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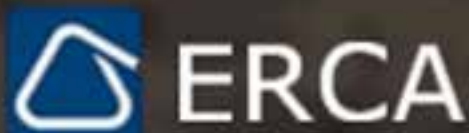
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Editor & Publisher

A.S.M Tareq Amin

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House-41, Road-5, Block-B,
Monsurabad R/A, Adabor, Dhaka-1217
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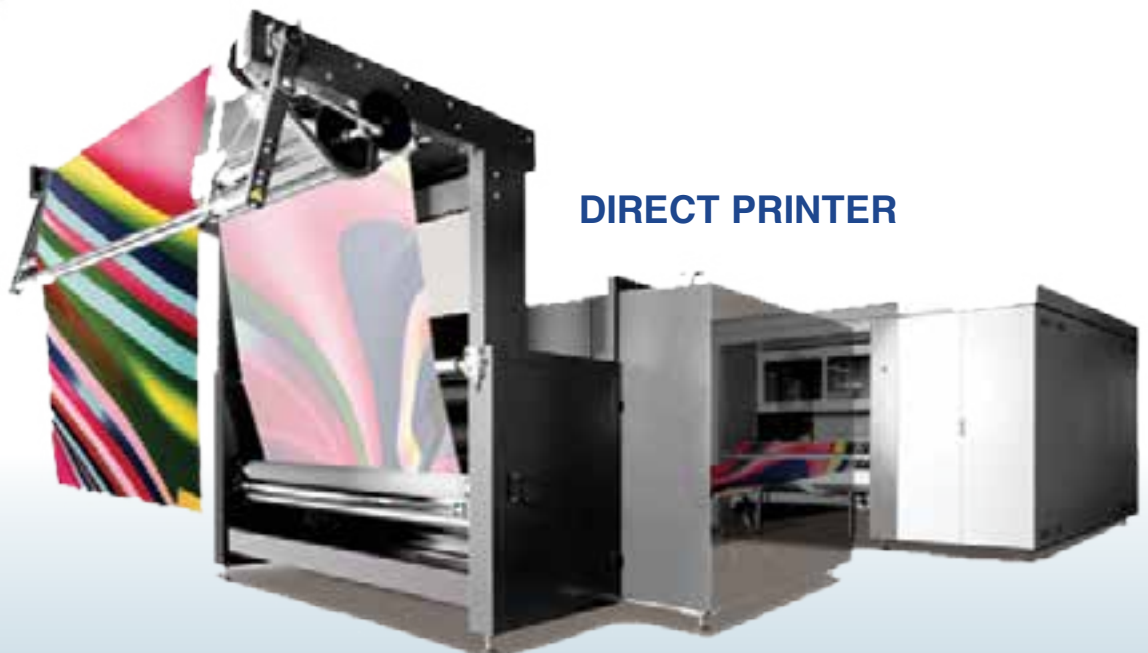
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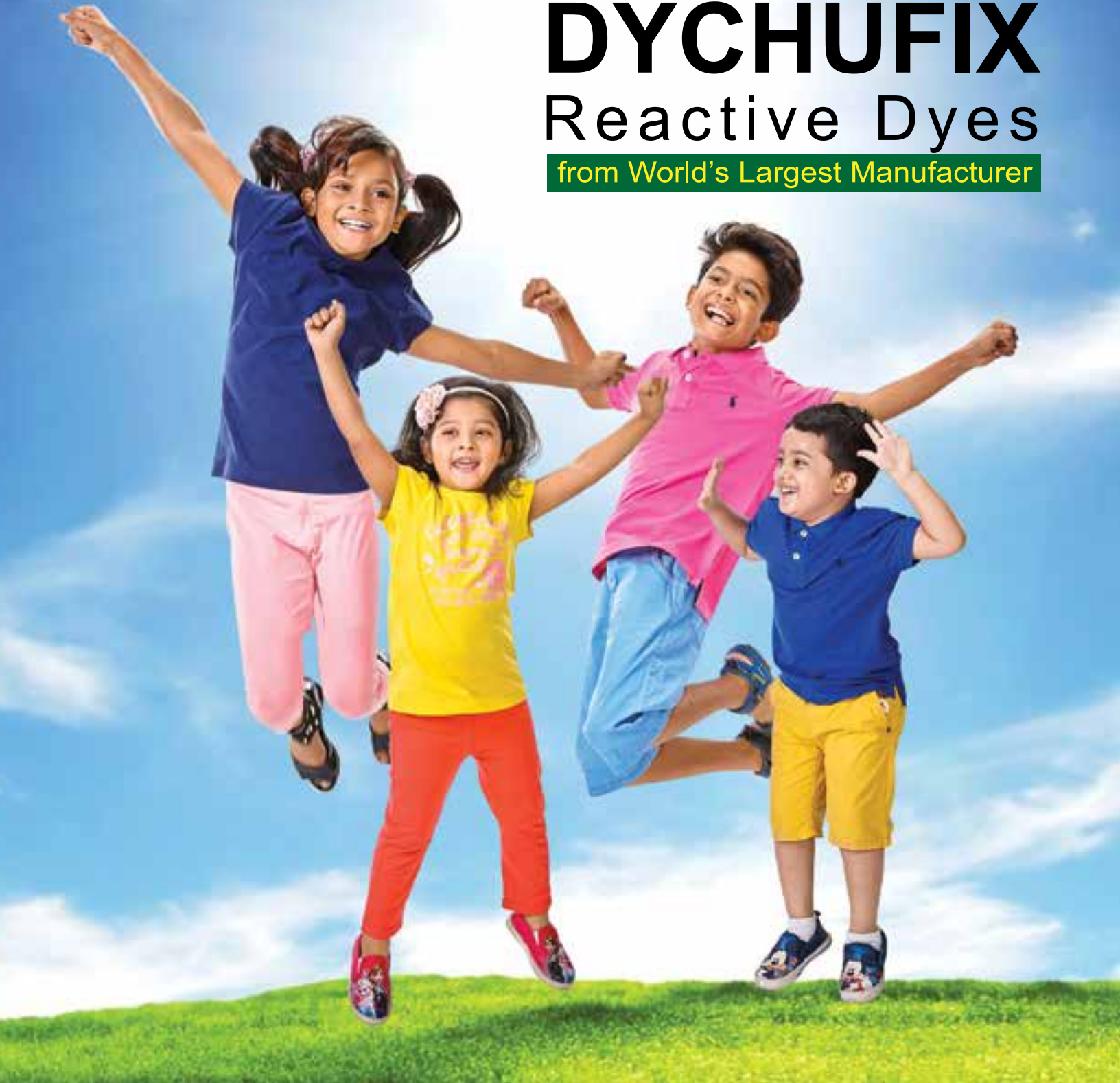
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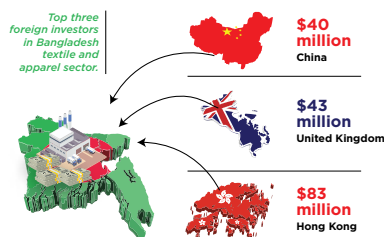


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RMG factory closure, needs to explore new market and diversified product

Textile Today Analysis

Hosne Ara Begum, a garment worker of Zaara Jeans and Knitwear Limited, lost her job on September as the factory owners decided to shut factory. She is one of the 25,000 workers, who lost their jobs due to the closure of factories in the last nearly seven months.

According to Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) data, a total of 46 apparel factories were closed in the last six months. In those closed factories, a total of 25,453 workers were employed mostly women and they lost their jobs.

Why factories are shut down

Speaking to Textile Today, industry people have blamed price cut of apparel goods by the global retailers and brands and rise in production cost caused by new wage structure. On top of that, the compliance is another issue, which forced a good number of factories to shut as the owners could not bear the expenses of the installation of safety equipment.

So far, some 2,000 garment factories have spent \$0.5 million on an average each for factory remediation as per the recommendations of the Accord and Alliance

"The RMG sector needs more attention and assistance from the government as Bangladesh is facing challenges while keeping its run in the global market," Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters



Speaking to Textile Today, industry people have blamed price cut of apparel goods by the global retailers and brands and rise in production cost caused by new wage structure. On top of that, the compliance is another issue, which forced a good number of factories to shut as the owners could not bear the expenses of the installation of safety equipment.

Association (BGMEA) President Dr. Rubana Huq said.

She said over 25 thousand workers lost their jobs while 46 RMG factories were shut since this

February.

To overcome this situation, Rubana Huq emphasized on maintaining international price standards.

The exporters must convince the global customers to give us a good price for our products, said the sector leader.

She mentioned the lower price as the most crucial reason behind the factory shutdowns.

Another major focus should be market study. The BGMEA president said their business policy should be set after studying and analyzing the global market.

She urged greater overall awareness of garment-importing nations which are likely to pay Bangladeshi exporters good price. In this regard, new markets should be explored constantly, and practice of deeper economic diplomacy should be fostered, Rubana added.

According to BGMEA, prices of garment items exported from Bangladesh fall by 1.61% over the

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Present situation of BD RMG industry



46 apparel

factories were closed in last six months



1.61%

fall, prices of garment items exported from Bangladesh



\$0.5 mn

spent for each factory remediation as per the recommendations of the Accord and Alliance



25,453

workers lost their jobs

last four years.

Per unit, prices fell 2.12 percent in fiscal 2016-17 compared to the previous year and it experienced another fall of 4.07 percent in fiscal 2017-18.

On top of that, small size factory is not getting work orders over the safety and compliance issue s, which is another reason, claimed factory owners.

As per the promises, the buyers were supposed to provide financial support to improve safety standard but they didn't do so rather stop placing work orders or reduced, they said.

Meanwhile, the sector people are fearing more closure of factories as they are facing a crisis over the work orders, while the prices are lower than it had in the past.

With the lower prices, it is very tough to meet the expenses of products as the workers' wages increased with the implementation of the new wage structure from December last year, they said. There is a very small margin with which a factory owner cannot bear the wages and has to count losses. And those who are unable

to bear operation cost shutting factory down, they added

Exports showed negative sign

On top of that, the export earnings have marked a sharp downtrend in august, which is a great concern both for the government as well as the sector.

As per the Export Promotion Bureau data, the apparel sector, which accounts for 84% of national exports, witnessed an 11.46% decline to \$2.41 billion in August, which was \$2.72 billion in the same period a year ago.

As per the EPB data, knitwear products earned \$1.24 billion, down by 10.32%, while woven goods fetched \$1.16 billion, posting a 12.64% fall.

"Already the exports earnings from the apparel goods went down in June and August. So, without any delay, the stakeholders should come up with effective measures to stop factory closure," Former BGMEA President Abdus Salam Murshedy told Textile Today.

For the betterment of small factory owners, there should be special policy and financial support as they will turn into big company otherwise new entrepreneurship would not be created, he added.

What the sector needs

"Bangladesh economy is export oriented, where the apparel sector contributes a lot in terms of employment and exports earnings. The negative impact on the sector is a bad sign for the country's economy," former Caretaker Government Finance Advisor AB Mirza Azizul Islam told the Textile Today.

It's high time to investigate why apparel makers are shutting

factory as the continuation will lead to more unemployment in such a time when Bangladesh needs more jobs to attain economic development goals, said Islam.

He also suggested proper attention from the government as well as BGMEA, said Islam.

If the operation costs and shortage of work orders are reasons for the factory shut, a merger can be a solution to this end, aid the economist.

In addition, the makers have to move for increasing productivity and value addition to remain competitive in the global export markets, he added

"As a trade union leader, I would say it's a great concern for the sector. The factory owners have implemented the wage structure but the global retailers did not increase the prices of good, which is not ethical," Sirajul Islam Rony, President of the Bangladesh National Garment Workers Employees League told the Textile Today.

In helping the owners to adjust the increased cost the apparel buyers should enhance prices of apparel goods, said the trade union leader.

He also urged the stakeholders to sit to decide ways to overcome the crisis.



Ways to up lift the RMG export



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Challenges and opportunities for Bangladesh in USA market

Akhi Akter, Rahbar Hossain



Kings with one another vie, while the innocents die! Talking about most discussed and disputed issue in the last one year 'US-China trade war'. Trade war is turning around daily and the businessmen are keeping sharp eye on what coming next! Over the past year, the US and China have imposed tariffs on one another's goods worth of billions of dollars.

US President Donald Trump is pushing now for a comprehensive

trade deal with China, but remains open to an interim agreement. Top negotiators from both countries are due to meet next month (October) in a bid to strike a deal to end their long-running trade dispute.

In this scenario, the country like Bangladesh what's getting or loosing from this giant's contention?

Purbani Group Managing Director Shafiqul Islam said, "The outcome of the trade war is mixed. On the one hand, there is an increased

risk for global customers to source from China. Therefore, there is a shift towards sourcing from other neutral sources such as Vietnam, India and Bangladesh. On the other hand, the trade war is giving fuel to uncertainty and protectionism which is regressive to the RMG trade."

Present scenario of Bangladesh textile and apparel industry

In March, Asian Development Bank (ADB) Chief Economist Yasuyuki

Sawada said in a seminar that Bangladesh merchandise exports will increase additional \$400 million and its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rise 0.19% by next one to two years if the prevail international trade conflicts involving the US and China escalate.

But reality is, more than 200 factories closed down this year and almost 20,000 employees lost their jobs recently due to not getting enough orders from the buyers.

Usually factories outgrow the dull season within June-July, but this year dull season extended to August-September. This is happening because regular brands and buyers are not confident enough to place new orders in this worldwide unstable situation and there are some impacts of fast fashion also.

However, manufacturers are expecting more orders from US-based buyers due to trade war, owners are traveling more to the USA and European countries nowadays.

Recently a team from Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has visited some South American countries like Brazil and tried to make some deal which is in discussion. So, it is clear that Bangladesh garments industry is struggling and trying to get out of this situation.

In this critical situation Bangladesh apparel makers should analyze all the global issues related to the sector as they can get benefit from these and survive strongly in this challenging period.

China's share in USA market declining-a ray of hope for Bangladesh

China is the largest source of apparel products for the USA as it supplies more than 33 percent of the USA's total apparel imports. Due to the trade war apparel import from China is declining. USA companies imported \$14.47 billion worth of apparels from China, the still-top supplier in the year through July.

That is a 2.33% increase compared

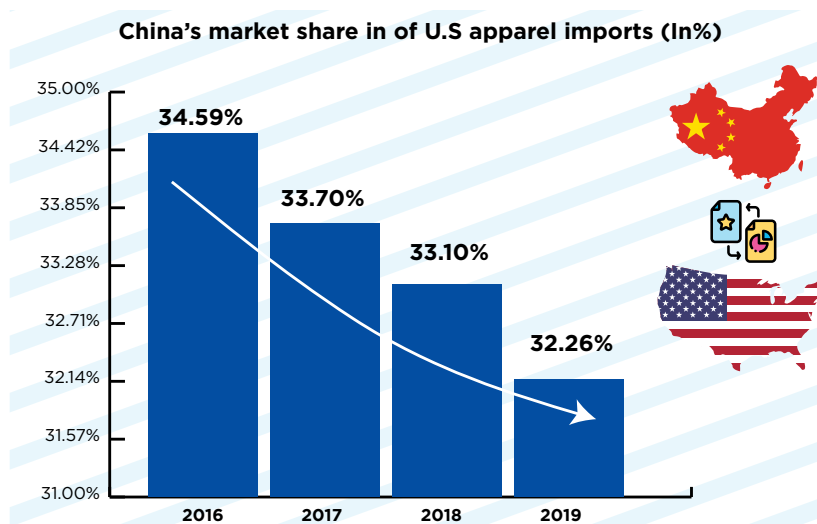


Figure 1: China losing its share gradually in USA market.



Due to the trade war between the US and China, Bangladesh textile and apparel industry is started to get benefits from this. Frankly speaking, I am seeing a lot of opportunities for Bangladesh textile and RMG industry.

M.A. Taher
Chairman
Shangu Group

to a year earlier, according to the US Commerce Department Office of Textiles & Apparel's (OTEXA) new data released on September 4. Though it is an increase, the analysts are considering it as tepid gains compared to last year as the US-China trade war has influenced importers to diversify their sourcing to avoid risk and now at higher prices.

China held a 32.26% market share in of US apparel imports in value

terms for the 12 months through July, an erosion of 3.6% in three and a half years, according to OTEXA. For the year through July 2018, China's apparel market of US apparel imports was 33.1%, compared to 33.7% for the year ended Dec. 31, 2017. Looking even further back, China's market share at the end of 2016 was 34.59%, and 35.86% a year before that.

Shangu Group Chairman M.A. Taher said, "Due to the trade war between the US and China, Bangladesh textile and apparel industry is started to get benefits from this. Frankly speaking, I am seeing a lot of opportunities for Bangladesh textile and RMG industry."

"In previous years, as an apparel manufacturer, we did not use to get a lot of orders from the US. Whereas, at present Bangladesh is getting a lot of orders from the US buyers. Which means the trade war between the US-China has given a boom for the Bangladesh textile and apparel industry," he further said.

However, the reality is not same for all the factories and a point is that all factories have no proper planning or strategy also capacity to utilize the opportunities arising from the trade war.

"We all know that billion-dollar business is moving or will move in the coming days from China to the other countries due to this

Cover Story

trade war. That doesn't mean only Bangladesh will get this opportunity. There are many competitor countries like Vietnam, Ethiopia etc. will get the same opportunity. Now the question is that, are we ready to grab this opportunity?" said Helal Mohammed Nuri, CEO of Silver Line Group.

How can Bangladesh reap the benefits from trade war?

In 2012, a report by McKinsey forecasted that as ready-made garments production in China declined, Bangladesh would be the next hot spot, and the market would triple in value by 2020.

According to Otexa data, Bangladesh's export to US market stood at \$5.20 billion, up by 5.72% in January-November of 2018. While apparel export to US market saw a 6% jump to \$5 billion in the same period.

Now, Bangladesh is also the number one denim exporter to the EU and third-largest to the US market.

"China is the largest exporter but I can assure that Bangladesh will be benefited from the trade conflicts. Despite having a negative impact on the global trade, Bangladesh's exports especially readymade garment products will grow further," Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said earlier to a daily newspaper.

But the question is how?

The table of products list those are exported from Bangladesh and China may provide an answer of the question. Bangladesh's top 16 items matched in the list of USA's top 30 sources items from China whereas other 14 items are not matched.

If we look carefully to the products range that USA used to import from China and Bangladesh than it will be clear in which products Bangladesh is competing with China in USA market.

At the same time, the product list shows where Bangladeshi apparel makers should focus. Bangladeshi apparel manufacturers can be the gainer if they diversify their product into these 14 items also.

Engr. Anisul Hoque Ansari, Sr. General Manager (Operations), Hameem Group, highlighted some ways to reap the benefits of this trade war. These are:

- Look forward to fashion styles for those China and Vietnam were the first choice from US retailers. Build up capacity of making garments by adopting advanced technologies, AI in MIS, Machinery and manufacturing controls.
- Building Strong regional connectivity and logistic infrastructure to take speed orders.
- Build facilities and infrastructure for making yarn other than importing yarn, to get the benefit of a price drop of cotton, steel and soybean from the US.
- Most importantly, improve in the ease of doing business index, such as allowing currency other than Dollar in opening Letter of Credit which can ease cross-border trade.

