

METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, DHAKA: ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVEN YEARS OF SERVICE

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVEN YEARS is not a very long span of time in history. Indeed, history abounds with instances of institutions which survived and flourished for longer periods. Yet, a trade organisation, which could weather many vicissitudes for as long a period as 111 years, has learnt many lessons that can be of significance not only to the trade and industry but to a wider public. Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka is fortunate to be such an organization.

Founded in 1904, at a crucial turning of the 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. 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.

MCCI extends its heartiest congratulations to The Daily Star for completing twenty five glorious years of success. We wish you all the success for many years to come and hope to continue cooperation with you in future.

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