

এপারেল স্টোরি

Apparel Story

Special Edition - January 2024

JOURNEY TOWARDS
A BRIGHTER AND
MORE SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE OF RMG
INDUSTRY



BANGLADESH GARMENT MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION (BGMEA)

বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রপ্তানীকারক সমিতি

• বাংলাদেশ তৈরি •



BANGLADESH

THE GLOBAL LEADER IN

GREEN GARMENT FACTORIES

BGMEA has pledged its commitment to the United Nations Fashion Industry Charter, aiming for a **30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030**

211 US Green Building Council (USGBC) certified **LEED green garment factories**

18 Out of the top 20 garment factories in the world are located in Bangladesh



80
Platinum



117
Gold



10
Silver



4
Certified



BANGLADESH GARMENT MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION
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• বাংলাদেশে তৈরি •



UNLEASHING HERITAGES OF BANGLADESH

BGMEA taking traditions onto global stage

BGMEA has been actively working to promote Khadi, Jamdani, Muslin, Monipuri, Silk and other local heritage materials and motifs including rickshaw paint, in the global fashion market. Utilising our centuries-old local heritage, we aim to connect the amazing artisans and craftspeople of Bangladesh with global fashion enthusiasts.



Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association
বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রপ্তানীকারক সমিতি
• বাংলাদেশে তৈরি •

EDITORIAL

Amid the tumultuous challenges brought by the Covid pandemic, the new Board led by Faruque Hassan, took over the leadership of BGMEA and embarked on a journey to steer the RMG industry towards sustainable development and realize the vision of a 'Futuristic BGMEA.' This special issue of Apparel Story chronicles the remarkable strides and hurdles overcome by the Board over the past three years.

From the outset, our focus has been on unlocking the full potential of the RMG industry, resiliently navigating global shifts, and emerging stronger from adversities. Despite bleak global economy and geopolitical tension reshaping trade landscapes, the industry not only weathered the storm but achieved an exceptional milestone – RMG exports reaching approximately US\$ 47 billion in the fiscal year 2022-2023. This feat is a testament to the indomitable spirit of our entrepreneurs and workers, positioning the industry as a global leader.

Our gratitude extends to the Government of Bangladesh for unparalleled support during these trying times, enabling us to secure this significant position. However, as we celebrate this achievement, we remain vigilant and forward-looking.

The road ahead may be challenging but we are determined to face it with the same resilience that defines the Bangladesh RMG Industry. Let us collaborate and adapt, leveraging our collective strength and wisdom to reach even greater heights. The journey continues, and together, we shape the future of a sustainable and thriving apparel industry.

The Editorial Board

The Apparel Story



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The Apparel Story

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Journey Towards a Brighter and More Sustainable Future of RMG Industry



Faruque Hassan

As my tenure as President of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) comes to a close, I am filled with pride reflecting on the journey we embarked upon in May 2021. Our journey began amidst the tumultuous backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, a period marked by unprecedented shocks to the global economy, particularly to the garment industry – the lifeblood of Bangladesh's economy. Yet, amid this

unprecedented challenge, 2021 held significant cause for celebration: it was the "Mujib Year," commemorating the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence. It was also a historic year for Bangladesh as the United Nations announced Bangladesh's qualification to graduate from a Least Developed Country (LDC) to a developing nation.

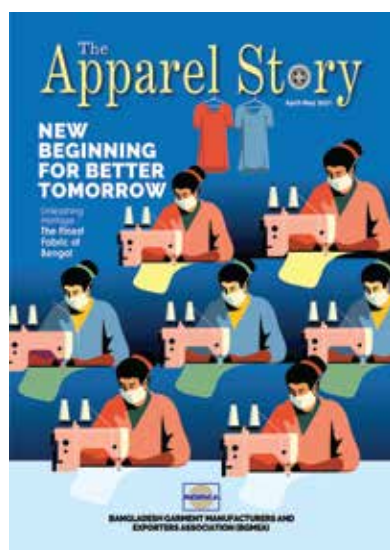
Stepping into this extraordinary year, brimming with both anticipation and elation, I was entrusted with the responsibility of steering our industry towards recovery, resilience, and growth. The apparel industry is not only a significant source of forex earnings and huge employment, it's a mean

for millions of people to realize their dreams. So, steering such an important industry towards prosperity is a huge responsibility. Fortunately, I was supported by a dedicated BGMEA board, an exceptional blend of young dynamism and seasoned experience. Together, we embarked

on a concerted effort to tackle the challenges head-on. We worked collectively in collaboration with all stakeholders to turn the challenges into opportunities, and we strived to take the garment industry to a new height of glory by looking comprehensively to all the possible areas of concern.



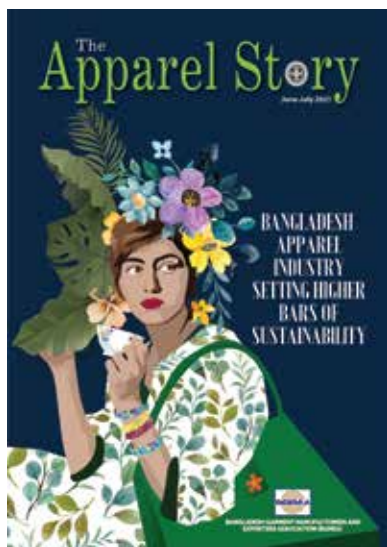
April
-May
2021



Taking office amidst the pandemic's turmoil, our first priority was crafting a clear vision for the garment industry. This vision guided our efforts to shield the industry and its millions of workers from the shocks of Covid-19, supply chain disruptions, and falling apparel prices. However, we didn't just react; we also focused on critical long-term goals like product diversification, innovation, value-addition, sustainability, and image development for sustainable growth.

We tackled immediate challenges by optimizing manpower through automation, process and product innovation, and diversification of products, materials, and markets. Additionally, we prioritized design development, digital manufacturing, and exploring new markets. The RMG industry has made significant strides in workplace safety, sustainability, and worker welfare, but progress is often overshadowed by misconceptions. Therefore, we actively dispelled myths and built a more positive image for the industry.

June
-July
2021



One of our primary initiatives was to carry forward the industry's environmental sustainability marathon. Thanks to our sustained effort and the manufacturers firm commitment to make their manufacturing process environmental friendly, the number of green factories increasing by leaps and bounds over the last two years. BGMEA has been honoured with Green Leadership Award 2021 for its exemplary leadership in developing Bangladesh as the home to the highest number of green garment factories in the world.

We actively pursued "apparel diplomacy" over the past two years, to secure favorable trade terms like the GSP plus facility through

high-level engagements across Europe, America, Canada, United Kingdom, and other key markets. Though this unique diplomatic endeavor we aimed to achieve four key goals: 1) securing trade benefits and exploring new markets, 2) extending market access after LDC graduation, 3) attracting foreign investment, and 4) improving the industry's image by highlighting strides in sustainability, worker well-being, and ethical sourcing. We also tried to engage our foreign missions to actively promote positive stories of industry and highlight Bangladesh as a safe and ethical sourcing destination.

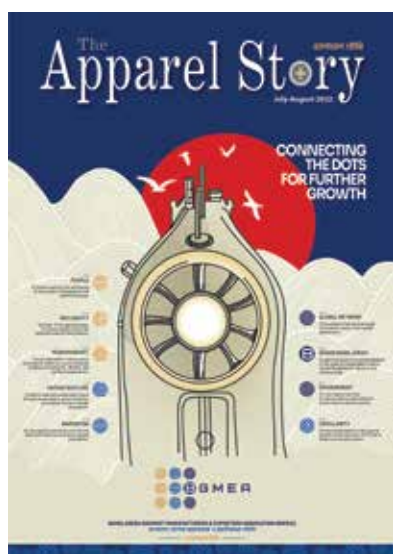
Then, having the opportunity to representing Bangladesh at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow was a proud moment for us. Our "Bangladesh Pavilion" served as a mini-Bangladesh within the summit, attended by world leaders from nearly 200 countries. Our mission was to shine a light on the RMG sector's commendable efforts in sustainability and embrace the green movement. As the world's second-largest garment exporter, Bangladesh has made significant strides in integrating sustainability in its DNA.

We boast the highest number of green garment factories globally, with over 200 LEED-certified green facilities. Additionally, 500 more factories are pursuing certification, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to environmental responsibility. Recognizing the urgency of climate action, we reaffirmed our dedication to sustainability at COP26, building upon our earlier signing of the UNFCCC's Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action. This charter pledges a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, a goal we are firmly committed to achieve. We have been committed to leading the way in environmental sustainability in manufacturing sectors globally.

Through unwavering efforts and collaboration, we can ensure a greener future for our industry and our planet.

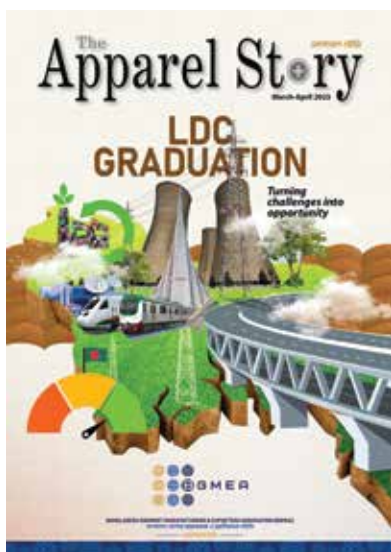
We also led the industry's recovery from the unprecedented upheaval of Covid-19 pandemic by turning away from business as usual and embracing the principal of 'building back better.' Then LDC graduation presented us both pride and new realities. Becoming a developing nation brings excitement, but also means losing trade privileges enjoyed as an LDC. Preparing for this "next level" is crucial for the export-driven RMG industry. So we prioritized moving from a labor-intensive to value-added industry through our sustained efforts on innovation, diversification, technology upgrades, and workforce upskilling.

July
-August
2022



We took note of the fact that we need to go beyond green manufacturing because the linear "take-make-dispose" model is unsustainable. Embracing the circular economy – built on "reduce, reuse, recycle" – is crucial. Recognizing this, the BGMEA partnered with Global Fashion Agenda, Reverse Resources, and P4G to establish a circular business model. During my tenure, BGMEA actively sought partnerships with global recycling companies to build robust domestic recycling capacity. This positioned Bangladesh to become a global leader in circular fashion. To this end, we held the "Switch to Upstream Circularity Dialogue: Pre-consumer Textile Waste in Bangladesh", bringing together key stakeholders to discuss the challenges and opportunities of transitioning to a circular textile industry. The dialogue's recommendations provide a blueprint for the government, businesses, and other stakeholders to work together to create a more sustainable and resilient textile sector in Bangladesh.

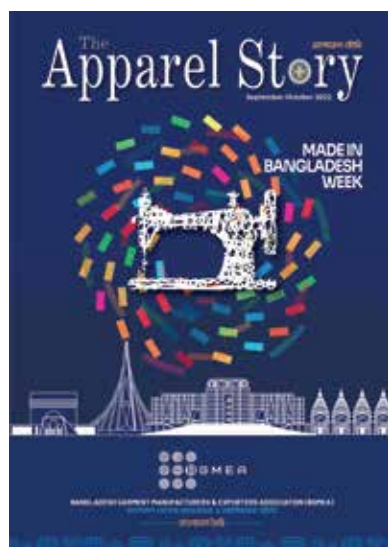
March
-April
2023



Attracting foreign investment, fostering technology transfer, establishing more textile industries, and strengthening backward linkages will be crucial for post-LDC competitiveness. Encouragingly, garment factories are increasingly embracing value-added, high-end products. New technologies, product development innovation, and process optimization are driving this shift. Collaboration between brands, buyers, and Bangladeshi suppliers can develop capacities for high-demand, high-value products.

