



# India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry

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Abdul Matlub Ahmad

## From the President's Desk

It is with great pleasure and immense pride that I extend my warmest greetings to all the members of the Chamber and its well-wishers both at home and abroad. The rapid growth in export business, hard-working labor force, and committed entrepreneurs supported by the pro-business, pro-investment policies of the Government are leading Bangladesh towards the line of global business competency. As a result, the gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow by 5.3% in fiscal year 2023.

India has always cherished its close relationship with Bangladesh and worked for strengthening ties and contribute to the development agenda. Bangladesh has been a vital partner under India's flagship 'Neighborhood First' policy and a key contributor to India's 'Act East' policy. The opening of the 131.57 km long Friendship Pipeline is the latest indicator of energy cooperation between the two countries. The operationalization of the Agreement to use both Chattogram and Mongla ports for the transshipment of goods from and to India, and the inauguration of the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Dawki, Meghalaya has opened a new chapter in the bilateral economic relations showing much potential of increase in trade volume, cross-border movement and maintenance of security and stability.

In the last couple of months, IBCCI has been actively engaged in the development of bilateral relationships and a key participant in the B20 India Initiatives Multilateral Conferences in Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland; North East Global Investors Summit in New Delhi; 3rd India-Japan Intellectual Dialog in Tripura on Trilateral partnership for a better supply chain from North East of India to South East Asia and utilization of Matarbari deep sea port for a secure and prosperous Bay of Bengal Neighborhood. And the State Level Roundtable Meeting in Tripura on 2 May 2023 has given emphasis on improving multi-modal connectivity through NER for expediting movements of goods and services.

IBCCI signed an MoU with the Business Association of Nagas (BAN) on the sidelines of the B20 Business Summit at Kohima with the aim to facilitate the exchange of information, expertise, and technology in the area of Agriculture, Food Processing, Bamboo, Tourism, Textiles, RMG, IT services, Stones and Mineral, and Renewable Energy. In view of this, IBCCI hosted a 15-member BAN delegation team who paid a visit to Bangladesh from 6th-10th May 2023 and signed more than 34 MOUs with IBCCI members and Sunamganj Chamber of Commerce & Industry which will open up a new horizon of business with Nagaland and North East India.

## IBCCI organizes 92nd board meeting and bids farewell to VP Mr. Abhisek Das

The India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI) organized its 92nd board meeting with the executive committee members at its own office in the capital on Thursday, the 2nd of February 2023.

The participants of the meeting exchanged views about the agenda of the 91st board meeting, approved the membership requests of new applicants, had a discussion on the financial statement and made a decision on an annual get-together.

The executive committee members bade farewell to IBCCI Vice President Abhisek Das with flowers. IBCCI President Abdul Matlub Ahmad, Vice President Shoeb Chowdhury, IBCCI directors Amit Kumar, Sumit Goswami, Farkhunda Jabeen Khan and Liakat Ali Bhuiyan recalled their working experience with Abhisek Das among others.

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The outgoing Vice President Mr Abhisek Das is being greeted with a flowers bouquet by the IBCCI Board of Directors.

The speakers admired the effective and dynamic role played by Abhisek Das during the Covid 19 period and beyond. On the other hand, Abhisek Das expressed gratitude to IBCCI for the cooperation and support he received during his tenure in the organization. The meeting was attended by IBCCI President Abdul Matlub Ahmad, Vice President Shoeb Chowdhury, Honorary Secretary General Amit Kumar, directors

VNC Pillai, Alhaj Md. Bazlur Rahman, Farkhunda Jabeen Khan, Liakat Ali Bhuiyan, SK Mahfuz Hamid and Sumit Goswami.

Moreover, Eyaqub Sharafati, Robin Kumar Das, Sumitava Basu and Matiar Rahman were connected with the meeting virtually.

Courtesy: The Asian Age, Dated 03 February 2023

## IBCCI leaders meet NBR Chairman to discuss pre-budget issues

Business leaders belonging to different trade bodies and chambers of commerce had a meeting with Chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) Abu Hena Md. Rahmatul Muneem at his Agargaon office in Dhaka on Sunday, 19th February 2023.

President of India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI) Abdul Matlub Ahmad and IBCCI Vice President Shoeb Chowdhury, IBCCI directors Matiar Rahman, Khorshed Alam and Alak Das were present during the meeting.

The IBCCI leaders urged the NBR Chairman to reduce the load of taxes on business enterprises. They also requested the NBR chief to extend policy support to entrepreneurs so that business houses can function smoothly. Moreover, the IBCCI leaders sought cooperation from NBR authorities to make doing business easier in Bangladesh. They made references to supply chain disruption caused by the Russia-Ukraine War.

