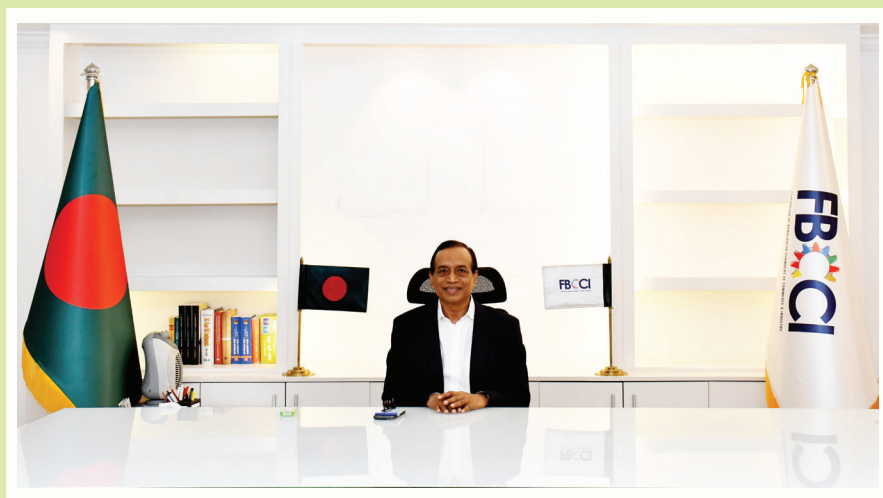


The upcoming Budget will be an Investment and Business Friendly Budget



45th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of NBR held in collaboration with FBCCI

From the Desk of the Administrator



Dear Fellow Members, Colleagues, and Stakeholders,

It is a great pleasure to bring you the April edition of the FBCCI E-bulletin, a unique publication covering FBCCI's foremost events, activities, strategies, and policy advocacy in strengthening trade facilitation and safeguarding the interests of the business community in Bangladesh. The monthly E-bulletin reflects FBCCI's organizational endeavors in upholding the interests of the diverse business community.

FBCCI, the apex trade organization, is continuing its efforts to boost the country's trade and investment, build a resilient economy, and face the challenges of domestic and international economic turmoil. It conducted several meetings with the National Board of Revenue (NBR), echoing the voice of the private sector.

Specifically, on behalf of the private sector, FBCCI was participated a series of meetings of the Budget Task Force on the

issues related to Customs Duty, VAT, and Income Tax, from 17 to 22 April 2025 at the NBR office in Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. FBCCI also jointly organized the 45th meeting of the Consultative Committee of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) at the hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka on April 30, 2025.

In cooperation with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPO), WTO Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), and Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), FBCCI organized a high-level policy dialogue titled 'Navigating Global Market - Bangladesh's Trade and Investment Strategies in the Post LDC Era', on 09 April 2025 at hotel InterContinental Dhaka, during the Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025 was retained from 7th to 10th April 2025.

On 10th April, a 140-member delegation from the National Defence College (NDC) Course-2025, including faculty, and participants including overseas military officers, visited

FBCCI. A discussion meeting with the visiting delegation from Bhutan was also held on April, 2025, at the FBCCI premises in Motijheel, Dhaka. Moreover, a couple of meetings of the FBCCI Shohayok Committee were held in April.

Additionally, regular discussion and view exchange meetings with stakeholders, national business leaders and dignitaries from different business chambers, associations, and forums were conducted throughout to the month April. Furthermore, FBCCI consistently represents diverse Business Communities in significant dialogues locally and internationally.

In this edition, two articles namely 'Inclusive Innovation Led Productivity' and 'FBCCI Safety Council Facilitates Private Sector Collaboration on SDGs' by FBCCI's Research Department and Safety Council have been incorporated respectively.

Finally, I extend my sincere gratitude to all our members, business leaders, and stakeholders for their continued support. I strongly believe, collective efforts of committed people from all sectors will certainly streamline our thriving economy.

Warm regards,

Md. Hafizur Rahman
 Administrator, FBCCI

45th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of NBR held in collaboration with FBCCI



The 45th meeting of the Consultative Committee of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) held in collaboration with FBCCI, on 30 April 2025 at the hotel Pan Pacific Sonargoan, Dhaka.

Honorable Finance Adviser Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed graced the meeting as the chief guest.

NBR Chairman Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Khan, FCMA chaired the meeting. The meeting was also attended by the Commerce Adviser Mr. Sk. Bashir Uddin

and the Executive Chairman of BIDA and BEZA Mr. Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun.

FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman moderated the meeting and presented a set of recommendations for the upcoming national budget.

FBCCI Administrator stressed that the government would make a sincere effort to formulate an industry and investment-friendly budget in order to face the future challenges.

During the meeting, finance adviser Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed mentioned that the aim of the interim government is to make a realistic budget. We are planning to formulate a target-oriented budget, not an expenditure-oriented one, he added.

Among others, former President of the FBCCI Mr. Abdul Awal Mintoo, Chairman of the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission Dr. Moinul Khan, Secretary General of FBCCI Mr. Md. Alamgir, business leaders, government officials and dignitaries were present at the meeting.

Dialogue on Trade & Investment Strategies for Bangladesh

A high-level policy dialogue titled 'Navigating Global Markets- Bangladesh's Trade & Investment Strategies in the Post-LDC Era', held on April 9, 2025, at hotel InterContinental Dhaka.

FBCCI organized the dialogue in association with World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), WTO Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), and Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), as the sideline

session of the Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025.

Hon'ble Commerce Adviser SK. Bashir Uddin graced the event as the guest of honor. The dialogue was moderated by FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman.



In his welcome remarks, the commerce adviser mentioned that the Ministry of Commerce is committed to fostering a conducive environment for sustainable investment and inclusive trade. He said, we are actively working to streamline regulatory frameworks, enhance infrastructure, and promote diversification across key

sectors. Our goal is to create a robust and resilient economy that can withstand global shocks and capitalize on emerging opportunities.

Commerce Adviser SK. Bashir Uddin includes, we aim to explore strategies that will enhance our competitiveness, attract foreign direct investment, and strengthen

our position in the global value chain. I am confident that the expertise and insights shared during this summit will contribute significantly to shaping our trade and investment strategies.

Business leaders participating in the dialogue recommended consistency in implementing the policy to encourage local and international investors.

Addressing the closing remarks, the Administrator of FBCCI Md. Hafizur Rahman stated that the FBCCI will continue its effort to support country's private sector by reinforcing business facilitation and creating a business friendly environment.

NDC Delegation visited FBCCI



A 140-member delegation from the National Defence College (NDC) Course-2025, including faculties, participants, and supporting staff, visited the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), on April 10, 2025.

Rear Adm A K M Jakir Hossain, ndc, afwc, psc. led the NDC delegation. Maj. Gen.

Md. Hakimuzzaman, SGP, ndc,afwc, psc and Maj. Gen. Md. Moshfequr Rahman, BSP, SGP, SUP, ndc, psc (retd), also attended.

Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Administrator of FBCCI warmly welcomed the NDC delegation. The Administrator highlighted the mission, vision and objectives of the FBCCI and stressed the role of Private Sector in ensuring national security of the country.

Mr. Md. Alamgir, Secretary General of FBCCI demonstrated FBCCI's activities.

Adviser of FBCCI Safety Council Brig. Gen. (Retd) Abu Nayeem Md. Shahidullah, former director of FBCCI Mr. Abdul Haque, Mr. Md. Giasuddin Chowdhury (Khokon), Mr. Khandaker Ruhul Amin, business leaders and others were present at the program.

FBCCI's Shohayok Committee Meeting held



FBCCI's Shohayok Committee Meeting was held on 20th April 2025 at FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Administrator, FBCCI chaired the meeting. Issues related to FBCCI's current activities and upcoming programs were discussed in the meeting.

Members of the FBCCI Shohayok Committee Ms. Nasreen Fatema Awal, Mr. Md. Giasuddin Chowdhury (Khokon), Mr. Prabir Kumar Saha, Mr. Belayet Hossain Bhuiyan, FBCCI Secretary General Mr. Md. Alamgir, Head of FBCCI International Affairs Wing Mr. Md. Zafar Iqbal ndc and others were present, among others.

Meetings of the Budget Taskforce on Customs Duty, VAT, and Income Tax



A series of meetings of the Budget Taskforce on Customs Duty, VAT, and Income Tax related issues were held on 17, 21 and 22 April 2025 respectively, at the NBR office in Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

Member of Customs Policy Mr. Hossain Ahmed, Member of VAT Policy Dr. Md. Abdur

Rouf, and Member of Tax Policy Mr. A.K.M. Badiul Alam, on behalf of their respected division, chaired these meetings.

FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Former director of FBCCI and member of FBCCI's Shohayok Committee Mr. Abdul Haque, Mr. Belayet Hossain Bhuiyan,

adviser of FBCCI Mr. Md. Manzur Ahmed, Secretary General of FBCCI Mr. Md. Alamgir, former member of FBCCI Budget expert committee Mr. Snehasish Barua, Senior Additional Secretary General of FBCCI Mr. Shah Md. Abdul Khaleque and others were attended those meetings.

FBCCI Administrator attended the 6th Bangladesh-Japan Public-Private Joint Economic Dialogue

FBCCI Administrator Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, as a member of the Bangladesh delegation, attended the 6th Bangladesh-Japan Public-Private Joint Economic Dialogue, on 23 April 2025 at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Tokyo, Japan.

The Bangladesh delegation, comprising senior government officials and private sector representatives, led by M Siraz Uddin Miah, principal secretary to the Chief Advisor.

The Japanese delegation, headed by Matsuo Takehiko,



vice minister for international affairs, METI were present there.

Among others, the ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan Md. Daud Ali and ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh Saida Shinichi also attended the event.

Meeting of the FBCCI Budget Proposal Preparatory Committee



The meeting of the FBCCI budget proposal preparatory committee was held on 13 April 2025 at FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

The meeting was focused on preparing a comprehensive budget recommendation by FBCCI for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Former director of FBCCI and member of FBCCI's Shohayok

Former director of FBCCI and member of FBCCI's Shohayok Committee Mr. Abdul Haque, member of the FBCCI Shohayok Committee Mr. Md. Giasuddin Chowdhury (Khokon), Mr. Belayet Hossain Bhuiyan, President of the Chapainawabganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr. Md. Abdul Wahed,

President of the Tangail Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr. Benzir Ahmed Tito,

President of the Barishal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr. Md Ebaydul Haque Chand, Secretary General of FBCCI Mr. Md. Alamgir, former member of FBCCI Budget expert committee Mr. Snehasish Barua, Senior Additional Secretary General of FBCCI Mr. Shah Md. Abdul Khaleque and others were attended the meeting.

FBCCI Administrator attended a meeting of the Working Group for Women's Trade Economic Empowerment

Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, the Administrator of FBCCI attended the 8th meeting of the Working Group for Women's Trade Economic Empowerment on April 21, 2025 at BIAM Foundation, Eskaton, Dhaka.

Dr. Nazneen Kawshar Chowdhury, Additional Secretary, WTO Wing, Ministry of Commerce chaired the meeting.



FBCCI's Shohayok Committee Member participate Capstone Course 2025



Ms. Nasreen Fatema Awal, member of the FBCCI Shohayok Committee, former Director of FBCCI, and the President of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Bangladesh (WEAB), is participating in the 'Capstone Course 2025/1' of the National Defence College (NDC). The course is ongoing and scheduled to end on 08th May, 2025.

FBCCI's Budget Committee Meeting held

The meeting of the FBCCI's Budget Committee was held on April 29, 2025 at the FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka.

Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Administrator of FBCCI chaired the meeting. The discussion was focused on conducting an effective and successful meeting with the Consultative Committee of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) on National Budget.

Among others, former director of FBCCI and member of the Shohayok Committee Mr. Abdul Haque, Mr. Giasuddin Chowdhury (Khokon), Member of the FBCCI Shohayok Committee



Mr. Belayet Hossain Bhuiyan, FBCCI Secretary General Mr. Md. Alamgir, FBCCI General Body member Mr. Zakir Hossain Noyon, Member of the FBCCI Budget Committee Mr. Snehasish Barua, President of the Barishal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr. Ebaydul Huq Chand, FBCCI Senior Additional Secretary General Mr. Shah Md. Abdul Khaleque and others were present in the meeting.

Bhutanese Delegation visits FBCCI

A discussion meeting with the visiting delegation from Bhutan was held on April 23, 2025 at FBCCI office in Motijheel, Dhaka. The delegation was led by Mr. Dawa Dakpa, Regional Director, Regional Marketing Coordinator of Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives Office (RAMCO).

The meeting discussed on issues like trade on fruits and spices including strengthening network, bilateral trade, and exploring new avenues of trade between Bangladesh and Bhutan.

Among others, Head of FBCCI International Affairs Wing Mr. Md. Zafar Iqbal ndc,



Minister Counsellor (Trade) of the Royal Bhutanese Embassy Mr. Dawa Tshering, Former Director of the FBCCI Hafez Haji Mohd. Enayetullah, Ms. Ferdosi Begum, General Body Member of FBCCI Mr. Md. Zakir Hossain, Sheikh Al Mamun, President of Bangladesh Agro Feed Ingredients Importers and Traders Association Mr. A.M. Amirul Islam Bhuiyan, business leaders and members of the delegation were present in the meeting.