Success requires a collective effort. Government, development partners, and entrepreneurs must work together to prepare the industry for its next chapter and achieve new heights of glory. Additionally, we sought to showcase the remarkable strides made by Bangladesh's garment sector in terms of quality, design, and sustainability by hosting the first-ever "Made in Bangladesh Week" in Dhaka from November 12th to 18th, 2022. The event, graced by Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, marked a turning point for the Bangladeshi apparel industry. It served as a platform for collaboration with international buyers and brands, showcasing the excellence of our products, environmental sustainability of our factories, and our commitment to embracing the principles of the circular economy. It also hosted brainstorming sessions on crucial issues about shaping the industry's future for the next decade and beyond.

September
-October
2022



The week-long program featured a tapestry of 17 events, from summits and expositions to photo exhibitions, conferences, and runway shows. The overwhelming response from both domestic and international participants was a testament to the event's success. Notably, the Dhaka Apparel Expo drew over 550 brand and buyer representatives, showcasing cutting-edge sustainable technologies. "Made in Bangladesh Week" also had

the distinction of hosting the prestigious IAF World Fashion Convention for the first time in Bangladesh's history. This summit, attended by over 150 international delegates, fostered discussions on building a more resilient and sustainable supply chain amidst evolving challenges. This collaborative effort has etched "Made in Bangladesh Week" into the industry's history as a landmark event, paving the way for a brighter future.

Looking towards the future, we introduced BGMEA's Sustainability Vision 2030, focusing on ESG (Environment, Social, and Governance) principles. Through ambitious initiatives, we aim to reduce carbon emissions by 30%, increase use of sustainable raw materials by 50%, cut groundwater usage by 50%, achieve 100% ZDHC chemical compliance, reduce energy consumption by 30%, utilize 20% renewable energy, and Reduce deforestation by 30%. We also unveiled new logo which is coded as nine dots, each dot representing a certain theme. We have designed the 'nine-dots' in a way that when deciphered the first dot means, people come first. Our motto is to forever work for the well-being of the people of Bangladesh and humankind at large, inside and outside the industry. The second dot centers on inclusivity, which is already one of the hallmarks of Bangladesh RMG industry. The third dot is about ensuring transparency. The fourth dot is about infrastructural development to make our factories safe, environment-friendly and employee-friendly. The aim of the fifth dot is to encourage innovation which is key to our survival. The sixth dot is about circularity, which is very important for the conservation of our natural ecosystem. The seventh dot is about strengthening our global network. Branding Bangladesh is the focus of the eighth dot of BGMEA's new logo. And the ninth dot represents protecting the environment.



September-October 2023



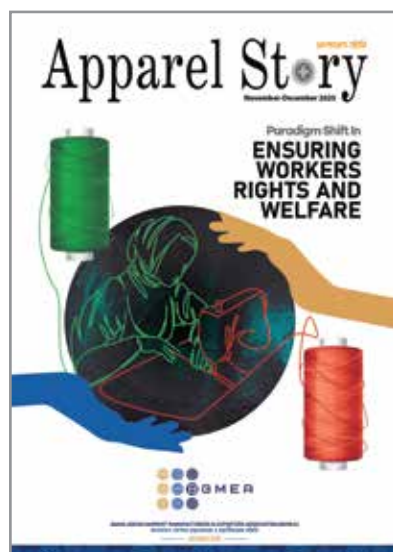
July-August 2023

Furthermore, we recognized the importance of expanding our global footprint beyond traditional markets. The Bangladesh Apparel Summit in Melbourne in Australia provided a unique opportunity to showcase the diversity and quality of Bangladeshi products, paving the way for new partnerships and market opportunities. In that summit we tried to drive home the message that Bangladesh is no longer just about low-cost garments. We now manufacture high-value products exceeding \$100 per unit, driven by a

vision to transform our industry into a hub of innovation, advanced manufacturing, and responsible practices. This presented a tremendous opportunity for collaboration with Australia, where both countries can reap significant benefits. We invited Australia to join us in this journey, building mutually beneficial partnerships that unlock the full potential of our collaboration.

We also partnered with H&M Group, one of the leading brands sourcing from Bangladesh, which would contribute immensely toward environmental, social and economic matters. I hope this collaboration will add pace to our journey toward sustainability. This partnership also reflects the strong commitment of Bangladesh's apparel industry to grow in a sustainable manner to have positive impacts on the industry, the economy and climate.

However, our journey was not without its challenges. The recent supply chain disruptions resulting from the Russia-Ukraine conflict tested our resilience yet again. Nevertheless, through effective crisis management and proactive measures, we navigated these challenges successfully, emerging stronger and more resilient than before.



November-December 2023

Finally, we made commendable progress in crucial aspects such as workplace safety, workers' rights, and overall well-being. We increased workers' minimum wage. Furthermore, with the aim to align with international labor rights and adhere to due diligence regulations, Bangladesh's RMG industry remains unwaveringly dedicated to ethically producing its goods while upholding human rights. As I conclude my tenure, I am proud of the progress we have made over the past two years. Our industry is now on a sound footing, poised to tackle the challenges that lie ahead. Yet, we must remain vigilant and adaptable in the face of evolving global dynamics. The RMG industry is now at a crossroads. We have to prepare for post-LDC challenges by enhancing capability through product diversification, innovation, and technology up gradation and skills development. The challenges ahead may seem daunting but by taking a united stand we can create a formidable force to pave the path of progress of our beloved nation. The journey towards a stronger, more sustainable garment industry is ongoing, and I am confident that with continued dedication and collaboration, we will achieve even greater heights in the years to come. **A**

Faruque Hassan is the President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA)

Paving the Way for Bangladesh's RMG Industry Growth

Apparel Diplomacy



“Apparel Diplomacy” has been a cornerstone of BGMEA’s strategy, particularly for the current board in its efforts to unlock opportunities for the ready-made garment industry and tap into unexplored trade potential. The overarching goal of BGMEA’s apparel diplomacy is to propel the growth of the RMG

industry through diplomatic efforts, ensuring its sustainability and fostering the well-being of the millions of Bangladeshis employed within the sector. Over the past three years, BGMEA has actively pursued apparel diplomacy, focusing on securing favorable trade terms through

high-level engagements across key markets in Europe, America, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Our diplomatic endeavor aimed not only to secure trade benefits but also to explore new markets and extend market access post-LDC graduation.

A significant aspect of BGMEA's diplomatic efforts has been to attract foreign investment and improve the industry's image by highlighting advancements in sustainability, worker well-being, and ethical sourcing. Engaging foreign missions has been instrumental in promoting positive narratives about the industry, positioning Bangladesh as a safe and ethical sourcing destination. BGMEA's apparel diplomacy focused critical issues such as ethical sourcing and pricing, sustainability, positive industry stories, foreign investment in backward linkage industries, product diversification, and capacity building in high-end product manufacturing. These topics have go due importance in engagements with stakeholders,

shaping a comprehensive diplomatic strategy.

BGMEA organized the "Bangladesh Apparel Summit" in Melbourne in July 2023, where the industry's transformation and its premier products were showcased. Besides, our recent delegations to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Iraq have witnessed keen interest among Middle Eastern buyers in sourcing products from Bangladesh. Promising

opportunities lie ahead as we look to explore markets in the ASEAN region, Latin America, Russia, South Africa, and East Europe. The primary objectives of our trade missions were to explore and establish connections with potential buyers in non-traditional markets, identify challenges and actionable items, network with stakeholders, and actively promote our products and industry.



BGMEA President Faruque Hassan along with Vice President and Directors held a meeting with Jordi Curell, Director for International Affairs in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission in Brussels.



A delegation from the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) headed by President Faruque Hassan met with the World Trade Organization (WTO) Director-General Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala in Geneva.



The BGMEA delegation headed by President Faruque Hassan met with Guy Ryder, Director-General of the International Labour Organization at the ILO headquarters in Geneva.



AAFA President and CEO Steve Lamar and BGMEA President Faruque Hassan inked an agreement in Washington, D.C. during the annual AAFA Executive Summit. The two groups will explore opportunities and work together to increase trade access for Bangladesh to the U.S. market.



The BGMEA delegation met with Ms. Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) in Brussels.

BGMEA President Faruque Hassan met with Ms. Ewa Synowiec, Director of Directorate C, Africa, Caribbean and Pacific, South East and South Asia, Trade and Sustainable Development, Green Deal DG TRADE of the European Commission in Brussels.



A delegation led by Mohammad Tofazzel Hossain Miah, Principal Secretary to the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh, met with Mr. Steven Collet, Director for Sustainable Economic Development and Ambassador for Business and Development at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Dirk Klaasan, Head of Department of Department of International Trade Policy and Economic Governance, in The Hague.



BGMEA President Faruque Hassan along with senior US government officials including Christopher Wilson, Assistant US Trade Representative for South Asia and representatives of brands and retailers pose for photograph after attending a roundtable titled "Seven years after Rana Plaza: Who is doing what?" organised by the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC on September 10.



The delegation paid a visit to Heidi Hautala, Vice-President, European Parliament, in Brussels.



BGMEA President Faruque Hassan met with H.E. Mr Joost Korte, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission in Brussels.



The delegation from Bangladesh also met with Ms. Paola Pampaloni, Deputy Managing Director "Asia and Pacific Department" at the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels.



The delegation from Bangladesh also called on Mr. Maximilian Krah, Member of European Parliament, in Brussels.



BGMEA President Faruque Hassan presented a coffee table book on the RMG industry to H. E. Mr. Bernd Lange, Member of European Parliament, and also Chair of European Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA) in Brussels.



BGMEA delegates met Australian Assistant Minister for Trade Senator Honorable Tim Ayres at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Office, Sydney. Australian Assistant Minister for Trade Senator Tim Ayres assured that Australia would continue duty free facility for Bangladesh's exports even after graduation out of LDC in 2026.



The BGMEA delegates met Honorable Matt Burnell, Member of the Australian House of Representatives for the Division of Spence, and the Chair of Australia-Bangladesh Parliamentary Group on 19th July at a dinner at the residence of Bangladesh High Commissioner in Canberra. **A**



The Odyssey of Bangladesh: A Tale of Resilience and Triumphs

In its journey of only five decades, Bangladesh, the rising gem of South Asia, has emerged as a vibrant testament to unwavering spirit and burgeoning force. From a struggling nation to a powerhouse of opportunity- Bangladesh's journey is filled with economic dynamism, social progress, practical challenges and inspiring stories. After a blood-stained war, when Bangladesh gained its independence, it was known as a country of extreme poverty and fragility. As time elapsed, the country has stirred its journey from agrarian landscape towards a manufacturing one, and has experienced a profound transformation.



Economic and Social Evolution

Even though the whole world has been shattered by the rippling effect of Covid-19 and still struggling to get back its foothold, it is yet surprising to see how, even as a developing economy, Bangladesh has been floating with a strong momentum. As per the recently published World Economic Outlook by IMF, the global GDP is forecasted to decline, followed by almost all the advanced economies. However, in South Asia, Bangladesh is poised to maintain a GDP growth rate surpassing 6.0 percent, which is indeed praiseworthy.

Table: Overview of Global Economic Growth as of October 2023

(YoY % change)

Region	Growth				Difference from April 2023 WEO Projection	
	Actual		Projectionual			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2023	2024
World	6.3	3.5	3.0	2.9	0.2	-0.1
Advanced Economies	5.6	2.6	1.5	1.4	0.2	0.0
USA	5.9	2.1	2.1	1.5	0.5	0.4
Euro Area	5.6	3.3	0.7	1.2	-0.1	-0.2
Other Advanced Economies	5.5	2.6	1.8	2.2	0.0	0.0
Emerging Market and Developing Economies	6.9	4.1	4.0	4.0	0.1	-0.2
China	8.4	3.0	5.0	4.2	-0.2	-0.3
Indonesia	3.7	5.3	5.0	5.0	0.0	-0.1
Vietnam	2.6	8.0	4.7	5.8	-1.1	-1.1
South Asia						
Bangladesh	6.9	7.1	6.0	6.0	0.5	-0.5
India	9.1	7.2	6.3	6.3	0.4	0.0
Pakistan	5.8	6.1	-0.5	2.5	-1.0	-1.0
Sri Lanka	3.5	-7.8	-	-	-	-

Source: World Economic Outlook, October 2023, International Monetary Fund.