Bangladesh's top 16 items matched in the list of USA's top 30 sources items from China.			
	HS Code	Products Description	Value (\$Mn)
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2.	6204.62	Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton, not knitted or crocheted	734.67
3.	6205.20	Men's or boys' shirts of cotton, not knitted or crocheted	569.05
4.	6110.20	Sweaters, pullovers, sweatshirts, vests and similar articles of cotton, knitted or crocheted	310.66
5.	6109.10	T-shirts, singlets, tank tops and similar garments of cotton, knitted or crocheted	197.47
6.	6203.43	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of synthetic fibers, not knitted or crocheted	183.39
7.	6108.21	Women's or girls' briefs and panties of cotton, knitted or crocheted	129.49
8.	6110.30	Sweaters, pullovers, sweatshirts, vests and similar articles of manmade fibers, knitted or crocheted	115.16
9.	6209.20	Babies' garments and clothing accessories of cotton, not knitted or crocheted	100.78
10.	6212.10	Brassieres, whether or not knitted or crocheted	80.79
11.	6111.20	Babies' garments and clothing accessories of cotton, knitted or crocheted	79.06
12.	6201.93	Men's or boys' anoraks, ski-jackets, windbreakers and similar articles of manmade fibers, not knitted or crocheted	75.74
13.	6104.62	Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton, knitted or crocheted	74.26
14.	6206.30	Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of cotton, not knitted or crocheted	65.85
15.	6107.11	Men's or boys' underpants and briefs of cotton, knitted or crocheted	65.56
16.	6205.30	Men's or boys' shirts of manmade fibers, not knitted or crocheted	63.33
17.	6105.10	Men's or boys' shirts of cotton, knitted or crocheted	61.62
18.	6202.93	Women's or girls' anoraks, ski-jackets, windbreakers and similar articles of manmade fibers, not knitted or crocheted	57.60
19.	6103.43	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of synthetic fibers, knitted or crocheted	53.68
20.	6103.42	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton, knitted or crocheted	53.59
21.	6201.92	Men's or boys' anoraks, ski-jackets, windbreakers and similar articles of cotton, not knitted or crocheted	50.01
22.	6210.40	Men's or boys' garments, impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics, rubber or other materials, nesoi, not knitted or crocheted	49.19
23.	6202.92	Women's or girls' anoraks, ski-jackets, windbreakers and similar articles of cotton, not knitted or crocheted	45.60
24.	6204.63	Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of synthetic fibers, not knitted or crocheted	34.02
25.	6206.40	Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of manmade fibers, not knitted or crocheted	33.71

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Liaison office:
Hong Kong Nicca Chemical Ltd.
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57 Kamal Ataturk Avenue, Block-B
Banani, Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh
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Head Office: House-24, Road-09, Sector-04
Uttara, Dhaka-1230
Contact: +8801713273036
Email: khokon.jbchembridge@gmail.com

26.	6108.22	Women's or girls' briefs and panties of manmade fibers, knitted or crocheted	29.25
27.	6211.42	Women's or girls' garments nesoi, of cotton, not knitted or crocheted	22.30
28.	6204.69	Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of textile materials nesoi, not knitted or crocheted	22.19
29.	6108.31	Women's or girls' nightdresses and pajamas of cotton, knitted or crocheted	21.76
30.	6210.50	Women's or girls' garments, impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics, rubber or other materials, nesoi, not knitted or crocheted	21.57

Figure 2: Blue color representing common exported items by China and Bangladesh to USA, other items are only exported by China.

That means industry needs product diversification urgently. Alarming issue is factories extended their sewing lines or production facility double, triple to produce basic products in the last few years. But now factories need to build their facility for many new items also if they want to grab the USA market.

“Giant factories have grown in a direction previously, but if we really get new buyers from the USA, we have to ensure one-stop service to grab the business. Also, we have to work on backward linkage industry to reduce the lead time. Most importantly we have to bring something new which will help us to grab the new market which is moving from China,” Sharafat Hussain Sohail, Deputy Manager, Marketing & Merchandising of Masco Group said shortly.

Another point is that due to fast fashion, global brands, including USA retailers are more sensitive now about lead time where still Bangladeshi companies need more or less 30 days (depends on product type). Manufacturers need to ensure just time delivery within short lead time.

In fine, Bangladesh textile and apparel manufacturers need to take proper strategy analyzing the trade war scenario to grab the upcoming opportunities. The government should come forward to ensure all infrastructural facility and confirm ease of doing business.

Apparel export earning drops by 0.33% in July-August

Desk Report

According to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data, Bangladesh apparel export earnings in the month of July and August FY 2019-20 decreased by -0.33%, totaling USD 5.71 billion, which was USD 5.73 billion during the same period in FY 2018-19.

Of the total earnings by the apparel sector, woven products earned USD 2.79 billion in July-August of FY2019-20, marking a -0.94% negative growth from USD2.82 billion during the same period in the previous fiscal year.

The knitwear sector earned around USD 2.92 billion during the same time, up by 0.27% from USD2.91 billion during the same period last year.

On the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, production of RMG factories remained closed for at least 10 days, which slowed down production, leading to less shipment and negative growth.

Besides, this was a lean period for the sector, which might be another reason for the downtrend, however, the situation would improve in the coming months.

“Global economic slowdown, which created uncertainty and



affected trade growth, and appreciation of taka against USD are two major factors for the downtrend in export earnings,” said Khondaker Golam Moazzem, additional research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Bangladesh’s competitors — India, Pakistan and Vietnam — were making the most of this appreciation as their respective governments devalued the exchange rate, mentioned the economist, adding that even China, the number one exporter of apparel goods, devalued its currency.

Though the Eid vacation could be

a reason for the fall, an over 11% fall should not be attributed only to a single reason, he stated, suggesting that the Ministry of Commerce should remain alert and find out the actors playing a role to arrest the country's export earnings growth.

The home textile products earned \$116.79 million, down by -13.06%, which was \$134.34 million during the same period in the last fiscal year 2018-19.

EPB data also shows that the growth rate of jute and jute products exports decreased by -0.43%. This sector earned USD 130.57 million in the FY 2019-20 (August).

The export of leather and leather products increased by 1.32%, with USD 185.41 million.

Total export earnings in the second month (August) of FY2019-20 fell by 11.49% to USD 2.84 billion from USD 3.21 billion in the same month of the last fiscal year due to lower shipments of apparel items.

After China, Bangladesh and India are lower-cost destinations for textile sourcing, AI survey

Business correspondent

The latest survey on Global Sourcing published by the Asia Inspection (AI), a Hong Kong-based global inspection and accreditation body, said that cost-sensitive textile businesses increasingly turn to India and Bangladesh.

The survey said, China is maintaining dominance in Global Sourcing. Half of surveyed companies expected to source more from China in 2018. Outside of China, India and Bangladesh are increasingly given preference for Textile sourcing, being lower-cost destinations.

The respondent population for the survey included over 250 companies from across the globe, ranging from 5 to 5000+ people and working in all major consumer product segments (from Textile & Footwear to Electronics, Toys, Eyewear, Cosmetics, Homeware and Food).

Asia Inspection analyzed their survey sourcing, quality and compliance practices among global companies and identified trends likely to impact global supply chains. Generally, global sourcing refers to buying the raw materials, components or services from companies outside the home country. Raw materials are sourced from wherever manufacturers can be obtained for the cheapest price and the highest comparable quality for the greatest

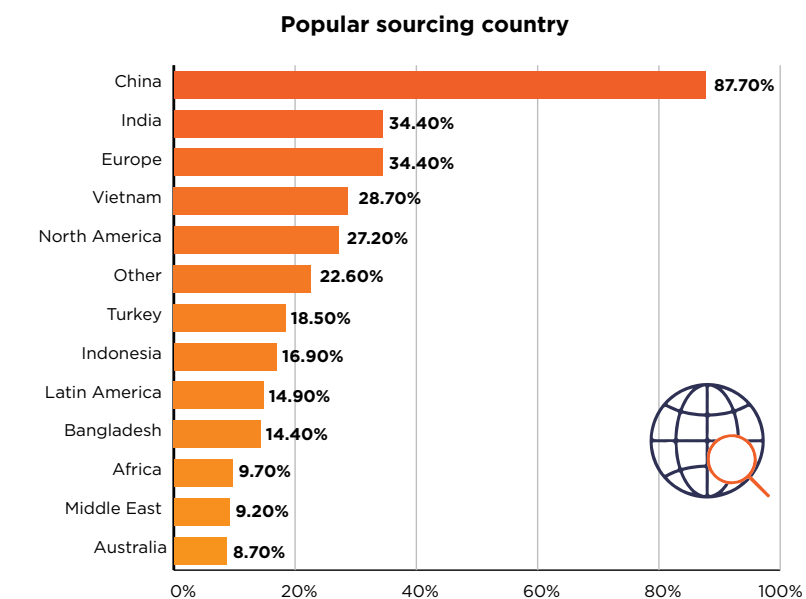


Figure 1: Popular sourcing geographies, the totals in excess of 100% due to multiple responses as per the survey report.

satisfaction. The highlights of the survey -

Sourcing geographies

China remains in the lead, being a regular sourcing destination for nearly 88% of respondents, while half of the businesses expect to buy even more from there in 2018. The Toys and E&E sectors favor China particularly strongly, albeit Vietnam has some standing as its competitor in the Footwear industry.

Meanwhile, buying patterns in the Food sector were the most varied, with sourcing geographies ranging from Turkey to Latin America, and understandably high importance

of home regions.

Top popular sourcing country by the industry of textile and apparel

Outside of China, India and Bangladesh are increasingly given preference for Textile sourcing, being lower-cost destinations. India is also a popular sourcing destination for the Homeware and Promotional products sector.

Asia Inspection (AI) says the 21st century has great things in store for Bangladesh, which has been named one of the Next Eleven Countries. This designation indicates that, due to major investments, Bangladesh has the

potential to become one of the world's largest economies in the years to come. This has come as a great boon to the country, which has benefited from this participation in the international business community.

Product quality, safety, and regulatory compliance

70% of companies estimated that their product quality has improved in 2017, but only 54% would say the same about their product's safety and regulatory compliance. Nevertheless, in the coming year businesses expect to worry more about managing product quality than they did in 2017, while regulatory compliance is expected to be less of a challenge.

Top sourcing challenges in 2017 and the near future

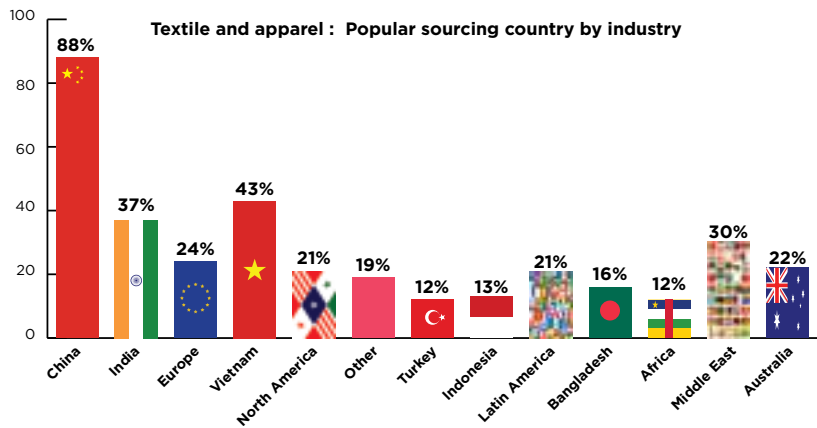
Cost of manufacturing and raw materials comes first for the top sourcing challenges in 2017 and the near future and a trend expected to continue into 2018. Politics then are expected to have a more immediate impact than technology.

Most of the surveyed businesses anticipate to be affected by tariffs, quotas, protectionism and embargos, rather than automation and 3D printing. More than half of the surveyed businesses expect their sourcing to be affected by automation and big data.

More companies are expected to be affected by currency rate fluctuations and intellectual property issues. On the other hand, respondents expect to worry less about supply chain disruptions, regulatory compliance, and ethical compliance of suppliers in 2018 compared to 2017.

The sourcing challenges of 2017, respondents namely top 3 as below -

- 1) Cost of manufacturing and raw materials,
- 2) Maintaining / improving product quality, and
- 3) Finding the right supplier capabilities.



Assessing supply chain expectations for the coming year -

- 1) Cost of manufacturing at the top of coming sourcing challenges.
- 2) Managing product quality is viewed as the second biggest challenge, and
- 3) Its importance is expected to increase.

Challenges that respondents expected to affect in the coming year more than in 2017 -

- 1) Finding the right supplier capabilities (know-how, technology)
- 2) To a lesser extent, the required manufacturing capacity.

Sourcing practices

Up to half of the respondents prefer to combine direct outsourcing with cooperation through intermediary vendors. The average rate of supplier turnover is around 27%, but the largest companies shop around much

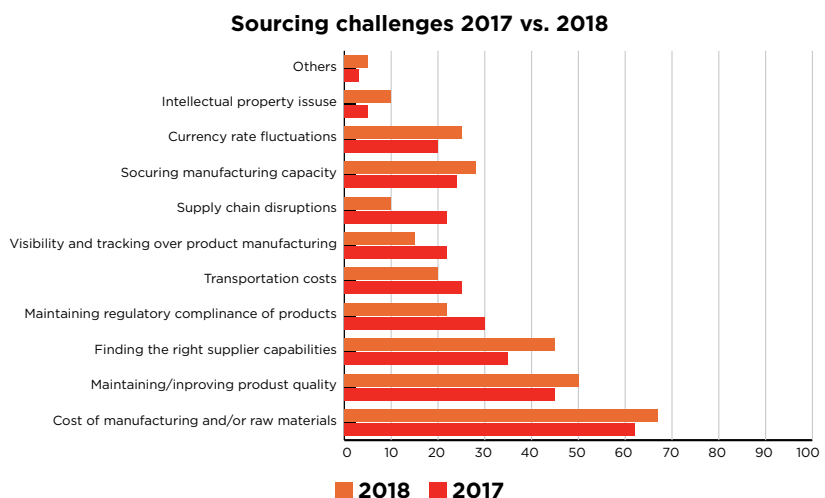
more, replacing up to 42% of their suppliers in a typical year.

Supply chain visibility

Supply chain visibility remains a strong challenge, with an average respondent knowing only around 55% of the suppliers involved in the making of their products. Complete visibility into the supply chain found in the survey was only achieved by 11% of respondents, while 89% of surveyed businesses have blind spots in their supply chains.

Ethical compliance

Two-thirds of respondents are optimistic about the progress of supplier compliance and most expect it to be even less of a concern in 2018. However, the survey data has revealed obvious gaps in auditing practices, 19% of respondents have no clear policy on the frequency of supplier audits, and 18.5% rely on their in-house audit protocol as their sole compliance framework.





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FDI in Bangladesh textile and apparel industry is not increasing, overall FDI increases sharply

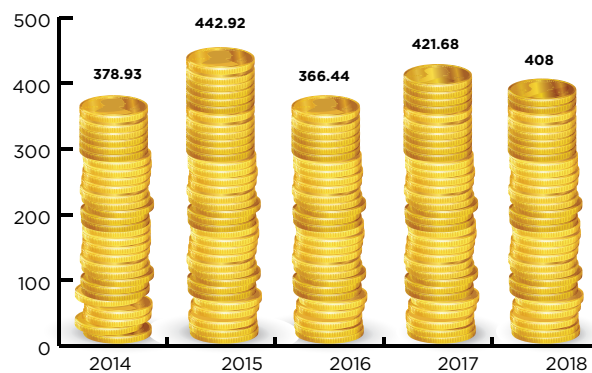
BTT Business Report

It was expected that Bangladesh textile and apparel industries will receive more foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2018 than the previous year. But unfortunately, the FDI downed by 3.24 percent from the previous year in 2018.

While total FDI in the country saw a 68% rise to \$3.61 billion, Bangladesh textile and apparel sector received \$408 million, which is down by \$13 million than last year.

As per Bangladesh Bank (BB) data, Hong Kong was the largest investor with an investment of \$83 million in the country's textile and garment industry, followed by United Kingdom with \$43 million, China with \$40 million, South

FDI in Bangladesh textile and apparel industry (FDI in US\$ million)



Korea \$35 million, British Virgin Islands \$33 million and Bermuda with \$31 million.

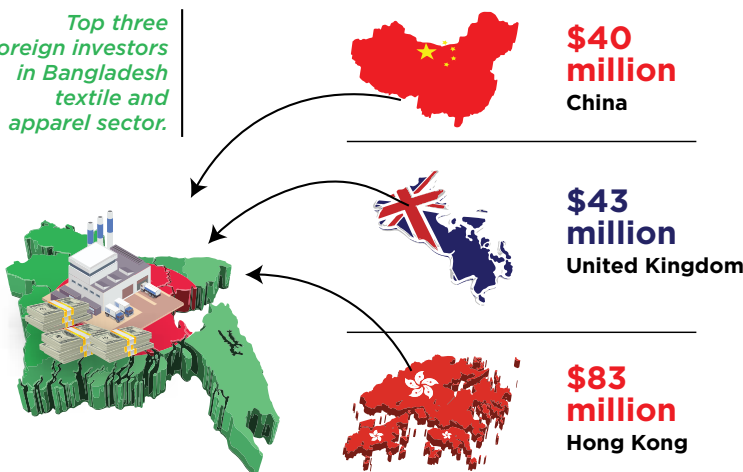
While asked sector people about the reason behind the slow investment they blamed the rise in the production cost and difficult process of getting factory permission along with the scarcity of land.

“In making an investment in any country, investors seek security and return of their investment. Since the production cost is higher here due to rise in gas and electricity prices coupled with land scarcity, FDI is low,” said Mohammad Ali Kokhon, President, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA).

In order to further increase the FDI in the sector, the government has to promote investment opportunities by creating a business climate and offering incentive to keep production cost at a reasonable level, Khokon mentioned.

As Bangladesh badly needs to produce high-end products and increase production capacity in the apparel industry, FDI in the area can play an important role in technology transfer from the skilled foreign professionals,

Top three foreign investors in Bangladesh textile and apparel sector.





In making an investment in any country, investors seek security and return of their investment. Since the production cost is higher here due to rise in gas and electricity prices coupled with land scarcity, FDI is low.

Mohammad Ali Kokhon, President, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA).

economists and trade analysts believe.

Business leaders think such FDI should come in backward linkage

textile and high-end products of the readymade garment as it will help transfer foreign and latest technologies to embolden local industry.

FDI in these segments can be an advantage for Bangladesh economy in moving towards the value-added products.

“Since there is a gap between demand and supply of raw materials for the apparel, we need foreign investment in the primary textile, which needs huge investment,” Mohammad Ali Kokhon emphasized.

But the FDI will not be attracted unless the government policy becomes favorable and production cost is reduced offering utility services including gas and electricity at affordable prices.

According to BTMA, currently, the primary textile sector can meet

Why investment declines in T&A industry	
	Rise in the production cost
	Difficulties in getting factory permission
	Scarcity of land

around 90% yarn demand for knit RMG and 40% yarn demand for woven RMG.

On the other hand, denim fabrics in the country can meet around 50% demand, where higher-end fabric is mostly dependent on import. Generally, apparel makers do not encourage FDI in basic product manufacturing as Primary Textile Sector has enough capacity in basic and medium segments.

Under the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) and Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), 100% FDI is allowed in the textile and apparel sector but it discourages such investment for basic items.

They encourage overseas investment in high-value items such as jackets, suits, army dress, fashion jackets, outdoor and protective jacket.

However, a foreign investor can invest outside EPZs or SEZs and she/he has to take permission from the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) and then become a member of BGMEA or BKMEA for exporting clothing items.



Figure: To attract more FDI Bangladesh needs to concentrate on the above things.



Steps in order to achieve the \$50Bn goal

Syed Kamrul Hassan, Managing Director, Top Tailor BD Pte Limited

The textile industry of Bangladesh is currently growing at a decent rate. But in order to achieve the 50 billion US dollars benchmark, there are a lot of measures that should be taken. Because Vietnam has become one of our major competitors and US-China trade war is also on a hot level.

So in order to face this challenging situation, we need to give proper attention to the RMG sector and take all the necessary measures.

The crying need in this critical situation is the government's association. They should come forward to solve various sensitive issues like infrastructure development, adjusting gas price, proper supply of electricity, etc.

