

AUSTRALIA BANGLADESH BUSINESS COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Australia Bangladesh Business Council was held on 29 October at the offices of Parish Patience Immigration, 338 Pitt Street Sydney. At the meeting an annual report and financial statement were presented and office bearers and committee were elected for the 2005/06 year.

The meeting was also attended by Mr Ridwaan Jadwat, Acting Director India and South East Asia Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Mr Md Restadul Islam, Commercial Counsellor, Bangladesh High Commission in Australia. The meeting expressed their appreciation for the presence and presentations by the two distinguished guests.

Mr Jadwat discussed the level of trade and business activities between Australia and Bangladesh as well as the importance of the exchange and promotion of cultural activities. He offered the services of the Department to assist the Council in their endeavours to promote trade and culture between the two countries.

Mr Islam outlined current activities in Australia where the Council could become actively involved and also offered the co-operation of the High Commission in the promotion of trade and culture between the two countries.

The newly elected office bearers are:

Chairman: Mr. Mizanur Rahman Mazumder (Global Safety Pty Ltd)
Secretary: Mr. Brian Armstrong (B. J. Project Services Pty Ltd)
Treasurer: Abdus Sattar (Asha Australia)

The newly elected Executive Committee members are:

David Bitel (Parish Patience Immigration)
Rahamat Ullah (Aust. Bangla)
Monirul Islam (OzePac Solutions Group)
Golam Samdani (Pioneer Real Estate)
Abu Zafar (Alliance International)
Abdul Haque (Indian Excellency)

The chairman, in presenting the Annual Report, outlined a number of achievements including the following:

- The incorporation of the Australia Bangladesh Business Council on 15 March 2004.
- The establishment of a relationship with the Bangladesh Australia Business Council in Dhaka.
- The establishment of a web site for the Australia Bangladesh Business Council, the web site being www.abbc.org.
- The membership of the International Business Organisations Network which meets twice yearly.

- As part of the Bangladesh Festival activities, the Council hosted a luncheon at Star City on 8 April 2004 for the Honourable Altaf Hossain Chowdury, Bangladesh's Minister for Commerce and a number of accompanying delegates.

The Chairman and the newly elected committee also outlined some of the objectives set for the coming year:

- Finalise and implement a strategic plan
- To grow membership
- To establish a database of opportunities for investment in Bangladesh
- To develop an investment checklist for Australian investment in Bangladesh and Bangladesh investment in Australia
- Enhance the existing web site with additional information and appropriate links.