NBR Chairman Abu Hena Md. Rahmatul Muneem



Photo: IBCCI leaders meet NBR Chairman to discuss pre-budget issues. Leaders of India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI) meet NBR Chairman Abu Hena Md. Rahmatul Muneem on Sunday. IBCCI President Abdul Matlub Ahmad and Vice President Shoeb Chowdhury are seen in the picture among others. -AA

gave assurance about looking into the points put forward by the business leaders. He added that Bangladesh is now facing a troublesome time due to global restless economic situation which is why the country had to borrow a loan from International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Courtesy: The Asian Age, Dated 20 February 2023

## IBCCI Secretary General participates at the B20 India Initiatives in North East States of India, 1-3 March 2023 at Aizawl, Mizoram, India

A one-member delegation led by the Secretary General of IBCCI attended the event titled Conference on opportunities for Multilateral Business Partnerships in Urban planning, Infrastructure, Bamboo, Startups, Skill Development, Nursing and Paramedics at Mizoram

University Auditorium, Aizawl, India. The Summit was an ideal platform for the key stakeholders to interact on investment and bilateral trade promotion.

The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation and the Business



20 (B20) is the official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community. In North East States of India, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the B20 India Secretariat is organizing B20 Programmes in the cities of Aizawl in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs and the State Governments.

The 3-days program started with the Cultural Evening & Welcome dinner at Raj Bhavan which was attended by the Governor H.E. Mr. Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati and his wife Smt. Kambhampati Jayasree.

On the 2nd day on March 2, 2023, the main program



Photo: The Honorable CM is seen on the stage with other Ministers and Dignitaries.



Photo: Secretary General of IBCCI speaking at the B20 Program in Mizoram.

was arranged at the Mizoram University Auditorium where the Honorable Chief Minister of Mizoram H.E. Shri Zoramthanga gave the keynote address. Among others the inaugural session was also addressed by the Honorable Minister of State of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India H.E. Dr. R K Ranjan Singh; Honorable Minister of State of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Government of India, H.E. Shri Som Parkash.

The Secretary-General Of IBCCI to took part discussion. The speakers underscored the prospects in the core sector and hoped that Mizoram will succeed in its endeavor as she has huge potential and a literate workforce. They underscored the need for setting up a strong supply chain network.

In the B2B session, the Mizoram delegates showed their keen interest to export bamboo chips, spices, horticulture products, mineral substances and medicinal plants. On the other hand, Bangladesh has the scope to export RMG, Toiletries, Sanitary wares, Processed food and plastic commodities (which is already in place there).



Photo: IBCCI Secretary-General is seen with the Honorable CM of Mizoram H.E. Shri Zoramthanga at the B20 Program in Mizoram

## Shoeb Chowdhury calls on Indian envoy Pranay Verma

IBCCI Vice President Shoeb Chowdhury called on Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma at his office on Thursday. –AA

Chairman, Editorial Board of The Asian Age and Vice President of India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI) Shoeb Chowdhury called on Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma at his office on Thursday. Shoeb Chowdhury greeted Pranay Verma with flowers.

They talked about different bilateral issues between Bangladesh and India, especially currency swap, cultural bonds, socio-economic development goals and assistance in technological, trade and commerce sectors. Saying that India is currently Bangladesh's third export destination, Shoeb Chowdhury welcomed the move to initiate currency swap between India

and Bangladesh. The spirit of the Liberation War of 1971 ties India and Bangladesh in timeless friendship and this alliance between the two countries will be further strengthened in days to come, he expressed hope. Both Pranay Verma and Shoeb Chowdhury put forward their belief in the core values of 1971.

Shoeb Chowdhury also spoke on debt trap diplomacy and admired India's steps to cooperate with Bangladesh in the energy sector and commodities supply in the post-Covid economy and the economic turmoil created by the Russia-Ukraine War.

A memorial to the martyred Indian soldiers who gave away their lives during the Liberation War of 1971 should be built inside Dhaka or in an adjacent place, he added. He attached importance to the prevalence of secularism and interreligious harmony to further

consolidate the affiliations between India and Bangladesh. The IBCCI Vice President commented that the dichotomous standpoint should be eliminated to fortify Bangladesh's relations with India.

Shoeb Chowdhury also referred to India's presidency in G 20 Summit and conveyed his confidence that it will be helpful for Bangladesh in reaching its socio-economic goals and ensuring Bangladesh's strong stance globally.

Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma said that the friendship between India and Bangladesh is tested and proven. India will be standing by Bangladesh in facing all challenges and preserving the cultural bonds between the two nations, Pranay Verma stated. The Indian High Commissioner termed Bangladesh as



IBCCI Vice President Shoeb Chowdhury called on Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma at his office on Thursday. –AA

India's closest neighbour and said that India's foreign policy asserts "Neighbours First" and Bangladesh will focus more on the principles of 1971.

*Courtesy: The Asian Age, Dated March 10, 2023*

## IBCCI participates at the B20 India Initiatives in North East States of India, 15-17 March 2023, Gangtok, Sikkim, India

A 5-member delegation led by the Director of IBCCI Mr. SK Mahfuz Hamid attended the event titled Conference on Opportunities for Multilateral Business Partnerships in Tourism, Hospitality, Pharmaceutical and Organic Farming at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok, India. The other members of the delegations are S

M Abul Kalam Azad, Mr. Md. Delowar Hossain, Mr. Sheikh Golam Shahabuddin, and Mr. Kh. Farhad Hossain. The Summit was an ideal platform for the key stakeholders to interact on investment and bilateral trade promotion. The IBCCI business delegation was cordially received at the Bagdogra airport by the organizer and then taken to the hotel Denzong Regency.



