

Origin and Deadly Incidents in Ready-Made Garment Sector of Bangladesh: An Investigation

Md. Basirulla¹ and Muhammad Mahmudur Rahman²

¹Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Varendra University, Rajshahi-6204, Bangladesh.

E-mail: bosirullah213@gmail.com

²Professor & Chairman, Department of Political Science, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi-6205, Bangladesh. E-mail: mahmud_polsc@yahoo.com or ru.ac.bd

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Abstract: Bangladesh, a fast-growing emerging state has been meeting fast progress in export-driven industrialization. There is a speedy growth in industrial mainly in the clothing productions because of overseas direct financing in the previous few decades. The Ready-made Garment (RMG) sector is the mainstay of the economy of Bangladesh. The total contribution of earning foreign exchange from the garment industries is around 83%. The key purpose of the research is to gain an in-depth understanding the birth and casualty of the export-led readymade garment sector in Bangladesh. After the Rana Plaza tragedy overall situation of RMG sector has totally been changed. Before the tragedy the trade union numbers were few but after that it has increased a lot in numbers. The researchers used secondary data and analyzed related articles, books, newspapers and various databases to fulfill its objectives. RMG sector is a cornerstone of the economy of Bangladesh but they have drawbacks like casualty of the workers. So, the researchers investigated the origin and tragic casualties in the RMG sector in Bangladesh.

Keywords: Bangladesh, RMG sector, Origin and Casualty

Introduction

The ready-made garments manufacturing in Bangladesh is not the product of outdated economic events but appeared from economic prospects perceived by the private sector in the late 1970s. The progress of the garment manufacturing in Bangladesh as a distinctive feature convincingly in the appeal map of the world, Bangladesh is one of the major merchants of quality readymade garments (Aker, 2020). As exporter of non-traditional item and as a labor-intensive industry, garment industry has developed in the private sector and localized mostly in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Chattogram, four major cities of Bangladesh. In most countries, chiefly in the advanced

states, including the USA, Canada, Japan, UK, and other European countries apparel industry was established in response to internal demand, even in the instances of India, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Thailand, and alike other countries, initially, it is the domestic demand that motivated the entrepreneurs to invest in the apparel industry. But in the case of Bangladesh, local require was too little to entice large-scale outlay. It was the exterior force, the need of the high-wage states that formed an atmosphere congenial to the progress and expansion of the Ready-made Garment (RMG) manufacturing in Bangladesh. It was mainly due to the migrant nature of the RMG business, moving from high-wage to low-wage states, that the industry saw its growth in Bangladesh. This industry for the past 20 years it has greatly contributed to the economic growth of Bangladesh (Aker, 2020). In garment industry, the level of investment risk is comparatively low. Entrepreneurs need small amount of capital to start a garment factory. Besides, it is labor intensive industry. It creates broader opportunity for the employment of large number of people. Garment industry is relocating in nature. It facilitates migration from high cost to low-cost countries. Moreover, garment industry provides comprehensive opportunities for subcontracting. Bangladesh garment factory is currently one of the world's leading exporters. According to WTOs World Statistics Review 2023, Bangladesh positions second in garment exportations as a solo country (Today, 2023). Even Bangladesh is doing well in establishing eco-friendly garment factories. About a century ago, there was only one eco-friendly green factory in this export-oriented sector. That number has now increased to 215 (Samakal, 2024). The entrepreneurs of the sector opined that the green factory is making a big contribution to increase the export of garment products. A US-based organization, the US Green Building Council (USGBC) provides this certification. In 2012, the journey of the first eco-friendly green factory started in the country by the hand of the owner of 'Vintage Denim Studio' which was the first LEED certified factory in the country located at Ishwardi EPZ, Pabna. Since then, the number of green garment factories have been increasing continuously (Kalerkantho, 2024). 55 of the top 100 LEED certified factories are now in Bangladesh, that is, there is no single country close to Bangladesh in the competition to build environmentally friendly green factories. Pakistan ranks after Bangladesh in statistics, with 9 top LEED certified factories in the country. India is in third position with eight such factories. There are only three such factories in China. And there are two such factories in the United States that certifies LEED (Samakal, 2024). In table 1 below lists some of the world's top exporting countries.

