

মেট্রপলিট্যান চেম্বাল্প অফ কমার্স এণ্ড ইণ্ডাষ্ট্রী,ঢাকা

METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, DHAKA

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PRESS RELEASE

Visit of the Ambassador of Sweden in Bangladesh to MCCI (Dhaka)

The Ambassador of Sweden to Bangladesh H.E. Ms. Alexandra Berg von Linde visited the Gulshan office of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka on 16 February 2022.

The Ambassador was received by its President, Mr. Md. Saiful Islam and a few other members. Senior Vice President Mr. Kamran T. Rahman, Vice President Mr. Habibullah N. Karim, Board of Directors Mr. Anis A. Khan, Mr. Syed Tareque Md. Ali, and the Secretary-General and CEO Mr. Farooq Ahmed were among others.

The President thanked the Ambassador for visiting the MCCI's office. He appreciated the bilateral relationship between Sweden and Bangladesh and hoped it would continue to improve further.

The Ambassador mentioned that the year 2022 marked the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh-Sweden relationship. Sweden had recognized Bangladesh as a sovereign nation in February 1972. She recalled the excellent bilateral relationship between the two countries.

The MCCI team highlighted Bangladesh's success over the years in its socioeconomic development. The President recounted the country's excitement for qualifying to graduate to the developing country club in 2026. However, he was also worried about the challenges associated with a sustainable graduation. Despite the ongoing pandemic, Bangladesh has been able to withstand the difficulties boldly due to prudent fiscal and other policy support rendered by the government during the last two years. The President therefore requested for Sweden's support in Bangladesh's sustainable graduation.

The Ambassador lauded the visible improvement in women empowerment in Bangladesh. She specifically mentioned the female participation in the active labour market, particularly in the readymade garment sector. Sweden saw great potential in Bangladesh's market. This was reflected in the successful operations of Swedish firms in Bangladesh, including that of the clothing giant H&M.

The Ambassador also expressed that Sweden was ready to facilitate the environmental goals of the Swedish companies operating in Bangladesh. The Ambassador also praised Bangladeshi companies going green and expressed her desire to see Swedish green companies coming to Bangladesh.

The MCCI President handed over a few recent publications of MCCI. These included a copy of Bangladesh Business Climate Index, a very recent publication that helps in assessing the country's current business situation and also promotes its 'ease of doing businesses'.

Finally, both sides unanimously agreed to have more frequent interactions and exchange of views.

Farooq Abmed

SECRETARY-GENERAL & CEO



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