The industrialists have to work hard in order to upgrade to the next level of manufacturing. They need to move on from producing basic products like knitwear, T-shirts, sweaters, etc. to value-added products like technical textiles, medical textiles, etc. They need to upgrade their machinery and bring innovation to the

products so that they are able to manufacture any critical products as per the buyers' demand.

Fashion diversity should also be introduced. Moreover, the factory owners should change their mindset of being satisfied by the price they get from basic products.

Also, due to poor negotiation skills, manufacturers cannot negotiate the proper price with buyers. As a result, low price orders are being shipped and the whole sector is losing its brand image because of this. These poisonous activities need to stop and should be properly monitored by the govt. We all need to be honest from our own position and focus on the greater interest for the country's economy.

There was a time in Bangladesh when 4-5 new factories were constructed every day. But nowadays, we find that every day about 4-5 factories – according to BGMEA – are being closed!

The industry and the government should pinpoint the proper reasons behind this and work with a proper mission and

vision to close all the loopholes.

Due to Accord – for maintaining quality and compliance – the image of Bangladesh textile and apparel industry has achieved a positive image globally. As a result, buyers are being more interested to invest in our country because of our brand value.

In fine, there is a huge opportunity knocking at the door for Bangladesh. American buyers are shifting their orders from China to Bangladesh because of the Trade War. Several compliance issues of the factories have been solved. If only the remaining challenges are mitigated properly, achieving the \$50 Billion dollars would be no big deal for Bangladesh.

Author



Syed Kamrul Hassan
Managing Director, Top
Tailor BD Pte Limited

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Wage digitization in apparel sector: Triggering financial inclusion

Sabbir Rahman Khan, Assistant Secretary (R&D), DCCI

RMG sector of Bangladesh recently underwent myriad strides in the area of wage and associated avenues. However, there exists another avenue to be looked in to if we want the wage issues to be efficiently streamlined.

It is the efficiency of salary payment through electronic or digital gateways. It has been evident in empirical and cross-country studies that disbursing salary-money to the garments workers through digital platforms can ensure substantial efficiency gain for the factories.

There are numerous forms of payments incurred for a business ranging from loan repayment to capital machinery import and many more.

Wage payments constitute approx. 27% of the total value of business payments in Bangladesh, representing nearly US\$40.4 billion transactions per year, according to 'The Case for Wage Digitization in Bangladesh's Garment Factories' published in Financial Inclusion Insights, in September 2016. Of them, only US\$1.3 billion transactions take place through banking or other relevant channels per year.

However, 90% of the values of salaries are still paid in cash by businesses, demonstrating the significant potential for



businesses to realize cost savings and increased efficiencies while helping to build an inclusive digital ecosystem for Bangladesh.

The ray of hope is the journey from cash to electronic payments in Bangladesh's garment sector is gathering pace as garment production factories discover how digitizing wages can save time, reduce costs, increase transparency, and empower workers by improving their access to finance.

In short, electronic payments have the potential to help companies improve their bottom line while making life better for workers, especially for women who represent 80% of the garment workforce in Bangladesh.

A diagnostic survey, carried out by the World Bank, quantified

the cost and time savings of digital payments compared with cash, and measured employees' payment preferences, based on interviews and self-reported data shared by 21 factories in Bangladesh.

The study highlighted the opportunity cost of loss production borne by factories when wage disbursement is made in cash. It estimates that each worker spent on average 18 minutes per month off the production line to receive their wages in cash. This equates to 750 hours of lost revenue from production per month for a factory with 2,500 employees.

While administrative employees spent 13 minutes per worker per month on preparing salary sheets, counting money, and

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Fax : 34 93 864 51 04
E-mail : chemicals@asutex.es



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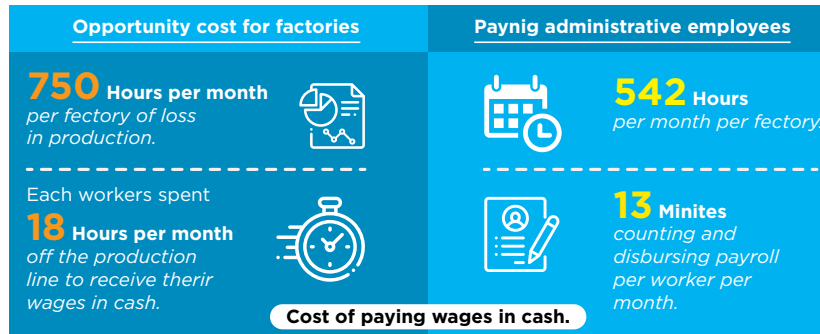


Figure 2: Cost of paying wages in cash.

overseeing cash payments totaling 542 hours each month for the average factory. Moreover, the study estimated that cost of wage payments in cash per worker is around US\$0.44 per month.

In 2019, another study surfaced that factory owners face multiple challenges with cash-based disbursements, the most pertinent of which is risks of transporting Tk 15-20 crore every month.

The study found that roughly a million apparel workers are now digitally receiving salaries from 200-250 factories such as Noman Group, DBL Group and Mohammadi Group.

The study, additionally, reported that 82.5% of the digitized factories were saving a significant amount of time during wage analysis and salary disbursement.

The interviewed factory managements stated that digitized platforms provide 60% less complexities over manual ones alongside real-time data, seamless monitoring and reviewing and in recording variable component of salaries on top of the government mandated base, allowing sounder decision-making.

So, the key benefits triggered by wage digitization in Bangladesh are followings in short:

- Efficiency & time savings: Total time savings are significant for factories that moved to digital wage payment.
- Employees' payment preferences: Factories that moved to electronic wage payments registered high levels

of employee satisfaction about the shift.

- Transparency, security, financial inclusion: Digital wage payments also yielded a range of other benefits for both employers and employees including transparency in audits and supply chain accountability, accuracy of workers' payments, reducing the risk of loss or theft of wages, increased financial inclusion and financial capabilities of workers etc.

It is encouraging to share that ICT Ministry and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) recently signed a preliminary agreement to create and launch a digital payment gateway (digital wallet) within a few months that will allow workers to access their cash through an app alongside connecting merchant and banking networks, startups and service providers.

The digital wallet will provide a vendor-neutral platform for wage digitization and digital transactions. It will facilitate interoperability with all participating financial institutions for fund access or transfer as well

as cash in or cash out, etc.

This will help create a merchant network for providing goods and services at discounted rates. The digital wallet will ensure secured recordkeeping, financial reporting and KPIs as required.

Following benefits will be derived from creating digital wallet:

- Transparency of wages paid to RMG workers
- Financial benefits such as cashback, reward points and merchant discounts to increase the value of wages received
- Ability to receive funds from corporate social responsibility (CSR), social security scheme and other sources for targeted usage, such as health/medical, education, childcare etc.
- Ability to access and transfer funds as well as cash in/out from any participating financial institution
- Ability to make digital payments for utility services such as electricity, gas and water
- Access to financial services including credit and insurance
- Enhanced worker safety and security by reducing cash usage

Challenges

With every opportunity there comes challenge. Since digitization of these did not happen overnight, convincing both the owners and workers, given multiple impediments related to wage digitization, is somewhat challenging.

Therefore, to implement wage digitization more effectively, it

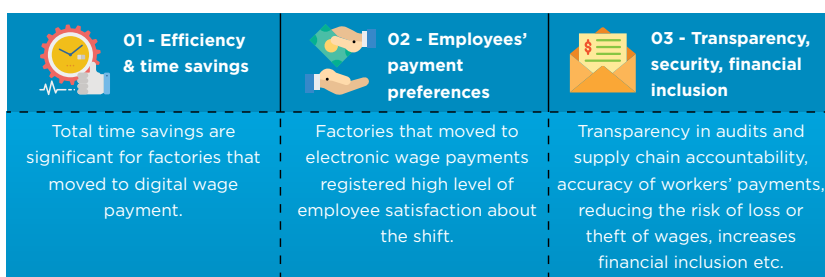


Figure 3: Key benefits triggered by wage digitization in Bangladesh.

is imperative to understand the diversity of digitization in the apparel sector and that each type of factory has its own incentives behind choosing a certain DFS system.

- Major challenge with the transition process was that the costs associated were higher than initially expected. Most first movers did not have a clear idea about the costs associated with the transition and had not embarked on any in-depth cost-benefit analysis before digitizing.
- The current limits on amount of transactions have been identified as a challenge for mobile money to become a norm for the sector. Industry experts have identified the current transaction limit as a barrier for more factories to digitize their payments. After the increase in minimum wage, there will most likely be a need for revisiting the current regulations of transaction limits for the sector to benefit the efficiency of digital payments.

To combat the aforesaid challenges to some extent, digital financial service providers need to expand the ecosystem to increase adoption among workers while factories must have enough options to digitize at a realistic rate with a service provider that suits them.

Furthermore, Digital advocates among large suppliers and hosting platforms for knowledge sharing are required alongside training for workers on tech literacy by stakeholders to make a smoother transition.

For instance: bKash helped 180 factories to digitize in the last two years to benefit over 200,000 workers. Moreover, bKash itself bears the 1.85% transaction charge in 90% of the factories while jointly with the factory owners in the rest, meaning workers do not lose any money

Therefore, to implement wage digitization more effectively, it is imperative to understand the diversity of digitization in the apparel sector and that each type of factory has its own incentives behind choosing a certain DFS system.

while availing the services.

It is well evident that financial inclusion in Bangladesh is highly needed to access to the full range of financial services at an affordable rate for everyone ranging from the marketplace to the management.

In this connection, the digitization of garment factory worker wages will have the potential to ease this situation on multiple fronts, both from the management and worker perspective.

Lastly, if the digital payment ecosystem develops, a wider range of products will become available to factories and workers alike. Further research and dialogue, particularly between companies, the financial sector, and government policymakers will be vital to drive the progress.

Author



Sabbir Rahman Khan
Assistant Secretary (R&D), DCCI



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China to continue its control over international textile machinery market

Technology Correspondent

For all the talk of China's wakening role as a global supplier, one thing is for sure: it looks to set continue of its dominance on international textile industry

The annual survey of international textile machinery shipment statistics provides a key of the snapshot of the top countries of building capacity in fiber, yarn and fabric supply.

Global deliveries of new short staple spindles and open – end rotors edged up by 1.5% and 13% respectively on year and year in 2018, according to data released by the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF). But growth was considerably slower than the previous period from 2016 to 2017, when shipment of new short staple –spindles jumped 46% and open to open end rotors rose by 24%.

Meanwhile the number of draw-texturing spindles shipped rose by 50% and deliveries of shuttle-less looms were up by 39%.

In contrast, shipments of long staple spindles were down 27%, circular knitting machines fell 4% and electronic flat knitting machines decreased by 20%. And in the finishing segment, total machines shipped worldwide in the fabric continuous category were down to 0.5%, while those classified as 'fabric discontinuous' category fell by 1.5% year on year.

The 2018 survey was compiled in cooperation with more than 200 textile machinery manufactures.



Figure 1: Qingdao Jinlihua Textile Machinery Co., Ltd air jet loom.

Spinning machinery

The total number of shipped short staple spindles increased by about 126,000 units to a level of 8.66m. Shipments increased for the second consecutive year, but the global trend slowed down.

Most of the new short staple spindles (92%) were shipped to Asia and Oceania, although delivery fell by 2%. The six largest investors in short staple segments were in China, India, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Indonesia. And most of dynamic destinations recorded in 2018 were South Korea (up 834%), Turkey (up 360%), Vietnam (up 290%), and Egypt (up 285%).

Global shipment of long staple spindles (wool spindles) drop from 16,500 in 2017 to around 12,000 in 2018, mainly due to drop in Asia and Oceania where the number of units delivered fell by 48,000 This region remained the

strongest destination for this type of machinery but deliveries to Iran and China fell dropped by 60%. Even so, the biggest investors were Turkey, Iran, China, Italy and Vietnam.

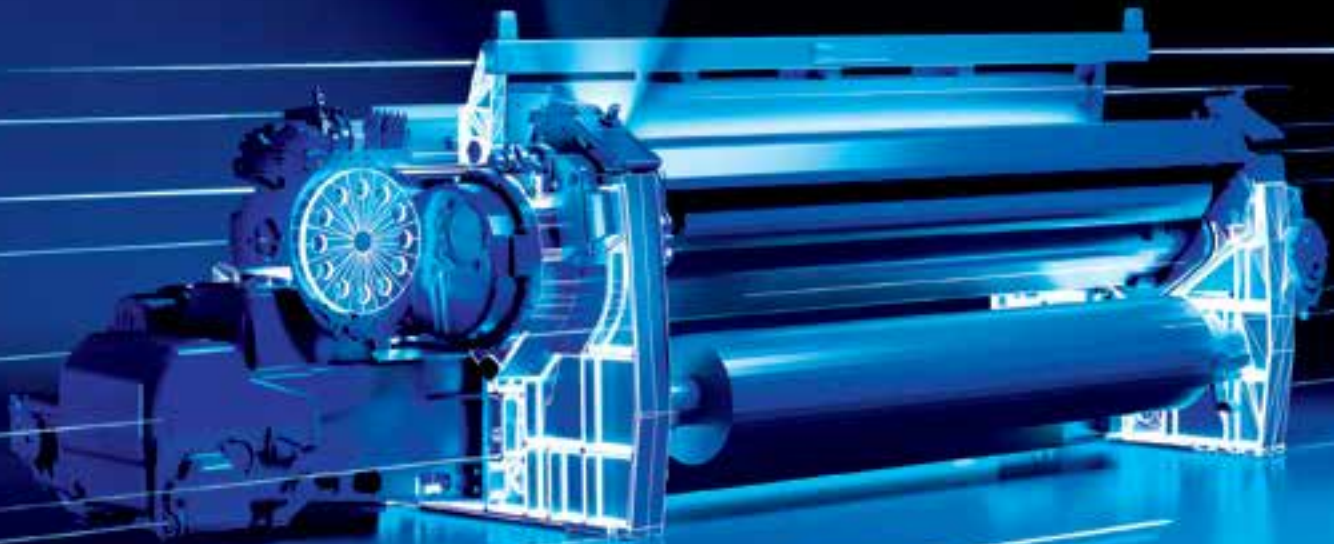
According to the survey, 721,000 open end rotors were shipped worldwide in 2018. This represents a rise of 83,000 units on the year before. 91 global shipments went to Asia and Oceania where the share off total deliveries and the total deliveries improved by 20% to 658,000 rotors.

China the largest investor in an open end rotors, increased its purchases by 7% in 2018, where deliveries to Thailand, Malaysia and Egypt rose three fold.

Texturing machinery

Global shipments of single heater draw-texturing spindles (mainly used for Polyamide filaments) increased by 48% and from nearly 15,500 in 2017 to 22,800

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in 2018. With a share of 91%, Asia and Oceania was the strongest destination for single heater and draw texturing spindles. China and Japan were the main investors in this segment with a share of 68% and 11% of global deliveries, respectively.

In the category of heater draw texturing spindles (mainly used for polyester filaments) its positive trend continues with global shipments increasing by 50% on an annual basis to about 490,000 spindles. Asia's share of worldwide shipments grew to 93%. China again remained the largest investor accounting for 68% of global shipments.

Weaving machinery

In 2018, worldwide shipments of shuttle less looms increased by 39% which is 133500 million. Deliveries of air jet looms increased by 21% to 32,750 and water jet looms soared by 91% to 69,240. But deliveries of rapier/projectile looms fell by 5% to 31,560.

The main destinations of shuttle less looms in 2018 was Asia and Oceania with 93% of all worldwide deliveries. 92% of all water jet looms, and 99% of all air jet looms went to that region. The main investors were China and India in all three categories.

Deliveries of weaving machines to the two countries and reached to 81% of total derivatives.

Turkey and Bangladesh also played an important role in the rapier, projectile segment with a combined 18% of global shipments.

Circular and flat knitting machinery

Global shipments of large circular knitting machines fell by 4% to 26,300 units in 2018 with Asia and Oceania again the world's leading investor, India and Vietnam ranked second and third with 2680 and 1440 units, respectively.

Deliveries of electronic flat knitting machines were also down, falling by 20% to around be also round 160,000 machines. Asia and Oceania was the main destination for these machines



Figure 2: Chinese socks machine.

with a share of 95% of world shipments. China remained the world's largest investor. The country kept its global share of 86% of worldwide shipments despite a drop in investments from 154,850 units to 122,550 units.

Finishing machinery

In the segment of 'fabrics continuous' shipments were up for washing (stand-alone) (up 58%) singeing line (up 20%), relax dryers/ tumblers (up 9%), stenters (up 3%), and sanforizers/compactors (up 1%). Deliveries in the other sub-segments decreased. In 'fabrics discontinuous' shipments of air jet dyeing machines increased by 16% and deliveries of overflow dyeing and jigger dyeing / beam dyeing machines fell 7% and 19% respectively.

Facts behind the figures

China's stranglehold on world textile trade is undisputed. Not only is the world's largest producer of fiber and fabric- accounting for more than half (54.8%) of global production in 2017 but is also the largest textile exporter, with shipment that same year reaching US\$ 109.9bn taking 37.1% of the global total.

China also exported apparel with US \$ 158.4bn in 2017, giving it a 34.9% share of the world market

- and the top share in the world's three largest apparel importers; the US, EU and Japan.

Much of this strength is due to the size of its supply base, its range of skills, its quality levels. Its product variety - and the completeness of its supply chain from the raw materials through the fabrics, dyeing, finishing and final products.

Vietnam investments

Competition for export production capacity means that another machinery investment trend to watch is in Vietnam, where apparel exports are growing but factories are increasingly stressed about fulfilling additional orders due to a shortage of local raw materials.

Over 60% of fabrics needed by Vietnamese garment manufacturers still have to be imported, yet interest in the country is on the rise thanks to its participation in two major new trade deals; the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans - Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the EU-Vietnam Free trade Agreement (EVFTA)

The CPTPP entered into force for Vietnam on January 2019, incrementally bringing down import tariffs for Vietnam garments traded with signatories Australia, Brunei and Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru and Singapore. But its yarn forward textile rules of origin mean each component- from spinning, to weaving and knitting the fabric, and making the garments- most take place within the free trade area in order to qualify for duty free treatment.

With weak local backward linkages, Vietnamese garment factories currently have to import the majority of the materials they need from non -CPTPP member nations. Changes are afoot though, with fabric investments starting to strengthen and potential policy changes to encourage domestic textile production.

(The article was first published in just-style.com)



Bangladesh needs diversifying its exporting items to reduce its over-dependence on apparel export

H. E. Sidsel Bleken, Norwegian Ambassador to Bangladesh

Scandinavian countries are the most peaceful in the world. Norway, a Scandinavian country, is encompassing mountains, glaciers and deep coastal fjords. The Nordic country established diplomatic relations with Bangladesh on April 14, 1972, soon after the independence and it is continuing till today. Bangladesh export to Norway is comprised of 62% knitwear products, 15% woven garment and 22% other related products. Trade between Bangladesh and Norway in FY 2017-2018 counted over 250 million USD. Bangladesh attracts the Norwegian investors to its potential investing sectors- telecommunication, readymade garments, technology transfer, clean-tech, IT, power which are the rapid-growing sectors in Bangladesh as well.

In a very recent interview, H. E. Sidsel Bleken, Norwegian Ambassador to Bangladesh, shared some issues with Textile Today including the reason of apparel sourcing from Bangladesh, initiative for ethical trade, bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Norway, economic strategy those should be taken by Bangladesh etc.

Textile Today: How do you see the economic growth of Bangladesh and how do you evaluate the contribution of the textile and apparel industry in Bangladesh's economy?

Sidsel Bleken: I think the economic growth of Bangladesh is extraordinary. For so many years the growth is stable, and one of the positive aspects of this is living standard of the people has been improved immensely since independence.

The textile and apparel industry is, of course, one of the key drivers of this growth. Especially, this sector has given women a golden opportunity for economic solvency through employment. All the research studies show, that women play an important part in the economic growth and if you can manage to include women in the labor market, then the country will achieve more rather than if the women are not included. That is one of the paramount aspects behind Bangladesh's economic boom.

