Mumbai and Bangkok. This is despite the fact that tariff Charges for Chittagong Port were fixed as late as in October 1986. In addition to the higher cost, the level and quantum of unseen costs were unbelievable high.

Now, a few measures have changed the entire situation and the Port's performance has improved significantly. We are confident that these measures will go a long way not only to increase the Port's efficiency but to improve the over-all competitiveness of the country's economy.

We take this opportunity in re-emphasizing that privatization of the facilities of all services should be done through transparent and open bidding process. The operation of the New Mooring Container by private operators should also be decided in a transparent and fair international bidding process.

We are confident that things can be improved further if the right type of private sector operators are selected.

Dated: Dhaka,
The 13 March 2007.

Sd/-
(Latifur Rahman)
President
MCCI, Dhaka

Appendix - 22 (9)

AN APPEAL TO THE OPPOSITION PARTY TO WITHDRAWN THE HARTAL

(Reproduced from the Annual Report, For the Year ended 31 July 2012, MCCI, Dhaka, PP. 35-36)

At this time when the global economy is coming out of recession and Bangladesh is showing the favorable signs of sustained high economic growth, policy continuity and stable political environment is of crucial importance to achieve our socio-economic objectives as a nation.

The business community is gravely concerned about the confrontational politics that has become a threat to our development potentials.

Our 40% annual export growth in the tandem with favorable yields in agriculture, and moderate growth in manufacturing and service industries has yielded a 6.7% growth in GDP in the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Bangladesh achieved 5.7% of real GDP growth against 5% negative growth of the global economy in 2008-2009 at the time of peak global recession. This trend continued in 2009-2010 and 6.1% real GDP growth was achieved. This shows the strength of our economy and the validity of the business sector. The stable sovereign country ratings in consecutive two years reflect the confidence our economy is enjoying among the domestic and foreign investors.

Unfortunately, repeated calls for hartals by different interest groups do not allow business activities to continue unobstructed at the pace necessary to engender the desired economic growth. The business community still remembers the bleak days in the past when frequent hartals for extended periods kept the economy stand-still. Hartals will make our economy decelerate, and our markets will shift to other countries where more stable political climate exists. We need to avoid this situation by all means.

Our Chamber would like to urge all parties and interest groups to stay away from all political activities that are counter-productive. What our nation needs most at the time is commitment from our politicians to the cause of the common people, and their pledge to make the nation free from poverty and create employment opportunity for all.

Our politicians need to bear in mind that the objective of graduating to a middle income country in near future is a common national objective, and not the election pledge of any political party. Similarly, poverty reduction programs are our national programs, and not the program of any particular Government. In politics, there will be differences in opinions, but those differences must not keep the livelihood of the people as hostage.

Our Chamber also acknowledges that there is no alternative to keeping the democratic process alive and making the democratic institutions stronger as the key factor for inclusive socio-economic growth. There are other means to settle the differences of opinions other than hartals and politics of destruction and repression.

In this regard, we feel that the current political situation can be made more people-friendly and business-friendly if the ruling and opposition parties demonstrate tolerance and are willing to settle their differences through dialogues and negotiations.

We, appeal to all to abandon confrontations and start dialogues. It would save the country's economy and people's well-being from dislocation. We urge upon all political parties to uphold the country's interest first and refrain from such activities which seriously affects the economic growth and prospect the country.

We, therefore, appeal to the opposition party to withdrawn the hartal called on the 22 September 2011 by four parties' alliance in the greater interest of the nation.

Dated: Dhaka
The 21 September 2011

Sd/-
[Maj. Gen. Amjad Khan Chowdhury (Retd.)]
President
MCCI, Dhaka

Appendix - 22 (10)

BANKING COMPANIES BILL, 1991: REQUESTS TO SOLICIT PUBLIC OPINION

(Reproduced from the Annual Report, For the Year ended 31 July 1991, MCCI, Dhaka, P. 44)

Banking Companies Bill, 1991 introduced in the parliament is a legislation which vitally affects the country's economy in general and the banking sector in particular. It contains some basic and fundamental provisions which are contrary to the existing Companies Act and Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962. The Chamber strongly feels that such an important legislation should be put up for public opinion before it is discussed and approved by the Parliament. It is only through discussion that the need for changes in the existing banking legislation can be correctly identified.

On behalf of business community, the Chamber requests the Finance Minister to solicit public opinion.

Dated, Dhaka
The 2 May, 1991

Sd/-
(Samson H. Chowdhury)
Vice-President
MCCI, Dhaka

Appendix - 23 (1)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
AND
METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, DHAKA


Preamble

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I) is the oldest and most prestigious trade body in India holding a unique position by virtue of its close association with all the major industries in Eastern India and as a promoter of the Associated Chamber of Commerce & Industry of India.