Photo: With the Honourable Chief Minister of Sikkim His Excellency Mr. Prem Singh Tamang on 16 March 2023 at the Chintan Bhawan in Gangtok, Sikkim, India at the B20 Program.



Photo: On a visit to the Rumtek Monastery with the participating foreign delegates on 16 March 2023 evening in Gangtok, Sikkim, India

We did participate in all the programs. The meeting was attended by more than 100 delegates including around 50 foreign delegates from 24 countries. In the meeting, the vibrant organic farming of the state was displayed prominently in front of the world through the B20 program. It also focused on exploring opportunities for cooperation in industries such as tourism, hospitality, and pharmaceuticals. Meanwhile, Sikkim Chief Minister H.E Mr. Prem Singh Tamang addressed the delegates participating in the conference. He appealed for support to establish Sikkim as the 'Greenest Agroecological Destination' in the world. He said that Sikkim needs such green technology which can ensure better production from limited agricultural land.

From our end, we find that there is ample scope for business with Sikkim. We met the concerned delegates of Sikkim and will be in touch with them to promote trade and business in days to come.

## India-BD friendship pipeline inaugurated

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the inauguration of the friendship pipeline has started a new chapter in India-Bangladesh relations.

"In the last few years, under the capable leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has made

remarkable progress. Every Indian is proud of that and we are delighted that we've been able to contribute to this development journey of Bangladesh," said the Indian premier after the inauguration of the first cross-border energy pipeline on Saturday.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart opened the 131.57-kilometer pipeline through a video conference as part of cooperation in the energy sector between the two neighboring countries. Highlighting that the inauguration was taking place a day after the birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, founding leader of Bangladesh and father of Sheikh Hasina, PM Modi said the joint project is a perfect example of his 'Sonar Bangla' vision. With a capacity to transport one million metric tons per annum (MMTPA) of high-speed diesel, the pipeline will supply high speed diesel initially to seven districts in northern Bangladesh.

"The operation of India- Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline will put in place a sustainable, reliable, cost-effective and environment friendly mode of transporting HSD from India to Bangladesh and

will further enhance cooperation in energy security between the two countries," Indian Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

Of the pipeline, 126.57 kilometers are in Bangladesh while the remaining 5 kilometers have been installed in India. The Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), the state agency under the Energy and Mineral Resources Division, has been implementing the project under a 15-year deal with India to annually import 250,000 tons to 400,000 tons of diesel from the neighboring country through the cross-border pipeline.

The deal was signed in 2017 following the approval of the Cabinet Economic Affairs Committee on August 23. Bangladesh annually needs to import 6.6 million tons to 7.7 million tons of diesel to meet its demand.

*Courtesy: The Asian Age, Dated 19 March, 2023*

## Participation at the B20 India Initiatives in North East States of India, 04–06 April 2023, Kohima, Nagaland



*Photo: The Speakers of the Nagaland G20/B20 Conference are seen in a single frame which took place in the State Banquet Hall, Kohima, Nagaland on 5 April 2023*

An 11-member delegation led by the President of IBCCI Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad attended the event titled Conference on Opportunities for Multilateral Business Partnerships in Tourism, Hospitality, Pharmaceutical and Organic Farming at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok, India. The other members of the delegations are S M Abul Kalam Azad, Mr. Md. Delowar Hossain, Mr. Md. Abdul Aziz, Mr. Mohammad Khairul Islam, Mr. Saidul Islam Manna Sarder, Mr. Nasir Uddin, Mr. Ajoy Kumar Paul, Mr. Abdul Mannan, and Mr. Alimuzzaman Harun. The Director Mr. Shah Mohammad Farid of

IBCCI Guwahati Chapter received the IBCCI delegates at the Dimapur Airport and accompanied the team throughout the program. The Summit was an ideal platform for the key stakeholders to interact on investment and bilateral trade promotion.

In his speech at the B20 program on 5th April 2023, the President of IBCCI Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad did propose to the government of Nagaland to create a task force for ensuring fast development of trade and investment and connectivity issues between Nagaland



and Bangladesh. So we are, as you know, building our deep seaport in Chittagong Matarbari which will open up ample opportunities for trade and business between Bangladesh and India which our honorable Prime Minister also touched upon.

He said that the Japanese Prime Minister last week declared that this Matarbari deep seaport will be utilized for the economic development of the northeast and hence, he requested the honorable CM to declare the matter before all the other Northeast states. I think that Nagaland is ready to look into the prospects of using the Bangladesh Deep Seaport for connectivity he added.

Mr. President also said that meanwhile we are also connected by road and rail. I would like to say that

this deep seaport will help Nagaland to increase their exports, have direct access to the world, and also import whatever they want through Bangladesh. Still, we can work on the immediate troubles between Nagaland and Bangladesh.

Furthermore, the president of IBCCI held a special meeting with the Honorable Chief Minister of Nagaland H E Shri Neiphiu Rio, the Honorable Advisor of Industry and Commerce, Government of Nagaland Smt Hekani Jakhlu, and the General Secretary of Business Associations of Nagas and other association present. On our way back to Dhaka, IBCCI signed an MOU document with the President of Business Associations of Nagas at Niathu Resort, Dimapur on the 6th of April 2023 Morning.



Photo: IBCCI President Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad is speaking at the B20 summit in Kohima, Nagaland on 5th April 2023 at the State Banquet Hall.



