

EU Delegation Ambassador visits MCCI office

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The Ambassador of the European Union (EU) Delegation to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley visited the Gulshan office of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka on Wednesday. The Ambassador was warmly received by a team from the members of the MCCI's Board of Directors led by its President Md. Saiful Islam (3rd from right).

The Ambassador of the European Union (EU) Delegation to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley, visited the Gulshan office of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka on Wednesday, said a statement.

The Ambassador was warmly received by a team from the members of the MCCI's Board of Directors led by its President Mr. Md. Saiful Islam. The other members of the team were Senior Vice President Mr. Kamran T. Rahman, Vice President Mr. Habibullah N. Karim, members of the Board of Directors Mr. Anis A. Khan, Mr. Syed Tareque Md. Ali, and Secretary-General and CEO Mr. Farooq Ahmed.

The President thanked the Ambassador and deeply appreciated the role and contribution of the EU in the socio-economic development of Bangladesh. MCCI President categorically mentioned the benefits received by Bangladesh through the EU's EBA (Everything But Arms) programme which has significantly helped the country to reduce poverty, strengthen women empowerment and make visible progress in social development.

Highlighting the excitement of LDC graduation, MCCI President also mentioned the challenges of the graduation and Bangladesh's joining the club of Middle Income Country (MIC) by 2026. President expressed his concerns of tariff escalation after the graduation, and requested for extended transitional support and continuation of the EBA for a reasonable period in order to attain a sustainable graduation.

MCCI further mentioned Bangladesh's commitment on the EU road map concerning labour standards and workers rights. It was also assured that amendment of labour laws, rules including addressing concerns of the EPZ law have been a continuous process and Bangladesh is steadfast in taking correct steps on all relevant issues. MCCI team discussed EU's possible engagement with service sector in Bangladesh. Bangladesh possesses a huge pool of IT professionals and many of the EU member countries could tap into this resource pool for mutual benefit especially for emerging technologies such as blockchain, artificial intelligence and internet of things.

The Ambassador was very receptive and keen to deeply interact on all issues of mutual interest. He also emphasized on the capacity building of public, private, civil society organizations which will be needed for maintaining sustainability of the LDC graduation process. He assured that EU would look into the concerns very pragmatically. The Ambassador praised Bangladesh's economic transformation and its high-quality exportable products to the region.

The EU Ambassador mentioned that there were untapped areas of cooperation where many of the member countries of EU might be able to collaborate on rendering technical support like renewable energy, skills development, up-skilling and re-skilling, some special programmes for high tech jobs etc.

The Ambassador expressed his willingness to promote EU investment in Bangladesh and was ready to provide feedback and assistance in improving Bangladesh's business climate. The Ambassador assured of EU's continued support and assistance to Bangladesh's developmental pursuits and sustainable LDC-graduation.

www.thedailystar.net / 17 February 2022

EU to support Bangladesh for sustainable LDC graduation

Star Business Report

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The European Union will keep supporting Bangladesh to help the South Asian country make sustainable graduation from the grouping of least-developed countries.

Charles Whiteley, the EU's ambassador to Bangladesh, gave this assurance in a meeting with Md Saiful Islam, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), at the latter's office in Dhaka's Gulshan yesterday, according to a press release.

Whiteley said there are untapped areas of cooperation where many EU member countries might be able to collaborate with Bangladesh to render technical support on various aspects, such as renewable energy and skills development.

Addressing the meeting, Islam highlighted the challenges of LDC graduation and Bangladesh's joining the club of middle-income countries by 2026.

Islam also expressed concerns about the tariff escalation after the country's LDC graduation and urged the EU to extend transitional support and the Everything but Arms (EBA) initiative for a reasonable period to attain sustainable graduation.

Responding to Islam's call, Whiteley assured that the EU would look into the concerns very pragmatically.

Praising Bangladesh's economic transformation and its high-quality exportable products, the ambassador expressed his willingness to promote EU investment in Bangladesh and provide feedback and assistance in improving the country's business climate.