Our socio-economic progress, human development indicators and achievements of MDGs are widely acclaimed. Especially in last 14 years under the visionary leadership of our Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has become a global model of development. Our per capita income has reached USD2824 from USD 676 in the FY 2008-2009, poverty rate declined to 20.5%, foreign investment has reached to almost 4 billion USD from only \$960 million in 2008-09. Electricity Generation Capacity has reached 26,700MW from 4,942 MW in 2008-09, both literacy rate and life expectancy has broken the record in the same time period.

Sectoral Advancement

Much of this development has been propelled by industrialization as the industry's contribution to GDP has increased from 17.31% in FY1980-81 to 35.36% recently. One

At a glance: The RMG sector of Bangladesh			
	3500 Active Clothing Factories		4 million workers
	\$20 billion investment		433 spinning & 827 textile mills 99% accessories sourced locally
	Exports to 167 countries		Export \$45.71 billion (2022)

of the sectors that has been flourished with the development of Bangladesh is the ready-made garment industry. The fact that amazes us is Bangladesh neither produces cotton nor self-sufficient in raw materials, yet it has established itself as the second largest apparel exporting country in the world.

Bangladesh started its inception as an agricultural country and the vibrant seasonal diversity allows its farmers to harvest variety of crops, fruits and vegetables. Even though the country is going through a transformation towards the manufacturing and service industry, it still holds the record in producing numerous agro and fisheries category.



HUGE AVAILABILITY OF RAW MATERIALS

World's 1st producer- **Hilsa fish**

World's 2nd producer- **Jute, Jackfruit, Goat's milk**

World's 3rd producer- **Freshwater Fish, Vegetable**

World's 4th producer- **Rice**

World's 6th producer- **Potatoes**

World's 7th producer- **Egg plant**

World's 8th producer- **Mango, Guava, Tomato**

World's 12th largest cattle inventory- **Livestock and Fisheries**

Bangladesh Unveiled

- 100% population has access to electricity
- mobile and internet network to the most remote corners
- Set sails to become a developed country by 2041
- 100 Economic zones are in the move
- 12 High tech parks declared across the country
- Most liberal FDI regime in South Asia

Leather and Footwear industry is one of the oldest and potential sectors of Bangladesh. Bangladesh is 8th largest footwear producer in the world, which possesses 2.4% of the global livestock population. Not only that, Bangladesh is expected to be one of the top ten leather exporting countries by 2025. Another potential sector of Bangladesh is the ceramic industry, which is successfully gratifying the local demand and exporting to almost 100+ countries in the world with qualitative commitment.

Being the only LDC with a strong formulation, pharmaceutical industry has opened up a new opportunity for Bangladesh in the recent years. At present the industry is serving 97 percent of the domestic market and exporting to more than 100 countries around the world. With 10%-12% less production cost than competitive countries like China and India, Bangladesh is shifting its focus towards patented drug production from generic ones.

Flag bearer of Women Empowerment in South Asia

Along with its journey towards a progressive society, Bangladesh has dismantled barriers and created avenues for women to thrive and contribute to the society- as well as earn their economic and social freedom. In a male dominated society like Bangladesh, it was difficult but not impossible to set global standards and trends of gender equality and Bangladesh has made it possible. With women

High Profile Users of Bangladeshi Ceramic



Buckingham Palace



The British Parliament



The Royal Palace of Bhutan



The Presidential Palace of India



The Presidential Palace of Pakistan

holding key leadership positions in government, our country has become a role model worldwide in creating an inclusive society, addressing gender-based violence and discrimination. Bangladesh has ranked 71 (out of 146 countries) in the latest Global Gender Gap Index 2022 published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), that too with the top ranking in South Asia.

Digital Bangladesh- not just a vision anymore

Being “Digital” has become one of the most distinguished drifts achieved by Bangladesh in the last decade. What was declared as an election manifesto by the Awami league government, has been adopted into a tool of harmonized and sustainable digitization for the country. In 2022, Bangladesh contributed to almost 2% of Asia’s startups, which was zero just a decade ago. Dhaka has been emerged as one of the top 10 start up hub in Asia (Source: OECD and Crunchbase). Starting from manufacturing for globally renowned brand like Samsung, Vivo, Oppo etc. to earn over 1.4 billion USD annually by exporting ICT- related services, Bangladesh is demonstrating versatility, going over and beyond.

What the world says about us?

- World’s 23rd largest economy by 2030- PwC
- Fastest growing GDP in 2024 – World Bank
- US\$1 trillion economy by 2040 - BCG
- 9th Largest consumer market by 2030- HSBC
- Bangladesh, among the next 11- Goldman Sachs



Mega projects- Changing the Landscape of Economy

- Dhaka Metro Rail (MRT Line 6)
- Padma Bridge and Padma Rail link
- Matarbari Deep Sea Port
- Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Terminal 3
- Dhaka Elevated Expressway
- Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant
- Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel
- Dhaka-Chittagong High-Speed Railway
- Matarbari Power Plant
- BNS Sheikh Hasina Submarine Base

Youth Power- Driving force behind the Success

One of the most important fuel behind the growth engine of Bangladesh is its dynamic and young workforce. 45% of our total population is aged below 24 years, with an ever increasing 2.3 million young professionals joining the labor market every year.

Demographic dividend is a window of opportunity and that has been recognized throughout the policy advocacy level, resulting in a youth driven development plan for the next decades.

There is no denying in the fact that Bangladesh has already proved its worth. In the narrative of South Asia’s rise, Bangladesh shines as a beacon of hope and possibility. However, the coming days are much more challenging as the competition is no longer with other countries, rather with our own limitation.

Going forward, if we want to create a unique brand image of our beloved motherland, we have to tackle the duel of sustainability and competitiveness. Innovation, upskilling and technology upgradation will keep us relevant with the everchanging global dynamics. We have to prioritize improving our ease of doing business, as with the growth and

advancement, we will attract foreign direct investment, which is crucial for knowledge and technology spillover. Policy stability is another area of concerned improvement as it fosters a conducive environment which results in the confidence of stakeholders, both local and international. The mega projects have altered the shape of economic growth and expedite completion of the remaining ones will further accelerate economic growth. The brave new world of twenty first century is overwhelmingly dependent on research and development and there is no scope for us to ignore this zone. Along with that, focusing on our own brand image and emphasizing on economic diplomacy is unquestionably important as always, now more than ever with the LDC graduation in equation. Last but not the least, the world has been centered around sustainability and given Bangladesh’s progress in achieving Sustainable Development Goals, it is not an overstatement to say that we are on the right track. We just have to work on our challenging areas which includes environmental concern, inequality, governance etc. because at the end of the day, we want to grow as a nation, inclusively, making sure that no one is left behind. **A**

Bangladesh Apparel Industry: Insights of Stakeholders



The Apparel Story talked to a diverse range of stakeholders in the ready-made garment industry of Bangladesh on significant topics related to the ready-made garment industry of Bangladesh as well as global trade issues. They shared their perspectives and expertise on the opportunities and challenges within the industry. The following are excerpts from their insights shared with The Apparel Story in the last three years.



Focus on moving up the value chain, do what is needed to get work orders for higher value-added products. As our RMG is heavily cotton based, we need to invest more in the man-made fibre sector thereby grabbing a larger share of the world market. Invest in building a strong brand name internationally for the Bangladesh RMG industry.

Tapan Kanti Ghosh

Senior Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

The skills and knowledge we have accumulated so far, there is no reason why we cannot expand to higher value productions and incorporate innovations. Just trying to survive is not enough anymore, only learning to thrive can ensure a future for the sector. Given the fact that our competitors are moving at global convergence at a pace faster than ever, our past slow and steady approach to innovation, technology adoption and efficiency improvement will not work anymore. If we walk when our competitors are running, we are just going to fall further behind. And technology is not a game in which a turtle win.

Another pillar of our success in RMG sector is our labour.

Mamun Rashid

Leading economic analyst and former advisory board member of BGMEA.



Bangladesh should focus on more automation and leaner processes, as compared to 10 years back now Bangladesh can produce a sock to a fully tailored suit, leaner processes and automation shall increase production efficiency and right first-time quality, this doesn't mean reduce the number of workers, but the increase the production capacity. The higher percentage of correctly produced goods will reduce the rework cost and increase Cut to ship percentage which results in higher bottom line.

Shawn De Silva

Head of Technology, Marks and Spencer (M&S)



There are a thousand stories of workers in the garment sector and one should encourage writing, film, and composing music to present these stories. Good public relations put forth the story of the garment sector over and over, good things and bad things. Placing stories good and bad before the people of the major buying countries is really the key to branding.

Forrest Cookson

Economist
Former First President, AmCham
Former Consultant, Bangladesh
Bureau of Statistics.



Partnership is key to up-scaling capabilities and to exploring opportunities. There is a need to regain trust among all actors in the sector. This begins by treating everyone more equitably and establishing meaningful, long-term relationships

Mark Anner

Professor, Global Labour University
Network



To continue the amazing growth of Bangladesh in 2022, this is high time to focus on sustainable products and process, bring in innovative designs, circular fashion and invest on new technologies. People, the key capital resource, are to be empowered with right skills that can drive the future.

Ms. Shwapna Bhowmick

Head of Country, Marks & Spencer
Bangladesh Sourcing Office



There is no option but to decarbonize and, we believe firmly that manufacturers who actively work towards reducing their missions will be more competitive in the medium to long term.

David Sävman

Head of Supply Chain, H&M Group



Bangladesh should ensure it remains focused on and aligned with the fashion's industry's emphasis on sustainability, traceability, transparency, and worker safety and worker rights.

Stephen Lamar

President and CEO, The American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)



Capacity expansion and diversification should go hand in hand. There are four dimensions of the diversification challenge: product concentration, fiber concentration, price concentration and market concentration. Bangladesh has made progress in all these areas, but the room for improvement is substantial.

Sadiq Ahmed

Vice Chairman, Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh



The Economic Impact of the Padma bridge is unbounded. It has connected 21 districts of the south and south western area of Bangladesh with the eastern part including the capital city. The bridge has shortened the travel time by 4-5 hours and reduced hassle and risks of ferry and launch transportation. Direct transportation through trucks, lorries and trains will facilitate movement of agricultural commodities from southern districts to eastern part and ensure fair prices for the farmers.

Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan

Bangladesh Ambassador to Germany
Former Senior Secretary and Chairman, NBR



Accordingly, a graduating LDC has access to EIF benefits automatically for five years. Support from UN on technical assistance and travel may also continue for few years after graduation. However, with regard to WTO, Bangladesh upon graduation, may lose travel support for the WTO Ministerial Conference, training courses especially designed for LDCs and LDC preferences in other training and workshops.

Dr. Mostafa Abid Khan

Trade Policy Analyst and Trade Negotiator and former Member of Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission.



Economy of Bangladesh is one of the fastest growing economies in Asia. More than 90% of our trade takes place by sea. Global sea-borne trade is growing about 3.4% every year. Mongla Port Authority foresees that at a higher rate in Bangladesh perspective. Mongla Port needs to handle that additional trade volume and looks forward to utilizing the opportunity for expansion.

Rear Admiral Mohammad Musa

Chairman of the Mongla Port Authority



Bangladesh needs to change the script of being a low-cost hub for basics and core products. It has attracted a lot of domestic and foreign investment and its local skill set has evolved to take businesses to the next level. More needs to be done to get this message out.