It is the only major labor-intensive sector in the country with huge employment and biggest source of remittance income (Chowdhury & Tanim, 2016). But there are many casualties occurred in this industry that the drawbacks of it. Rana Plaza collapse was the pathetic industrial disaster in the history of garments industry of Bangladesh

Table 1: World top 10 garment exporter countries

Rank	Country	Export Value (in billions USD)	Market Share (%)
1	China	\$161	30.6%
2	Bangladesh	\$34	6.4%
3	Vietnam	\$33	6.3%
4	India	\$16	3.0%
5	Hong Kong	\$14	2.7%
6	Turkey	\$13	2.5%
7	Germany	\$13	2.5%
8	Mexico	\$11	2.1%
9	Italy	\$11	2.1%
10	Indonesia	\$11	1.5%

Source: Geeks for Geeks, 2024

(Islam et. all, 2022). This study focuses on the history of its origin and the casualties in the sector.

Methodology

The research was carried out to identify the origin and casualty at the RMG sector in Bangladesh. This research is focused to statistical analysis and as well as review of secondary sources. Both the quantitative and qualitative data were applied in the research. Data and information were gathered from secondary sources include several relevant journals, website, newspapers, books, research articles. Information over 54 years from 1970 to the present have been collected to examine the growth history and the disaster of RMG sector.

History of the growth of RMG in Bangladesh

Though the past of the readymade garment business is not a grownup one but Bangladeshi fashion trade has a wonderful past. Perhaps it happening from the Mughal phase in the Indian subcontinent through “Dhakai Masline” (The world-famous cloth was made in Dhaka; Bangladesh in the Mughal period was called Dhakai Maslin). It had an international name as well as a demandable bazaar everywhere in the world, particularly in the European marketplace.

After the industrial revolution in the West, they were engaged in technical development and commence subcontracting ready-made garments to meeting their regular requirements. Bangladesh as an LDC took this chance and share along with other amenities provided for them. Thus, readymade garment industry started to pay to the economy of the country in the late 1980s.

The RMG industry of Bangladesh began in the late 1970s and became a leading actor in the economy within a brief period of time. The RMG industry started without any direct assistance from the government it was the brainchild of late Nurul Quader Khan. Late Nurul Quader Khan was the 1st secretary of Independent Bangladesh and established 'Desh Garments' immediately after resignation from his post. He was a freedom fighter and retired from civil servant. Now RMG has become the number one export item.

The past of the clothing manufacturing dates back to 1977 when the initial shipment was exported to the then West Germany by Jewel Garments (Salma & Pratima, 2007). The first delivery of privatized part export of garments from Bangladesh took place in 1977-78 when M/S. Reaz Garments Ltd. exported men's shirts worth 13 million French francs to a Paris-based firm (Rahman & Chowdhury, 2020). The number of units, however, continued a meager 46 till the end of 1983. From a modest launch the sector has thus made remarkable progress over the past two decades, the number of units increasing to around 4825 (BGMEA Members Directory, 2008-09). The RMG industry's success is remarkable, chiefly for a nation plagued with poor resource endowments and adversative situations for industrialization. The industry earned 1 lack taka by exporting garment during 1977-78 while the figure rose to 1crore taka by 1980 (Salma & Pratima, 2007). Exports enlarged from about 32 million US dollars in 1983/84 to 1.4 billion dollars in 1992/93. In 1987/88, the RMG export portion exceeded that of raw jute and related goods. The figure more rose to 5.7 billion dollars in 2003/04 and 12.4 billion dollars in 2009/2010, representing a role of near 80 percent of the country's total export incomes in that year and now that means 2024, 83 percent of country's export income (BGMEA, 2024). The job created by the sector is projected to be more than three million workers 60 percent of them are country unschooled and neglected poor women.