During the meeting, Islam categorically mentioned the benefits received by Bangladesh through the EU's EBA initiative, which has significantly helped the country make visible progress in social development through poverty reduction and women empowerment.

Highlighting Bangladesh's commitment to the EU's roadmap concerning labour standards and workers' rights, Islam assured that the laws regarding labour at export processing zones are continuously being amended as Bangladesh is steadfast in taking correct steps on all relevant issues.

He also discussed the EU's possible engagement with the local service sector.

Bangladesh possesses a huge pool of IT professionals and many EU member countries could tap into this resource for mutual benefits, especially for emerging technologies such as blockchain, artificial intelligence and the internet of things, Islam added.

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EU ambassador assures continued support post LDC graduation

BI Report || BusinessInsider

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Photo: Courtesy

Ambassador of the European Union (EU) in Bangladesh Charles Whiteley has assured of EU's continued support and assistance to Bangladesh's developmental pursuits and sustainable LDC-graduation.

Charles Whiteley said this during a visit to the Gulshan office of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka on February 16, said a press release.

The Ambassador was warmly received by a team from the members of the MCCI's Board of Directors led by its President Md Saiful Islam.

The other members of the team were Senior Vice President Kamran T Rahman, Vice President Habibullah N Karim, members of the Board of Directors Anis A Khan, Syed Tareque Md Ali, and Secretary-General and CEO Farooq Ahmed.

The president thanked the ambassador and deeply appreciated the role and contribution of the EU in the socio-economic development of Bangladesh.

MCCI President categorically mentioned the benefits received by Bangladesh through the EU's EBA (Everything But Arms) programme which has significantly helped the country to reduce poverty, strengthen women empowerment and make visible progress in social development.

Highlighting the excitement of LDC graduation, MCCI President also mentioned the challenges of the graduation and Bangladesh's joining the club of Middle Income Country (MIC) by 2026.

The MCCI president expressed his concerns about tariff escalation after the graduation and requested extended transitional support and continuation of the EBA for a reasonable period in order to attain sustainable graduation.

MCCI further mentioned Bangladesh's commitment on the EU road map concerning labour standards and workers' rights.

It was also assured that amendment of labour laws, rules including addressing concerns of the EPZ law have been a continuous process and Bangladesh is steadfast in taking correct steps on all relevant issues.

MCCI team discussed EU's possible engagement with the service sector in Bangladesh. Bangladesh possesses a huge pool of IT professionals and many of the EU member countries could tap into this resource pool for mutual benefit especially for emerging technologies such as blockchain, artificial intelligence and internet of things (IoT).

The ambassador was very receptive and keen to deeply interact on all issues of mutual interest.

He also emphasized the capacity building of public, private, civil society organizations which will be needed for maintaining the sustainability of the LDC graduation process.

He assured that the EU would look into the concerns very pragmatically.

The ambassador praised Bangladesh's economic transformation and its high-quality exportable products to the region.

The EU ambassador mentioned that there were untapped areas of cooperation where many of the member countries of the EU might be able to collaborate on rendering technical support like renewable energy, skills development, up-skilling and re-skilling, some special programmes for high tech jobs etc.

The ambassador expressed his willingness to promote EU investment in Bangladesh and was ready to provide feedback and assistance in improving Bangladesh's business climate.

MCCI President handed over a few recent publications of MCCI including Bangladesh Business Climate Index, a very recent publication which will be helpful to assess the current business situation in the country and will also promote the 'ease of doing businesses'.

Finally, both sides unanimously agreed to have more frequent interactions and exchange views on a regular basis.

www.tbsnews.net / 17 February 2022

EU envoy for raising capacity to sustain progress after LDC graduation

The ambassador pays a courtesy visit to the MCCI office in the capital on Wednesday



Charles Whiteley (Photo: Collected)

Lauding the rapid development of Bangladesh, Ambassador of the European Union Delegation in Dhaka Charles Whiteley has urged the country to build capacity for sustaining the economic progress after its transition from the least developed country (LDC) status in 2026.

"Increasing capacities of public and private sectors as well as civil society organisations is crucial for maintaining sustainable economic progress after the LDC graduation," he said while paying a courtesy visit to the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) office in the capital's Gulshan area on Wednesday.