Edward Hertzman

Founder and President of Sourcing Journal



Bangladesh exports more than 700 items of agro products including cereal grains, frozen fish, processed meat, tea, vegetables & fruits, spices, dry food, pickled food etc. The major export destinations include the European Union (EU), the US, the Middle East and the Gulf and Gulf so far. However, countries like Malaysia, Singapore and Japan are the potential export markets for agro processed food.

Mehrin Hassan

DMD, Giant Agro Processing Ltd.



Our country has a rich history of beautiful textiles that can be used for light summer collections in a responsible global niche market. This is evident in an evolving community of sustainable fashion businesses, especially in the small scales where creativity is strength while navigating a complex system that is vertically integrated.

Maheen Khan

President, Fashion Design Council of Bangladesh.



Bangladesh is a beautiful country with great people. Bangladesh is unlocking its potential more and more and RMG sector is an important driver of the economy. BGMEA and the “Made in Bangladesh Week” enabled participants to meet with old and new connections to discuss where more progress can and should be made.

Linda Kromjong

President, Amfori



The government of Bangladesh offers very lucrative incentives, tax exemption packages as well as various policy supports to the foreign investors. IPAs like Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) and Bangladesh Export Zones Authority (BEPZA) are very keen to support investors with very effective online one stop services. Any investor from any corner of the world can avail the services through online.

Dr. Md. Houmyoun Kabir Khan

Director (Strategic Investment Unit), Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA).



if Bangladesh can also continue to grow its expertise in digitalisation and automation, and create career opportunities for in-house factory designers, the sky will be the limit for building strong strategic partnerships with brands and retailers, and indeed creating your own sustainable ‘fashion’ brands that retailers will be eager to stock!

Laura Husband

Managing Editor, Just Style



Going forwards the industry needs to ensure long-term competitiveness and diversify the product range by incorporating value-added products, new materials and innovative designs. Side by side, continued investments are needed in higher and advanced level skills, given the extent to which automation and technology will drive the growth of the industry going forward.

Tuomo Poutiainen

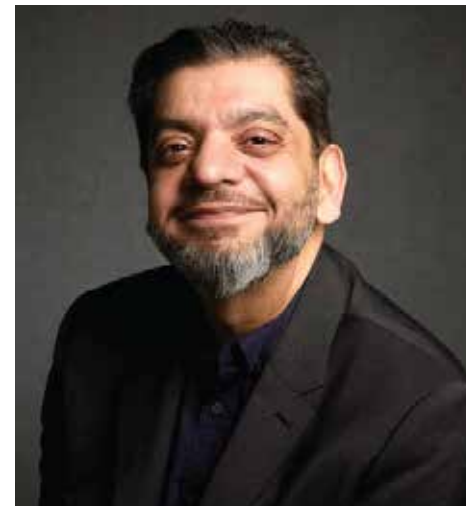
Country Director, ILO, Bangladesh



Bangladesh is superbly positioned for attractive long-term growth in the RMG sector. The rest of the world continues to see Bangladesh as a country of choice in RMG – with its demonstrated performance in sustainable manufacturing; innovative processes; a young and talented workforce; and superior product quality.

Ranjan Mahtani

Executive Chairman, Epic Group



Renewable energy is a key driver to reduce our industry carbon footprint and it is evident that manufacturers in Bangladesh are now implementing roof-top solar projects at a larger scale where the collective impact will be massive in few years' time. Based on our goal to reduce 50% of our carbon emissions by 2030.

Fakir Rafsanuzzaman

Director, Fakir Apparels Ltd.



The Bangladesh RMG industry is one of the most versatile, responsible, and vertical industries in the world and keeps pushing forward with resiliency. In the face of multiple lockdowns, the industry kept going, while protecting their workers and supporting their workers' families.

Nate Herman

Senior Vice President, Policy at the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)



RSC is an integral part of the RMG sector's journey as it is mandated to turn and keep industry safe by working along with the factory owners, brands, union, BGMEA/BKMEA, govt. etc.

Abdul Haque

Managing Director of RSC



The RMG industry is now moving towards product diversification, manufacturing high-end products, recycling and circular fashion to pursue its growth in a more sustainable manner. Moreover, technological upgradation and skill development are some of its key priorities to enhance its capacity and competitiveness.

Khaled Mahmud

Associate Professor at IBA, University of Dhaka



The traditional way of looking at how we consume, whether it is "make, use and throw away" or "take, make and dispose," is not really where the future is going. We have to come out of this current situation.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP

Minister, Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change,
Govt. of Bangladesh



Bangladesh is the country with one of the world's largest shares of pre-consumer textile waste readily available for recycling, which gives the country a great competitive advantage to create a circular model and attract investments from local and foreign investors to scale up the production of high-value recycled fibers from pre-consumer waste.

Helena Helmersson

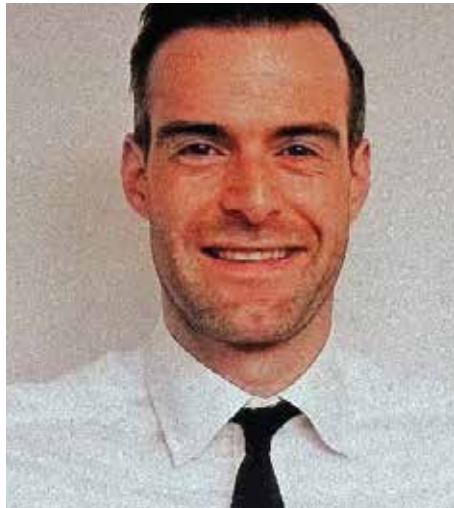
CEO H&M Group



Diversification both within the garment range and away from it is crucial. A limited export basket means we have few products with which to tap into the vast global market.

Dr Mohammad Abdur Razzaque

Chairman, Research and Policy
Integration for Development (RAPID).



We believe that a circular economy fueled by renewable energy is the economy of the future. It is much less reliant on imports of energy, commodities and goods, which also reduces the vulnerability to supply chains shocks.

Dr Bernd Spanier

Deputy Head of Mission, EU Delegation to Bangladesh



In the drive towards greater transparency in the garment recycling chains of Bangladesh, it is important to recognize that Bangladesh has had a pre-existing garment waste downcycling and upcycling industry long before garment recycling became of interest to European legislators and fashion brands.

Peter Lund-Thomsen

Professor, Copenhagen Business School.

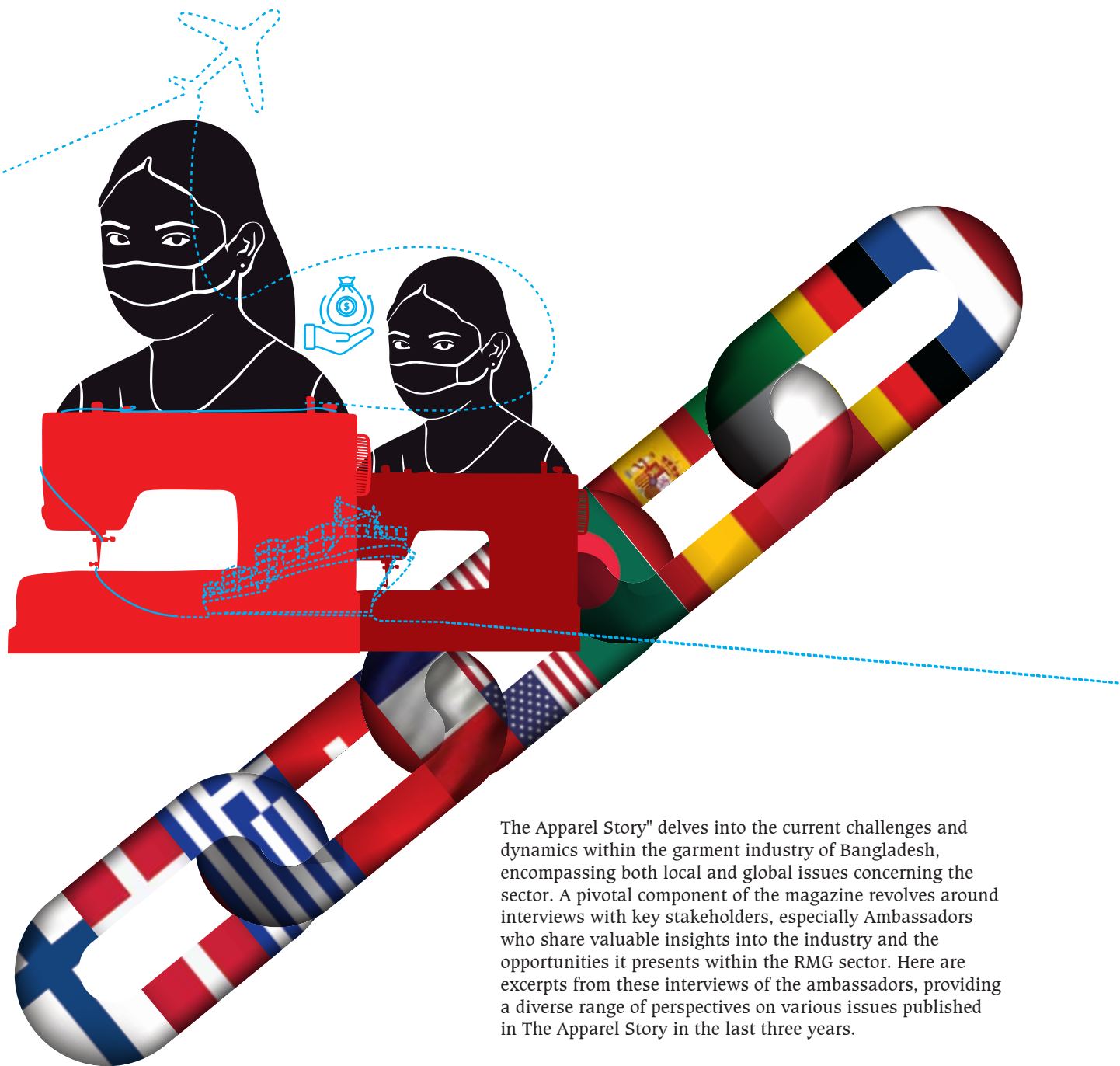


The RMG industry has changed in a positive way that already benefits workers mental health and wellness. During our programs, we've seen that management and owners of factories are keen to provide mental health and wellbeing support, self-care, capacity building, and emotional support to the workers.

Tawhida Shiropa

Founder and CEO of Moner Bondhu 

Bangladesh Apparel Industry in the Eyes of Ambassadors



The Apparel Story" delves into the current challenges and dynamics within the garment industry of Bangladesh, encompassing both local and global issues concerning the sector. A pivotal component of the magazine revolves around interviews with key stakeholders, especially Ambassadors who share valuable insights into the industry and the opportunities it presents within the RMG sector. Here are excerpts from these interviews of the ambassadors, providing a diverse range of perspectives on various issues published in The Apparel Story in the last three years.



In our dialogue with EU brands and retailers we always insist on the need to build long-term partnerships in globalised world. –The essence of this relationship is trust and commitment to economic development through increased international trade. Companies should manage their supply chains in ways that uphold this commitment and support the objectives of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Bangladesh has a lot of investment potential, which remains largely untapped. We would like to support Bangladesh in many ways, including by encouraging our companies to step up investments. However, we think Bangladesh still needs to do some homework in order to improve its ease of doing business. We are already engaged with the government in the EU-BGD business climate dialogue in order to tackle impediments that prevent EU companies from investing in Bangladesh. I hope this dialogue will contribute to an improved overall business climate in the country.

Rensje Teerink

(Former) Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh

A lot of positive things happened over the past years in Bangladesh's RMG industry. And because of that, today Bangladesh has, for instance, some of world's highest-rated LEED Platinum factories.

The problem is that not enough people know about it. The transformation of the industry is not visible enough to boost the confidence of the buyers. So, I think Bangladesh should step up its game in promoting the industry.