Challenge is that Bangladesh is over-dependent on the textile and apparel export. It is a rapidly changing sector, day by day competitions are increasing and in the long run Bangladesh needs to diversify.

Textile Today: According to World Bank data, the majority of Bangladesh's export to Norway is textile and clothing products and Bangladesh is the second sourcing country for textile and clothing products. What is the reason to choose Bangladesh as a top sourcing destination for apparel products from your point of view?

Sidsel Bleken: There are several reasons for that, first, there are a lot of top quality factories producing quality products at a reasonable price. Also, Bangladesh textile and apparel industry can produce big volume of products, though Norway is a small inhabitant country with only 5 million people. So, it is a

combination of ability, quality, capacity which Norwegian buyers are attracted to source from Bangladesh.

Also, I believe they have established good relations with a number of factories. And of course the improvements that have happened since the Rana Plaza incident has made Bangladesh even more competitive. As most of the factories safety and security has been taken care of, worker's rights are better protected and factories are maintaining



Challenge is that Bangladesh is over-dependent on the textile and apparel export. It is a rapidly changing sector, day by day competitions are increasing and in the long run Bangladesh needs to diversify.

H. E. Sidsel Bleken
Norwegian
Ambassador

sustainability in terms of environmental aspects, these are important factors for Norwegian buyers and consumers.

Textile Today: Bangladesh garments manufacturers have increased their workers' wage up to 51% in December 2018 as workers can live a better life, however, it is not enough to ensure living wages for garment workers. How could brands come forward to ensure living wages for the workers who are making

apparel products for them?

Sidsel Bleken: The Norwegian buyers always try to follow the ethical standards set by the UN, also the Norwegian govt. is constantly in dialogue with the companies to follow the UN principles, and following up of production chain that goods are produced in a proper way. Price negotiation is an important factor. Buyers need profit, as well as workers need a livable wage, so do the factories need to make their profit. In the end, good price negotiation skill is important for factories to ensure these aspects.

Norway is also working with a project called Ethical Trade Norway. They are working with a number of factories, giving training on social dialogue both to workers and employers. I think it is very important for workers to negotiate in a proper manner with factory owners to present their needs and rights.

Textile Today: European fashion brands who buy readymade garments from Bangladesh agreed on 3 September to hand over responsibility for ensuring worker safety to a new body called the RMG Sustainability Council (RSC). How do you see this initiative?

Sidsel Bleken: I think this is a very positive step that, finally they manage to have a good dialogue between BGMEA and Accord. Also, to be able to find a solution that is accepted by buyers and factory owners. We all have to work together to maintain the quality of the inspection for workers safety. As after the Rana Plaza incident Bangladesh had a bad reputation, and Europe is concerned with the safe working condition.

It is crucial to show the consumers and to the world that Bangladesh is taking the issue of workers safety very seriously.

Textile Today: Bangladesh apparel industry is the second-largest in the world, what are the opportunities you see for



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Norway to invest in the sector in Bangladesh?

Sidsel Bleken: Norway is a small country and I think we will not invest in the factories rather we will continue as buyers. Bangladesh is a large sourcing country – around 40% of garments sold in Norway come from Bangladesh, but we don't have any plan to invest here.

Textile Today: *The Nordic country established diplomatic relations with Bangladesh on April 14, 1972, soon after the independence and it is continuing till today. What are the challenges do you see in the bilateral trade with Bangladesh and how the challenges could be overcome?*

Sidsel Bleken: I don't think there

are any concerning challenges in the bilateral trade. Bangladesh is a great producer in agricultural products, which possibly could be exported to Norway. That will give Bangladesh export more diversified products and creating more markets. And it will be a huge potential for Bangladesh in the future. For investments in Bangladesh, however, there are challenges, in particular related to ease of doing business and lack of predictable framework conditions. Corruption is also a big challenge, which needs to be addressed properly.

Textile Today: *Environment is getting worse day by day. Rivers around Dhaka are getting contaminated immensely mainly by textile mills. How can Norway*

help the textile industry to be sustainable for the environment?

Sidsel Bleken: Norway is not involved in textiles but there is a project on plastics and we will support that is to start up soon, which is related to river pollution. This project will address number of issues including public awareness, policy regulations of using plastics in the industry.

Finally, Bangladesh is a great country with immense potential, you need to take care of these resources – human and natural – in a sustainable manner. Human resources are the greatest resource for any country, and to be able to give proper education and that labor rights are protected, these are the most important factors for any country.

Jute bi-cycle, a new diversified jute product

Arvi Rahman

Jute fiber is a promising reinforcement for use in composites on account of its low cost, low density, high specific strength and modulus, no health risk, easy availability, renewability and much lower energy requirement for processing.

Recently Engineer Abu Noman Shoikat has built a bi-cycle using jute, a lightweight environmentally friendly product, which can open up new promises.

At first, he thought of using carbon fiber to make lighter bi-cycle but carbon fiber costlier than jute. To make this particular frame with jute a strong glue called epoxy resin is used.

He started his journey of making jute frame bi-cycle in 2015. It takes 15 thousand taka to make jute frame cycle but if it goes for commercial purpose it can be reduced by 10 thousand taka.



Engineer Abu Noman told to the Textile Today reporter that he wanted to go for bulk production but he did not rely on bank loan. He is looking for investor.

He has small factory at Adabar, in Dhaka. He made 100 steel bicycles over past two years and he is hopeful to hand the jute bike to the people in the future. He has a dream of setting up the world's largest handmade bike factory one day.

Instead of stabilizing the market on ready-made garments, Bangladesh's bicycles are going to

Denmark market as new products. Many of us do not know that Bangladesh is one of the top five countries in bicycles exports to Denmark.

"If tin can be made with jute, it is possible to make a bicycle too," said Moslem Uddin, Chief Scientific Officer of Bangladesh Jute Research Institute.

According to trade estimates, about 100 tons of processed and compressed jute fibers were used in the past one year for automotive parts. A French company is thinking of setting up a joint venture in Bangladesh for making jute-based car interior components.

In FY20, Bangladesh government has set the export target at \$824 million for Jute and Jute goods and innovation.



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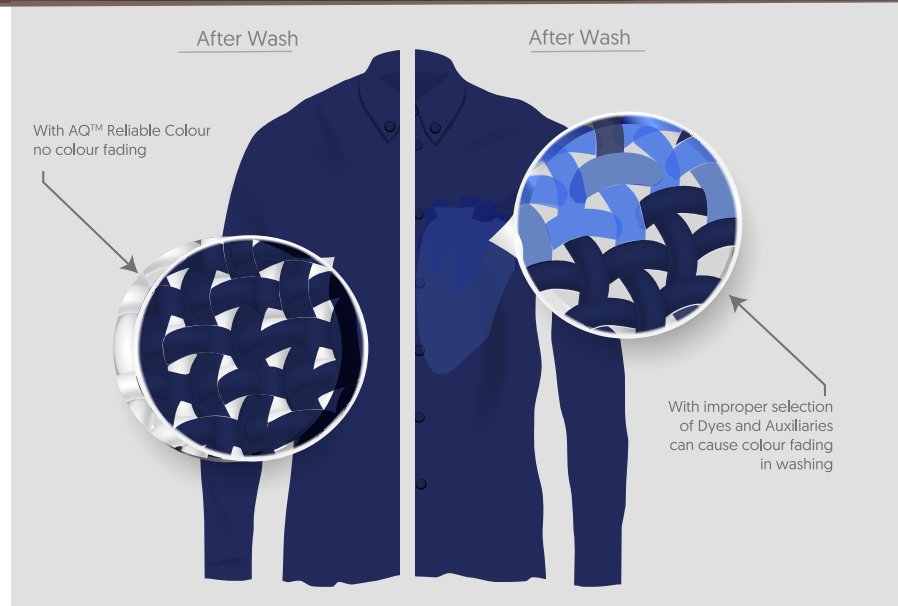
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Fashion without compromise – can it be a reality?

Dr. Sambhaji Chopdekar, Dr. Siva Pariti and Tamara Wulf, Sustainable Textile Solutions (STS)

Climate change, a topic which gives 1,360,000,000 hits on Google within 0.50 seconds. Climate protection gives 308,000,000 hits within 0.55 seconds. At the same time, a 'Friday for the Future' protest is happening in Berlin, Germany—part of a movement initiated by Greta Thunberg, a Swedish 16-year-old girl. She made school-strikes on Fridays, a regular happening in many countries to raise awareness.

Policy changes are needed to respond to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. No wonder sustainability is the new mantra of 21st century and a strategic topic for global brand and retailers.

But what does this mean for the textile industry?

The textile industry has come a long way from merely providing clothes for protecting our naked bodies from the wrath of nature, to create style statements and expressing opinions. It is an industry known for being resource-heavy and for contributing to global pollution. For years, fashion has been under scrutiny by campaigners, the media and ultimately policymakers and customers.

It is paradox that on the one hand, fast fashion companies have double-digit growth, on the other hand, discussions about

sustainability during the use- and post-consumer phases are on the rise as much as legal and brand and retailer sustainability requirements.

At STS we are working with brands and retailers and their value chain partners on a daily basis to build a bridge between their stated sustainability targets and the reality in production units. But is fashion without compromise possible?

The answer is simple: Our experience proves that sustainable production can be a reality. However, making the shift to sustainable production is often complex.

Working in production units in 40+ countries worldwide, the Sustainable Textile Solutions team holds decades of experience in clean chemistry, process excellence and resource efficiency and has a strong track record working with textile production units towards becoming more sustainable.

It is an undeniable fact that production practices in the textile industry can lead to contamination of land and soil since there are hundreds of hazardous chemicals (dyes, auxiliaries and salts) used in the textile industry that ultimately reach the environment during the wet processing of textiles.

Despite increasing price pressure, public attention on topics such as 'water crises' and 'contamination of soil' signaled that a change was needed.

It took until 2011, when Greenpeace launched its Detox campaign proving the link between global clothing brands, their suppliers and toxic water pollution around the world. Attracting heavy media and consumer attention, this was the linchpin for a major change in the way of working for many clothing brands and retailers who began to put Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemical onto their sustainability agendas.

With a pledge to Greenpeace to achieve Zero Discharge by 2020, clothing brands realized that there was a drastic need for wet-processing units to set up a robust chemical management system, a world new to many stakeholders of the industry.

At STS, we were excited to get the opportunity to work with our team of chemical engineers, dyers, textile and leather engineers, environmental scientists, data analysts and economists on practical actions allowing wet-processing units to manage their chemicals, instead of being managed by their chemicals.

One may think it is simple: if you don't put in the wrong ingredient, the product will be right. That may work in cooking, but not in chemistry. So, what does it really mean to manage your chemicals?

It starts with top management commitment, translated to chemical management policies and compliance procedures. All chemicals that can be used in the facility - not only in manufacturing but also for cleaning, laboratories, utilities and wastewater treatment - must be specified.

The MRSL issued by the ZDHC and adopted by many global clothing brands is a guiding tool to identify hazardous substances - these

should not enter a production facility.

Chemical procurement plays a vital role in ensuring that only safe chemicals, labeled per the GHS/CLP system, accompanied by the latest Safety Data Sheet and Technical Data Sheet, enter the facility. While a thorough chemical inventory remains the ultimate challenge to many wet-processing units, it is a non-negotiable when aiming to control chemicals. With all information about the chemical available and documented, one can store them in designated warehouses according to their properties.

Through training, workers and managers can quickly gain the skillset to contribute to sustainable production. But chemical management goes beyond procurement and handling. In fact, it is about the correct selection and uses during the processing stage as well.

Compatibility, special provisions, ease of handling, and PPE requirements are all available from the SDS, and this information is key to appropriate handling, transportation and ultimately worker health & safety and environmental protection.

The application conditions during wet processes such as pre-treatment, dyeing, printing, finishing and washing can also become the determining factor for the generation of avoidable impurities affecting the RSL (Restricted Substances List) parameter of the finished product and/or impacting the wastewater quality.

At STS we work with production units in more than 40 countries to help them identify the variables involved in these processes, such as moisture, pressure, pH, temperature, time, oxidation, reduction processes or the chemical applied, and advise wet processing units on robust improvement actions.

Our engineers stay in the production unit as long as it takes, working passionately alongside the production team to achieve process excellence. Maintaining all traceable information such as production recipes with all the relevant data (such as full names of the chemicals with lot numbers, the quantity used, and the process conditions such as temperature and pH) is a prerequisite for sustainable production, and it forms the basis for improvement.

At STS we also advise testing of chemicals before the actual production and analysis of the first dyeing or printing lot against the riskiest parameters. Only if results are found appropriate should identical conditions be applied to run production.

Of course, sustainable production doesn't just stop at chemicals. Optimal use of resources such as freshwater, control and proper disposal of waste generated within the premises, reduction of air pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and wastewater management are all to be examined when one works towards making fashion without compromise more than a phrase, but the reality.

The Higg FEM 3.0 is an established framework by the Sustainable Apparel Coalition to address inefficiencies, improve sustainability performance and achieve the environmental transparency consumers are demanding and our team of Higg FEM 3.0 Trainers and Chemical Specialist Verifiers are passionate about making fashion without compromise your reality.

CERTIFICATE ACHIEVERS OF RECENTLY COMPLETED TRAINING PROGRAMS OF TEXTILE TODAY TRAINING SEPTEMBER'19



Production Planning & Control

Textile Today Training successfully completed FSD training on **Production Planning & Control** (batch 2). Trainees received the certificate from trainer Moshiur Rahman Palash, Deputy Manager (Planning & Coordination dept.), Northern Tosrifa Group (NTG)



Quality Control & Inspection

Textile Today Training successfully completed FSD training on **Quality Control & Inspection** (batch 2). Trainees received the certificate from trainer Md. Hasanunzaman, Quality Manager, Northern Tosrifa Group.



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Branding Bangladesh Textile & Apparel

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Factory Tales
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“Buyer’s additional requirements lead to jump our cost”

Bangladesh RMG sector cannot survive without strong backward linkage

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Overtime work: a paradox

Naijur Rahman, Country Chief of Mind Works

Overtime or longer working has long been a common issue in workplaces across the globe, where employees are rewarded and measured on how much time they spend in their workplace, regardless of whether they are less productive as the day goes on.

Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) conducted a survey last year in the UK that revealed longer work has more than tripled since 2010.

It was a minor survey, with 1,000 participants, but there is further research to support the obsession with putting in extra hours. According to the Office of National Statistics UK, people now work 30 minutes more every week compared to 10 years ago, in a country like Bangladesh this situation is eviler.

What's more, a report by Vitality showed that staying late or working additional hours is having a reverse effect; in reality, overtime is causing a loss of 27 days of productive time per employee every year.

More production brings more revenues. Therefore, there is always pressure for people to work harder, longer hours. This is demonstrably a bad idea.

Overtime is a common practice where the employers believe that workers should stay longer to get more done, working more, produces more but with the 'Law of Diminishing Return'.

Looking at the number of units we ignore the impact on productivity. The more time the workers work the number units may be gaining to total production but flashing light on the other side of the coin, the productivity goes down over time in overtime.

Taking the example of the garments industry, two hours OT



is a common operation in many factories. One can easily see the difference if a closer look is given at the number of productions in the regular time and the number of productions in the overtimes.

Statistics reveal that in most cases the number of productions with the same input of man, machine, and material in regular working hours is much higher and in better quality than working overtime which has an adverse impact on the profitability of factory.

The above paragraph, the mentioned 'Law of Diminishing Return' which tells that the more the input in the process may increase the number of production but may not be at the proportion of input given.

Any further input after optimum level the proportion of output goes down due to the natural Law of Diminishing Return. In the same way, the human body has been programmed and designed to work at optimum level of 8 hours, any further input of man-hour decreases the level of productivity.

If we look at the natural dimension of time where 24 hours has been fixed for us. Among the 24 hours of time 8 hours are for resting and sleeping and 8 hours for earning the

bread and butter and rest 8 hours of our family, relatives, friend and for own self for self-development.

Any ups and downs in the 8 hours slots in any slot will have an adverse impact which will make you less effective and lesser efficient which has a direct relation with personal productivity and progress and above all health.

If a person always staying late at work, there are many issues that can arise, including feeling overworked, stressed and constantly tired.

However, this can also develop into long-term mental health problems, such as burnout – which was recently recognized as an illness by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Burn-out is a syndrome conceptualized as resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed,' according to WHO.

Constantly working could also affect one's personal relationships and hinder their creativity. If a person is regularly working beyond his/her contracted hours, this is likely to have a negative impact on other aspects of their life, particularly mental and physical

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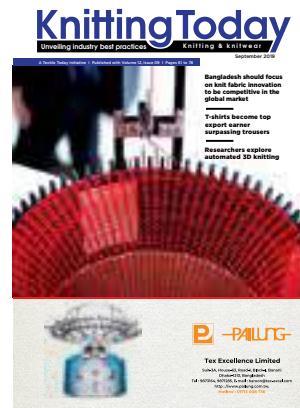
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On the Cover: This image captured at Mahmud Denims Ltd.

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On the Cover: Advertisement strip showing Knitting Technology Solution

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On the Cover: Advertisement strip showing Textile machinery & Laboratory equipments

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health, and relationships.

The brain needs time to switch off and recharge, a person simply cannot be mentally active all the time. Creative thinking comes out of a quiet mind, and this means taking time away from work, ideally with emails and social media switched off.

There are some facts on the impact of Overtime:

- People who work longer, report sleeping less, which obviously has massive effects on their health
- Working 10 or more hours per day leads to a 60% increase in the risk of cardiovascular problems
- In another study, people who worked 55 hours per week showed poorer vocabulary and reasoning than those who worked 40 hours
- Some studies indicate that knowledge workers are the most productive when they work 35 hours a week
- Industrial accidents increase disproportionately as hours increase above forty per week, or above 8 hours per day. More than half of all industrial accidents occur in jobs with extended working hours. The generally-accepted hypothesis is that the accidents result from tiredness.

Many European countries have adopted a policy to improve work-life balance for its citizens. The experiments of Lesser working time and flexible working time arrangements showing better productivity and happier personal life the countrymen and happier personal life has a proportionate relation with better productivity.

Here lies a big responsibility of HR. HR now has been considered as Strategic partner of the business, the cost center concept is over now. Being the strategic business partner the job of HR is to add value to the organization through investing in the most appreciating capital of Business – Happy Human Capital.

Satisfied and Happy Human Capital can bring more revenue and profitability than any other investment in the business. Take a closer look at why an employee needs to stay overtime.

If you discover the reason is possibly the culprit would be poor productivity and conventional management thinking of stay more to more to produce me. HR plays a vital role here to bring transformation in new thinking and culture aspect of 'More with Less'.

There is a saying- 'Workaholic will die before an alcoholic'. Some Employees also want to show off to stay longer at office to show is

Employees of many European Countries are encouraged to leave office after 5 PM to take care of their families and personal life. Working overtime is neither valued nor seen as necessary in fact it can be seen as an indication of poor planning and time management.

supervisors that he/she is better loyal to work.

They create a smokescreen of showing busy than productivity and this camouflage their lower effectiveness. These pseudo workaholics do not do any favors to their companies.

They have high levels of stress, which undermine complex decision-making and cause crisis mentality, time urgency, blocked mentality, mistakes, and a portfolio of medical problems resulting in high absenteeism and medical expenses.

They think no one can do the job as well as they can, so they can't delegate or trust, creates bottlenecks, conflicts, and missed deadlines.

The conventional wisdom on productivity that settles of the endurance factor or quantity of hours is dead wrong. For most alcoholics, it's a long demise from cirrhosis of the liver or alcohol-related hepatitis.

For workaholics, the end comes quickly in the prime of life, courtesy of stress-induced blood clots and heart attacks. It's not a very productive outcome.