The EU Ambassador said there were some untapped areas of cooperation, where EU member countries could help Bangladesh produce skilled manpower, particularly for high-tech jobs. He also expressed his keen interest in further promoting EU investment in the country.

MCCI President Md Saiful Islam, Senior Vice-President Kamran T Rahman, Vice-President Habibullah N Karim, and other senior office-bearers were present at the event.

The MCCI president thanked the Ambassador and appreciated the role and contribution of the EU in the socio-economic development of Bangladesh. He categorically mentioned the benefits received by Bangladesh through the EU's Everything But Arms programme which had significantly helped the country to reduce poverty, strengthen women empowerment and make visible progress in social development.

Highlighting the potentials and challenges of the LDC graduation, MCCI President expressed his concern over the probable tariff escalation of EU countries for Bangladesh and requested the envoy for the continuation of the EBA for a reasonable period to attain a sustainable graduation.

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EU envoy praises Bangladesh's economic transformation

Staff Correspondent

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European Union Delegation to Bangladesh Charles whitley visited MCCI office on February 16, 2022 — Courtesy Photo

European Union (EU) Delegation to Bangladesh Ambassador Charles Whiteley has praised Bangladesh's recent economic transformation and its ability to produce quality exportable products in the region.

He made the statement while meeting the Board of Directors of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) at Gulshan office in Dhaka on Wednesday, said a press release.

The EU envoy was received by MCCI members, led by its President Md Saiful Islam.

During the visit, Whiteley emphasized the capacity building of public, private, civil society organizations which will be needed for maintaining the sustainability of the LDC graduation process.

Assuring that EU would look into the concerns very pragmatically, he mentioned that there were untapped areas of cooperation where many of the member countries of the EU might be able to

collaborate on rendering technical support like renewable energy, skills development, up-skilling and re-skilling, some special programmes for high tech jobs, among others.

Whiteley also expressed his willingness to promote EU investment in Bangladesh and was ready to provide feedback and assistance in improving Bangladesh's business climate.

The ambassador assured of the EU's continued support and assistance to Bangladesh's developmental pursuits and sustainable LDC graduation.

Meanwhile, MCCI President Md Saiful Islam thanked the ambassador and deeply appreciated the role and contribution of the EU in the socio-economic development of Bangladesh.

He categorically mentioned the benefits received by Bangladesh through the EU's EBA programme which has significantly helped the country to reduce poverty, strengthen women empowerment and make visible progress in social development.

MCCI further mentioned Bangladesh's commitment on the EU road map concerning labour standards and workers rights.

MCCI team also discussed EU's possible engagement with the service sector in Bangladesh.

Finally, both sides unanimously agreed to have more frequent interactions and exchange views on a regular basis.

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Ambassador of the EU Delegation to Bangladesh visits MCCI Gulshan Office

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The Ambassador of the European Union (EU) Delegation to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley, visited the Gulshan office of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) in Dhaka on Wednesday, says a press release.

The Ambassador was warmly received by a team from the members of the MCCI's Board of Directors led by its President Md. Saiful Islam. The other members of the team were Senior Vice President Kamran T. Rahman, Vice President Habibullah N. Karim, members of the Board of Directors Anis A. Khan, Syed Tareque Md. Ali and Secretary-General and CEO Farooq Ahmed.

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The Ambassador was very receptive and keen to deeply interact on all issues of mutual interest. He also emphasized on the capacity building of public, private, civil society organizations which will be needed for maintaining sustainability of the LDC graduation process. He assured that EU would look into the concerns very pragmatically. The Ambassador praised Bangladesh's economic transformation and its high-quality exportable products to the region.

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The Ambassador expressed his willingness to promote EU investment in Bangladesh and was ready to provide feedback and assistance in improving Bangladesh's business climate. The Ambassador assured of EU's continued support and assistance to Bangladesh's developmental pursuits and sustainable LDC-graduation.

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Finally both sides unanimously agreed to have more frequent interactions and exchange views on a regular basis.