It is also impressive to see the industry is diversifying and upgrading its product offerings.

For instance, there is now greater capacity to produce garments made from synthetic fibers; manufacture more complex products such as outerwear, tailored items, and lingerie; and provide new washes, prints, and laser finishings.

Entry into these new segments has been supported by the changing rules of origin for preferential trade with the EU, allowing for the use of imported fabrics. There also has been some increase in vertical integration of the supply chain that is resulting in decreasing lead times.

Harry Verweij

(Former) Ambassador of the Netherlands to Bangladesh





Garment design and innovation are some of the key factors to increase Bangladesh's market share in Korea's apparel market. In addition to active collaboration with Korean RMG companies operating in Bangladesh, which are mostly specialized in manufacturing rather than design or innovation, the collaboration between Korean and Bangladeshi apparel companies may contribute to enhancing the competitiveness of made-in-Bangladesh garment products in the Korean market. For example, Korean designers may help add value to made-in-Bangladesh garments by designing the latest and even a forward-looking fashion. In such a way, the transfer of know-how in fashion design and innovation in the apparel industry will naturally follow and ultimately sharpen the competitiveness of the Bangladesh garment industry in the Korean market and beyond.

LEE Jang-Keun

(Former) Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Bangladesh

I think, for Bangladesh there are some segments of the fashion market that are still unexplored. Bangladesh has long been producing basic garment products in massive quantities. Bangladesh will need to focus on niche products and shift from quantity to quality of products. I see future potential for Bangladesh in high-end fashion products. New brands and retailers from Italy who are now producing specific higher fashion products in Italy and some other European countries can also come to Bangladesh to produce products manufactured with high technologies. But for that of course investment will be required in technology, education and skills. Besides, designers here are also able to follow new lines of production. It is much linked to what I said before, let's say training and education because it's a long process to become a designer in the fashion field.

Enrico Nunziata

(Former) Ambassador of Italy to Bangladesh



Circular economy is also about consumer demand. I think the younger generation wants to buy more ethically. And perhaps the days of fast fashion are numbered where people throw away T-shirts as they are not the right choice or right color. Bangladesh is a prime example of a circular economy that's happening with the LEED certification where Bangladesh is a world leader. I see no reason why Bangladesh cannot be seen as a prominent leader in the circular economy field.

Charles Whiteley
EU Ambassador to Bangladesh



Bangladesh has already been able to create a brand image globally. And that's why you have been so successful in entering into market on a global basis. You may want to explore more. That's why you talk about the importance of branding Bangladesh. But you know, even in Japan now, you see many textile products are made in Bangladesh, leather products made in Bangladesh. And the people do like and enjoy using those 'made in Bangladesh' products. If you exhibit all of those products coming from Bangladesh in trade fairs in Japan, all of us will be amazed to see how vast are the products coming from Bangladesh. The first thing is we can be more confident on 'Made in Bangladesh' products. That is already a brand which is liked by Japanese consumers. However, Bangladesh would like to create stronger brand image.

ITO Naoki
(Former) Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh





The way that the industry has worked with partners, particularly through the Accord process, in which the UK has been a partner, and the way that government here, the employers, the unions, the brands and the foreign partners have worked together, I think there's been a really huge improvement in factory safety and industrial relations. And we've worked very closely with partners, as I said, the government and the unions, and with the BGMEA among the brands to achieve that. There's been a huge improvement, but there's always more to be done to drive higher standards through the whole supply chain.

**Robert Chatterton
Dickson**

(Former) British High Commissioner
to Bangladesh

Turkey and Bangladesh have huge opportunities to collaborate and grow together, what is needed is to facilitate more engagement between the governments and also more meaningful interactions between business communities of both countries. Both sides need to find out possible areas of trade and investment and ways to tap into the potential. If business communities are brought together through b2b meetings, they will work together to identify potential areas of trade and investment and how they will collaborate to reap mutual benefits. I think what we can do is to create an enabling environment for meeting for them. From Turkey, we are also encouraging our business to come to Bangladesh and participate in trade fairs to explore their trade opportunities.

Mustafa Osman Turan

(Former) Ambassador of
Turkey to Bangladesh





I think that promoting high-end traditional fabrics and techniques to the world will be ultimately beneficial for the whole textile industry and for the “Made in Bangladesh” brand. Bangladesh is home to many under-recognized gems like jamdani, muslin or Rajshahi silk. Many steps have been taken recently to revive production by the Government of Bangladesh and private sector. Some media recently invented the expression Jamdani diplomacy, as jamdani could be an ambassador of Bangladesh’s know-how. In this particular sector, as well as in the RMG industry in general, there is room for more cooperation between French and Bangladeshi Fashion institutes.

Marie Masdupuy

Ambassador of France to Bangladesh

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka nurtured a strong friendship bond over two thousand years.

The two countries have profound historical and cultural affinities and friendships strengthened by people-to-people contacts and socio-economic cooperation. Sri

Lanka always considers Bangladesh as a close neighbour and kinsman.

Several investments have the potential for greater growth.

They are Energy, tourism, investment, and maritime and aviation connectivity.

Prof. Sudharshan

D.S. Seneviratne

High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Bangladesh





Now we are working together closely to promote more and more man-made fiber factories to invest in Bangladesh, and encourage Chinese enterprises to build Chinese economic zones. I believe this will help Bangladesh to achieve industrial upgrading and enhance the vitality and resilience of its economy. China has entered the new phase of development for building a modern socialist country in all respects, while Bangladesh is striving with no effort to realize the dream of “Sonar Bangla” and “Vision 2041”. The two countries share the same goals and vision. I am fully convinced that China-Bangladesh relations will set a good example for developing countries to understand, trust and support each other.

Yao Wen

Ambassador of China to Bangladesh

The evolution and transformation of the RMG industry in Bangladesh over the last 30 years has been astonishing. Today, Bangladesh is the home of many of the most advanced RMG factories and of the highest number of green and environmentally friendly factories in the world. That is a great asset that the industry has and a reason of great pride for Bangladesh. There are still certain aspects that require attention, improvement and action by the industry leaders and the Government, with a view to the forthcoming LDC graduation in 2026 and in preparation for GSP+. But I believe the sector is in the right path.

Francisco de Asís Benítez Salas

Ambassador of Spain to Bangladesh





The volume of our bilateral trade in 2021 reached an all-time height of almost 3 billion USD, while the year 2022 witnessed a decrease of 21.4%, down to 2.35 billion USD. Machinery, equipment, vehicles, metals and agricultural products (wheat, fertilizers, legumes, mustard, etc.) are the key items of the Russian exports to Bangladesh. Your country, in its turn, provided our market primarily with textile products. Of course, there is huge untapped potential for further growth of mutual trade. Both sides should put their efforts in establishing direct links between the business communities in order to reduce dependence on any external factors.

Alexander MANTYTSKIY

Ambassador of the Russian
Federation to Bangladesh

Today Bangladesh is a preferred destination for some of our global Swedish brands in several business sectors, not least within the fashion and textile industry, where we have had a strong presence for decades. At the moment, we have around 50 Swedish companies operational here that have found Bangladesh to be a competitive market. We also see that the growing sourcing market is inspiring other new companies to explore the possibilities of partnering up and doing business with Bangladesh. In this context, we appreciate the continued dialogue with Bangladesh to further improve the business climate, including smoother procedures for imports and exports, as well as stability in the business processes, which would make the country even more attractive for foreign investments.

Alexandra Berg von Linde

Ambassador of Sweden to Bangladesh





As brands look for newer partnerships, they are likely to prioritise a cleaner and greener supply and production chain, especially in light of the fact that today's customers are increasingly conscious of their consumptions. To remain competitive in this new order of circular economy and fashion, Bangladesh should look into integration of circularity in its national policies, and address issues of human rights and environmental impact in the process.

Christian Brix Moller

Ambassador of Denmark to Bangladesh

Diversifying the RMG industry's product basket and moving into more complex product categories is important, especially as Bangladesh is expected to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status in 2026. Bangladesh could benefit by paying close attention to demand patterns in Australia. Australia, for example, is a proud sporting nation. Demand for high-quality fitness clothing, particularly activewear, is one example. By entering complex product categories such as wool-blended activewear, Bangladesh can build its profile as a more advanced manufacturer of high-quality and sophisticated products.

Jeremy Bruer

High Commissioner of Australia to Bangladesh ^A



The Way Young Entrepreneurs See the Garment Industry of Bangladesh



The section of The Apparel Story titled "Young Minds" explores the perspectives of young entrepreneurs contributing significantly to the growth of the ready-made garment industry in Bangladesh. This sector has a robust foundation established by the first-generation entrepreneurs in the country. In this segment, talented young entrepreneurs express their views on various contemporary issues related to the RMG industry in discussions with The Apparel Story. Here are the excerpts of their views shared with The Apparel Story:



Recently I have seen a report which mentioned that garment designed by manufacturers can increase orders significantly. Which can increase the order value by 20%. I completely agree with this insight and I am sure my industry colleagues also do. I believe making products from design level give companies competitive advantage as this is a vital value addition from a manufacturer's end. Lead time reduction is another significant benefit if designs are done in house which can be sold to customers. We can save at least 10-15 days; high estimates suggest that it can be 25-30 days. I believe this is another competitive advantage we should grab to add superior value in our business model.

Abrar H Sayem
Director, Sayem Group



The world is advancing as fast as the trends themselves are and there is no stopping that. The only way to compete is to educate ourselves on every aspect of the industry. For me, research isn't just for coming out with new designs every season but to know how to efficiently improve all issues of our industry to compete on a global scale. I urge everyone in our industry to start focusing on developing themselves with a proper R&D setup. It would show our buyers that Bangladesh is advancing and we will soon be capable of producing more value-added products. Being able to offer a more diverse range of products is also a big part of why development has to be given the importance that it truly deserves.

Zarin Rashid
Director, TRZ Group



To come out of this unhealthy competition we need to work on few things:

Market study: Learn about your International and local Competitions, Understand the market, Understand when is the right time to source your raw materials and the right sources. This will help you position your strength within the market.

Research: future trends, possibilities on customisation on existing products, new products you may be able to offer, possibilities on value addition to your existing products, what products the end customers might be looking for in the upcoming future.

Innovation: never be complacent and satisfied on your existing achievement, always find out next innovation on process, technologies, and products. Learn about upcoming technologies & software which would aid your production and ease processes and/or add value to your products.

Design: Understand customer requirements, create operations more feasible to your capabilities, create products which are functional, create products cost effective to your facility, the quality of a product will depend on its design as well as conformity.

Rafee Mahmood
Director, Mahmud Group



As a young entrepreneur, I believe that everyone must consider which disruptive innovations might influence their value chain and plan to respond to them or figure out whether they should use them in their business. They should understand their capability and limits to meet the outside dangers and opportunities of digitization. An entrepreneur should have enough knowledge of the upcoming technology either to benefit the company or to prevent their business from the side effects of the technology. Entrepreneurs should disrupt themselves before technology disrupts the business. In this age of information technology and artificial intelligence, every company is a technology company now. Companies should look forward to building partnerships and supplementing their strengths.

Salman Farsy Sunny

Director, Radiance Group

Every industrial revolution has occurred in this world and the reason has always been the adaptation of advanced technology. For instance, Netflix, Airbnb and Uber, these platforms have disrupted the traditional way as they have created their own principles in providing these particular services within their respective industries. Similarly being the 2nd generation to the RMG industry of Bangladesh, I strongly believe we have an immense scope of opportunities that we should tap into now more than ever in order to take our industry to the next level by incorporating and investing in automation. Another major point that I'd like to address is the size of the world apparel market. I believe that in this area we can have a huge growth by diversifying our product lines and specializing our work force into more high end products.