Researchers have found no positive correlation between workaholic behavior—long hours, feeling one should be working every waking minute, overwork—and productivity.

A research in University of Georgia found in a metastudy on workaholism research that 'even though workaholics may spend more time thinking about and physically engaging in work than the average worker, this may not be of any benefit to their employer rather making the system inefficient.'

Time has come to think about the concept of more with less and continuous elimination of ineffective and inefficient and non-valued adding activates from the system to be a competitive edge.

Traning, life coaching on work-life balance, stress management, time management, productivity, efficiency, lean thinking psychology, etc. under knowledgeable and sensible sensei can help breaking the mentality and hand-holding guidance can help to avoid the presenteeism or working overtime for a peaceful and healthy personal life and better profit growth in working life.

Author



Naijur Rahman
Country Chief of
Mind Works



“ Bangladesh RMG sector cannot survive without strong backward linkage

Engr. Estahak Ahmed Shaikat
Managing Director, Basher Group of Industries

Bangladesh primary textile sector is experiencing a dull and tough situation that mill owners are either partially closing units or keep the production off completely. The sale of fabric and local yarn has reduced drastically and 50-60% of the looms have been remained closed for a long period of time.

In the spinning mills only 8 million spindles are running out of 11 million spindles, around 50-60 thousand power looms have been shut down so far out of 1 lakh, according to Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA). Sector leaders are worried about the situation and they are trying to identify the factors that are responsible for the crisis.

Engr. Estahak Ahmed Shaikat, the Managing Director of Basher Group of Industries and a Director of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), is a successful young entrepreneur and iconic person in the spinning sector.

In a recent conversation with

Textile Today team, he shared his views about the crisis situation of Bangladesh spinning mills and the opportunities to make it a leading sector by overcoming the challenges.

The crisis in the spinning mills are global

The crisis situation in the cotton market is not only a problem of Bangladesh rather it is a global phenomenon. China and India witnessing a decline in cotton export in recent years.

In 2018, the global cotton sale totaled US\$59.2 billion which is decreased by an average -7.8% for all exporting countries since 2014 that valued at \$64.2 billion. Year over year, cotton shipments appreciated by 4.3% from 2017 to 2018.

Engr. Estahak Ahmed Shaikat said, Bangladesh RMG sector is mostly dependent on Europe and USA market, so any changes in buying policy will hamper our export growth. Now the US is prioritizing to import yarn and garment from Pakistan. Meaning, Bangladesh

is getting less priority in the US market.

According to Estahak Ahmed, the biggest reason for the market slowdown in the Apparel sector is the new trend was not seen for market-lead this year. EU market also in a stagnant situation due to uncertainty over Brexit and economic slowdown in some places in Europe. But he expressed hope that these crisis situations will change and improve in the coming months as overall market forecast revealed.

Factors that reasoning for the crisis in the Bangladesh spinning sector

As a Director of BTMEA Engr. Estahak thinks there are many triggering reasons for the present crisis other than international market.

Lowest cotton price: At present cotton price is lowest in the last 10 years and worryingly, buyers are asking to reduce the price, whereas Bangladeshi millers imported the cotton 3-4 months back when cotton was not

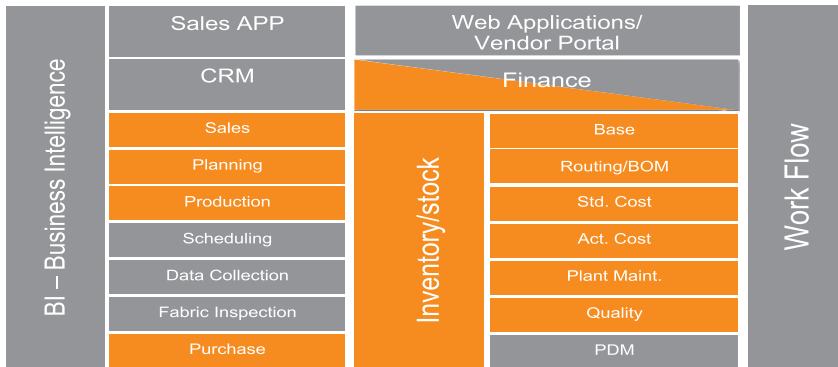
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GREEN BUSINESS

cheaper. The cheaper cotton will be in-housed later to 3 months from now, that means spinning mills are in direct loss.

High Bank interest:

Higher bank interest rate that drags down the Bangladesh textile and apparel industry and never allows the breathing space for the entrepreneurs and this is one of the biggest reason for the crisis. Bangladesh’s neighboring countries keep the interest rate in single digit to promote the industry, on the contrary Bangladeshi mills has to count a double-digit interest rate to get financial support from the banks.

Gas price hike: Bangladesh government has increased gas prices by 37.88% from Tk7.76 to Tk10.70 per cubic meter for industrial use and 43.97% from Tk9.62 to Tk13.85 per cubic meter for captive power. The primary textile sector will suffer a lot as the sector is highly dependent on gas to run the factory.

Congestion at port: Port congestion is the bottleneck barrier for the backward linkage and weakening the sector. Because Bangladesh imports about 8.28 million bales of raw cotton valued at \$3 billion yearly but due to congestion in Chattogram port, the millers have to bear the additional cost to release the goods as well as extra bank charges for the delay

Engr. Estahak Ahmed Shaikat at a glance		
	Position	Managing Director, Basher Group of Industries
	Association	Director, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA)
	Education	Graduate from Devry Inst of Tech, Canada
	Achievement	Best Young Entrepreneur Award in 2013 from the government of Bangladesh
	Hobby	Passing time with Family
	Favorite food	Traditional Bangladeshi Food

arrival at factory.

Late payment: Engr. Estahak informed that the spinning millers never get payment from the RMG owners after delivering the yarn unless it is passed 6-8 months. But banks are imposing interest on spinning mills month on month so millers are really not in a situation to stand. Even if they provide instant LC, that also takes more than 3 months to get effected.

Bonded Leakage: Leakage of bonded ware is another factor to remain unsold yarn in our warehouse. The government should take strong step to stop illegal use of bonded facilities.

Knit factory has spinning mill: Now all the leading knit composite factories have their own spinning mills that can fulfill internal demand so, the spinning mills are

not receiving any order from those factories.

Backward linkage remains backward:

Bangladesh RMG sector is growing based on backward linkage but in most cases backward linkage remains unseen in the eye of sector leaders.

Whereas Bangladesh is capable of supplying 85% of yarn and fabric for its RMG sector from backward linkage, along with 40% of woven fabric, required by the knitwear sector, which helped to take the value addition to 75%. Value addition to the woven sector is now around

35% to 40% meaning that Bangladesh is unable to fulfill 60% demand for woven fabrics.

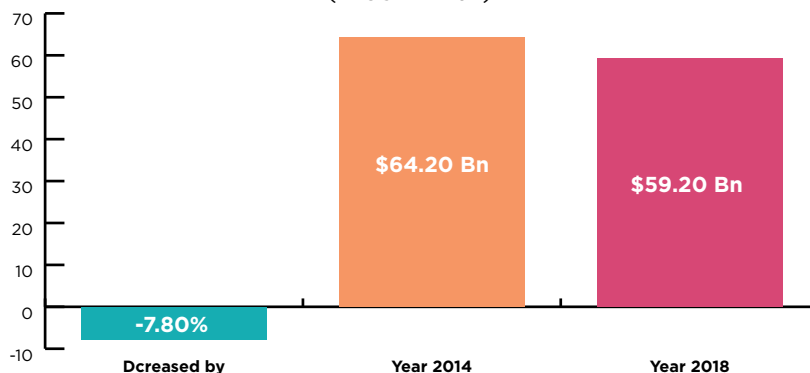
A recent Bangladesh Bank report showed that import price of raw materials in the July-December period of FY 19 stood at \$6.28 billion which is 36.77% of total export earnings from RMG sector of \$17.08 billion in the period.

Thus, raw materials prices shared 36.77% of the total value of RMG export, it means local value addition is estimated at 63.23%. This portrays a clear picture, how backward linkage sector is contributing to the Bangladesh RMG sector.

Engr. Estahak expressed, “imagine the scenario, that there is no backward linkage in the textile and apparel industry same to 80’s how the sector will survive? So it is high time that all the leaders of the BGMEA, BKEMEA and BTMEA have to think over the crisis moment of the spinning sector to keep it alive for the sake of the RMG sector.”

Generally investment for the backward linkage is higher than the RMG factories but no policy support or any financial benefit is going in favor of the spinning sector. This is due to the perception that backward linkage is a part of the RMG sector but its contribution is beyond any question.

Declining global cotton export in the recent years
(In USD Billion)



Need to build awareness for green industry

Mohammad Nurul Alam

'2nd 7 Days GREEN, A Weeklong GREEN (USGBC, LEED) Learning Event, 2019' of 360 Total Solution Ltd (360 TSL) concluded on 4 September 2019.

The aim of organizing this learning event is to contribute to the ecological balance, economic and sustainable development of the country's private sector by promoting green trade practices, provided with all updated ideas and information, create a platform for exchange knowledge and technical experts under a common platform.

The daylong event was designed into two different sessions. The 1st session was the inauguration of the event and the second session conducted on the green learning project.

On chair Ananta Ahmed, Managing Director of 360 TSL, in the 1st session, Khondkar Morshed Millat, General Manager, Sustainable Finance Department, Bangladesh Bank was present as the chief guest where Tareq Amin, Founder and CEO of Textile Today; Belal Ahmed, President ASHRE Bangladesh Chapter; Arch. Krithikha Muthukrishna, Principle Consultant, Green Sketch; Mollah Ahmed Hossain, Editor, Energy & Power; Yeamin Sharif Chowdhury, Director Operation, Transcom Electronics and Khaled Saifullah, Head of Green, EnergyPac were present as special guests.

Khondkar Morshed Millat said, "To be green at first we need the green mindset to practice in our social and financial sector and it should not be partial but should work with passion to be green."

"Bangladesh Bank is providing low-cost funding for green building sustainable agenda," he mentioned.

Tareq Amin, Founder and CEO of Textile Today said, "360 TSL is a



Figure 1: Tareq Amin, Founder & CEO of Textile Today gave speech on the occasion

new platform for green initiative to establish awareness for the green industry in Bangladesh. Textile Today is happy to be a part of this sustainable efforts."

"Bangladesh green building is a revolutionary initiative in the entire world. Green is actually our responsibility not certifications," he added.

Belal Ahmed said, "We should be green in our behavior to practice the best green initiative. But we should not complicate our life and nature in the name of green".

"Maintenance is a major fact that green building should do regularly otherwise green concept will not be meaningful," he mentioned.

Arch. Krithikha Muthukrishna said, "Electricity is the major area to improve and implement the green concept.

We should reduce power consumption by sincere application of the green model in both commercial building and normal life."

A book namely 'Green Building & Sustainable Development Information Handbook'

launching ceremony also held in the event. The book is a complete guideline on the green building requirement. 360 TSL is distributing the book those are interested to know green initiative.

A variety of professionals, both in and outside of the green building industry were present in the event.

These workshops are ideal for architects, engineers, facility owners, contractors, construction managers, sustainability consultants, architectural designers, interior designers, lawyers, builders, product representatives, facility managers, real estate brokers, teacher, students, and anyone interested in understanding green building principles or looking to start a career in green building.



Figure 2: A variety of professionals, both in and outside of the green building industry were present in the event.

Silver Line Group focusing more on product diversification and development

FT Research Team

In the present global market, buyers are giving priority to the factories who provides vertical one-stop services. Silver Line is one of the pioneers in Bangladesh when it comes about providing top-notch one-stop services.

Silver Line Group has complete backward linkage solution including garmenting facility. They have spinning mill, weaving, dyeing, finishing and printing facilities. CEO of Silver Line Group, Helal Mohammed Nuri shared their strength in product development, diversification and manufacturing excellence.

Design studio, a new concept for the manufacturing industry

Nowadays the buyers are reducing their design costs. Instead of going to the seasonal designers they are now approaching the manufacturers – it reduces design cost immensely as in Europe or the US, design cost is huge. Whereas manufacturer like us have design studios and sending them color concepts

and notebook for new product design for free of cost. And Silver Line has that vertical set up to serve the buyers.

Also, to sustain in the market, manufacturers are developing new designs/concepts with their R&D team.



Figure 2: Helal Mohammed Nuri, CEO of Silver Line Group.



Figure 1: 20-40% own designed products get selected by buyers of Silver Line Group.

And this one-stop service is a lifeline for buyers, who are desperately looking to reduce the price to stay in the retail business. Here lies their strength, as from developing fiber to designing, they provide a one-stop solution.

From the industry aspect, more and more groups are coming forward with this type of setup, which is a very positive sign for Bangladesh textile and apparel industry.

“We have a state-of-the-art design studio facility to support our customers as well as to show our strength. Behind this unique design success story, our 25 person’s team gives focus on each customer separately. When a buyer gives their presentation, we ask specific and detailed questions on the market, trends, season, etc. then we go for design. And our design selection success rate is very impressive. Depending on customer, 20 to 40% of our designed products get selected,” said Helal Mohammed Nuri.

Product and production range

In spinning, they do cotton blend yarn, along with linen,

Tencel, Modal and other types of products. In fabric, we are doing Oxford, poplin and other types of development.

“To put it in a nutshell, keeping in mind the present world, as well as Europe and the US latest demands and developments, we can supply accordingly. As we have a spinning and textile facility, we can fulfill any type of customer demand.”

They have two types of facilities: yarn-dyed fabric and solid dyed fabric. They are also a nominated factory for the world’s leading retailers like M&S, H&M, and Tom Tailor for yarn-dyed fabric for our quality and operational standard. Besides, they also have digital and rotary printing facility.

In garments, they have started with exclusive formal shirt of yarn-dyed fabric, we do sports shirts, kids wear, uniform, sleepwear, ladies’ tops, pajamas, denim.

“We have a plan to start bottom production as well. Monthly we are exporting about 1.5 million pieces garments to the US and Europe. And in near future we will increase it to 2.5 million pieces hopefully,” he concluded.

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E-mail: rick@chinarunhe.com

caihanjie@chinarunhe.com

Bangladesh Office

Md. Ruhul Amin

Country Manager

House 06 (1st Floor, Front side), Road 12,

Sector 11, Uttara, Dhaka-1230, Bangladesh

Cell: +88 0161CN RUNHE, +88 01845 618684

Email: amin@chinarunhe.com

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Textile Today Question of the Month



World economics is shaking due to US-China Trade war. But the analysts are saying a country like Bangladesh which economy is RMG export-based would be benefited from this trade war. Already Bangladesh RMG makers are getting more orders from USA brands and buyers. Though China is the largest source of apparel products for the USA, however, due to the trade war, US apparel import from China is declining, which is giving a green signal to the Bangladesh apparel exporters.

What possibilities are ahead for Bangladesh RMG sector regarding the USA market? Are we ready to grab this opportunity?



Md. Shafiqul Islam Sarker

Managing Director, Purbani Group

The outcome of the trade war is mixed. On the one hand, there is an increased risk for global customers to source from China. Therefore, there is a shift towards sourcing from other neutral sources such as Vietnam, India and Bangladesh. On the other hand, the trade war is giving fuel to uncertainty and protectionism which is deteriorating to the apparel trade.



Faiaz Rahman

Director, Urmi Group of Companies

There are immense possibilities for us. As the second-largest apparel exporters, we need to capitalize on the situation to become the global leader in the sector. Though there is a tight competition, Vietnam, being close to China is preferred by brands and is significantly benefiting from the trade war. All said, we need to focus more on managing and producing efficiently to be competitive in the global market.



AKM Saifur Rahman Farhad

Head of Marketing and Merchandising, Interlink Group

I don't think this trade war will significantly help Bangladesh textile and apparel industry. For instance, this war started one and half year back, but till today, our factories are running with order shortfall!

So where are the buyers going? In Cambodia and Vietnam. Because both countries have taken vision 2035, with all the topnotch technology and automation. Whereas, some of the factories can't even run one shift production. In conclusion, it seems without a proper plan we can't gain from this trade war.

Textile Today Question of the Month



Uzzal Dakua

Merchandising Manager, Echotex Ltd

In this highly competitive global trade scenario, the trade war is not the main fact or focus. We should go for value-added items as per fashion trend. We should explore new market - India, Russia, and China USA, etc. - Our team is for new markets with high value-added product range.

Our denim sector is growing as well, besides knit, we have already invested in denim. So, value-added denim items are highly potential for new markets



ASM Rifath Haque

Manager Merchandising, adidas

Any war leads to loss for both parties, same fate awaits the current trade war between USA and China! From this trade war some countries may get temporary benefits. Bangladesh is one of them, the general perception is some USA oriented new customers are coming here. But in reality I would say, it does not benefit instead, I would call it an opportunity. If we perform better then new buyers and business will come.

So in order to satisfy the USA based customers we have to ensure the right time delivery and quality product.

Also, we should not try to demand excessive price that may instigate US customers to source products from somewhere else.



Dolly Thay

Managing Director, Cloths 'R' Us Ltd.

In this complex situation, where the textile and apparel industry is signaling a negative vibe but in the long run we are optimist about Bangladesh to be benefited from China-USA trade war.

We have already started to observe the shifting of the production business from China to Bangladesh. That includes almost all the categories starting from knit, denim, outerwear and intimate apparels. A tough challenge for Bangladesh is that, it has to compete with countries include logistic lead time beside price which is driven by efficiency. That will suffocate our growth against industry expectation.



Engr. Anisul Hoque Ansari

Sr. General Manager (Operations), Hameem Group

The Geopolitical trade war between US and China created sudden benefits for Bangladesh, Vietnam and Cambodia. Each country has few advantages and disadvantages in terms of populations, supply chain speed, wage rate, infrastructures and political stability.

To reap the benefits of this trade war we need look forward to fashion styles for those China and Vietnam were the first choice from US retailers. Build up capacity of making garments by adopting advanced technologies, AI in MIS, Machineries and manufacturing controls.

Rejoinder from SQ Celsius Limited and our reply

Warisul Abid, Chief People Officer, SQ Group has sent a rejoinder to a secondary news published in Textile Today referring a report of a daily newspaper (The Business Standard) on 31 August 2019 where an allegation was made against 76 apparel manufacturers, including SQ Celsius Ltd, for misusing bond facility.

He claimed that the news article '76 apparel firms found abusing bond facility' has been made by the reporter of The Business Standard without going into the details and ascertaining the actual issue.

He also said that Resultantly, such a generalized opinion formed against them is not only huge reputational damage for their, but also significant negative publicity for the entire apparel industry.

As Textile Today made the report from a secondary source (The Business Standard) and mentioned the source in the news, so that, Textile Today is not able to explain the authenticity of the news. It should come from the The Business Standard as they actually made the report on the basis of The National Board of Revenue (NBR).

We have put below the full explanation provided by Warisul Abid for the better understanding of our readers:

"With this rejoinder, we would like to clarify the actual issue that we are having with the Benapole Customs House. This issue was neither a case of misusing bond facility nor a matter dodging applicable duties of imported raw materials. In fact, it was a mere confusion raised at Benapole Customs House on a specific count of 100% Cotton Melange Yarn that we imported back in the year 2018. Hence, we believe the below information will adequately clarify



our position since we refute the allegation made against us in the above-mentioned news article:

Back in 2018, we initiated procurement of a total of 13,269 KG of 100% BCI Cotton Melange Yarn in two different counts, i.e., NE 32/2 and NE 20/2, to produce and ship Sweaters to one of our valued global customers. The styles of the Sweaters were designed on 100% BCI Cotton Melange yarn of two different counts; and they required to be produced in our knitting machines of three different gauges, i.e., 12-gauge, 9-gauge and 7-gauge.