There has been a stable progress in the field of RMG through last two decades. The RMG industry relished a dramatic rise from 30 enterprises in 1980 amplified to about 4925 in 2008-09 fiscal years and now above 5 thousand. The progress of the industry in terms of number of units and job creation is revealed in table-2 below:

Table 2: Number of Garments Industries and Employment from 1983 to 2021

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Garment Factories</i>	<i>Employment in Million Workers</i>
1983-1984	134	0.040
1984-1985	384	0.115
1985-1986	594	0.198
1986-1987	629	0.283
1987-1988	685	0.306
1988-1989	725	0.317
1989-1990	759	0.335

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Garment Factories</i>	<i>Employment in Million Workers</i>
1990-1991	834	0.402
1991-1992	1163	0.582
1992-1993	1537	0.804
1993-1994	1839	0.827
1994-1995	2182	1.200
1995-1996	2353	1.290
1996-1997	2503	1.300
1997-1998	2726	1.500
1998-1999	2963	1.500
1999-2000	3200	1.600
2000-2001	3480	1.800
2001-2002	3618	1.800
2002-2003	3760	2.000
2003-2004	3957	2.000
2004-2005	4107	2.000
2005-2006	4220	2.200
2006-2007	4490	2.400
2007-2008	4743	2.800
2008-2009	4925	3.100
2009-2010	5063	3.500
2010-2011	5150	3.600
2011-2012	5400	3.600
2012-2013	5876	4.000
2013-2014	4222	4.000
2014-2015	4296	4.000
2015-2016	4328	4.000
2016-2017	4482	4.000
2017-2018	4560	4.000
2018-2019	4620	4.400
2019-2020	4600	4.220
2020-2021	4600	4.300

Source: BGMEA, Prothom Alo, ResearchGate, ILO

Out of 4.3 million workforces hired in BGMEA member factories, masses of them are underprivileged and economically dirt-poor womenfolk. The country's RMG sector, accommodate a huge number jobless unemployment male and female young and has reduced the over populous unemployment burden of the country. This area has elevated the ignored section of the population, thus drastically transmuting the socio-economic situation of the country. Such empowerment and employment elevated consciousness regarding offspring education, health safety, population control calamity managing and

so on. It is a significant episode in the antiquity of Bangladesh. The industry has paid to export incomes, overseas exchange wages, employment formation, penury lessening and the empowerment of womenfolk.

The RMG industry is highly globalized. Within the framework of the world trading system, the garment production, exporting, marketing and retailing systems form a global commodity chain. For example, retailers like Wal-Mart, Sears Roebuck, JC Penny, Li Claiborne, GAP etc., do not manufacture the products that they design or sell. They link overseas factories and traders with the main consumer markets. Bangladesh became part of this global commodity chain when South Korean companies such as Daewoo came to Bangladesh to source their merchandises and encouraged the local entrepreneurs to take advantage of the international markets. So, it was the buyer-driven initiatives that prompted the development of the RMG industry in Bangladesh. Supportive guidelines and initiatives of the government provided further encouragement for the expansion of the RMG industry in Bangladesh. The new industrial practice of Bangladesh accepted in 1982 founded many export advancement actions, principally to endorse the export of non-traditional items like garments. To take advantage of the favorable external environment, the state policy was geared to encourage the development of the RMG industry in the private sector. This was reflected in the Revised Industrial Policy (RIP) which came into effect in 1986. The RIP provided a number of incentives that paved the way for the faster development of the RMG industry in the private sector. Besides, the subsequent national Five-Year Plans also emphasized the need for developing the RMG industry in the private sector. It also strengthened the role of the Export Promotion Bureau. The government also provided necessary institution-building support for the growth of the garments sector in Bangladesh.