Hasin Arman

Director, MB Knit Fashion Limited



Future investments in making the industry more sustainable and digital is very important for our sector to grow and move to new horizons. This industry and many others will change quite significantly in the future as a result of the emerging Industry 4.0 technologies and systems. We need to make our sector more sustainable to be able to survive and grow in the future, especially in this day and age where consumers are becoming more environmentally conscious. Most of the other manufacturing countries are already ahead of us in this aspect. We need to constantly pursue approaches that make sustainable fashion more accessible and affordable. Further investments in cleaner energy, recycled fibers and yarns are some of the things we can achieve to advance our country.

Ashaab Adeeb Hassan

Project Coordinator, Giant Group



As a young entrepreneur, I believe that future investment must be focused on Innovation & Technology. From lives to livelihoods, innovation and technological advancement is one of the key factors in bringing in growth and change. Although technological changes can be a topic of discomfort and often requires adapting, especially to generations before us, it can also be a game-changing tool to improve efficiency. As the Second Generation in the esteemed RMG Sector of Bangladesh, we must encourage the change that technology bounties us with, as this discomfort itself leads to learning, which yields growth and fosters success. Innovation & Technology are the key driving force behind sustainable business today, even in the RMG Sector.

Lithe Moontaha Mohiuddin

Director, Lithe Group

As a young entrepreneur if my advice is taken into consideration, the way to improvement is by making institutions that teach practically on how to use such machineries. Custom Machineries developed locally so that it is more time effective and price effective in terms of logistics, so that the ROI is gained earlier. Bringing in Custom made imported machineries that would be more compatible and user friendly can also give a competitive advantage. For example, to get better efficiency make machineries that are easily adapted with average Bangladeshi body type along with regular viability of parts so that engineers locally can fix the issues. My suggestions to the young entrepreneurs of the future would be to not treat Machineries and Labour as competing elements but rather as supplements to one another. The goal of absolute efficiency can only be achieved when a proper balance of these components are realized.

SM Nishat Bin Zia Rumman

Marketing Director, Amazing Fashions Ltd & Universal Yarn Dyeing Ltd



Changes in the ecosystem can be brought about through collaboration and incentivization, from financial institutions to manufacturing companies and government bodies. Our focus should be on creating conditions for existing entities and newcomers to thrive in the Industry 4.0 landscape and capitalise on the ongoing technological boom. I also believe that government involvement in providing vocational training in RMG (one of the country's most profitable industries), aided by BGMEA, can make a world of difference. The higher the quality of our products, the higher their price can be. We are currently earning upwards of US\$50 billion in the current world climate; thus, if we focus on retraining our workforce and reengineering our production set-up, we will be prepared to earn more money from less work.

Maheer Mannan

Deputy Managing Director, Shangu Tex Limited



The exponential pace of this revolution has essentially blurred the boundaries between the physical and digital realms. To meet this challenge head-on, we must work together to investigate approaches that will successfully increase our productivity and efficiency in terms of the sustainability of the value chain, including production output, worker well-being, and BGMEA member satisfaction, enabled through technology.

Mayeesha Mahmud

Director, Cotton Group



The driving force behind the long-term success of any business is adaptability and knowledge. Updated and constant knowledge of available innovative solutions allows you to truly compare and elevate your current productivity and understand your company's true potential or in other words optimize the effect of the industrial revolution for your situation.

Raisa Hassan

Director, Northern Tosrifa Group



There has to be a fine alignment between all the stakeholders involved in our trade, such as buyers, factory owners, policy makers, industry leaders, government, as well as local customer representatives to collectively brand Bangladesh's garment industry. Besides that, we need to also promote ourselves as a one stop solution for any potential global customer and go beyond our existing global reach to more markets across the globe. In order to do that, all the stakeholders in our industry must work collectively and collaboratively towards improving our backward linkage and have zero dependency internationally for any material for our supply chain processes.

Tanvir Kashem

Director, AKH Group



That was a generic version of the marketing funnel which we can use to brand Bangladesh digitally. It will have to be complemented with having regular presence in relevant global forums to provide that connection with Bangladesh's RMG industry and the people behind it. Additionally, we need to be aware of other non RMG global social/environmental/economical burning issues and demonstrate our support which will reflect the strength of our industry. This is part of understanding the mindset of our audience again. Most people of the developed world don't comprehend the challenges we face in our regions. Sympathy can get us through to a certain point but will definitely cap out. Everyone wants to affiliate with a winner and Bangladesh's RMG industry has been winning for decades now. We need to present that winners attitude to the world.

Faiaz Rahman

Director, Urmi Group

While on the topic of R&D, companies are also in search of ways to standout in the global market and differentiate themselves. This includes innovative fabric, print techniques and design. Our industry is working towards growing out of the image of being known for producing basic items and instead towards more value added items, through excelling in the use of manmade fibers among others, while continually conducting research. BGMEA has also inaugurated the Center of Innovation, Efficiency and OSH, a space dedicated to further support and encourage these initiatives.

Tasfia Hassan

Director, Northern Fashion Ltd.



A key way to change the narrative is to ensure reliable information is accessible to those who are interested. High quality, robust data that can be easily inferred will ensure that the end consumer is better aware of the environmental, social and economic systems that exist in Bangladesh. Facilitating research in conjunction with key stakeholders can help ensure that empirical evidence of our achievements can be published as reports of our success.

It can't stop there. Having an acute PR strategy that is agreed upon by the industry consortium can help ensure these reports and their findings are disseminated through the right channels. Publishing findings across a multitude of publications for example, presenting at conferences and professional associations will ensure key stakeholders are reached and necessary discussions are taking place.

Raisha Sajjad

Director, Jamuna Apparels Ltd



The sports and fitness clothing market is growing fast now than ever before and this is the opportunity to seize. However, going back to the key issue mentioned above, the biggest barrier apparel manufacturers face is having to import the fabric for the activewear. Activewear manufacturing comes with its own challenges. Seamless machines are used in Mosharaf Apparel to add value to activewear. In order to utilise seamless machineries, labor had to be trained and skilled. This innovation has contributed towards value addition of technical apparel. The current stagnated scenario of the garment industry in Bangladesh has vast opportunities to fill the gaps that has been mentioned above. These are just two small points that apparel manufacturers can strive towards in order to remodel businesses from volume to value and quantity to quality.

Omar Farooq
Director, Mosharaf Group

Bangladesh being the second largest garment exporter in the world, contributing to almost 80% of the country's export, also contributes to generating 400-600,000 tons of cut clip waste, mostly known as Jhoot. Statistically, 400,000 tons of cut-clip waste may be recycled into 1.0 billion garments, thereby generating much more revenue for the economy. To accomplish this, it is critical that all stakeholders, whether directly or indirectly engaged, use modern technology to efficiently complete the process from recycling through manufacturing the ultimate product. Numerous fast fashion businesses are switching from 100% cotton fiber clothes to recycled/artificial fibers, which will have a good environmental, economic, and social impact.

Ayesha Shefa
Director, Sustainability Simco Spinning & Textiles Ltd.



Training and development programs for all levels of workforce can help to upskill the workforce and improve their productivity and efficiency to reduce cost. Companies can also invest in research and development to develop new products, improve existing ones, or find more efficient ways of manufacturing products. This can help companies to stay ahead of the competition and have a versatile workforce. Being a young forward-thinking entrepreneur in this industry, I have the passion to contribute to the growth of our company and this industry. Today's RMG industry has numerous second generation involved and we are all relentlessly working for further growth and to bring smart changes.

Aqib Jafri Sharif
Director, Northern Tosrifa Group

News in Pictures



A MoU was signed between the Ministry of Commerce and BGMEA to establish a centre for innovation, efficiency, and OSH. Tipu Munshi, MP, Honorable Minister, the Ministry of Commerce and Dr. Md. Jafar Uddin, Senior Secretary, the Ministry of Commerce were present at the agreement signing ceremony held at the ministry's conference room. Faruque Hassan, President, BGMEA, and Md. Hafizur Rahman, Project Director, Export Diversification and Competitiveness Development Project (Tier-II) and DG, WTO Cell, Ministry of Commerce signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides.

BGMEA President Faruque Hassan, (Former) Mayor of Gazipur City Corporation Md. Jahangir Alam, Bangladesh Country Manager for Marks & Spencer Shwapna Bhowmick, Gazipur Civil Surgeon Md. Khairuzzaman, Deputy Commissioner of Gazipur SM Tariqul Islam and CARE Bangladesh's Country Director Ramesh Singh attended the inaugural program of garment workers' vaccination against Covid-19.



BGMEA made a donation to the Prime Minister's fund to help the poor affected by Covid fallout. Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received the donation through videoconferencing from her official residence Ganabhaban. BGMEA President Faruque Hassan handed over the cheque of donation of Taka 5 crore to PM's Principal Secretary Dr. Ahmad Kaikaus at the Prime Minister's office. Former BGMEA President Abdus Salam Murshedy, MP, BGMEA First Vice President Syed Nazrul Islam, Vice President Shahidullah Azim, Vice President (Finance) Khandoker Rafiqul Islam and Directors Asif Ashraf and Md. Sajjadur Rahman Mridha (Shipon) were also present at the donation handover program.



BGMEA President Faruque Hassan met with Commerce Secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh at the ministry and urged the Commerce Ministry to ease export procedures for the RMG industry so that the sector could address current challenges and move ahead. BGMEA Vice President Miran Ali and First Vice President of BKMEA Mohammad Hatem were also present at the meeting.

(Former) Ambassador of Italy to Bangladesh Enrico Nunziata paid a courtesy call on BGMEA President Faruque Hassan at the latter's office in Dhaka. The Ambassador expressed the willingness of Italy to provide its cooperation and support for the sustainable development of Bangladesh RMG industry. BGMEA Vice President Rakibul Alam Chowdhury was also present at the meeting.



A delegation of BGMEA led by its President Faruque Hassan met with Bangladesh Bank Governor Fazle Kabir at BB office and sought the support of the central bank for the RMG industry in its struggle to overcome the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and retaining its competitiveness in the global market. BGMEA Senior Vice President SM Mannan (Kochi) and Vice President Shahidullah Azim were also present.



BGMEA observed the National Mourning Day-2021 and the 46th martyrdom anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a solemn manner. The leaders of BGMEA led by President Faruque Hassan paid homage to the architect of our independence by placing wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu.

BGMEA President Faruque Hassan held a meeting with the representatives of renowned global brand C&A Sourcing International Ltd and leading shipping company Hapag-Lloyd held at BGMEA office in Dhaka. The discussion was a part of BGMEA's continuous efforts to keep the flow of export-import shipment smooth.



A delegation of BGMEA led by its Acting President SM Mannan (Kochi) met with Senior Secretary of the Finance Ministry Abdur Rouf Talukder at the Secretariat and sought the support of the government for the RMG industry to overcome the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and turn around. Former BGMEA President Md. Shafiul Islam (Mohiuddin), MP, BGMEA Vice President Shahidullah Azim, Vice President (Finance) Khandoker Rafiqul Islam and Director M. Ahsanul Hoq were also present at the meeting.



BGMEA President Faruque Hassan met with Ms. Leslie Johnston, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Laudes Foundation in Glasgow, Scotland. The BGMEA leaders called upon the Laudes Foundation to extend its support to the Centre of Innovation, Efficiency and OSH to facilitate trainings needed to face the challenge of industry 4.0. BGMEA Vice President Miran Ali, Directors Asif Ashraf and Abdullah Hil Rakib, and Shams Mahmud, Managing Director of Shasha Denims Ltd were also present on the occasion.