Photo: Exchange of MOU document with the President of Business Associations of Nagas (BAN) at Niathu Resort, Dimapur on 6th April 2023 Morning.



Photo: IBCCI Delegation is holding a meeting led by its President Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad with the Honorable Chief Minister of Nagaland H E Shri Neiphiu Rio on 5 April 2023 at his Conference Room in the Capital, Kohima during G20 Conference.

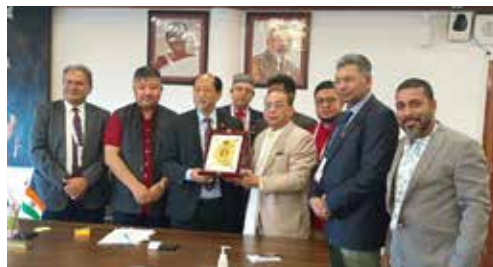


Photo: The Honorable Chief Minister of Nagaland H E Shri Neiphiu Rio is being greeted by the President of IBCCI Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad with a Crest on 5 April 2023 at his Conference Room in the Capital, Kohima.

## Integrated Check Post Dawki–Tamabil: A new dawn

The 11th Foundation Day Programme by the (LPAI) on the 21st of March 2023 of the (ICP) in Dawki marks a new beginning for the people of the West Jaintia Hills district and its adjoining areas in the northeastern state of Meghalaya.

The 11th Foundation Day Programme by the Land Port Authority of India (LPAI) on the 21st of March 2023 of the Integrated Check Post (ICP) in Dawki marks a new beginning for the people of the West Jaintia Hills district and its adjoining areas in the northeastern state of Meghalaya. The ICP will be fully operational now with better facilities for bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh as well as the movement of

passengers across the border to boost tourism, border haat, trade, etc.

The programme started with a speech by Shri Aditya Mishra, IPS, Chairman of LPAI, and was attended by officials from Customs, BSF, SIB, BDO, MIECC, Meghalaya Police, LPAI, and other panelists.

The chairman explained how the LPAI came into existence 11 years ago and shared the objectives and goals of different land ports in the Northeast in the next five years. As someone who has visited many international land borders both in this region and in ASEAN, I feel the important takeaways of the programme were that the land port can be more than

a mere port to facilitate trade and immigration but a place where the trade bodies from either side of the border can meet and discuss their trade-related issues with the concerned authorities.



The stakeholders in the tourism sector can set up offices and information centers so that tourists from either side are provided with the right facilities and information. This will also encourage the entrepreneurs living in that area to set up kiosks for local food, cafes, and money exchange offices, which will in turn generate employment among the people living in the area. The MIECC has been at the forefront of highlighting all trade-related issues for the importers and exporters of the region. I am positive that with the new facility of the ICP in Dawki and improvements in Customs and Immigration facilities and infrastructure like roads, uninterrupted power, improved banking facilities, and mobile network connectivity, the ICP in Dawki will develop into a hub of trade and commerce and a fine example for the other ICPs in other parts of the northeast region.

*Courtesy: The Sentinel, Dated 17 April, 2023.*

## IBCCI Secretary General participates at the 3rd India-Japan intellectual dialogue North East India, Bangladesh, and the Bay of Bengal in the Indo-Pacific Building on Partnerships: The Way Forward held on 11-12 April 2023, Agartala, Tripura, India

A 1-member delegation led by the Secretary General of IBCCI attended the conference. The inaugural session was addressed by Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence, Mr. Hiroshi

India, Shri. G Kishan Reddy, Hon. Minister, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Culture and Tourism.



*Photo: The Honorable State Minister of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam, M.P is speaking at the Third India-Japan Intellectual Dialogue*

The Asian Confluence organized the Third India-Japan Intellectual Dialogue on the theme of "North East India, Bangladesh and the Bay of Bengal in the Indo-Pacific Building on Partnerships: The Way Forward" at Hotel Polo Towers, Agartala, Tripura on April 11-12, 2023, in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and North Eastern Council.

This conference aims to highlight the larger framework of cooperation between ongoing bilateral cooperation between India and Japan and Bangladesh and how that can be leveraged for cooperation to secure a prosperous Bay of Bengal Neighbourhood.



*Photo: At the cluster session of the conference on 12 April 2023.*

Suzuki, Hon. Ambassador of Japan to India, H.E. Mr. Shahriar Alam, Hon. Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh, H.E. Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon. Minister of State, External Affairs and Education,

The upcoming Matarbari Deep Sea Port (DSP) in our country, which is being constructed with the assistance of Japan, is going to be a game changer. The DSP is anticipated to boost growth, enhance maritime connectivity and trade, and strengthen industrial value chains. Given that the India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is in operation and the CEPA that Bangladesh is planning to negotiate with India and Japan, a trilateral free trade zone between the three of them will eventually emerge in near future. In a context like this, the Matarbari Deep Sea Port in the Bay of Bengal is likely to play a dual catalytic role while strengthening the trilateral relationship between Bangladesh, India, and Japan.



## Bangladesh okays India's use of 2 ports to transport goods to the northeast

Chattogram is Bangladesh's main port and handles more than 90% of the country's foreign trade while Mongla is the country's second largest sea port on the Bay of Bengal.