Inclusive Innovation Led Productivity

In today's rapidly evolving global landscape, innovation has emerged as a key driver of productivity, economic growth and social progress. To realize its full potential, innovation must be inclusive, ensuring that its benefits are shared by all segments of society, regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, or geographic location.

For Bangladesh to achieve its development goals, a sustained focus on industrialization and productivity enhancement through structural reforms is essential. This requires improving infrastructure and energy security with adequate supply of power and gas for industry, investing in skilled labor, and fostering an inclusive economy.

Innovation, encompassing new ideas, methods, products, and organizational/marketing changes, are vital catalysts for economic growth and productivity. Inclusive innovation, especially for developing nations like Bangladesh, involves engaging diverse groups like women, youth, and low-income individuals in creating solutions. This not only generates diverse ideas and addresses real needs but also empowers employees, boosts productivity, and promotes fairness.

Productivity, the efficiency of turning resources into goods and services, drives economic growth. Higher productivity means more output, better living standards, and stronger competitiveness. In countries such as Singapore, where resources are limited, enhancing productivity has become the key to achieving economic growth. Thus, companies are increasingly encouraged to implement productivity-enhancing measures, including using automation and technology, improving supply chains and processes, and adopting standards.

To propel Bangladesh's economic trajectory and secure its place among the world's developed nations, a comprehensive and sustained approach to industrialization and productivity enhancement is imperative. By scaling up structural reform initiatives, we can unlock our nation's full economic potential, foster innovation, and drive sustainable growth.

Industrialization stands as the foundation of Bangladesh's economic advancement. To foster a robust industrial sector and ensure its sustained growth, productivity enhancement is imperative. This necessitates a comprehensive approach that encompasses all facets of the economy, from agriculture and commerce to the service sector, including offices, educational institutions, and healthcare facilities.

Our industry significantly boosts GDP. To grow faster, we must increase productivity. This means ensuring reliable power, gas, and infrastructure, and investing in skilled workers. By creating a more inclusive economy, we can reach our GDP goals and become a globally prosperous nation.

All four pillars of innovation—product, process, organizational, and marketing—contribute significantly to enhancing productivity. While it is challenging to isolate the individual impact of each type due to measurement complexities and their interconnected nature, it is evident that these innovations often complement one another. Although the precise interplay between these innovations remains elusive, their synergistic relationship is undeniable, driving overall performance improvements.

For Bangladesh, embracing innovation is paramount to realizing its aspirations of becoming a prosperous nation. By fostering a culture of creativity and encouraging out-of-the-box thinking, we can unlock the full potential of our workforce and industries. Investing in research and development, promoting entrepreneurship, and providing access to technology and education will be instrumental in driving innovation and accelerating economic growth.

By implementing innovation, Bangladesh can position itself as a global leader in key sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, and information technology. This will not only create new jobs and generate wealth but also enhance our international reputation and attract foreign investment. As we navigate the complexities of the 21st century, innovation will be the key to unlocking our nation's full potential and securing a prosperous future for generations to come.

Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies promise to revolutionize agriculture as well. By integrating crop health monitoring, advanced irrigation systems, robotics, drone technology, and artificial intelligence, smart farming systems will optimize production, reduce costs, and enhance sustainability.

Key technologies, such as nanotechnology, synthetic biology, and renewable energy, will further contribute to agricultural advancements. Nanotechnology can improve soil nutrient delivery and water efficiency, while synthetic biology offers potential for developing eco-friendly pesticides. Renewable energy sources, derived from agricultural waste, can reduce environmental impact.

Crops		FY 2021-22			FY 2022-23	
	Area of fertile land (million acres)	Production (million metric tons)	Productivity (%)	Area of fertile land (million acres)	Production (million metric tons)	Productivity (%)
Aush	28.64	30.00	1.04	26.22	29.01	1.10
Amon	141.31	149.58	1.05	141.43	154.26	1.09
Boro	118.97	201.85	1.69	119.89	207.67	1.73
Wheat	7.78	10.85	1.39	7.83	11.70	1.49
Potato	11.47	101.44	8.84	11.26	104.31	9.26

It is reflected from this chart that our area of fertile lands are decreasing every year, yet our productivity level has remained almost stagnant. To cope with increasing population and decreasing area of land, inclusive innovation, IoT, Nanotechnology and AI can play a crucial role for sustainable economic growth.