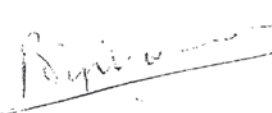
Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCC&I) is the oldest and most representative trade organisation in Bangladesh having in its membership roll all prestigious and established industrial and commercial organisations including almost all the Public Sector Corporations.


BCC&I and MCC&I are well placed to promote trade and industrial cooperation between India and Bangladesh through exchange of information on trade, investment, transfer of technology etc. The two organisations therefore agree to strengthen cooperation between them for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

BCC&I and MCC&I accordingly hereby enter into a memorandum of understanding as set out in the following Clauses:

1. BCC&I and MCC&I agree to provide full cooperation to each other for the promotion of trade and investment both in India and Bangladesh.
- 

2. BCC&I and MCC&I agree to exchange information on trade and investment of both the countries.
3. BCC&I and MCC&I agree to support activities such as seminars, conferences and courses in India and Bangladesh in sectors to be agreed upon by both organisations.
4. BCC&I and MCC&I agree to exchange trade and investment delegations in order to strengthen the economic relationship and understanding.
5. BCC&I and MCC&I agree to make efforts for simplification of visas for business travels by their members between India and Bangladesh.
6. BCC&I and MCC&I will co-operate with each other in any other areas which will help achieve the above mentioned objectives or which might promote relationship between their respective members.
7. The representatives of the two organisations will meet periodically to review the progress on the issues mentioned earlier and make out plans for future cooperation. Such meetings will be held in turn in both countries.
8. This agreement has been signed in Dhaka on the 1st day of November, 1992 and is drawn up in duplicate in English. Each party has one copy.


(Biji K. Kurien)
President
The Bengal Chamber of
Commerce and Industry


(M. Morshed Khan)
President
Metropolitan Chamber of
Commerce and Industry, Dhaka

Appendix - 23 (2)

AGREEMENT OF CO-OPERATION
BETWEEN
THE CEYLON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND
METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, DHAKA

PREAMBLE

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (hereinafter called the Ceylon Chamber) founded in 1839, is the most senior Chamber in Sri Lanka, and representative of all businesses. Its membership includes every type of business - export, industry, import, banking, tourism, shipping, services - and every size of business, from the sole proprietor to the multi-national. The Chamber's membership accounts for a significant proportion of business activity in Sri Lanka, particularly in the international sector.

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (hereinafter called the MCC&I) having been established in 1904 is one of the oldest trade organisation in the South Asian Sub-Continent and the most representative trade body in Bangladesh, having in its membership roll all prestigious and established industrial and commercial organisations including nearly all the Public Sector Corporations.

The Ceylon Chamber and MCC&I are thus well placed to promote trade and industrial co-operation between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh through exchange of information on trade, investment, transfer of technology etc. The two organisations having agreed to strengthen co-operation between them for the mutual benefit of the two countries hereby enter into a Memorandum of Understanding as set out in the following Articles:

ARTICLE I

The Ceylon Chamber and MCC&I shall co-operate and do their utmost to further improve and expand trade, joint ventures and technology transfers between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

ARTICLE II

The Ceylon Chamber and MCC&I shall regularly exchange information and views on the possibilities for widening mutual co-operation and promotion of trade, joint ventures and technology transfer between the two countries.

In the realisation of that objective they will supply each other with the traditional printing materials published by them, special issues, economic literature and prospects.



ARTICLE III

Facility and assistance shall be accorded to businessmen, trade missions from Bangladesh visiting Sri Lanka and vice-versa. Letters of introduction from one party to the other shall be mutually honoured.

ARTICLE IV

The Ceylon Chamber and MCC&I agree to assist each other in participation in fairs, exhibitions and expositions.

ARTICLE V

The Ceylon Chamber and MCC&I agree to support and encourage exchange of trade delegations and missions as well as visits of businessmen either individually or in groups between the two countries and to assist joint businessmen's meetings.

ARTICLE VI

In order to encourage the mutual understanding of Sri Lankan and Bangladeshi social and economic conditions, the Ceylon Chamber and MCC&I will consider all forms of co-operation relative to management and technical training.

ARTICLE VII

Both the Ceylon Chamber and MCC&I shall take all necessary steps to ensure that this agreement works to their mutual benefits, and that it is jointly reviewed occasionally, at least once in three years. Such meetings will be held in Colombo and Dhaka in turn.

ARTICLE VIII

This agreement shall come into force as from the date of its signing until mutually revised by both parties.