Bangladesh has cleared the use of Chattogram and Mongla ports by India for transit and trans-shipment of cargo, a move expected to significantly cut the time and cost needed to transport goods to the country's northeastern states.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) of Bangladesh issued a "permanent transit order" on Tuesday that stated the trans-shipment of cargo will be done in line with standard operating procedures finalized by the two countries under an agreement signed in 2018.

India and Bangladesh have taken a range of steps in recent years to boost connectivity, including the revival of several cross-border railway links that had been closed since the 1965 war with Pakistan, linking of riverine waterway systems and use of ports in Bangladesh for trans-shipment of goods to India's strategic northeastern region.

The two sides signed the "Agreement on the use of Chattogram and Mongla Ports for Movement of Goods to and from India" in October 2018 and finalized the standard operating procedures for operationalizing the pact a year later. But the trans-shipment of goods had not started as Bangladesh had to finalize certain customs procedures and put in place necessary logistics, people familiar with the matter said.

The initiative suffered a setback amid the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the Covid-19 crisis also proved the effectiveness of cross-border connectivity, with the Indian side using cross-border train services to ferry essential supplies to Bangladesh.

Over the past year, the two sides conducted comprehensive trial runs for trans-shipment of cargo to the northeastern states using Chattogram and Mongla ports. The first trial trans-shipment of goods was done in July 2020, when a shipment of iron

rods and pulses was transported from Haldia port near Kolkata to Chattogram port in southeastern Bangladesh and then shipped over land to Tripura.

The trial runs, which were completed last November, helped iron out rough spots and align the immigration and customs set-ups in both countries, the people said.



Chattogram is Bangladesh's main port and handles more than 90% of the country's foreign trade. Mongla is the country's second largest sea port on the Bay of Bengal.

The order issued by the Bangladeshi side opens up transit on 16 routes, and cargo can be transported from Chattogram or Mongla port to Agartala in Tripura via Akhaura, Dawki in Meghalaya via Tamabil, Sutarkandi in Assam via Sheola, and Srimantapur in West Bengal via Bibir Bazar. Similarly, the northeastern states can use these same routes to send goods to the two ports in Bangladesh.

Indian operators will have to obtain a five-year license from Bangladesh customs, and goods being trans-shipped cannot be kept at ports in Bangladesh for more than a week. Any goods prohibited by the laws of Bangladesh cannot transit through the country, according to the order.

Transporters will have to pay several fees, including a trans-shipment fee of 30 Taka per ton, security fee of 100 Taka per ton, an administrative charge of 100 Taka per ton and tolls for using roads in Bangladesh.

*Courtesy: Hindustan Times, Dated April 26, 2023.*

## North East Global Investors Summit Roundtable Interaction on 20th April 2023, New Delhi, India

A 1-member delegation led by the Secretary General of IBCCI attended the conference. It has been an opportunity to attend North East Global Investors Summit Roundtable Interaction on 20th April 2023 at the Conference Room, Invest India, Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi with industry associations/business chambers/IPAs/ trade agencies to share

further details about the upcoming Road Shows in Mumbai (May-W4), Dhaka (June-W2), Hyderabad (June-W4) and Kolkata (June-W4).

The Global Investors Summit was intended to provide a platform for an immersive dialogue between selected embassies, the business community, financial institutions, and relevant government stakeholders

for forging mutually beneficial partnerships.

The focused sectors of the Summit include Tourism Handloom and Handicrafts, Pharmaceuticals, Healthcare, Education and Skill Development, IT/ITes, Entertainment, Sports, Tea, Energy, etc.

It is to be noted here that the northeastern states of India, including Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Manipur, Assam, Nagaland, and Meghalaya, have made significant progress in developing infrastructure. Rail

and air routes have connected these states with New Delhi, reducing the distance between the Northeast and other parts of the country. Insurgency groups' economic blockades are a thing of the past, and peace prevails in Manipur and Assam. The region is also home to stunning tourist attractions, such as tea estates, hills, and pristine rivers, and has the potential to compete with the world's best. As India gains attention on the global stage, it is time to open up the northeastern states to the world.



Photo: Photo Session with the Participants at The North East Global Investors Summit Roundtable Interaction on 20th April 2023 in Delhi.



Photo: With the delegates of the Roundtable Discussion on North East Global Investors Summit 2023 at the Conference Room, Invest India, Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi.

## IBCCI Secretary General participates at the State Level Roundtable Meeting on 2 May 2023 at Pragna Bhavan, Agartala, Tripura

IBCCI delegates attend the State Level Roundtable Meeting on 2 May 2023 at Pragna Bhavan, Agartala,



Photo: Secretary General of IBCCI S M Abul Kalam Azad is addressing at the inaugural session of the Tripura Roundtable meeting in Agartala on 2nd May 2023.

Tripura. This Roundtable Meeting is a precursor to the proposed North East Global Investors Summit, 2023. In the meeting, the Secretary General of IBCCI spoke to the audience, met the Honorable Chief Minister, Industry and Commerce Minister, and Secretaries present, and also discussed potential Investible projects and investment opportunities in sectors like Agriculture, Horticulture, Tourism, Food Processing, Rubber, Tea, Bamboo, Information Technology and Forest-based products and Agar.

