

Laila Rahman Kabir

Laila Rahman Kabir is a well known tea planter. She was born into a family of tea garden owners. She studied agricultural botany at the University of Durham, U. K. She is the Managing Director of Kedarpur Tea Co. Ltd., which owns 3 tea estates. She has been managing the estates since 1975.

Mrs. Kabir is an active member of the Bangladeshiyo Cha Sangsad (the Association of Tea Planters of Bangladesh). She was elected its Chairperson in 1992, she is the first and only woman to have held this office.

During her second term as Chairman of the Bangladeshiyo Cha Sangsad, in 1994 she was elected the first woman President of the Bangladesh Employers Association (BEA), now known as Bangladesh Employers Federation (BEF), which is a national body of employers, representing the employers in Bangladesh in national and international fora. As President of Bangladesh Employers Association Mrs. Kabir represented Bangladesh employers in tripartite ILO conferences abroad, and was a member of the Bangladesh Labour Law Reform Commission.

In 1998, Mrs. Kabir was elected President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Dhaka. Once again, she was the first woman to be elected to head this oldest and one of the most prestigious trade bodies of the country.

She is a member of the Board of Trustees of Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a high-powered policy think-tank. She has also been a Trustee of the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) which is a trust set up by a group of eminent persons of the SAARC countries for promoting co-operation among these countries, and, a Senior fellow and Trustee of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). She is a member of the Board of Trustees of Education, Science, Technology and Cultural Development Trust, the parent body of the Independent University, Bangladesh.

Mrs. Kabir is a member of the National Skills Development Council (NSDC), headed by the Prime Minister. All activities relating to skills development in the country are carried out under the umbrella of NSDC.

Mrs. Kabir is a patron of Mahila Parishad.