Opening in late 1970s as a minor untraditional sector of exporting RMG appeared as a hopeful export making sector of Bangladesh by the year 1983. There are 5000 readymade garment industries with millions of employees playing a vital role in earning foreign currencies and reducing gap of balance in trade every year.

Most of the garment industries are situated at Dhaka, Gazipur, Export Processing Zone (EPZ) located at Savar and Ashulia, Chattogram, Narayanganj and Bhaluka of Mymensingh district. The industries created a lot of opportunities for employment and promoted the export market in EU countries and the USA, Canada, the Netherlands, and other western countries the sector earned over 1248 million dollars in 2008-09 Financial Year. Now the clothing industry is Bangladesh's major export recipient with worth of over 27.9 billion dollars of export in 2019-20 and 2020-21 is 31456.73 million US dollars financial year.

Bangladesh exports vary qualities items. The RMG factories of Bangladesh manufacture shirts, jackets, trousers, T-shirts, sweaters, and other garments, with a

high attention (about 60% of total apparel exports) in the export of shirts of low worth. Bangladesh is a prime exporter of men's and boys' cotton shirts to the US market. In this trade, it contests with India, Sri Lanka, Mexico, and other Central American states in the lesser value part. Export of RMG has been rising since 1983 till to date. Table 2 shows the steady growth of RMG export and share of RMG export in total export and table 3 shows the year-wise RMG export of Bangladesh.

Table 3: The Export of RMG Sector

<i>Year</i>	<i>RMG Export (in Mln.US Dollar)</i>	<i>Share of RMG in Total Export in %</i>
1983-84	31.57	3.89%
1984-85	116.2	12.44%
1985-86	131.48	16.05%
1986-87	298.67	27.74%
1987-88	433.92	35.24%
1988-89	471.09	36.47%
1989-90	624.16	32.45%
1990-91	866.82	50.47%
1991-92	1182.57	59.31%
1992-93	1445.02	60.64%
1993-94	1555.79	61.40%
1994-95	2228.35	64.17%
1995-96	2547.13	65.61%
1996-97	3001.25	67.93%
1997-98	3781.94	73.28%
1998-99	4019.98	75.67%
1999-2000	4349.41	75.61%
2000-01	4859.83	75.14%
2001-02	4583.75	76.57%
2002-003	4912.09	75.01%
2003-04	5686.09	74.79%
2004-05	6417.67	74.15%
2005-06	7900.80	75.06%
2006-07	9211.23	75.64%
2007-08	10700	75.83%
2008-09	12348	79.33%
2009-10	12496.72	77.12%
2010-11	17914.46	78.15%
2011-12	19089.73	78.55%
2012-13	21515.73	79.61%
2013-14	24491.88	81.13%
2014-15	25491.40	81.68%

<i>Year</i>	<i>RMG Export (in Mln.US Dollar)</i>	<i>Share of RMG in Total Export in %</i>
2015-16	28094.16	82.01%
2016-17	28149.84	81.23%
2017-18	30614.76	83.49%
2018-19	34133.27	84.21%
2019-20	27949.19	83.00%
2020-21	31456.73	81.16%

Source: BGMEA Website, February 2022

Some deadly incidents in RMG Factory in Bangladesh

Some horrible incidence is common in garment factories in Bangladesh. Over the years, unsafe working environments have caused in the deaths of numerous employees through factory fires and downfalls. Death at factories remains every year because of the government's failure to go by the current safety laws or bring factory owners to book. The incidents happened at different factories in the last 11 years, claimed 4,092 lives, with the maximum casualty rate in garments areas. A research report by a number of global labor rights organizations, including Clean Clothes, says that the Bangladeshi government is not yet ready to ensure safety in garment factories. The study cited the Chawkbazar fire on February 20 and the Anjir fire at a garment factory in Ashulia on March 4 as examples to show how weak the government's inspection and surveillance system is. Within 12 years at least 1841 workers died by various accident like collapse and fire (The Daily Star, 2014, April 24).