Precision agriculture, a modern farming innovation, holds the key to transforming Bangladesh's agriculture. Utilizing big data and technologies like remote sensing, drones, and robotics, farmers can fine-tune resource management, improve soil health, and increase harvests. This data-driven precision in managing moisture, soil, and microclimates significantly enhances productivity and profits. With government backing and R&D investment, Bangladesh can rapidly adopt precision agriculture for sustainable and inclusive agricultural progress.

Bangladesh can significantly boost its livestock sector's productivity and sustainability through the adoption of emerging technologies. By harnessing the power of data-driven insights, farmers can optimize farm management, enhance animal welfare, and ultimately increase yields.

For instance, automated dairy farms improve milk production by replacing manual labor and ensuring consistent quality. Automatic cleaning creates hygienic conditions, lowering disease risks. New treatments, like non-antibiotic options for mastitis, protect animal health and reduce financial losses. Automated feeders provide precise nutrition for optimal animal growth.

For manufacturers, AI and innovation are key to modernizing operations and gaining a competitive advantage. AI-driven predictive maintenance boosts efficiency by preventing failures. Machine learning optimizes supply chains through better forecasting and logistics.

One of the most promising areas for inclusive innovation in Bangladesh lies in leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) to revolutionize healthcare delivery. AI has the potential to be the biggest health-care revolution of the 21st century, offering faster, more accurate diagnoses and earlier disease detection – a game-changer for a nation with a limited medical workforce, particularly in rural regions.

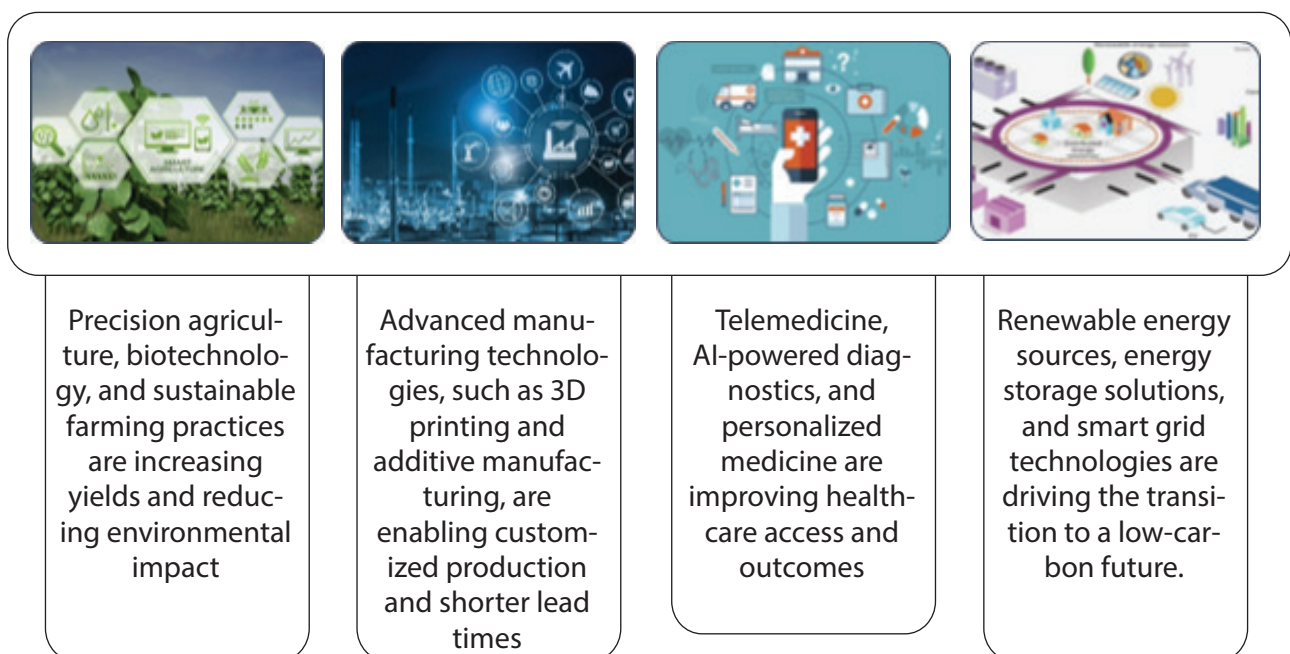
Imagine a future where algorithms and machine learning become commonplace tools in Bangladeshi hospitals. AI-powered systems could analyze medical scans like mammograms 30 times faster and with near-perfect accuracy, significantly reducing the need for invasive biopsies. This technology holds the potential to not only improve patient outcomes but also free up valuable time for doctors to focus on complex cases.

