The Daily Star

April 27, 2020

Bangladesh seeks US support for RMG sector, Covid-19 response,

Star Online Report

The US market is the single largest RMG export market of Bangladesh. This sector **has been badly hit by fallout from the coronavirus outbreak.** Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen made the call in a meeting at his office with US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl Miller. During the meeting, The foreign minister explained Bangladesh's strategies to tackle the Covid-19 crisis and expressed interest to work closely with the US government in the coming days to face the global challenges. Foreign Minister Momen also underscored how the economy and livelihood of Bangladeshi people are being adversely affected in this Covid-19 situation, especially mentioning the country's RMG industry, which has been badly hit due to cancellation of orders by foreign buyers. The Minister asked co-operation of US government. The US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo appreciated Bangladesh's readiness to support Covid-19 response supply chains and Bangladesh's assistance in repatriation of American citizens.The US Secretary of State also assured Bangladesh of working together to combat Covid-19 and of continued cooperation during this challenge.

# The Unprecedented Pandemic 'COVID-19' Effect on the Bangladesh Apparel Workers by Shivering the Apparel Supply Chain.

# May, 2020

# Retrieved from <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/341373757_The_Unprecedented_Pandemic_'COVID-19'_Effect_on_the_Bangladesh_Apparel_Workers_by_Shivering_the_Apparel_Supply_Chain>

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a new infectious disease caused by a new virus. This virus can contaminate people easily and transmit from “person to person”. Pandemic COVID-19 affects the global economy. ILO declared coronavirus as a labor market and economic crisis. This study has discussed about the effect of COVID-19 on the apparel industry and the apparel manufacturing workers. This study has explained that the apparel industry is one of the most affected industries among the other industries. The retailers’ shops are being closed with having zero turnovers which leads to ordering cancelation to the manufacturing factories. Bangladesh's apparel manufacturing industry is also drastically affected due to COVID-19. The factories can’t pay the workers’ salaries in this critical situation. Therefore, millions of workers have been sent home without their wages. Sometimes, it has predicted that the workers would lose jobs due to factory closure. The Government took lots of initiatives i.e. tax rebates, reduce VAT, financial support to the owners to pay the workers’ wages, loan installment rescheduling, etc. Though, these initiatives were taken for the welfare of the factory owners and the workers remain oppressed. A proper policy strategy is indeed an emergency to support the destitute workforce during the COVID-19 as well as in future financial crises.

# Early Impacts of Coronavirus on Bangladesh Apparel Supply Chains

April, 2020

Author- Erin Leitheiser

Retrieved from

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/341074782_Early_Impacts_of_Coronavirus_on_Bangladesh_Apparel_Supply_Chains>

This study has discussed about the sudden unprecedented impacts of the coronavirus for supply chains worldwide, particularly those with links to china which stood at the epicenter of what would grow to become a global pandemic. The impacts and shutdown in China initially seemed to pose both opportunities and challenges to Bangladesh’s RMG industry. Initial optimism flourished around how the lockdown in China and closure of its factories represented a boom for Bangladesh. However, optimism quickly waned as the industry took stock of its reliance on China. The apparel manufacturing of Bangladesh is heavily dependent on china for the raw materials needed to make apparel. More than 50% of apparel raw materials and 40% of the machinery and spare parts for the industries of Bangladesh comes from China. Thus, the lockdown in China brought the Bangladesh RMG industry’s own supply chain to a standstill. According to a flsh survey of Bangladesh suppliers, 93% reported that they faced a delay in raw material shipments during this pandemic. The delay in importing raw materials for production created problems with buyers who insisted on maintaining current deadlines on present orders. Brands and retailers began to cancel orders with manufacturers, citing stores and warehouses full of stock that they could not sell in the immediate future. Brands canceled orders and announced delayed payment terms by exercising the force majeure clauses in their contracts, citing the coronavirus spread and resulting store closures as unforeseen circumstances.

# Supply chain at risk

# The Business Standard

# Saturday, August 29, 2020

Due to the impact of Pandemic COVID-19,Domestic supply chains are under threat, which could lead to a crisis or price spiral of essential food items. Disruptions are gradually being felt everywhere – from ports to factories, storehouses and delivery channels – with the passing of every single day during the countrywide shutdown imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19. Disruption is also evident in the rural farm level where people are not getting fair prices of their produce.Activities at Chattogram port that handles around 80 percent external trade of the country have come to a standstill as the amount of containers of imported goods has exceeded the port's storage capacity due to slow delivery of goods amid the long shutdown.Leading consumer goods companies said goods are stuck at ports, at factories and in storehouses. So far, they are going with raw materials they have in stocks, but there will be problems in the days to come if the total supply chain system – from planning to sourcing, making and delivery – does not improve.Most of the business were facing disruption in three areas – Chattogram port, production in factories, and transportation.The demand for some commodities such as sugar, lentil, edible oil, flour and gram goes up by 20 to 30 percent during Ramadan which is just a few days away. So, trucks loaded with these goods should now be busy carrying them to all corners of the country. Raw materials for the readymade garment sector constitute the bulk portion of import containers stuck at the port, followed by industrial raw materials, and foodstuffs and fruits. A senior economist has urged the government to take all-out measures to improve the supply chain situation for the sake of both businesses and consumers