Under pressure from these organizations, the two organizations - Accord and Alliance - as representatives of garment buyers, have visited hundreds of garment factories in Bangladesh over the past few years and made recommendations to rectify the security deficit. At the same time, it has tried to make sure that it has been corrected.

But before the Supreme Court ruling in a case filed by a garment trader claiming to stop the activities of the Accord, the study said that if the Accord leaves, the safety of workers in Bangladesh will be at great risk.

Owners of garment factories in Bangladesh claim that the government now has the capacity to inspect the safety of garment factories, so the role of foreigners is no longer needed. Even within the government - many such attitudes are gaining momentum. However, research by labor rights groups reports that there are still big questions about the ability of hundreds of garment factories to ensure other safety, including fire safety. Moreover, the transparency of inspections in government-run factories has also been questioned.

The research report states that there is inconsistency between the two different databases of the Bangladesh government on inspections of garment factories and the

correction of security deficiencies. Moreover, there is no information about follow-up inspections to see if the recommendations made after the first inspection have been implemented. It has been said that while the government was responsible for ensuring the safety of the 845 factories, in the last three to five years, some of those factories still have some serious security risks such as locking the exit doors. The safety of 114 garment factories were so high that Accord excluded them from their inspection activities, meaning they were told to lock them down. But a research report released on Monday, April 2019 states that half of those 114 factories are still operational, despite being under government inspection.

The report also says that since 2013, the Accord has received 1,152 complaints about safety risks in various factories, while the government has received only 18. It is being said that since the identity of the petitioner is not kept undisclosed in the government management, the workers do not dare to complain.

The study also raises questions about the information that the government of Bangladesh is providing in various forums about the implementation of security recommendations. “In various public forums, the government has said that 29 percent of the necessary modifications have been completed in the factories for safety. But the government’s own data does not say that.”

Table 4: Some Casualties of RMG

<i>Name of Factory</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Death</i>	<i>Number of Injured</i>
Spectrum	2005	63	74
KTS	2006	91	82
Ha-Meem	2010	30	67
Fakir Knitwear	2010	25	30
Garib and Garib Sweater Factory	2010	21	25
That’s It Sportswear Factory	2010	29	25
Eurotex	2011	02	62
Tazreen Fashions Ltd	2012	112	300
Smart Export Garments	2013	08	50
Rana Plaza	2013	1132	2500
Smart Export Garment Ltd	2013	07	15
Bandu Design Ltd	2013	00	20
Tung Hai Sweater Ltd	2013	07	10+
Aswad Composite Mills	2013	10	50
Mayer Doya	2014	01	03
Karnaphuli Knitting	2014	02	00
Next Collection	2015	00	30
Tampaco	2016	34	70

Source: Made by Researchers (Collected from different sources)

Table 4 show some important incidents of RMG sector in Bangladesh. The details discussion is given below.

Spectrum

In 2005, the Spectrum garments was collapsed and more than 63 workers were died. More than 74 workers were serious injured by this incident. The incident in 2005 caused a great stir around the world. Eight years after that incident, more than 1100 workers were killed in Rana Plaza collapse. The study of Saidia Gulrukh (2014) find that incident like the Rana Plaza collapse happened because no one was prosecuted in the Spectrum Garments building collapse. Saydia Gulrukh said, "As the Spectrum Garments collapse went under the radar and the trial was hushed up for six-seven months - the exact same thing happened at Rana Plaza (BBC Bangla, 2014).

KTS Accident

91 murdered in a fire in KTS fabric mill in Chattogram, on February 23 in 2006. At least 500 workforces were inside the mill when the fire broke out (Sobuj, 2011). Most of the survivors had to jump from windows as the only departure from the factory was allegedly inaccessible when the fire broke out late on a night. Most of the dead were females, trapped by the flames or suffocated from smoke breath can be cited as an instance of such lapses in bringing the people accountable for any accident to book. Some 10 cases were filed after the mishap, with seven being filled by the inspectorate of factories, a government body. The study discovers that as fire broke out, labors rushed to find a way out as there was insufficient light. Materials were also piled everywhere, making it harder to direct the obstacle. Workers did not flee the blazing factory, as there were not adequate staircases.