Sustainability, 4IR, and climate change are transforming global production, and Bangladesh is no exception. Climate change's threats, such as extreme weather and supply chain disruptions, create major challenges. To maintain strong manufacturing and agriculture, the country needs to adapt to new technologies. Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) tools like AI and automation can improve production, reduce waste, and save energy.

Facing rapid industrial change and disruption, companies face a critical choice: adapt or decline. The "Disruption Dilemma" illustrates this with Fujifilm's successful transformation compared to Kodak's downfall, emphasizing the necessity of embracing innovation for long-term success.

Singapore's building efficiency standards offer a model for installing and upgrading energy systems. Using AI, machine learning, and IoT improves production, quality, and reduces waste. Strong supply chains lessen climate change risks. Workforce training ensures workers adapt to new technologies. "Resilient by Design" helps industries handle change, survive challenges, and find new opportunities.

Innovation Across various Sectors for Commercial Success



We need comprehensive sector-specific research plans and strategies that address the entire value chain, from field to market. This includes stakeholder roles, government policy support, access to finance, and operational costs.

We also need collaboration among Private sector, government and development partners for increasing the quality of our cluster- specific products (identified by the SME Foundation and Bangladesh Bank) to meet all international standards and regulations. Transforming these cluster SMEs into export-oriented industries by leveraging online platforms like Daraz and Alibaba is also essential for increasing export basket and sustainable productivity.

The innovative technologies from the Ministry of Science and Technology, research of different universities like BUAT, DU and public & private research organization hold significant potential for economic growth, which can be realized through pilot projects and subsequent commercialization of research findings. Corporate organizations, MNCs, and government ministries (Science and Technology, ICT, and Industry) can significantly encourage researchers to commercialize their innovations. According to the World Bank report, the development of skills can contribute to structural transformation and economic growth by enhancing employability and labor productivity and helping countries to become more competitive. When done right, skills development can reduce underemployment, increase productivity, and improve standards of living. Investing in up skilling or reskilling people for jobs of the future makes economic sense.

To boost our economy, we must embrace inclusive innovation and increase productivity. By prioritizing diversity and equity in innovation, Bangladesh can maximize its potential. Investing in research, entrepreneurship, and supportive environments will empower workers, drive growth, and improve lives. Let's work together to build a prosperous future through inclusive innovation.

- Prepared by Research and Planning Department, FBCCI

FBCCI Safety Council Facilitates Private Sector Collaboration on SDGs

Established in September 2021, the FBCCI Safety Council is committed to promoting safer workplaces, strengthening disaster risk reduction, and addressing compliance challenges across industries in Bangladesh. Beyond its core mandates, the Council proudly provides secretarial support to the Bangladesh Private Sector Working Committee (BPSWC), helping mobilize the private sector to collaborate with the Government of Bangladesh, the UN System, and other stakeholders in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Formed by representatives from FBCCI and BEF, the BPSWC has organized its work through five thematic SDG Working Groups. These groups are tasked with analysing sectoral links to the SDGs, developing guiding manuals, facilitating dialogue platforms, and building partnerships with the public sector, academia, and civil society. Each group is prioritizing SMART targets and formulating strategic action plans under a two-phase roadmap: Phase 1 (2024–2026) focuses on laying a strong foundation, while Phase 2 (2026–2030) will emphasize scaling up and innovation.

Aligned with national priorities, including UNSDCF Priority 1: Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development, the BPSWC's work supports key areas such as responsible business practices, skills development, entrepreneurship, and CMSME resilience.

Through its leadership and support, the FBCCI Safety Council—working closely with BEF, the SDG Affairs Office under the



Chief Advisor's Office, relevant Ministries, UNRCO, UN Agencies, and development partners—is playing a pivotal role in mobilizing private sector engagement for the SDGs. The BPSWC and its thematic groups will continue regular coordination, with upcoming initiatives focusing on promoting Responsible Business Conduct and expanding private sector-led quality apprenticeship programs, helping pave the way for a resilient and prosperous Bangladesh.

- **Prepared by Safety Council, FBCCI**

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