## Business Association of Nagas (BAN) visits Bangladesh from 6th to 10th May 2023

A 15-member Business Delegation of Business Association of Nagas (BAN) led by its President Mr. Mongkum Jamir paid a visit to Bangladesh from 6th-10th May 2023 at the invitation of the President of India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI) Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad. IBCCI officials and Tamabil Limestone, Stone, and Coal Importers Group received the distinguished Delegates at the Tamabil Check Post on 6th May 2023 at 11:00 AM. They were given a cordial reception at the office of the Tamabil Limestone, Stone and Coal Importers Group followed by B2B.

It is to be noted here that during our visit to Nagaland for the B20 program the Director of our IBCCI Guwahati Chapter Mr. Shah Md Farid took the all-out initiative to sign an MOU with the Business

Association of Nagas (BAN) and subsequently he took all steps to take the Nagaland delegation to Bangladesh for a 5-day long visit. We are very much indebted to our very close friend Mr. Shah Md Farid for accompanying the team all the way and thereby making the tour a success.

After the B2B meeting at Tamabil, the Delegation was taken to Sylhet Pulp and Paper Mills Ltd., Chhatak via Sylhet City. Upon reaching there the officials of the Nitol Niloy Industrial Park explained the prospects of the Industrial Park, the Delegates showed keen interest in investment over there and went around the area.

On 7th May 2023, the Nagaland Delegation visited Sylhet Pulp and Paper Mills Ltd and took part in the B2B Meeting, and signed 10 MoUs over there.

On the subsequent day i.e., on 8th May 2023, they were welcomed at the Conference Center at Nitol-Niloy Center (7th floor), 71 Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212 at 10:00 am.

The seminar was anchored by the President of IBCCI Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad. Among others, the leader of the Delegation Mr. Mongkhum Jamir, and his entourage, Directors, and Members of IBCCI, and some foreign friends took part in the discussion and highlighted the different aspects of investment and joint venture collaboration between Nagaland and Bangladesh. Then B2B was held between IBCCI members and other traders with Nagaland delegates. There were 24 MoUs signed.

Before attending the seminar at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka at 6:30 PM, the Delegates made a call on with the First Secretary (Commercial) Mr. Pratik Negi of the High Commission of India to Bangladesh.

A seminar was held at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka at 6:30 PM titled "Investment opportunities between Bangladesh and North East India with the special focus on Nagaland."

The seminar was presided over by the President of IBCCI Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad while the Minister of Industries, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Mr. Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun MP was the Chief Guest and the Hon'ble High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Mr. Pranay Verma was the Guest of Honor in the seminar. It was attended by the visiting Delegation of Nagaland, the Board of Directors of IBCCI, Members of IBCCI, and IBCCI officials.

Mr. M Shoeb Chowdhury, the Vice President of IBCCI, underscored the strong and well-established foundation of the relationship between India and Bangladesh. Recognizing India as a crucial development partner, Mr. Chowdhury emphasized the need for Bangladesh to further enhance its bilateral ties with nations that supported it during the Liberation War of 1971. Additionally, he stressed the significance of addressing Bangladesh's trade deficit as a priority. Mr. Chowdhury cautioned against engaging in business ventures with countries that opposed Bangladesh's independence in 1971, highlighting the importance of aligning economic partnerships with historical solidarity.

Moreover, he emphasized the establishment of seaport facilities in the land ports of Bangladesh along its Indian borders as a strategic move to boost trade and connectivity between the two nations. Overall, Mr. Chowdhury's remarks shed light on the importance of nurturing and strengthening the relationship between India and Bangladesh for mutual growth and prosperity.

In his speech, the Vice President of IBCCI Mr. Sanjay Basu welcomed the Delegation and hoped that the existing bilateral relationship between India and Bangladesh will be strengthened and more business and investment with Nagaland will come up. He further said that Nagaland has vast natural resources and business scope, so Bangladesh can be benefited from Joint Venture business and collaboration with Nagaland.



Photo: The Director of the Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry MR. MD. SOROWAR HUSSAIN SEDU, Leaders of Tamabil Limestone, Stone, and Coal Importers Group are seen with the IBCCI officials at the Tamabil Check Post waiting for the Nagaland Delegates to receive on 6th May 2023 morning.



Photo: IBCCI officials and dignitaries of the Tamabil Limestone, Stone, and Coal Importers Group received the Nagaland Delegates at the Tamabil Check Post, Tamabil, Sylhet on 6th May 2023 at 11:00 AM.



Photo: The BAN Delegates are visiting the Nitol Niloy Industrial Park on 6th May 2023.

In his speech at the seminar, the President of the Business Association of Nagaland (BAN) Mr. L Mongkhum Jamir mentioned the significant occasion when BAN was invited by the visiting delegation from Bangladesh during the G20 summit of Kohima. He expressed his gratitude to the IBCCI for extending the invitation and providing a warm reception. He also emphasized the importance of fostering business and trade relations on both sides of the border, considering





Photo: MoU signed between Mr. Shahin Ahmed Chowdhury and Mr. Akum Jamir is on display at the seminar on Investment Opportunities between Bangladesh and North East India with Special Focus on Nagaland on 7th May 2023 at the admin building Sylhet Pulp and Paper Mills Ltd.