Accordingly, we issued LC to our customer's nominated Yarn Supplier to ship the materials through Benapole Customs port. We released those materials on August 16, 2018, against the Yarn Supplier's Invoice and Bill of Entry; and in all those documents, the yarn composition and the counts were categorically reconfirmed. Subsequently, we produced the Sweaters and shipped them to our customer strictly conforming with all parameters, including the yarn composition.

Now the confusion is: when Benapole Customs House, conducted a separate material test at Bangladesh Textiles University, the yarn count came as NE 24/2 instead of NE 32/2 and NE 20/2. This is basically beyond our knowledge; and there is absolutely no possibility of mismatch in the yarn-counts, since the

composition of the yarn was checked and reconfirmed at all stages of this import.

We would also like to inform here that before shipment of yarns, our yarn supplier sent us a

lab-test report as confirmation on the yarn composition and the counts. Also, as a standard practice, we had to conduct a pre-shipment lab test on the samples of finished products (i.e., sweaters) at the test lab of ITS Lab test Bangladesh Ltd to ensure overall materials composition of the products.

Moreover, to further re-establish our position on the yarn-counts, we re-tested the sample products at the renowned test lab of Bureau Veritas Bangladesh on September 9, 2019; and as usual, yarn counts have come as NE 32/2 and NE 20/2.

It is also very important to mention that NE 24/2 is a non-conventional yarn-count for sweater manufacturing, and we have never come across and used such yarn-count in our long 26 years of sweater manufacturing business. With that count (i.e., NE 24/2), we couldn't have produced the Sweaters on 7-gauge, 9-gauge and 12-gauge machines, and met the strict specifications of the products.

We trust the above information clarifies the matter. And it becomes evident that the allegation made against us in the news article is not only wrong but also built on inaccurate information. And unfortunately, we have been quoted in the news article as one of the offenders whereas we have not committed any wrongdoings."

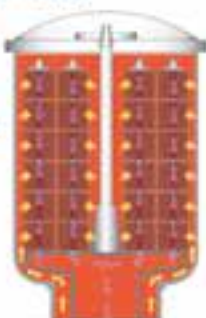
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A portrait of Arup Ratan Chowdhury, a man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression.

“Buyer’s additional requirements lead to jump our cost

Arup Ratan Chowdhury, Managing Director, JEANS Culture Ltd. and Director of Armana Group

From a mere fashion house in 1995 with the vision to produce ethically sustainable fashion, the Armana Group has evolved into a present-day leader in producing woven garments. Adhering to principles of quality, precision and prompt delivery timelines, the group is a world-class specialist manufacturer creating innovative, refreshing and trendy denim fashion.

In a recent conversation with Textile Today, Arup Ratan Chowdhury, MD, JEANS Culture Ltd. and Director Armana Group, unlocked various opportunities and challenges in the washing and denim sector.

Textile Today: What are the recent challenges of Bangladesh garments washing sector?

Arup Ratan Chowdhury: There are various factors which are creating obstacles for the washing sector. First of all, the recent wage hike and increased gas price - it has almost doubled - have hit the washing sector severely.

Also, the worker’s efficiency is far below than comparatively China or India, which is really hurting the whole sector. 5 Bangladeshi worker’s efficiency is equaled to China’s 1 worker.

We must change our mindset, who are prejudiced about a certain number of worker ratio. And adapt to

less number with higher efficiency. Competitor countries like China, Vietnam, India, and Turkey producing required chemicals which we can't, rather, we are importing the chemicals with duties. Though there is small scope for duty-free import but very few companies outside of EPZ getting that benefit. Altogether, it is leading to raise the cost in the washing sector.

Textile Today: What are the opportunities do you see in the garments washing sector?

Arup Ratan Chowdhury: There are a lot of opportunities for the textile and garments sector in Bangladesh as this industry is labor-intensive and we have a huge population. So, this is a very good advantage for our country to thrive in this sector. Our biggest strength is our workforce.

Textile Today: What initiatives should be taken to increase local expert in washing sector?

Arup Ratan Chowdhury: In our textile and apparel industry hiring foreign expats is a major concern. I will say, it prevailed because of the mindset from the buyer's end. Like some foreign buyers are comfortable in dealing with their own nationals and insist on us having these foreign expats. I do not have any doubt and confusion about our people. If they have confusion then they should improve their communication skill to gain more excellence.

Majority of our young professionals come to the industry with the mindset of working in Dhaka and they do not want to work at a factory. This is not realistic at all. They have to come out from their comfort zone. They should have the mindset of working in the factory and build their career. And I do not see any need of foreign technician for the sector, who are draining our invaluable foreign currency.

Textile Today: What is the most important for sustainable washing

process? How could it be ensured?

Arup Ratan Chowdhury: With our conventional machinery, achieving sustainability in washing is not possible. We have to implement new technology like Nanobubble technology to achieve sustainability.

Textile Today: How is washing contributing to make quality denim?

Arup Ratan Chowdhury: Denim is nothing without washing and dry process! Fashionable denim means proper washing process. Without this value addition, a manufacturer cannot survive in the global denim market. And this is how the washing sector is the backbone of the denim industry.

Textile Today: Garments washing consumes a vast amount of chemical. How can a factory reduce uses of chemical?

Arup Ratan Chowdhury: It cannot be done overnight. It has to be done gradually and by implementing new smart technologies.

Textile Today: What measures should be taken to reduce the cost of a washing factory?

Arup Ratan Chowdhury: We cannot control utility prices. But we can increase our manpower's efficiency to cover the increased cost. There is no other alternative to human capital transformation to survive in this competitive global market.

Textile Today: Compared to other countries, Bangladeshi manufacturers get less price, how can we resolve this?

Arup Ratan Chowdhury: First of all, we – Bangladeshi apparel manufacturers – should stop infighting with pricing among us. When we do this, buyers see it as an opportunity to get an order done with less price.

A lot of entrepreneurs expressed that they have to close down their factories by the end of this year. As they are not getting the proper pricing from the buyers and doing daily production at a US\$4000-5000 loss. Most of the buyers increased the price only by a cent after last year's wage increase. Which is really insignificant.

On the other hand, a good number of companies have gone for massive expansion with basic products year after year, instead of product diversification. They are taking order at any price to feed the machines and keep the factory running. This situation is leading medium and small factories to closure. Here product diversification was the way-out for us instead of increasing basic products.

Textile Today: Lastly, give a message for the washing sector.

Arup Ratan Chowdhury: As I said, skilled manpower and efficient workforce are most essential for the sector. Also, we have to be decisive in dealing with buyers. They insist us some additional requirements which they cannot do in other countries. Like beside enzyme effect they also ask for a stone effect, which is not even environmentally sustainable, in addition, it increases our cost.



Figure: Denimach Washing Ltd shares their facility for Textile Today Training participants.

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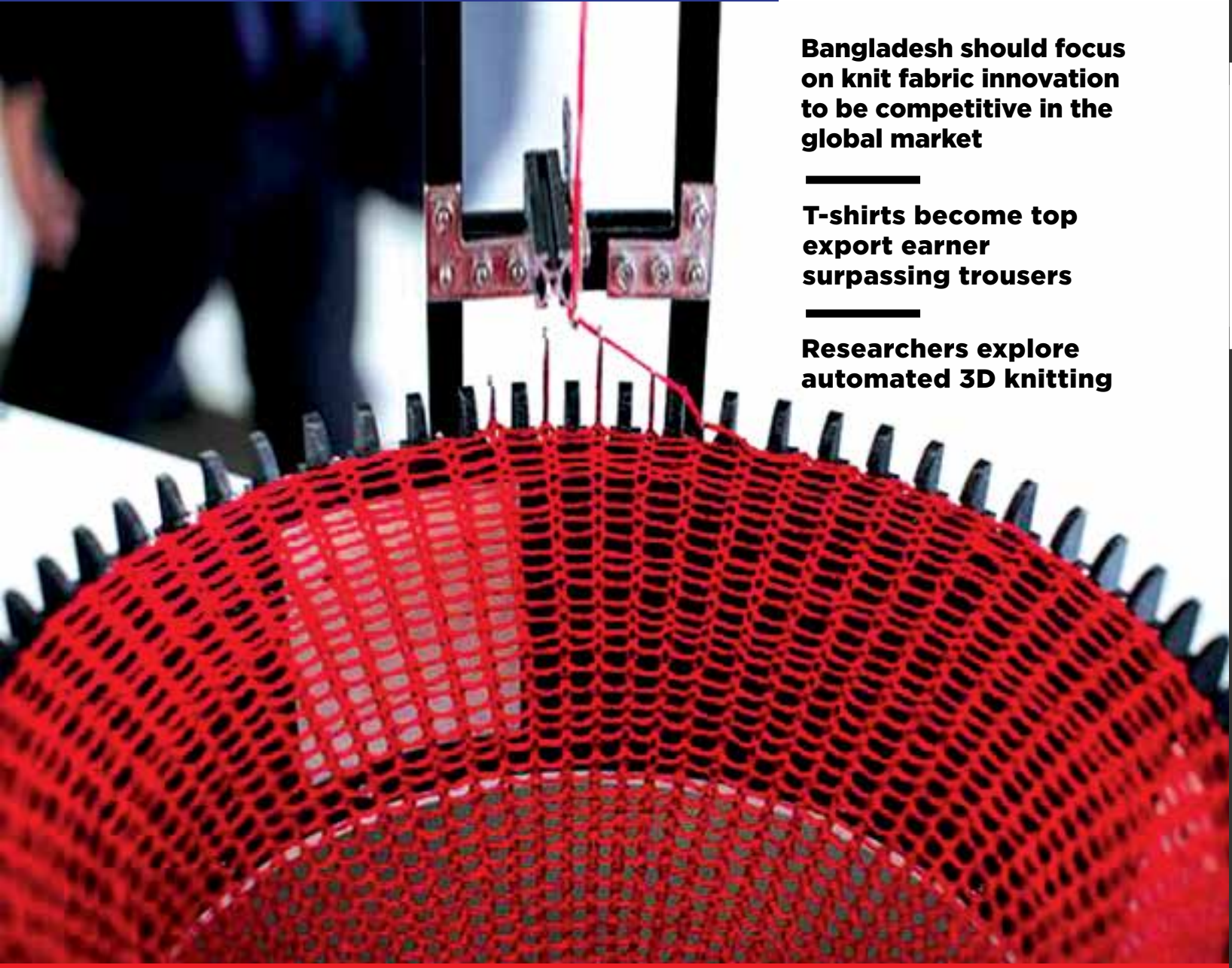
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Unveiling industry best practices

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A Textile Today Initiative | Published with Volume 12, Issue 09 | Pages 61 to 78



Bangladesh should focus on knit fabric innovation to be competitive in the global market

T-shirts become top export earner surpassing trousers

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Unveiling industry best practices
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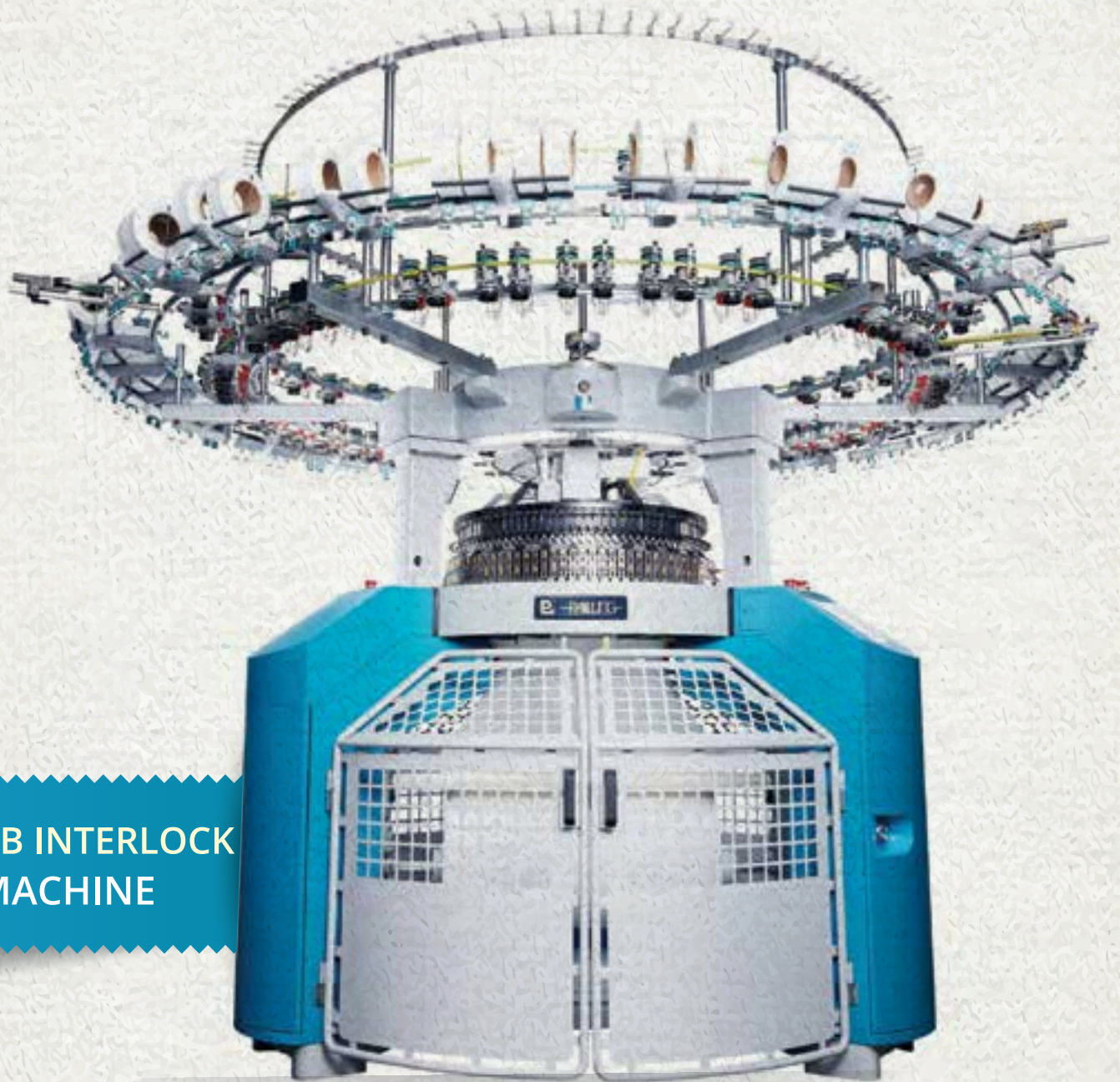
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 Hotline : 01713 008 736

Md. Shah Alam
 Cell : +880 171-309-2819, E-mail : salam@tex-excel.com
 Khondakar Ashraful Islam
 Cell : +880 171-309-2805, E-mail : ashraf@tex-excel.com

Bangladesh should focus on knit fabric innovation to be competitive in the global market

**Engr. Rashed Ahmed, Assistant General Manager (knitting and planning),
Aswad Composite Mills Ltd (Palmal Group)**

The garments industry, as well as the textile industry, is passing turbulent time. If we shed lights on our garments manufacturing unit we can easily observe the immense challenge they are facing.

Out of the whole industry, alone the garments manufacturing segment is finding it hard to sustain in market because the buyers are continuously reducing the CM of garments due to an increase in the global competition in the fashion industry.

And garments manufacturers are failing to acquire profitability because they need to outsource everything from suppliers, making their profit margin scarce.

To sustain and gain upper hand in the international market, a fully capable backward linkage sector is must. Which will give the whole textile and apparel industry the ultimate lifeline, as not only it will reduce cost and save hard-earned foreign currency also will give our manufacturers edge over international hegemony on the supply chain and will keep them competitive in the market.

Fabric cost makes 60% of a garment, which is critical to ensure low-cost and profitability. And our textiles mills are passing a hard time due to several challenges – illegal fabric dumping by India, China, energy price hike, increased labor wage, etc. – and hindering a proper local fabric supply, leading



Figure: Manufacturers must focus on specially designed fabric innovation rather than basic.

Still, Bangladeshi garments exporter thinks Bangladesh is not suitable for special fabric production due to quality issues. If we give 60% money of garments to foreign suppliers, then how will the Bangladesh garments industry survive?

to fabric outsourcing.

Textile experts always emphasize that fabric is the

heart of garments. Without fabric profitability as well as sustainability garments business is quite challenging.

Buyers are focusing on special fabric and special styling to stay afloat in the market as because without value-added fashionable products extinction is inevitable.

Meaning as manufacturers, we must focus on specially designed fabric innovation rather than basic. Which also increases profitability and gives us an edge over Bangladesh's competitors.

China is reducing its basic garments as well as regular fabric production, sensing the market shift. They are selling special fabrics to other countries, as without fabric innovation it is not possible to sustain in international

garments business.

So why not we are taking the opportunity to get the business of value-added fabric whereas we have lots of talented experienced and skilled textile engineers to develop top-notch innovative fabric.

Still, Bangladeshi garments exporter thinks Bangladesh is not suitable for special fabric production due to quality issues. If we give 60% money of garments to foreign suppliers, then how will the Bangladesh garments industry survive?

So it's high time to save our garments by innovating special fabric. Some of the leading factories of Bangladesh textile industry already have taken measures to create a strong research and development department, and they are doing brilliantly.

If we invest in R&D definitely we can catch more orders from where we



can get more profit than producing the basic fabric. Also innovation of design fabric is not costly always if we use skilled people then the ultimate output will come.

Few buyers have already declared that Bangladesh is quite better than the other Asian countries for fleece fabric development and production. Now Bangladeshi exporters are getting benefits (much profitability coming from

those garments as they are using local innovative fabric) of that fleece fabric innovation. At the same time, they are innovating huge specialized fabric also.

There is no alternative of fabric innovation to keep our garments business alive in international garments business. We must have to focus on innovation of knit fabric to catch the special garments order rather than basic fabric.

T-shirts become top export earner surpassing trousers

BTT Business Report

In the fiscal year 2018-19, T-shirt was the top export item among basic garments, according to Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) data. Bangladesh fetched \$7.01 billion from T-shirt export in the FY19.

Thanks to the ongoing trade war between the US and China as buyers are shifting orders from China to Bangladesh.

Also, the value-addition by the manufacturers - like using of manmade fibers, embroidery, designed yarn, washing, printing and other accessories to T-shirts - helped them to secure more orders.

The industry experts opined that it is a positive sign for the country's top foreign currency earning sector. As the value addition is working fine.



The data from BGMEA showed, trousers, once the top earner, earned US\$6.93 billion, jacket US\$4.38 billion, sweater US\$4.25 billion and shirt US\$2.32 billion in the FY19.

Eng. Mohammad Mezbah Uddin, Executive Director of T&M Sourcing said, "T-shirts export is increasing as diversified T-shirt is being produced by our manufacturers. They are making value-added T-shirts using latest printing technology like

functional T-shirt, reflective T-shirt, perfume T-shirt, etc."

Washing is the latest phenomenon taking place in local RMG manufacturing and also bringing higher value, which helps getting a better

price but it is now used in T-shirt manufacturing.

However, per unit price of a T-shirt hasn't increased much in contrast to the value-addition.

"Mainly our negotiation skill is so poor that we cannot make a win-win situation negotiating with buyers. Another point I want to mention that our production cost is increasing rapidly, which is one of the major reasons behind our low-profit margin," said Mezbah Uddin.



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Critical Components

UNITEX or United Texmac Pte Ltd is a Singapore company specializing in the manufacturing of premium circular knitting machines, which was established in Singapore since 1996.

Ever since the company's incorporation, our top management has been actively marketing our products in the Indian and Bangladesh market by frequent customers visits, building strong bonds and friendships over two or more generations.

"I am always directly in touch with the customers, knowing their challenges and trying our best to continuously value add on our products to ensure our customers stay competitive and relevant in the market", said Mr Benny Pua, our Managing Director.

Over the years, we strive to understand our customer's vision and have managed to grow together with our customers as we continue the journey to mutual success.