Dated: September 07, 1994.

[Handwritten signature of A. C. Gunasinghe]

A. C. GUNASINGHE
CHAIRMAN
THE CEYLON CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE.



[Handwritten signature of C. G. Javasinghe]
C. G. JAVASINGHE
SECRETARY-GENERAL
THE CEYLON CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE.

[Handwritten signature of Latifur Rahman]

LATIFUR RAHMAN
PRESIDENT
METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY, DHAKA.



[Handwritten signature of C. K. Hyder]
C. K. HYDER
SECRETARY-GENERAL
METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY, DHAKA.

Appendix - 24
Newspaper Supplementary of Diamond Jubilee
Daily Ittefaq, 20 June 1979



তিনটি জটিল ক্লেশ সম্পর্কে আলোচনা

আমাদের তিনটি জটিল ক্লেশ সম্পর্কে আলোচনা করা হল। প্রথম ক্লেশ হলো... (The text continues with a detailed analysis of the economic challenges facing the country at the time, including inflation and currency issues.)



বাণী

এই ব্যক্তি... (A short biographical note or a specific point made by the individual in the article.)



বাণী

এই ব্যক্তি... (Another short biographical note or a specific point made by the individual.)

আমাদের উন্নয়নকৌশল—শিলায়ন

আমাদের উন্নয়নকৌশল... (An editorial or opinion piece discussing the national development strategy and the role of the government.)

নারায়ণগঞ্জ বণিক সমিতি—
এক বিরল সেবার ৭৫ বছর
—সি কে হারদার

সম্পাদক, নারায়ণগঞ্জ শির ও বণিক সমিতি

সত্তর বছর ইতিহাসে কোন নীরব সময় নয়। বরং ইতিহাস, সুবীর্ণকাল ঘরে গড়ে উঠা ও উঁকে যাওয়া বিভিন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানের অসাধারণ পরিপূর্ণ। তবুও একটা সাংগঠন বা পটভূমির ব্যতীত এক সুবীর্ণ সময় অনেক বাধা-বিপত্তি অতিক্রম করে উঁকে আছে—তার অভিজ্ঞতাও অনেক হয়েছে এবং সেগুলো পুনঃপুনঃ বিচার ও শিখরে অগ্রই তাৎপর্যপূর্ণ নয়, অসংখ্য সাংগঠন ও এডালোর তত্ত্ব রয়েছে। নারায়ণগঞ্জ শির ও বণিক সমিতি এ ধরনের একটি সাংগঠন হওয়ার অগ্র সঙ্গী তাই।

১৮৯৯ সালে উপমহাদেশে প্রথম বিলাস শক্তি প্রবর্তিত হওয়ার পর, বর্তমান শতাংশের এক সাতমতম পর্যায়ের এই সংগঠন প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়। এর প্রতিষ্ঠা দুটি ঐতিহাসিক ঘটনার সঙ্গে সম্পর্কিত। এক, প্রথমবারের মত আইসর নির্মাণী পরিষদের একজন সর্বস্তর নেতৃত্ব ১৯০৪ সালে শির ও বণিক সমিতির প্রতিষ্ঠা—যা আবারও দুটি উৎসাহন বহিত ব্যাপারে মনুষ্যপ্রেরণা যোগায় এবং ১৯০৫ সালে লর্ড কার্জনের বঙ্গ বিভাগ। এই বঙ্গ বিভাগের ফলে, হটল পথা বর্ধন করার পরিকল্পিত ভারতীয় নিয়োজিতাদের তৎপরতা উল্লেখযোগ্য হারে বৃদ্ধি পায়। এই সংসদ ১৯০৬ ও ১৯০৯ সালের দুটি বিধিমালা, ১৯০৭ সালের ভারতীয় বিধিমালা, ১৯০৭ সালের স্বাধীনতা আন্দোলন এবং ১৯১৯ সালের স্বাধীনতা আন্দোলন প্রত্যক্ষ করেছে। ঘটনার এমন পট পরিবর্তন এবং স্বাধীনতা মুক্তির এমন সঠিক বিশেষ আর কোথাও এমনভাবে সম্পন্ন হয়নি। নারায়ণগঞ্জ শির ও বণিক সমিতি সেই সঙ্গে লোক করেছে দেশ বিভাগের অপূর্ণ অভিজ্ঞতা, প্রত্যক্ষ কঠোর দেশের জনগণের হাতে বিদেশী শাসকদের ক্ষমতা হস্তান্তর এবং বেঁচে যাওয়ার নীতিতে পালন করেছে এক সঠিক তুমিক। উপমহাদেশে এমন সংগঠন খুব কমই আছে, যেগুলোকে এই সংসদের সঙ্গে বীর্যবিরূপ ব্যাপারে অর্থবা প্রভাব প্রতিপত্তির তুলনা করা যেতে পারে।