The Embassy of Denmark in Bangladesh, the Embassy of Netherlands in Bangladesh and PUMA has renewed their commitment for IFC's Partnership for Cleaner Textile (PaCT II) program to support decarbonization of the readymade garments (RMG) sector in Bangladesh. BGMEA President Faruque Hassan, Søren Asbjørn Albertsen, Sector Counsellor, Embassy of Denmark; Badrul Alam Talukdar, Program Adviser, Embassy of Denmark; Bas Blaauw, First Secretary, Economic Affairs and RMG, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh; BGMEA Directors Asif Ashraf and Tanvir Ahmed; Nishat S. Chowdhury, Program Manager, IFC PaCT; Tadashi Koyama, Operations Officer to the Partnerships and Multilateral Engagement Department, IFC; Archak Pattanaik, Senior Manager - Supply Chain Sustainability, PUMA; and Vincent Chen, Team head Environment Sustainability, PUMA were present on the occasion.



BGMEA signed a MoU with Brac University to develop a digital repository of the workers of export oriented RMG industry. With the presence of Faruque Hassan, President, BGMEA and Professor Vincent Chang, Vice Chancellor (VC), Brac University, this MoU signing ceremony took place at the BGMEA PR and Media Office in Gulshan, Dhaka. Shahidullah Azim, Vice President, BGMEA; Miran Ali, Vice President, BGMEA; Ms. Mahjabeen Quader, Senior Policy Advisor – Economic Affairs & CSR, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; and Ms. Naureen Chowdhury (Senior Program Manager -Labor Rights, Laudes Foundation) were also present at the occasion, among others.

BGMEA President Fareuque Hassan and Vice President Miran Ali met with Primark and its Associated British Foods (ABF) parent's leaders to discuss Primark's new wide-reaching sustainability strategy. BGMEA Directors Asif Ashraf and Abdullah Hil Rakib met with Paul Lister, Director of Legal Services and Company Secretary ABF, Paul Marchant, CEO Primark, Lynne Walker, Director Primark Cares and Juan Chaparro were present in the meeting. BGMEA expressed its support for the objectives Primark has set out to change the ways its clothes are made, halve its carbon emissions across its wider supply chain and improve the lives of the workers in the supply chain.



A delegation of Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) met with BGMEA President Fareuque Hassan at BGMEA's PR office in Gulshan. BGMEA Vice President Shahidullah Azim, Vice President (Finance) Khandoker Rafiqul Islam and Director Md. Imranur Rahman were present. They discussed possible avenues of expanding trade between Bangladesh and Japan. The delegation included South Asian regional representative of Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry and Director of JETRO, New Delhi Takuma Otaki, JETRO Country Representative Yuji Ando, JETRO Representative Kazunori Yamada and Senior Director at JETRO Dhaka S.M. Shariful Alam.

BGMEA President had a meeting with Peter McAllister, Executive Director of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) in London. They talked about different issues including how to strengthen supply chain partnerships between the UK and Bangladesh for a sustainable apparel industry. BGMEA Vice President Miran Ali, Director Abdullah Hil Rakib and Shams Mahmud, Managing Director of Shasha Denims Ltd were also present on the occasion.



BGMEA President Faruque Hassan together Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley, Ambassador of Italy to Bangladesh Enrico Nunziata and with Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Rear Admiral M Shahjahan visited Chittagong Port on the occasion of arrival of a direct vessel from Europe in Bangladesh. The direct route will reduce the cost by almost 40% as goods can reach the European port within just 16 days. BGMEA First Vice President Syed Nazrul Islam, Vice President Shahidullah Azim, Vice President (Finance) Khandoker Rafiqul Islam, Vice President Md. Nasir Uddin, Vice President Rakibul Alam Chowdhury and Directors Abdullah Hil Rakib, A.M. Shafiul Karim (Khokon), Md. Hassan (Jacky) and M. Ahsanul Hoq were also present there.



BGMEA President Faruque Hassan called on (Former) Ambassador of South Korea to Bangladesh Lee Jang-keun at the Korean embassy in Dhaka where he stressed on the need for intensifying cooperation and collaboration to realize trade potential between Bangladesh and South Korea.



BGMEA has launched its online-based Membership Management System to make membership registration procedures faster, simpler and more convenient for garment factories. It will also help the existing members of BGMEA to easily manage their membership information online. BGMEA President Faruque Hassan inaugurated the digital “BGMEA Membership Management System” (MSS) in presence of BGMEA Vice Presidents and Directors.



BGMEA has launched its online-based 'Cash Incentive Automation System' to make application procedures faster, simpler, transparent and more convenient for garment factories. BGMEA President Faruque Hassan inaugurated the Cash Incentive Automation System. BGMEA Vice Presidents and Directors were present at the inaugural ceremony held at the conference of BGMEA in Uttara, Dhaka.



The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP) signed a contract to develop skills of mid-level management and workers of the RMG industry through training. BGMEA President Faruque Hassan and Executive Project Director of SEIP Md. Ekhlashur Rahman inked the agreement on behalf of their respective sides. BGMEA Vice President Shahidullah Azim and Chairman of BGMEA Standing Committee on UD-Woven & Knit Md. Nurul Islam were present at the agreement signing ceremony.



BGMEA President Faruque Hassan and Managing Partner, PwC Bangladesh Mamun Rashid along with BGMEA Directors Asif Ashraf, Abdullah Hil Rakib, Barrister Vidiya Amrit Khan and Chair of BGMEA Standing Committee on Foreign Mission Cell Shams Mahmud pose for photograph at the agreement signing between BGMEA and PwC to conduct a study on Bangladesh's RMG sector roadmap to recovery.



A delegation of European Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA) headed by Ms. Heidi HAUTALA, Chair, INTA delegation to Bangladesh, met with leaders of BGMEA in Dhaka. The delegation included Members of the European Parliament -- Jose Manuel GARCIA-MARGALLO, Sven SIMON, Ms. Agnes JONGERIUS, Jordi CANAS PEREZ, and Maximilian KRAH. Martti KALAUS, Head of Unit, INTA Committee and Gabriel ALVAREZ RECARTE, Administrator, INTA Committee were also in the delegation. Charles Whiteley, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh was also present at the meeting. BGMEA President Faruque Hassan briefed the visiting delegation members about the current situation of Bangladesh's RMG industry, including its strides in the areas of workplace safety, environmental sustainability and workers' rights and welfare. BGMEA Vice Presidents Miran Ali, Khandoker Rafiqul Islam, Md. Nasir Uddin, Directors Haroon Ar Rashid, Barrister Vidiya Amrit Khan and Chair of BGMEA Standing Committee on ILO issue ANM Saifuddin were also present at the meeting.

BGMEA President Faruque Hassan called on National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem at NBR office in Dhaka and urged NBR to provide green channel facility to RMG exporters to ensure faster delivery of imported garment raw materials through coordination between Customs and port authorities. He also called on the NBR to issue self-clearance licence to RMG exporters to allow them to take quick delivery of imported raw materials from the ports. BGMEA Vice President Shahidullah Azim, Director Asif Ashraf and Chair of BGMEA Standing Committee on Foreign Mission Cell Shams Mahmud were also present at the meeting.



A delegation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) led by IMF Mission Chief for Bangladesh Rahul Anand paid a courtesy call on BGMEA President Faruque Hassan at BGMEA in Dhaka. The IMF team included Resident Representative in Dhaka Jayendu De, and Seniors Economists Ritu Basu and Estelle Xue Liu. BGMEA Vice President Miran Ali, Vice President Rakibul Alam Chowdhury and Directors Asif Ashraf and Barrister Vidiya Amrit Khan and Chair of BGMEA Standing Committee on Foreign Mission Cell Shams Mahmud were also present at the meeting. They discussed issues pertaining to the RMG industry of Bangladesh including its current situation, opportunities and strategies to meet future challenges and sustain growth.



BGMEA and the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) signed an agreement to develop skills of mid-level managers and workers of garment factories through training. BGMEA President Faruque Hassan and EPB Director General Mahbubur Rahman inked the agreement on behalf of their respective sides in the presence of EPB Vice-Chairman of A.H.M. Ahasan at EPB office in Dhaka.



Australia will continue to provide Bangladesh with duty-free access in its market after the country's graduation from the LDC category. High Commissioner of Australia to Bangladesh Jeremy Bruer informed BGMEA President Faruque Hassan about the Australian government's decision when he paid a courtesy call on the envoy at the High Commission in Dhaka. BGMEA, First Vice President, Syed Nazrul Islam, Vice President Miran Ali, Director Asif Ashraf, Barrister Vidiya Amrit Khan and chair of BGMEA standing committee on foreign mission cell Sams Mahmud were present.

A delegation of BGMEA led by President Faruque Hassan met Jiyeon Janice Ryu, Resident Representative of International Finance Corporation (IFC) in Korea. The BGMEA team included Vice President Shahidullah Azim, Director Asif Ashraf, Managing Director of DBL Group M. A. Jabbar and Managing Director of Hams Group Engr. Md. Shafiqur Rahman. Ms. Nuzhat Anwar, Senior Country Officer, IFC Dhaka and Ms. Nishat Chowdhury, Program Manager of IFC's "Partnership for Cleaner Textile: PaCT" program were also present.





A delegation of BGMEA headed by President Faruque Hassan visited Hyosung Corporation in Korea and called upon the South Korean industrial conglomerate to make investment in the backward-linkage industries in Bangladesh, especially in high value-added and non-cotton textiles sector. The BGMEA delegation included Vice President Shahidullah Azim, Director Asif Ashraf, Managing Director of DBL Group M. A. Jabbar, Managing Director of Hams Group Engr. Md. Shafiqur Rahman, and Ashaab Adeeb Hassan, Director of Giant Group.



Ambassador of Sweden to Bangladesh Alexandra Berg von Linde paid a courtesy visit to BGMEA President Faruque Hassan at his office in Dhaka to discuss possible avenues of boosting bilateral trade. BGMEA Vice President Shahidullah Azim, Vice President Md. Nasir Uddin, Directors Haroon Ar Rashid, Rajiv Chowdhury, Mijanur Rahman, Chair of BGMEA Standing Committee on Foreign Mission Cell Shams Mahmud, Chair of BGMEA Standing Committee on Cash Incentive Humayun Kabir Salim, and Chair of BGMEA Standing Committee on Schedule Bank Md. Israfil Atique were also present at the meeting.



BGMEA President Faruque Hassan inaugurated the 7th edition of player auction ceremony as chief guest which was held at International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB), Dhaka. A total of 16 teams took part in the BGMEA Cup 2022. BGMEA Vice President Shahidullah Azim, Director Md. Imranur Rahman, garment entrepreneurs, players and representatives of sponsors were also present at the program.



BGMEA signed a memorandum of understanding with the Korea Federation of Textile Industries (KOFOTI) to promote direct or joint venture investments from Korea to Bangladesh in non-cotton textiles, high-end garment items, woven textile and garment, skills development and innovation. BGMEA President Faruque Hassan and Chairman of KOFOTI Sang Woon Lee inked the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations in Korea. BGMEA Vice President Shahidullah Azim, Director Asif Ashraf, Director General of Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency Jong Won Kim, Vice President of Korea Fashion Industry Association Kim Sung Chan, Executive Vice Chairman of KOFOTI Soyoung JOO, General Director of Korea Textile Trade Association Jung-kee Lee, Managing Director of DBL Group M. A. Jabbar, and Managing Director of Hams Group Engr. Md. Shafiqur Rahman were also present on the occasion.

A meeting was held between Mark Green, Executive Vice President, Global Supply Chain, PVH and Faruque Hassan, President, BGMEA, in Dhaka. The meeting was also attended by BGMEA Vice-President Miran Ali, Director Asif Ashraf and Country Manager for PVH Bangladesh Najeeb Sayed.



A delegation of Primark and Associated British Foods (ABF) led by Primark CEO Paul Marchant met with BGMEA President Faruque Hassan at BGMEA Complex in Uttara, Dhaka to discuss various issues including the prospects and challenges of Bangladesh's RMG industry, and collaboration to achieve common goals in the area of sustainability. The meeting was also attended by BGMEA Vice President Miran Ali and Director Faisal Samad.