The first Unitex machines that have been installed in 1996 can still be found in operation. We have been sustaining a service center for more than 20 years and thoroughly implementing a sales network through whole India.

Until today Unitex is completely in line with latest market demand, and we have become the market leader for fleece machines.

Our customers have been using Unitex circular knitting machines over decades and are satisfied with the performance. Unitex has been right there, supporting projects locally in India and Bangladesh wherever and whenever needed. Unitex is known for unfailing service and became preferred supplier and greatly appreciated for the efficiency in providing value for money products and services.

By 2018, we have been installing more than 8000 machines in India and Bangladesh, and these markets can be considered as our key markets.



How to start a t-shirt business?

Brittany Waddell, Media Specialist

Starting a t-shirt business is an excellent way to make not only a side income but potentially a full-time income. There are many steps that should be followed to ensure a t-shirt business's success.

This article will detail the steps necessary to start a t-shirt business in terms of what is necessary to have on hand, important considerations one needs to take, and what one wants to avoid throughout the process of starting this business.

Creating t-shirt design and test it

When designing a t-shirt, the maker wants to make sure that the design resonates with the public and niche he is marketing to. The best way to figure this out is by testing several designs and creating several logos and artwork for t-shirts.

Making sure to place an emphasis on the quality of t-shirt design. People want to buy a t-shirt that has high-resolution images. The color and size of the image are also important when creating a design. The dimensions of the design, as well as the dpi (dots per inch), are vital to the final product.

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The manufacturer may want to consider hiring a designer who has experienced in creating high-quality designs. A designer will be familiar with programs such as Photoshop and they will know how to format designs specifically for printing on t-shirts.

There are many freelance websites available such as Fiverr.com with designers who are always creating amazing work. A great way to decide on which design maker wants to use is to hire more than one designer (if this is within the

budget).

By doing this, it is possible to see which designer really understands the concept to display on a t-shirt. In doing this, you will establish a relationship with a designer and may want to hire them to help you design more t-shirts in the future.

Remember, you have to stay away from using any images or designs that are copyrighted or trademarked. For example, you are not allowed to use the Nike or Adidas logo on your t-shirts since you do not own the rights to any of their logos or designs. There are serious consequences in trying to profit from designs that are not yours. So, the best option is to create original and unique designs.

2. Create a business name and a business plan

The name of your business should reflect your t-shirts. If your business is specifically appealing to cat owners, then it would not be very wise to design t-shirts that have puppies on them. When creating a business name, a good idea would be to sit down and brainstorm the intent of the business and who your target audience is.

You can look at other business names that are already established and relate to your business, to get an idea of the name you want to create. If you are completely stuck on a name for your business, there are business name generator websites which will generate a name for your business based on the keywords that you provide.

Make sure that you check the availability of your business name by going on to websites such as the Trademark Electronic Search System. Also, do a Google search to ensure that no other businesses are already using the name that you are interested in.

If your first choice for a business is not available, consider using a hyphen or an abbreviation for the business. You can also use a .net for your business if

.com is not available. Another excellent website you can use is Namecheckr.com which allows you to see if your business name is available as a .com as well as if it is available on social media platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, YouTube, etc.

Now that you have your business name, it is time to create a business plan.

Your business plan should include the following:

- a description of the product you will be selling
- your ideal target market and audience and
- your financial sales goals

3. Obtain permits, trademarks, copyrights, and licenses

The first thing you want to do is to register your business with your state and local government. You may want to register your business as an LLC for the protection and benefits it provides to a small business. If you plan to do business in multiple states, you may need to register with each state. You will need to also obtain a retail business license to sell trademarked goods.

By acquiring a resale license, your business will be able to purchase clothing from the clothing distributor without having to pay sales tax. In this case, your business will collect the sales tax when you resell the clothing. Make sure that you have the necessary permits if you plan to hold a large stock of clothing. You will need to check local ordinances and lease requirements.

A federal tax ID number may be beneficial to your business if you plan on having employees. You will need to get your Employer Identification Number (EIN). The IRS' assistance tool is a great resource to guide you through the entire process.

4. Price your T-shirts

Before pricing your t-shirts, you need to know your business

If you are running your t-shirt company online, then you will have to factor in the cost of your web presence. You will need money to start the website and to pay for things such as search engine optimization to ensure reaching a large audience. If you are using a third party such as Shopify or Etsy to help facilitate sales, make sure you are aware of their seller fees and monthly service fees for using their platforms.

expenses. There are a lot of fixed costs related to starting your t-shirt business. For example, knowing the cost of rent, utilities, keeping lights on, etc. if you are running it out of your home or office space. A physical location for your business will typically have higher costs than running your business solely online.

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You will also need to purchase several of your t-shirts to make sure they look the way you want

the customer to receive them. The amount of money you pay for your t-shirts will depend on the size, a number of colors, and the designs it has. You will also need to feature the quality of the t-shirt you use and the type of printing you choose. This will give you an idea of how much you want to charge for your t-shirts as you get a good profit.

5. Select a printer

In terms of inventory, you want to make sure that you know how you will create and source your t-shirts. In the beginning, you can find a local printing business to get an idea of what is the best look for your t-shirts in terms of printing. This can be expensive when you receive an increase in orders and sales. You may need to find a vendor that will sell your shirts in bulk. There are many types of printing options available such as screen printing, heat transfer, and direct-to-garment.

Screen printing is great for putting out a large volume and quantity of t-shirts; however, screen printing is limited in terms of complex, colorful images.

Heat transfer is another t-shirt printing method which you are able to print on demand. Heat transfer can produce t-shirts of lower quality and you can expect to pay an upfront cost for the heat press.

Direct to garment allows for a large variety of color options and great detail although it is not recommended for large volume orders. There are also a number of online printing resources such as cafepress.com, screened.com, spreadshirt.com, teespring.com, teezilly.com, and zazzle.com.

6. Market and sell your t-shirts

It is important to create buzz and excitement around your product. It is important to think of your target audience. How old are your buyers? What is the gender of your buyers? Where do your buyers hang out? What social media platforms do your buyers use? Knowing the answers to these questions will help

you to sell your t-shirts.

Once you have a range of t-shirts and a website, you are able to make several phone calls and network to increase sales. Make several phone calls per day to get people to your website and generate interest in your products. Consider creating blog posts related to your t-shirt line to draw more individuals to your website.

Use as many social media platforms as necessary that are related to your target audience and post frequently. Wear your t-shirts in public and create business cards as an interested person can easily buy your t-shirt. Another option is to bring your

Use as many social media platforms as necessary that are related to your target audience and post frequently. Wear your t-shirts in public and create business cards as an interested person can easily buy your t-shirt.

t-shirts to craft fairs or local fairs in your community and learn how to set up a booth for your products. It is always a great idea to utilize both technology and traditional methods when marketing your t-shirts.

In terms of selling your t-shirts, there are several print-on-demand websites where you can sell your t-shirts, or you can sell t-shirts on your own website. Using Shopify, Etsy or Amazon are good ways to start selling your t-shirts. Once you have decided on a name for your business, you may want to also register a domain name and create a website. Selling your t-shirts on your own website allows you to have more control over the sales.

7. Manage business finances and taxes

It is important to keep your business records in order. Here are records to keep:

- Receipts
- Bank and credit card statements
- Bills
- Invoices
- Proof of payments
- Financial statements from an online service or your bookkeeper
- Previous tax returns
- Canceled checks

It may be wise to invest in digital file storage of your records so that you do not lose any important documents and information. Three digital platforms you can consider: ShoeBoxed.com, FileThis.com, and Expensify. ShoeBoxed digitally organizes information by allowing you to scan receipts. File This automatically gathers information from electronic documents and Expensify allows you to scan and email receipts to create simple expense reports.

An income statement is important for your business since it breaks down your business' income into expenses and revenue.

Gross profit is the amount of money you are bringing from a specific product or t-shirt. If your gross profit is low, you may want to consider increasing the price of each t-shirt sold. Once your business expands and grows larger, you will want to consult with a CPA and even consider hiring a bookkeeper to manage the organization of your business records.

Author



Brittany Waddell
Public Relations Specialist



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Hengliang textile, as a national knitting denim product development base enterprise, after more than ten years of growth and development, has become a number of domestic and foreign clothing brands designated fabric suppliers.

Company equipped with rope dyeing production line, imported circular knitting machine, high speed warp knitting machine, finish line, and other knitted denim production equipment, dyeing, weaving and finishing of knitted denim comprehensive management and production, have professional scale.

Company produces 5000 tons of hengliang brand knitted denim corn yarns, 8,500 tons of hengliang brand knitted denim fabrics, and 2.5 million pieces of knitted denim garments annually. The company's main customer base at present is throughout Europe, America and southeast Asia, enjoying a good reputation in the denim industry and fast fashion brands at home and abroad.



Indigo knit



Knit printing



Colorful knit denim



Cotton warp knitting



JIANGYIN HENGLIANG TEXTILE CO., LTD

House: NO. 83 YunGu Road, Zhouzhuang, Jiangyin City, Jiangsu Province, China. T: +86-0510-86155677 E: sales@knitdenim.com

Researchers explore automated 3D knitting

Desk Report

Researchers from MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) have come up with an approach to streamline the knitting process: a new system and design tool for automating knitted garments.

In one paper, a team of researchers created a system called 'InverseKnit' that converts photos of knitted patterns into instructions that are then used with machines to make clothing.

Even the casual users could create designs without a memory bank of coding knowledge, and most importantly, eliminate the issues of less efficiency and waste in manufacturing, MIT researchers explained.

"As far as machines and knitting go, this type of system could change accessibility for people looking to be the designers of their own items," says Alexandre Kaspar, CSAIL Ph.D. student.

"We want to let casual users get access to machines without needed programming expertise, so they can reap the benefits of customization by making use of machine learning for design and manufacturing," Alexandre added.

InverseKnit

To get InverseKnit active and running, the team first created a dataset of knitting instructions, and the matching images of those patterns. Then trained their deep neural network on that data to interpret the 2-D knitting instructions from images.

When testing InverseKnit, the team found that it produced accurate instructions 94% percent of the time.

"Current state-of-the-art computer



Figure 1: Researchers at MIT demonstrated gloves fabricated by a system for automating knitted garments. Courtesy: MIT CSAIL

vision techniques are data-hungry, and they need many examples to model the world effectively," says Jim McCann, assistant professor in the Carnegie Mellon Robotics Institute.

Jim McCann further added, "With InverseKnit, the team collected an immense dataset of knit samples that, for the first time, enables modern computer vision techniques to be used to recognize and parse knitting patterns."

The team tested the usability of CADKnit by having non-expert users create patterns for their



Figure 1: Researchers at MIT demonstrated gloves fabricated by a system for automating knitted garments. Courtesy: MIT CSAIL

garments and adjust the size and shape. In post-test surveys, the users said they found it easy to manipulate and customize their socks or beanies, successfully fabricating multiple knitted samples.

They noted that lace patterns were tricky to design correctly and would benefit from fast realistic simulation.

However, the system is only a first step towards full garment customization. The authors found that garments with complicated interfaces between different parts - such as sweaters -- didn't work well with the design tool.

The trunk of sweaters and sleeves can be connected in various ways, and the software didn't yet have a way of describing the whole design space for that.

Furthermore, the current system can only use one yarn for a shape, but the team hopes to improve this by introducing a stack of yarn at each stitch. To enable work with more complex patterns and larger shapes, the researchers plan to use hierarchical data structures that don't incorporate all stitches, just the necessary ones.

Potato starch based warp yarn sizing: New ray of hope for the rural farmers of Bangladesh

Fahmida Faiza Fahmi, Bangladesh University of Textiles (BUTEX)

Shilpi Akter, Associate Professor, Bangladesh University of Textiles (BUTEX)

Md. Obaydul Hoque, Proprietor, Fashion Bangla

1. Abstract: Potato starch a promising sizing material, is unable to get its proper concentration in textile industry as because Bangladesh uses only few amount of imported potato starch for delicate yarn sizing which is costly. But Bangladesh can easily produce good quality potato starch domestically for the textile weaving sector in order to create a new market and replace existing starch market. As well as by using domestically produced starch, a new ray of hope and happiness can be created for the rural potato farmers. This can be one of the simplest way of making surplus potatoes more value added.

2. Introduction: World's 2nd largest textile producing country (Latifee, 2016) is quite lagging in woven production and export. Only 35% export oriented woven fabrics are produced in Bangladesh and the rest of the fabrics are imported. (Subrata, 2013) Effective sizing process can improve the scenario as sizing is known as the heart of weaving. Nowadays potato starch is getting more popularity as an effective sizing material worldwide. The global potato starch market is anticipated to reach a volume of 4.20 Million Tons by 2022, growing at a CAGR of nearly 3% during 2017-2022. (DUBLIN, Jan. 4, 2018) According to the statistical data, Bangladesh already imported higher amount of starches and residue of starches till June 2018 (fiscal year 2017-18).

Product	Trade Value (thousands)	Share (%)	Growth (% 5yrs)
Starches	6,814	0.02	334.56
Residues of Starch	852	0.00	0.00

(Top Products Imported by Bangladesh, June 2018)

Though Bangladesh is also exporting some raw potatoes and starch but the total amount are not significant enough to create impact on total economy. Till 2018 (fiscal year 2017-18), import statistics can be like:

Product	Trade Value (thousands)	Share (%)	Growth (% 5yrs)
Potatoes	1,596	0.00	963.64
Starches	41	0.00	0.00

(Top Products Exported by Bangladesh, June 2018)

Using locally produced potato starch as a sizing material can be a very good replacement according to the prospective of Bangladesh. Rate of potato production is quite higher in Bangladesh. Each and every year huge amount of potato remains unsold and became wastage. These potatoes can be used effectively for starch production.

In 2017 fiscal year total amount of potato production was 10 million ton (Bangladesh expects huge potato surplus due to increased supply and sluggish demand, 2017) where total demand of potato was around 7 million ton. (Zaman, 2017) So, 3 million ton of potatoes of 44 varieties remain as surplus amount (Potato Production in Bangladesh hits all-time high, 2016). Scenario of economic status related with potato production in 2017 can be like:

Reason	Problem	Quantity of Potato	Economic value
Surplus of Potato	Wastage	2 Million Ton	More Than 2000 Crore BDT (If Per Kg Potato is 10 BDT)
Surplus/ Greedy Mindset of Middlemen	Price of potato falls down in storage gate.	3.3 Million Ton	Around 1360 Crore BDT (If loss per Kg Potato is 5TK in storage gate)
Overall Loss: More Than 3300 Crore BDT			

2.1. Objectives of the study:

- To extract starch from potatoes
- To analyze its performance as a standard natural sizing chemical.
- To analyze feasibility of potato starch as a sizing material
- To analyze sizing market scenario

The project has five parts. Firstly the present market analysis. Then, the process or methodology of execution will be described. Next, the properties of potato starch as a size material will be explained. Then the feasibility comes forward and the paper concludes with the further scopes and possibility description.

3. Methodology of the project:

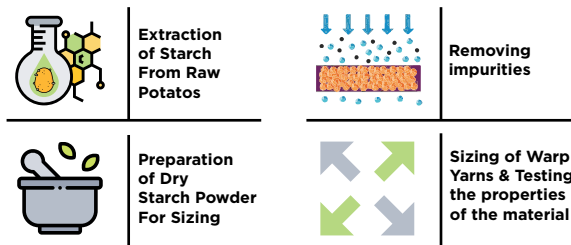
The whole Project can be divided into 4 steps as-

- Initial idea generation
- Product development
- Experimental data analysis
- Feasibility analysis

3.1. Initial idea generation: Bangladesh is wasting potato drastically from last several years as because of its surplus production. Potato farmers become frustrated and loss their interest in potato production. Sometimes they are planning to keeping their land vacant instead of potato cultivation. If this project works then it can ensure the happiness of the rural farmers as potato will get its market back and on the other hand woven manufacturers will also become happy as they can use their local potato starch on low price.

3.2. Product development:

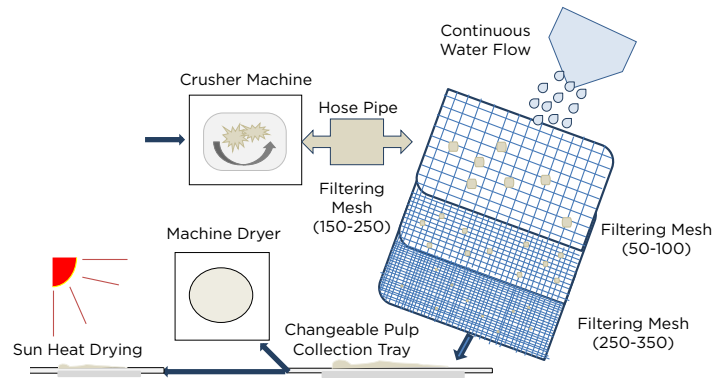
Procedure of starch extraction from raw potatoes are described below:



Around 5-6kg of potatoes will require to extract 1kg of dry starch powder.

Potato starch extraction machine design: Manual extraction of potato starch is quite time consuming and difficult. In order to ensure bulk production below type machines can be use with a very easy operating mechanism.

Sizing of warp yarn: After preparing dry starch powder, sizing can be done by using that starch powder. Generally three different types of sizing



recipe can be followed for commercial warp yarn sizing; light, pure, medium & heavy sizing. In this project pure sizing recipe was followed.

Recipe of pure sizing:

Sizing Recipe:	Sizing Ingredients:
Water: 85%	
Total sizing ingredients: 15%	Starch: 100 lbs
	Clay: 34lbs
	Tallow: 15lbs
	MgCl ₂ : 1 gallon
	ZnCl ₂ : ½ gallon

3.3.Result & discussion:

Sizing chemicals must have to show some properties, so that it can be accepted widely into the commercial market for sizing. Evaluation of potato starch as a sizing material is described below:



Property	Result
Visual Appearance	Solid Powder Form
Color	Pure White
Size Pick Up %	18.6%
General pH Value	6.6 ~ 7.0 (Neutral)
Transparency of size solution	Liquid Colorless
Odor	Very Slight
Desizing Procedure	Slight Alkaline Wash.
Film Property	Non-Stiff starch film with good elasticity.
Adhesive Property	Very good

• Determination of starch content percentage:

Total starch content present in grams per kilogram of diamond potato extracted solid powder is calculated below:

According to ISO 6493, starch content of a test sample can be calculate by this equation,
 $w = 20000/(a^2D^0) \times [(2.5a_1)/m_1 - (5a_2)/m_2]$



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Here, w = numerical value of starch content (in grams per kilogram)

a_1 = numerical value of total optical rotation (in degree's) of HCl soluble substances = 53.4°

a_2 = numerical value of total optical rotation (in degree's) of ethanol soluble substances = 18.70°

m_1 = numerical value of the mass (in grams) of the test portion for the determination of optical rotation after adding HCl = 2.5+2.5g = 5g

m_2 = numerical value of the mass (in grams) of the test portion for the determination of optical rotation after adding Ethanol = 2.5+2.5g = 5g

a^2D^0 = numerical value of the specific optical rotation (in degree's)

For potato starch a^2D^0 = 185.7°

According to the equation, total content of starch in diamond potato extracted powder is 861.6 gm per kilogram. So, starch percentage will be 86.16%.

Total percentage of starch in extracted powder can vary according to the variation of potatoes.

• Appearance/ hairiness of yarn after sizing: Potato starch coated the warp yarn excellently after sizing. Coating property of potato starch based sizing material is quite impressive as like commercial starch (i.e. corn starch) even by accurate sizing procedure it can show much better properties than compared to corn starch.



• Viscosity of the sizing solution: Another important factor for good sizing is maintenance of proper viscosity in the sizing solution. If viscosity of the solution is too low then size materials will lose its ability of coating protruding fibers. Again if viscosity of solution becomes too much then sizing property also be hampered.