এমসিসিআই কার্যালয় সফরে ইইউ রাষ্ট্রদূত

বাণিজ্য ডেস্ক

প্রকাশ: ১৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২২, ২১: ২৪



বাংলাদেশে ইউরোপীয় ইউনিয়নের রাষ্ট্রদূত চার্লস হোয়াইটলি আজ বুধবার মেট্রোপলিটন চেম্বার অব কমার্সের (এমসিসিআই) গুলশান কার্যালয় সফর করেন। কার্যালয়ে ইইউ রাষ্ট্রদূতকে উষ্ণ অভ্যর্থনা জানান এমসিসিআইয়ের সভাপতি মো. সাইফুল ইসলাম। এ সময় বাংলাদেশের আর্থসামাজিক উন্নয়নে ইইউয়ের ভূমিকার কথা স্মরণ করেন তিনি। এ ছাড়া ইউরোপীয় ইউনিয়ন বাংলাদেশকে অল্প ছাড়া আর সব পণ্য রপ্তানির যে সুযোগ দিয়েছে, তা বাংলাদেশের দারিদ্র্য বিমোচন, নারীর ক্ষমতায়ন ও সামাজিক উন্নয়নে যে ভূমিকা পালন করেছে, তার কথা বিশেষভাবে স্মরণ করেন সাইফুল ইসলাম।

২০২৬ সালের মধ্যে বাংলাদেশের এলডিসি উত্তরণ হবে। একই সঙ্গে উচ্চমধ্যম আয়ের দেশে পরিণত হবে বাংলাদেশ। এই দ্বৈত উত্তরণের পর বাংলাদেশের রপ্তানিপণ্যে উচ্চ শুল্ক আরোপিত হবে বলে আশঙ্কা প্রকাশ করেন এমসিসিআইয়ের সভাপতি। দেশের টেকসই উত্তরণের লক্ষ্যে তিনি ক্রান্তিকালীন সহায়তা প্রত্যাশা করেন। টেকসই উত্তরণের জন্য ইবিএর মেয়াদ কিছুদিন বৃদ্ধি করা হবে বলেও প্রত্যাশা করেন তিনি।

ইইউ রাষ্ট্রদূত চার্লস হোয়াইটলি বাংলাদেশের উন্নয়নের প্রশংসা করেন। ইউরোপে বাংলাদেশ যে উচ্চমানের পণ্য রপ্তানি করছে, তার প্রশংসাও করেন তিনি। বলেন, বাংলাদেশের সঙ্গে ইউরোপীয় ইউনিয়নের সহযোগিতার আরও অনেক ক্ষেত্র অনাবিষ্কৃত রয়ে গেছে। নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি, দক্ষতা উন্নয়ন, উচ্চ প্রযুক্তি—এসব খাতে যৌথভাবে কাজ করার অবকাশ আছে।

এ সময় ইইউ রাষ্ট্রদূত বাংলাদেশের উন্নয়নে সহযোগিতা অব্যাহত রাখার কথা বলেন।

এ সময় উপস্থিত ছিলেন সংগঠনের জ্যেষ্ঠ সহসভাপতি কামরান টি রহমান, সহসভাপতি হাবিবুল্লাহ এন করিম, পর্ষদ সদস্যদের মধ্যে আনিস এ খান, সৈয়দ তারেক মো. আলি, প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা ফারুক আহমেদ প্রমুখ।

www.sangbad.net.bd / 17 February 2022

ইইউ রাষ্ট্রদূত এমসিসিআই'র গুলশান অফিস পরিদর্শন করলেন



গতকাল ইইউ রাষ্ট্রদূত এমসিসিআই'র গুলশান অফিস পরিদর্শন করেন

—সংবাদ

বাংলাদেশে নিযুক্ত ইউরোপীয় ইউনিয়নের (ইইউ) প্রতিনিধিদলের রাষ্ট্রদূত এইচ ই চার্লস হোয়াইটলি গতকাল মেট্রোপলিটন চেম্বার অব কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রির গুলশান অফিস পরিদর্শন করেন।

