



METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, DHAKA ONE HUNDRED AND FIVE YEARS' SERVICE

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka, which has weathered many vicissitudes for as long a period as 105 years, has learnt many lessons that can be of significance not only to the trade and industry but to a wider public.

Founded in 1904 as Dacca-Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry at a crucial turning of the last century soon after introduction of electric power in the Sub-Continent in 1899, the Chamber's existence coincided with two epoch-making events — creation for the first time in 1904 of a Department of Trade and Industry headed by a Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, which gave a new spurt of industrial growth by the resident British entrepreneurs, and partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon in 1905, which gave rise to activities by the local entrepreneurial class in the wake of boycott of British made goods. It witnessed events like two world wars in 1914 and 1939, devastating famine in 1943, struggle for independence in 1947 and then the great liberation in 1971, a like of which the world is yet to see. There are a very few trade organisations in this Sub-Continent which can be compared with it in terms of either longevity or effectiveness. Its services and business expertise are of the level available in trade bodies in the developed countries of the world.

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