Photo: IBCCI President Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad is seen with team leader of the visiting Nagaland delegation Mr. Mongkhum Jamir with the General Secretary of BAN and Secretary General of IBCCI at the Nitol-Niloy Center on 8th May 2023 morning.



Photo: MOU signing between Link3 Bangladesh and Mr. Abade Ezung



Photo: The Hon'ble Industry Minister, the Hon'ble High Commissioner of India are seen with the Leader of the Nagaland visiting delegation, President and Vice-President of IBCCI.



Photo: A seminar on Investment Opportunities between Bangladesh and North East India with Special Focus on Nagaland at Pan Pacific Soargaon, Dhaka on the 8th of May 2023 evening.

the geographical proximity between the two regions. Furthermore, he mentioned that his Delegates have signed 34 MoUs with Bangladeshi investors which reflects a great sign of huge collaboration and interest in terms of business between Nagaland and Bangladesh.

During the seminar, the Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Industries Mr. Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun MP expressed the following remarks while engaging in discussions with a delegation from Nagaland. He conveyed that the Bangladesh government is prepared to extend essential assistance to enhance trade and business between the two nations. The minister emphasized the intention to eliminate any trade obstacles and expressed confidence in accomplishing this through bilateral meetings with business leaders. Furthermore, he affirmed that Bangladesh is offering comprehensive support for investments, with a particular focus on creating ample opportunities for neighboring countries.

The Indian High Commissioner Mr. Pranay Verma emphasized the significance of trade between Bangladesh and India's Northeast region, stating that it has always been given priority. Bangladesh holds the distinction of being India's largest development partner, receiving nearly a quarter of global development cooperation. The growing relationship between India and Bangladesh is contributing to the strengthening of Bangladesh's economy. To facilitate trade, a total of 36 land ports have been opened, including five small integrated depots, the most recent being Dawki Port in Meghalaya, which can conveniently serve Nagaland. This development is leading to increased connectivity with the Northeast region, surpassing previous levels.

In the closing remarks, the President of the seminar as well as the President of IBCCI Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad said that he had visited Nagaland with a business delegation from 4th to 6th of last month. Referring to the joint investment, he said that there is an excellent investment environment in Bangladesh. The government has ensured various facilities for foreign traders. It has also solved various problems regarding import and export. He also said that the current government is a business-friendly government.

And at the end of the seminar, the dignitaries and the participants of the seminar were entertained with snacks.

At the last leg of the visit of BAN Delegations, they held some B2Bs and visited some industries viz M K Sweaters and Lamiya Trading Ltd on 9th May 2023. Finally, the visiting Nagaland delegation left Dhaka on 10th May 2023 morning for Nagaland via Kolkata by Air taking with huge nice moments and good memories.



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Photo: The Vice-President of IBCCI Mr. M Shoeb Chowdhury is speaking at the seminar titled "Seminar on Investment Opportunities between Bangladesh and North East India with Special Focus on Nagaland." at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka on 8th May 2023 evening.



Photo: The Vice-President of IBCCI Mr. Sanjay Basu is speaking at the seminar.



Photo: The Leader of the Nagaland visiting Delegation Mr. Mongkhum Jamir is speaking at the seminar.



Photo: The Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Industries Mr. Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun MP is speaking at the seminar.



Photo: The High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Mr. Pranay Verma is speaking at the seminar.

## Photo Gallery



Photo: President of IBCCI Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad and Vice President Mr. M Shoeb Chowdhury are greetings the Chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) Mr. Abu Hena Md. Rahmatul Muneem at the pre-budget discussion meeting at NBR Bhaban on 19th February 2023.



Secretary General of IBCCI with a cross section of foreign delegates at the B20 India Initiatives in North East States of India 1-3 March, 2023 at Aizawl, Mizoram.



Secretary General of IBCCI with some panelists at the B20 India Initiatives in North East States of India 1-3 March 2023 at Aizawl, Mizoram.



Secretary General of IBCCI with some Indian Delegates at the B20 India Initiatives in North East States of India 1-3 March 2023 at Aizawl, Mizoram.



## Photo Gallery



With the Honourable State Minister of Commerce and Industry of India in Mizoram H E Shri Som Parkash at the Mizoram University on 2 March 2023



With the Chief Protocol Officer of Russian Embassy in India and other panelists at the Mizoram University campus on 2 March 2023 during Cultural Show and Dinner



With Ms. Mitali Nikore, Transport Specialist of World Bank, and Diplomats of other countries at the University of Mizoram in Aizawl, Mizoram, India during the B20 program on 2 March 2023



Secretary General of IBCCI is seen with the Chief Protocol Officer of the Russian Embassy in India Ms Ekaterina Lazareva in the cultural evening & welcome dinner of B20 India Initiatives in the North East States at Raj Bhavan in Aizawl, Mizoram on 1 March 2023 Night.



IBCCI Secretary General with the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Lunglei, Mizoram Ms. Malsawmhriatuali at the Raj Bhavan of Mizoram during the Cultural Show and Welcome Dinner on 1 March 2023 as part of the B20 Program



Photo: IBCCI member Mr. Md. Delowar Hossain, Director, Dr. Lal Path Labs Bangladesh Pvt. Ltd. is seen with the Honorable CM of the Manipur at the B20 program in Manipur.