এখন এই সংসদের বিকাশ-ধারা যা এই সংসদের দর্শন সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত বিবরণ অত্যন্ত সত্যোচিতভাবে তুলে ধরা যেতে পারে। এ ব্যাপারে গত ৭৪ বছরে যেসব পরিবর্তন সংঘটিত হয়েছে, সেগুলোর উল্লেখ করা প্রাসঙ্গিক হবে না। এসব পরিবর্তনকে দুটি ভাগে ভাগ করা যেতে পারে: (১) পোল-যোগপূর্ণ ও ভারতীয় উদ্বোধন এবং (২) নীরব ও কম পট পরিবর্তন।

সমন্বিত ইতিহাস প্রথম ধরনের পরিবর্তনের নীতির পরিপূর্ণ। এসব পরিবর্তনের ধরনই ছিল বিক্ষোভ, অসন্তোষ, আপোলন, সরকার পরিবর্তন ইত্যাদি। এগুলোকে ঐতিহাসিক উদ্বোধন হিসেবে আখ্যায়িত করা যেতে পারে। দ্বিতীয় ধরনের পরিবর্তন ঘটেছে সম্পূর্ণ বিপরীত-ভাবে। এসব পরিবর্তন পুরোপুরি ব্যতীর্ণ। অর্থাৎ প্রতিষ্ঠিত না (১৯৭৭ পর্যন্ত)

Appendix - 25

CREDITS

The idea of writing a book on the Chamber's history was first mooted by the president of the Chamber (2011-2012), Maj Gen (Retd) Amjad Khan Chowdhury. Accordingly an Editorial Board was formed by the Chamber Committee on 25 July 2011 to supervise the compilation of the history of the Chamber as under:

Convener: Ms Nihad Kabir, Vice President
Members: Mr M Azizul Huq, Mr Habibullah N Karim, Mr Kamran T Rahman

With the retirement of Ms Nihad Kabir and Mr Habibullah N Karim from the Chamber Committee in 2012, the Editorial Board did not formally convene that year. The Editorial Board continued to function again in 2013 when it was reconstituted as under:

Convener: Mr Anis A Khan, Vice President
Members: Mr Akhter Matin Chaudhury, FCA, Mr Habibullah N Karim, Mr Kamran T Rahman

At the recommendation of this Editorial Board, in February 2014, the Chamber commissioned Dr Fakrul Alam, Professor of Department of English, the University of Dhaka and Dr Aksadul Alam, Associate Professor of Department of History, the University of Dhaka to gather facts on the Chamber's past and write the history of the Chamber in a manner that would be a pleasure to read. Dr Aksadul Alam was in charge of research into the past of the Chamber and putting the salient facts and snippets in the form of an easy-to-read narrative while Dr Fakrul Alam was in charge of sub-editing the book with a view to ensuring quality and consistency in the narrative. The authors did a splendid job despite severe time constraints.

Under the leadership of the President of the Chamber (2013-2014), Ms Rokia Afzal Rahman, the Chamber Committee formed a Publication Sub-Committee on 6 March 2014 to supervise the publication works for the 110th anniversary of the Chamber, including the Chamber's history, as under:

Convener: Mr Habibullah N Karim
Members: Mr Tabith Awal, Mr Kamran T Rahman

Although this Publications Sub-Committee formally assumed the responsibilities pertaining to all publication related affairs and subsumed the tasks hitherto looked after by the Editorial Board, the President, Ms Rokia Afzal Rahman and members of the Committee, namely, Mr Anis A Khan, Vice President, Mr Syed Tareque Md Ali, Mr Akhter Matin Chaudhury, FCA, and Mr Mamun Rashid contributed generously towards this endeavor. Other members of the Chamber Committee also helped with their considered views on the work in progress from time to time. Every effort was made to ensure that the history book of the Chamber titled "MCCI – A Journey (1904-2014)" is a

book worthy of the great legacy the Chamber represents. Despite the best of intentions of all who were involved in this seminal undertaking there might still be errors and/or omissions that escaped our attention. The Chamber would be most grateful if the readers inform the Chamber Secretariat of any such lapses.

The Chamber regularly publishes a number of journals for many years now that are quite well-received among the cognoscenti. However, this is the first time the Chamber is coming out with a compendium of such dimension and depth. An immense indebtedness is due to all who made this book a reality.

MCCI

October 2014