Her Majesty Mathilde, Queen of Belgium, visited a garment factory in Naraynganj to witness the progress of Bangladesh's RMG industry in social, environmental and economic fronts and its contribution to women empowerment and their welfare. BGMEA President Faruque Hassan accompanied Queen Mathilde during her visit to Fakir Apparels Limited and apprised her of how the apparel industry had been making a difference to millions of people, especially women by creating job opportunities for them, thus paving the way for their inclusion in mainstream economy.



A high-level delegation comprising members of the Netherlands Parliament paid a visit to BGMEA and held a meeting with President of the association Faruque Hassan to discuss opportunities of increased collaboration to drive development of Bangladesh's RMG industry in a more sustainable way. BGMEA Vice President Miran Ali was also present in the occasion.



H&M Group, a globally renowned multinational retail-clothing company, has contributed books and dressmaker mannequins to the Centre of Innovation, Efficiency and Occupational Safety and Health (CIEOSH) and BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology (BUFT) to support the education and skill development of the next generation of RMG professionals in Bangladesh. Ziaur Rahman, Country Manager of H&M Group, presented the books and mannequins to Faruque Hassan, President of BGMEA at BGMEA Complex in Uttara, Dhaka. The ceremony was also attended by Miran Ali, Vice President of BGMEA.



U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh H.E. Peter Haas paid a courtesy call on BGMEA President Faruque Hassan at BGMEA Complex in Uttara, Dhaka. BGMEA First Vice President Syed Nazrul Islam, Senior Vice President S.M. Mannan (Kochi), Vice President Shahidullah Azim, Vice President (Finance) Khandoker Rafiqul Islam, Vice President Md. Nasir Uddin, Vice President Rakibul Alam Chowdhury, Directors Abdullah Hil Rakib, Navidul Huq, Rajiv Chowdhury, Barrister Vidiya Amrit Khan, Md. Imranur Rahman, Mijanur Rahman and Neela Hosna Ara were also present at the meeting. Their discussions focused on various issues of mutual interest aimed at strengthening trade ties between the USA and Bangladesh, particularly how the US could support Bangladesh in increasing apparel exports including high-end garments to the US market.

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and German development cooperation agency GIZ joined hands in a bid to strengthen human rights and environmental due diligence in the RMG sector of Bangladesh. As part of the collaboration, BGMEA with the support of GIZ will develop an ESG (Environment, Social and Governance)

Digital Data Reporting Platform for collecting and publishing data on the sustainability performance of BGMEA member factories. In this regard, BGMEA and GIZ signed a Cooperation Agreement.

BGMEA President Faruque Hassan and Project Manager, GIZ Dr. Michael Klode inked the agreement on behalf of their respective sides. BGMEA Director Barrister Vidiya Amrit Khan and Chair of BGMEA Standing Committee on Sustainability Sheikh M. Mustafiz were also present.

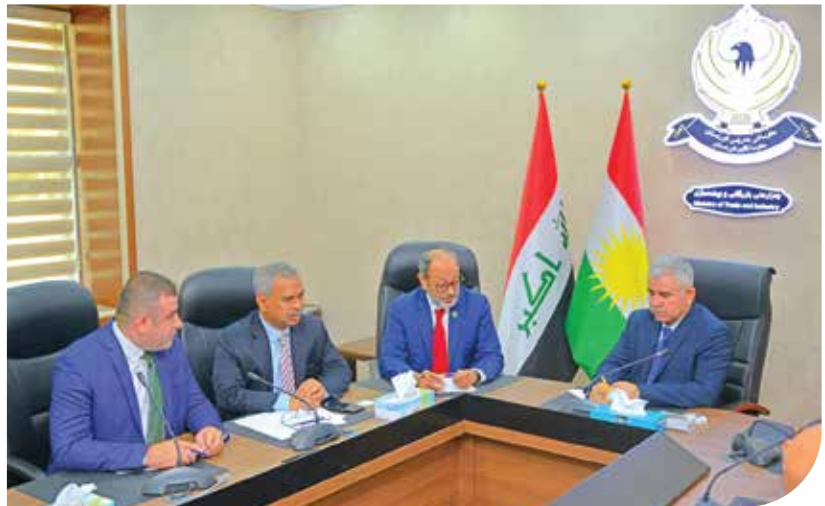


Ms. Helena Helmersson, CEO, H&M Group, and Faruque Hassan, President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) held a meeting in Dhaka to discuss potential areas of collaboration to further strengthen long-term partnership and expand H&M's business base in Bangladesh. The meeting was also attended by Shahidullah Azim, Vice President, BGMEA; Miran Ali, Vice President, BGMEA; Ziaur Rahman, H&M Group Country Manager for Bangladesh; Faisal Rabbi, Stakeholder Engagement and Public Affairs Manager, H&M Group; and Karin Lind, Global Head of Production H&M Group.

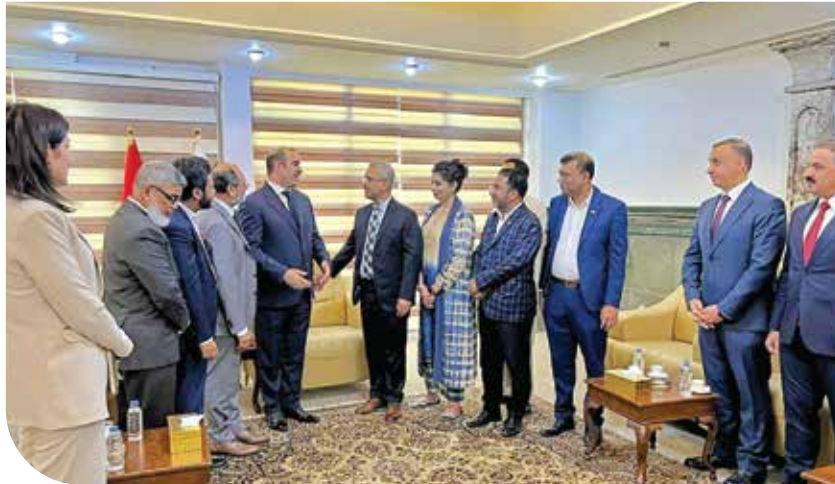


The 40th annual general meeting (AGM) of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) was held at BGMEA Complex in Uttara, Dhaka. BGMEA Senior Vice President S. M. Mannan (Kochi) chaired the meeting. BGMEA Vice President Shahidullah Azim, Vice President (Finance) Khandoker Rafiqul Islam, Vice President Rakibul Alam Chowdhury, BGMEA Directors and general members of the association also attended the AGM.

A delegation of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) led by President Faruque Hassan met Kamal Muslim, Minister of Trade and Industry, Kurdistan Regional Government in Erbil, Iraq. Sarwar Kamal Hawari, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Fathi M. Ali Almudaris, Economic Relations Advisor; Dr. Ahmed Jalal, President of Kurdistan-Bangladesh Business Council were also present at the meeting. They discussed issues of mutual interests, especially prospects of expanding business and investment between Bangladesh and Iraq.



A delegation of Associated British Foods (ABF) led by its Chief Executive George Weston met with BGMEA President Faruque Hassan to discuss potential collaboration in achieving shared goals around sustainability and opportunities for expanding business base in Bangladesh. The delegation also included Paul Lister, CFO of ABF; Paul Marchant, CEO of Primark and Matt Rhodes, Manager of Primark. BGMEA Vice President Miran Ali, Directors Faisal Samad, Navidul Huq, Barrister Vidiya Amrit Khan, Chair of BGMEA Standing Committee on Press, Publication and Publicity Shovon Islam and Chair of BGMEA Standing Committee on Trade Fair Mohammad Kamal Uddin were present at the meeting held at BGMEA Complex in Uttara, Dhaka.



A delegation of BGMEA headed by President Faruque Hassan met Khaled Battal Najm Abdullah al-Jughifi, Minister of Industry and Minerals, the government of Iraq. The other members of the delegation were Mohammed Nasir, former Vice President (Finance), BGMEA; Nazrul Islam, former Director, BGMEA; Sharmin Hassan Tithi, Director, Giant Group; Mohammad Shohel, Managing Director, Bangla Poshak Ltd; Shawket Hossain, Director, Bangla Poshak Ltd and Nisher Khan, Managing Director of Banika Fashion Ltd. They discussed issues of mutual interests including possible areas of cooperation, environment of doing business, trade and investment opportunities between Bangladesh and Iraq.



A diverse group of stakeholders from the garment and textile industry gathered at BGMEA Complex in Dhaka to discuss the prospects of circular economy in the country. Faruque Hassan, President of BGMEA, delivered the opening remark at the discussion which was moderated by Barrister Vidiya Amrit Khan, Director, BGMEA. H. E. Jeremy Bruer, Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh; Mark Draeck, Chief Technical Advisor on SWITCH2Circular, UNIDO; Holly Syrett, Director of Impact Programmes & Sustainability at Global Fashion Agenda; Nin Castle, Chief Program Officer- Co-Founder, Reverse Resources; Abdur Rahim Khan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce; Mahbub ur Rahman, CEO, HSBC Bangladesh; Enamul Huque, Managing Director and Country Head of Corporate, Commercial and Institutional Banking at Standard Chartered Bank; Humaira Azam, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Trust Bank, joined the discussion.



A delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), led by IMF Mission Chief for Bangladesh, Rahul Anand, paid a courtesy visit to Faruque Hassan, President of BGMEA at the BGMEA Complex in Dhaka. BGMEA Directors Asif Ashraf, Ms. Neela Hosna Ara, Chair of BGMEA Standing Committee on Labour and ILO Affairs ANM Saifuddin and Chair of BGMEA Standing Committee on Foreign Mission Cell Shams Mahmud were also present during the meeting.



BGMEA President Faruque Hassan met with Spencer Fung, Executive Chairman of Li & Fung, and Ms. Deepika Rana, Chief Executive Officer of Li & Fung, in Hong Kong. The meeting, also attended by Azfar Hassan, Director of Giant Group, focused on fostering collaboration and discussing important trade-related matters within the apparel industry of Bangladesh.



A high-level delegation from the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), Enterprise Singapore (ESG), and the Singapore Port Authority (PSA) met with Faruque Hassan, President of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), at the BGMEA Complex in Dhaka. Ms. Sheela Pillai, Chargé d'Affaires at the Singapore High Commission in Dhaka led the delegation while from BGMEA, Shahidullah Azim, Vice President; Miran Ali, Vice President; Asif Ashraf, Director, Neela Hosna Ara, Director were present at the meeting where they discussed possible avenues for expanding trade and investment collaboration between Bangladesh and Singapore.



BGMEA President Faruque Hassan held a meeting with Edwin Keh, Chief Executive Officer of the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA), in Hong Kong to discuss potential collaborations between the two organizations to elevate the capacity of Bangladesh's readymade garment industry. Azfar Hassan, Director of Giant Group, was also present at the meeting. 



PATHWAYS FOR PROMISE

Empowering Women Through Education

SCAN TO
KNOW FURTHER
DETAILS



The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the Asian University for Women have been collaborating since 2016 with the vision to provide women from the garment industry with higher education, leadership development, and social equality. The Pathways for Promise Program aims to empower women, promote equality, and drive positive social change.

Be a Part of Change

We invite BGMEA members to join us in the AUW Pathways for Promise Program, in an exclusive scholarship initiative designed to support talented women working in the garment industry.

For details, email: suman.chatterjee@auw.edu.bd



BANGLADESH GARMENT MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION
বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রপ্তানীকারক সমিতি

• বাংলাদেশে তৈরি •

BGMEA COMPLEX



BANGLADESH GARMENT MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION (BGMEA)

বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রপ্তানীকারক সমিতি

• বাংলাদেশ তৈরি •