Spectra Sweater Factory

In April 2005, 65 workers were killed, injured over 100, and left hundreds jobless in a house breakdown at Spectra Sweater Factory in Savar (The Daily Star, 2007). Apart from deaths and injuries, workforces are helpless to other forms of violence and anger. By this incident the whole nation was silent and the president and the prime minister visited the spot quickly. Others authorities also visited and tried to analyze the main cause of this collapse (The Daily Star, 2007).

Ha-Meem Factory Accident

Lack of satisfactory safety and precautionary actions in various garment factories in Bangladesh, causing recurrent catastrophes like fire at Ha-Meem unit on December 14, 2010, that killed nearly 30 workers and injured many others (The Daily Star, 2010). The

study finds that the accidents caused mostly from fire, electrocution boiler or cylinder blast, gas blockage thunderbolt, and rolling with the band of machineries. While visiting some garment factories in Mirpur, the researchers observe that most of the garment employees were sweating and in painful conditions due to the hot temperatures. Workforces, especially woman garments workers, alleged that although there were physicians in some of the factories the level of caretaking was disappointing, and there was little or no medication there. The female employees complain that their colleagues, seniors, and offenders outside the factories sexually harassed them (Basirulla & Tasnim, 2023).

Fakir Knitwear

On February 9, 2010, at least 15 people, with five firemen, were wounded when a fire engulfed a garment factory in the Kayempur area at Fatulla. Vast volumes of T-shirts, yarn, polyethene and building ingredients of the building of Fakir Knitwear, and of the country's largest export-oriented industries were gutted. More than 100 firemen from five fire places from Dhaka and Narayanganj brought the fire under regulator after a four-hour effort (Prothom Alo English, 2014).

Garib and Garib Fire

Fire in the Garib and Garib Sweater Company limited in Gazipur on February 25, 2010, in which 21 labors were slain and 20 were hurt for the fire (Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, 2010). The study finds that main grounds of the demise were poor air-circulation arrangement and unlawfully installed steel construction on the roof of the seven-storied building that had created from an electric short-circuit on the second floor of the factory and it had nearly spread to other floor filled with burnable belongings such as wool threads and others. Previously another fire had broken out in the same factory in January 2009.

The study exposes that the majority of the employees work in dangerous conditions, risking their lives. Most incidents are linked to workplace mismanagement, non-compliance with the prevailing laws, and a lack of security procedures in the factories.

Tazreen Fashions

November 24, 2022 marks the 10th anniversary of the Tazreen Fashions fire. On this day in 2012, 112 garment workers were burnt to death in a horrific fire at Tazreen Fashions in Nishchintopur, Ashulia (Gopinath, & Choudhury, 2015). Many jumped from the building to save their lives but died. The longing and crying of hundreds of workers in the midst of the flames of the fire shook the whole world. Hundreds of workers were injured in the incident. Many have not yet returned to normal life. Most of the

death bodies were badly burned. So, tissue samples collected from deep muscles or hard tissues like bone and tooth samples served as the major source of DNA for the identification process (Akhteruzzaman et al., 2015). Leaders of the Combined Garment Workers Federation say many workers have died in fires and building collapses since the 1990s due to negligence on the part of owners in the ready-made garment industry. However, not a single incident was tried. However, blacklisting, dismissal, lawsuits and assaults happen only when the workers agitate for fair demands. The Tazreen Fashions fire was not brought to justice because the owners were influential. But on the evening of November 24, 2012, that terrible fire has made the lives of many people uncertain.