Photo: A cross-section of the participants of the B20 program in Gangtok, Sikkim, India.



Photo: With the Bhutanese Business Delegations



## Photo Gallery



Photo: A cross section of the B20 participants



The Delegates of the Nagaland G20/B20 Conference are seen in a single frame which took place in the State Banquet Hall, Kohima, Nagaland on 5 April 2023.



Photo: Discussion with the Honorable Advisor of Industry and Commerce, Government of Nagaland H.E. Smt Hekani Jakhalu State Banquet Hall, Kohima, Nagaland on 5 April 2023



Photo: The Honorable Advisor of Industry and Commerce, Government of Nagaland Smt Hekani Jakhalu is being greeted by the President of IBCCI Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad with a Crest on 5 April 2023 at State Banquet Hall in the Capital, Kohima.



Photo: Discussion with the Business Association of Nagas on 5 April 2023 at the state Banquet hall, Kohima



Photo: B2B at the State Banquet Hall Kohima Nagaland



Photo: Interaction of IBCCI President with Honorable Chief Minister of Nagaland H E Shri Neiphiu Rio on 4th April 2023 at the dinner in Heritage, DC Bungalow.



Photo: The General Secretary of the Business Association of Nagas (BAN) Dr. Yan Murry is being greeted with a Crest by the President of IBCCI on 5 April 2023 at the State Banquet Hall, Kohima, Nagaland during G20/B20 conference.

## Photo Gallery



Photo: Meeting between IBCCI and BAN at the Niathu Resort in Kohima.



Photo: BAN and India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry sign MoU for mutual cooperation at Niathu Resort, Dimapur on 6th April 2023.



Photo: With Professor of Mizoram University Mr. Jangkhongam Doungel



Photo: With Dr. Geetima Das Krishna, Head of North East Desk, Invest India at the Conference Room of MDoNER in New Delhi on 20 April 2023



Photo: With Ms Paayel Karla, Infrastructure Trade Commissioner, High Commission of Canada and Ms Nadira Hamid, CEO, Indo Canadian Business Chamber (ICBC) in New Delhi on 20 April 2023.



Photo: With a Canadian Diplomat at the Lotus Temple compound in New Delhi on 20 April 2023.



Photo: IBCCI Secretary General is greeting the Honorable Chief Minister of Tripura H.E. Mr. Dr. Manik Saha with a crest on 2nd May 2023.



Photo: With the Special Finance Secretary, Mr Abhishek Chandra, IAS of Tripura before the start of the Roundtable Interaction at the Pragna Bhavan on 2 May 2023



## Photo Gallery



Photo: Nagaland Delegates were greeted with flower bouquets at the office of the Tamabil Limestone, Stone, and Coal Importers Group on 6th May 2023 at 11:30 AM.



Photo: Nagaland Delegates and IBCCI officials are seen with the management of Sylhet Pulp and Paper Mills Ltd courtyard.



Photo: A seminar on Investment Opportunities between Bangladesh and North East India with Special Focus on Nagaland on 7th May 2023 at the admin building Sylhet Pulp and Paper Mills Ltd.



Photo: Director IBCCI Ms Farkhunda Jabeen Khan is greeting the President of the Business Association of Nagas (BAN) with flowers at the Nitol-Niloy Center on 8th May 2023.



Photo: Member of the IBCCI Ms Nasima Jahan Bijly is greeting the member of the Business Association of Nagas (BAN) Mr. Abade Ezung with flowers at the Nitol-Niloy Center on 8th May 2023.



Photo: A cross section of B2B



Photo: President of IBCCI is seen with the visiting President of BAN and Director Mr. Md. Moshir Rahman and members of IBCCI.



Photo: The Leader of Nagaland Business Delegation is exchanging views with the Honorable Minister of Industries.



## Photo Gallery



Photo: The Hon'ble Industry Minister, the Hon'ble High Commissioner of India are seen with the Nagaland Delegation, President and Vice-Presidents of IBCCI at Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka on 8th May 2023 evening.



Photo: The Hon'ble High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Mr. Pranay Verma is being greeted with a flower bouquet by IBCCI Member Mr. Alhaz Md. Khairul Islam at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka on 8th May 2023 in the evening.



Photo: The Vice President of IBCCI Mr. M Shoeb Chowdhury is handing over a Crest for the Hon'ble CM of Nagaland H.E. Mr. Neiphiu Rio to the President of BAN Delegation.



Photo: The Leader of the Nagaland Delegation and President of BAN Mr. Mongkhum Jamir is being greeted with a Crest by the Vice-President of IBCCI Mr. Sanjay Basu.



Photo: The Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Industries, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Mr. Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun MP is being greeted with a Crest by the Vice President of IBCCI Mr. M Shoeb Chowdhury at the seminar in Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka on 8th May 2023 evening.



Photo: The Hon'ble High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Pranay Verma is being greeted with Crest by the Hon'ble Minister of Industries.



Photo: The visiting Nagaland Delegation is seen with the IBCCI President, Vice-Presidents, Board of Directors, and Members at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon on 8th May 2023..



Photo: Cultural evening at the Nitol-Niloy Center participated by amateur artists of IBCCI and Nagaland.



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