এমসিসিআই সভাপতি মো. সাইফুল ইসলামের নেতৃত্বে এমসিসিআই পরিচালনা পর্ষদের সদস্যদের একটি দল রাষ্ট্রদূতকে উষ্ণ অভ্যর্থনা জানান। দলের অন্যান্য সদস্যরা হলেন সিনিয়র সহ-সভাপতি কামরান টি. রহমান, সহ-সভাপতি হাবিবুল্লাহ এন. করিম, পরিচালনা পর্ষদের সদস্য আনিস এ খান, সৈয়দ তারেক মো. আলী এবং সচিব জেনারেল ও সিইও ফারুক আহমেদ। এমসিসিআই সভাপতি রাষ্ট্রদূতকে ধন্যবাদ জানান এবং বাংলাদেশের আর্থসামাজিক উন্নয়নে ইইউ-এর ভূমিকা ও অবদানের গভীর প্রশংসা করেন। সুস্পষ্টভাবে ইইউর ইবিএ (এভরিথিং বাট আর্মস) কর্মসূচির মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশ প্রাপ্ত সুবিধার কথা উল্লেখ করেন যা দেশটিকে দারিদ্র্য কমাতে, নারীর ক্ষমতায়নকে শক্তিশালী করতে এবং সামাজিক উন্নয়নে দৃশ্যমান অগ্রগতিতে সহায়তা করেছে।

রাষ্ট্রদূত অত্যন্ত গ্রহণযোগ্য এবং পারস্পরিক স্বার্থের সব বিষয়ে গভীরভাবে যোগাযোগ করতে আগ্রহী ছিলেন। তিনি সরকারি-বেসরকারি ও সুশীল সমাজের সংস্থাগুলোর সক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধির ওপরও জোর দেন যা এলডিসি গ্র্যাজুয়েশনের স্থায়িত্ব বজায় রাখার জন্য প্রয়োজন হবে। তিনি আশ্বস্ত করেছেন, ইইউ

উদ্বোধনগুলো অত্যন্ত বাস্তবসম্মতভাবে দেখবে। রাষ্ট্রদূত বাংলাদেশের অর্থনৈতিক রূপান্তর এবং এ অঞ্চলে উচ্চমানের রপ্তানিযোগ্য পণ্যের প্রশংসা করেন। সংবাদ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

www.bonikbarta.net / 17 February 2022

এমসিসিআই কার্যালয় পরিদর্শনে ইইউ রাষ্ট্রদূত

ফেব্রুয়ারি ১৭, ২০২২



বাংলাদেশে নিযুক্ত ইউরোপীয় ইউনিয়নের (ইইউ) রাষ্ট্রদূত চার্লস হোয়াইটলি গতকাল মেট্রোপলিটন চেম্বার অব কমার্স ইন্ডাস্ট্রির (এমসিসিআই) কার্যালয় পরিদর্শন করেছেন। এ সময় তাকে স্বাগত জানান এমসিসিআই প্রেসিডেন্ট মো. সাইফুল ইসলাম। আরো উপস্থিত ছিলেন এমসিসিআইয়ের সিনিয়র ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট কামরান টি রহমান, ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট হাবিবুল্লাহ এন করিম; বোর্ড অব ডিরেক্টরসের সদস্য—আনিস এ খান, সৈয়দ তারেক মো. আলী এবং সেক্রেটারি জেনারেল ও সিইও ফারুক আহমেদ। এ সময় এমসিসিআই সভাপতি রাষ্ট্রদূতকে ধন্যবাদ জানান এবং বাংলাদেশের আর্থসামাজিক উন্নয়নে ইইউর ভূমিকা ও অবদানের গভীর প্রশংসা করেন। এ সময় ইইউ রাষ্ট্রদূত বাংলাদেশে ইইউর বিনিয়োগকে উৎসাহিত করার জন্য ইচ্ছা প্রকাশ করেন। পাশাপাশি বাংলাদেশের ব্যবসায়িক পরিবেশের উন্নতিতে সহায়তা দিতে ইইউর সহযোগিতামূলক মনোভাবের কথা জানান।

—বিজ্ঞপ্তি