Rana Plaza collapse

In the crucial morning of April 24, 2013, when Rana Plaza, a multistoried building at Savar of Dhaka in Bangladesh that housed numerous garment factories, came crashing down. The breakdown claimed the lives of 1,134 people and left thousands wounded, casting a dark shadow on the fashion business of the globe. This is the biggest incident at RMG sector in Bangladesh (Barua & Ansary, 2017). Common people, army, police, RAB and fire service personnel carried out the rescue operation. The building, which houses a garment factory, a bank and several other shops, collapsed during a busy morning. Despite warnings not to use the building due to cracks in the building, it was ignored. The accident happened just five months ago after a huge fire at a Dhaka garment factory, which is the biggest industrial accident in Bangladesh. After the incident, agitated garment workers vandalized vehicles and vandalized buildings in various places including Dhaka, Gazipur and Chattogram demanding immediate arrest of the culprits and increasing security at work. The building collapse has already taken place in history as one of the worst industrial disasters in the history of the world.

A decade has passed since the collapse of Rana Plaza in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in which thousands of workers were injured, but still there has been no progress in the trial process of the case. State lawyer Sarwar Hossain said that out of 594 witnesses in the case, only 35 have completed their testimony so far. In this protracted trial, the families of the deceased and the injured are in doubt whether they will get justice in their lifetime (BBC News Bangla, 2023 & ILO, 2023). Even after 11 years of the accident, the authorities have failed to create a complete safe working environment for the workers (Prothom Alo, 2024).

Smart Export Garment Ltd

On January 26, 2013, 7 female workforces were murdered in a fire at Smart Export Garment Ltd in Mohammadpur, Dhaka (The New York Times, 2013). There was no fire extinguishing system in the factory named Smart Export in Mohammadpur where

the fire took place on Saturday, said officials of the Ministry of Labor and the Fire Service. There was no fire extinguishing system in the factory named Smart Export in Mohammadpur where the fire took place on Saturday, said officials of the Ministry of Labor and the Fire Service (BBC Bangla 2013).

Aswad Composite Mills

10 workers were killed in a terrible fire at a factory named Aswad in Sreepur of Gazipur district near Dhaka (Butler et al., 2022). According to factory authorities and fire service sources, fire broke out on the ground floor of the knitting section of the factory around 5:30 pm. In no time, the fire spread from the ground floor to the second floor. It was initially reported that a large amount of yarn, fabrics and manufactured goods were burnt in the fire (Prothom Alo, 2013).

Tampaco

On September 10, 2016, 34 people died in a fire at Tampaco Garments in Gazipur. After visiting the accident site, the then respective minister said that those who are negligent in the Tongi fire incident, regardless of the institution or organization, will be punished. An inquiry committee has been formed by the Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Home Affairs and local administration. A thorough investigation will be conducted to see why this happened. The Ministry of Industries has already ordered an investigation in all the industrial cities to find out whether there is any defect or not (Shuvonkar Karmokar & Shuvonkar Karmokar, 2021). After 2016 there are no big fire accident occurred in this sector. Though there are some accidents happened but that are not like the given factories' incident.

Conclusion

Not only the garment factories fire, in Bangladesh every year hundreds to thousands of people died by different fire accident across the country. The RMG sector thrived for that there was no bar on access into the business. With the chance of a profitable return edge and the nonappearance of official procedures safeguarding appropriate industrial values, comparatively small enterprises started to function in establishments which were not fit for industrial manufacture. As an outcome, non-compliance became the rampant exercise in the sector leading to prevalent mishaps with fires, building collapses. Compliance with healthiness and security is a vital matter. Employee security is a main issue in RMG industry. Section 62 of the Bangladesh Labour Law, 2006 must be applied in the RMG manufacturing. Rana Plaza catastrophe aided as a wake-up call, lead off the industry's renovation to regulation, inspection, automation, and compliance on employee safety issues.

A multi-layered approach encompassing collaboration between the private sector and the government can definitely create Bangladesh as a captain in the dynamical world of the RMG sector.

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