Corn starch based sizing solution	Potato starch based sizing solution
Viscosity: 130 mPas	Viscosity: 225 mPas
Temp: 25.60C to 25.80C	Full Scale Percentage: 59.3% Temp: 30.30C to 30.20C

Table 4.2: Comparison of Viscosity between Corn & Potato Based Sizing Solution

Viscosity of potato starch based sizing solution is slightly more than the viscosity of corn starch based

sizing solution. But, viscosity of potato starch based sizing solution is controllable. By using less amount of potato starch good label of viscosity can be observed as potato starch shows very good adhesive property.

• Effect on yarn strength & elongation after sizing:

Potato starch ensures good strength and elongation property of yarn after sizing. According to strength and elongation test method ASTM D2256-10 effect of potato starch based sizing on cotton yarn shown below:

Property	Before Sizing of Yarn	After Sizing of Yarn
Mean Elongation %	6.1%	6.8%
Mean Breaking Strength	555.3 CN	618.4 CN

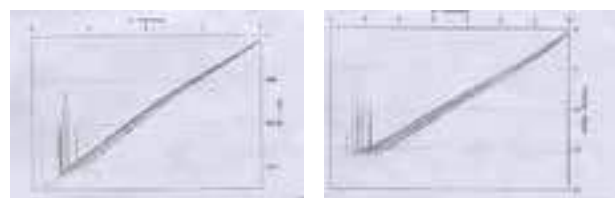
Ratio of strength and elongation of sized and unsized yarn can be describe precisely by below table and chart:

Specimen No. (Yarn)	Breaking Force (cN) of Sized Yarn	Breaking Force (cN) of Un-sized Yarn	Ratio of Breaking Force Sized/ Un-sized	Elongation At Break (%) of Sized Yarn	Elongation At Break (%) of Un-sized Yarn	Ratio of Elongation At Break (%) Sized/ Un-sized
01	639.66	568.17	1.126	6.93	6.15	1.127
02	598.48	533.66	1.121	6.42	5.79	1.109
03	578.76	557.46	1.038	6.48	6.27	1.033
04	676.81	551.55	1.227	7.66	6.12	1.252
05	585.74	532.65	1.100	6.09	6.06	1.005
06	614.45	558.94	1.099	6.74	6.00	1.123
07	616.82	562.20	1.097	7.03	6.29	1.118
08	605.96	569.48	1.064	6.82	6.51	1.048
09	625.39	568.34	1.100	6.98	5.85	1.193
10	641.70	550.17	1.166	7.11	5.77	1.232
Mean	618.38	555.26	1.114	6.83	6.08	1.123
Standard Deviation	29.18	13.43		0.4329	0.2372	
Coefficient of var.	4.72%	2.42%		6.34%	3.90%	

Graphical representation of result:

• After sizing:

• Before sizing:



• Effect on yarn count after sizing: Potato starch based sizing increase yarn diameter as because of the protective sizing layer. As a result of potato sizing yarns of 35.9 Tex increased into 41.6 Tex.

• Cost feasibility: Usually Bangladesh uses imported potato starch which is quite costly (Approx 120-150 BDT per kg). But the cost of locally produced potato starch is cheaper than the imported one, in fact it's also cheaper than the market rate of another widely

used starch powder “corn starch”.

According to the table, cost of producing per kg potato starch is approx. 77.2 BDT which is around 30-40% cheaper than the market price. If selling price of per kg starch will be 90 BDT (around 13 BDT profit per kg), even then the price will be minimum 30-60 BDT lower than the market price. In this cost estimation, market price of potato is estimated. But if potato can be collected directly from farmers price will decrease minimum 40%-50% in per kg of potato. On that case, price will be reduce more.

Ingredients	Amount	Cost
Raw Material (Potato)	5-6 Ton	60000 BDT
Manpower (2 girls 3 boys) For the whole Process line	Girls Per shift Salary 400 BDT each. Boys Per Shift Salary 800 BDT each.	$(400 \times 2) + (800 \times 3) = 800 + 2400 = 3200$ BDT
Electricity Charge	Per Shift	2000BDT
Labor Cost & Transportation Cost	5-6 Ton Potato	Per Kg Potato=2 BDT 6 Ton Potato=12000BDT
Total Cost of Per Ton Starch Processing		77200 BDT
Total Cost Per Kg of Starch Processing		$(77200/1000) = 77.2$ BDT

4.3. Discussion & implementation:

According to the properties and test results, it can be stated that potato starch can be used as a sizing material. It complies with almost all properties of a standard sizing material. It shows good strength, elongation, etc properties which are mandatory for weaving as well as potato starch is completely

sustainable and environment friendly as a chemical.

Implementation of potato starch can be done initially in a small scale to experiment the commercial acceptance of the material. Residual potato pulp can be used in chips industry as a low carbohydrate containing crunchy chips.

4.4. Limitations & further scope:

There are still a lot of scopes to accomplish work on this issue. Potato starch have to be evaluated from each and every possible aspects before initializing its use as a commercial starch. Due to time shortage various processes couldn't be executed in a proper way. Futher scopes of study can be as follows:

- Determination of weaveability of yarns sized by potato starch.
- Detail comparison among commercially used starchs like corn starch, maze starch etc. with potato starch.
- Properties of potato sized yarn when it sized with other sizing recipes like light sizing, medium sizing, heavy sizing etc.
- Market analysis and feasibility study of locally produced potato starch.
- Study about the detailed process of potato starch production. Etc.

4. Conclusion:

Potato starch based sizing material is a technique which

can be an effective solution of surplus of potato production. It can help the raw potato farmers who lost their hope of profit. It can save the cost of imported potato based starch material. Effectiveness of potato starch based sizing material is quite similar with the commercially usable starchs. But by using this method, Bangladesh can make a new ray of hope which will make bridge between the textile and agriculture sector of the country. It is not impossible that, near future Bangladesh will also establish it's name as a potato starch exporting country. Most important thing is this technique can make the raw farmers happy who are the actual hero of Bangladesh.

This research is supported by Dysin



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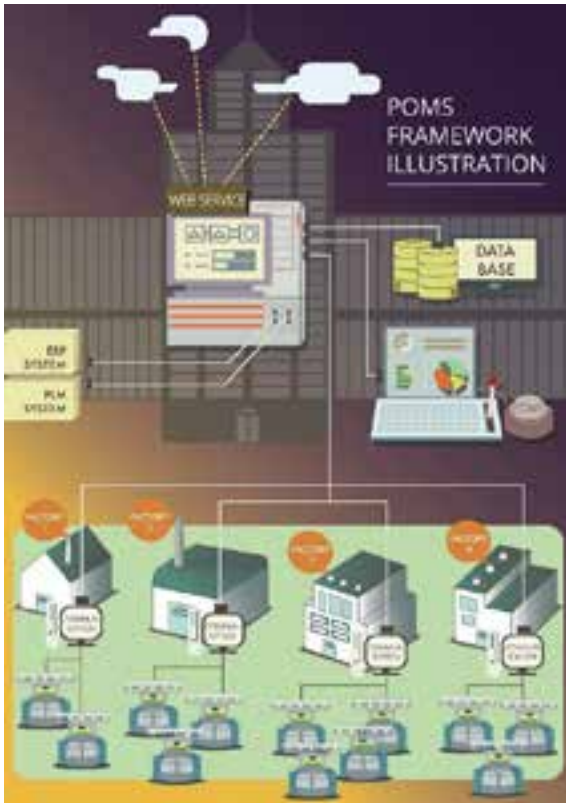
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Pailung offers intelligent knitting software Manufacturing Execution System (MES)

Pailung Story



Knitting 4.0

Traditionally, machine adjustments, such as machine synchronization and fabric order change, could

only be adjusted manually. Not only are manual adjustments labor- and time-intensive — not to mention costly — they also cannot guarantee flawless quality, and rely heavily on the skill of sophisticated technicians.

Manufacturing Execution System (MES), on the other hand, is made for smart knitting. This intelligent knitting software digitizes and standardizes all knitting processes and synchronizes each machine with knitting parameters and working orders, and also enables fabric repetition with an error rate below 1%. Furthermore, MES enables manufacturers to transition to fully intelligent knitting and integrate an Industry 4.0 manufacturing system to their production ecosystem — giving manufacturers

the tools to adopt big data analysis and centrally execute all commands for knitting production.

Why Choose MES

Perfect repetition

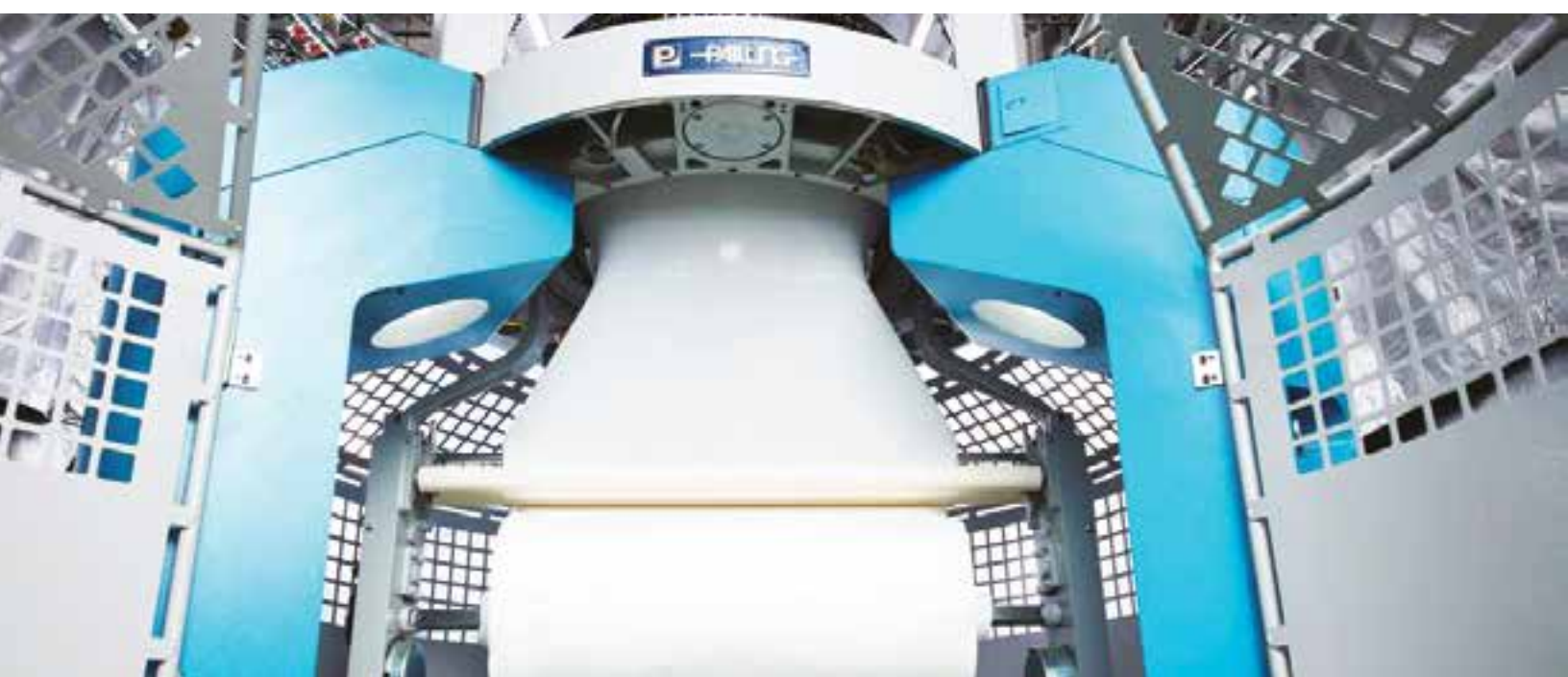
By digitizing all knitting parameters and mechanical operations, MES enables the machine to repeat fabrics with an error rate below 1% — significantly reducing defect rate, human error, and labor costs.

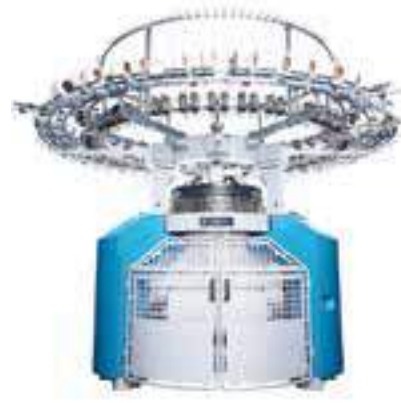
Efficient adjustments

By implementing MES, manufacturers can reduce the time needed to tune and mass-synchronize machines by a staggering 70% and 80%, respectively — offering exceptional cost-savings and streamlining production lines.

POMS-powered support

POMS efficiently manages and allocates machines and resources, helping reduce costs and enhance efficiency. Armed with POMS, manufacturers would be able to completely understand material allocation, material consumption efficiency, and even labor assignment — offering a fully comprehensive knitting technology solution.





MES Execution Info

	1%
--	----

MES Adjustment Item

Item	Device
Stitch	Electronic Central Stitch Control
Timing	Electronic Sinker Timing Control
Yarn Length	Electronic Tape Speed Control

POMS	
Features	<p>Real-time monitoring: Monitor knitting machine operation in real time that includes RPM, productivity, errors, and efficiency, etc.</p> <p>Collecting & storing data: Data includes knitting parameter, machine parameter, yarns info, and cam arrangement, etc.</p> <p>Working order management: Record order, working order, knitting machine, and fabric info.</p> <p>Schedule management: Arrange working order in a production. When an order has been completed, the next working order and machine adjustment parameters could be started by pressing update info button.</p> <p>Report generation: It builds reports that provide info regarding efficiency, productivity, and errors, if any.</p> <p>Machine: Knitting parameters and machine parameters will be transmitted to a knitting machine to start a production based on the working schedule.</p> <p>API: The application interface is used as the info exchange. For example, users could get the real-time status of machines, productivity, errors, etc. It is ok for users sending working orders and fabric info with their own format into POMS through API.</p>
Computer Specifications	<p>OS: Win Server 2016 Standard (64bit) and above CPU: Intel(R) Xeon(R) E3-1225v5 @ 3.30GHz and above RAM: 16GB and above HD: 500GB and above IIS: v10.0 and above SQL Server: 2016 Standard (64bit) and above .Net Framework: 4.5 and above Network Port: 2 Protocol: TCP/IP (RJ45)</p>
Host Requirements	<p>At least 2 hosts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used as communication hosts with knitting machines (Add 1 host for every 60 machines). • Used as a database. <p>POMS application could be installed in any machine (system requires Win7)</p>
KFMS	
Features	<p>Yarn management: Manage and record brands, materials, and stock of yarns.</p> <p>Knitting machine management: Record knitting specification, includes model, size, gauge, and feeder number.</p> <p>Design parameter storage: Record pattern photo, cam arrangement, and designer.</p> <p>Fabric production info: Record all the production info that fabrics go through, includes yarn type, greige, knitting parameter, machine parameter, info of dyeing and finishing, and test info.</p> <p>Post-processing: Record every post-processing that has been done, includes dyeing, finishing, fabric setting, and brushing, etc.</p>
Computer Specifications	<p>OS: WINDOWS 10 (64bit) CPU: Intel® Core™ i3-2100 3.10GHZ and above RAM: 8GB and above HD: 500GB and above</p>
Host Requirements	<p>At least 1 hosts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used as a database (if POMS database host is required, it could be shared). <p>KFMS application could be installed in any computer (system requires Win 7)</p>

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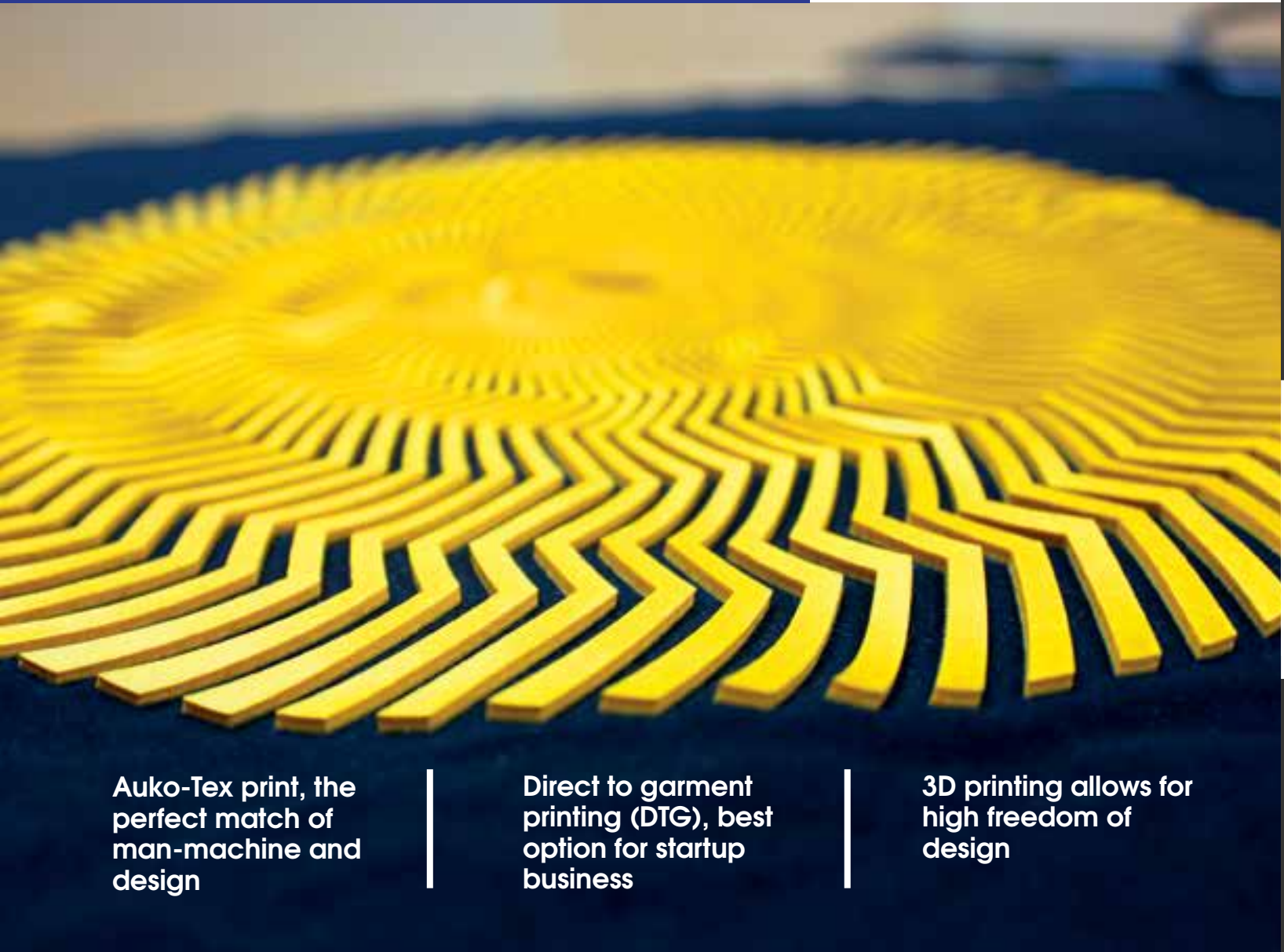
Printing Today

Unveiling industry best practices

Screen to digital printing

September 2019

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Printing Today
September 2019

Auko-Tex print, the perfect match of man-machine and design

Direct to garment printing (DTG), best option for startup business

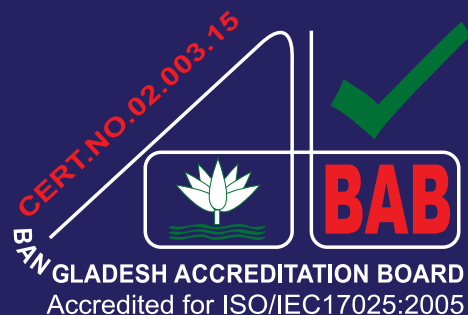
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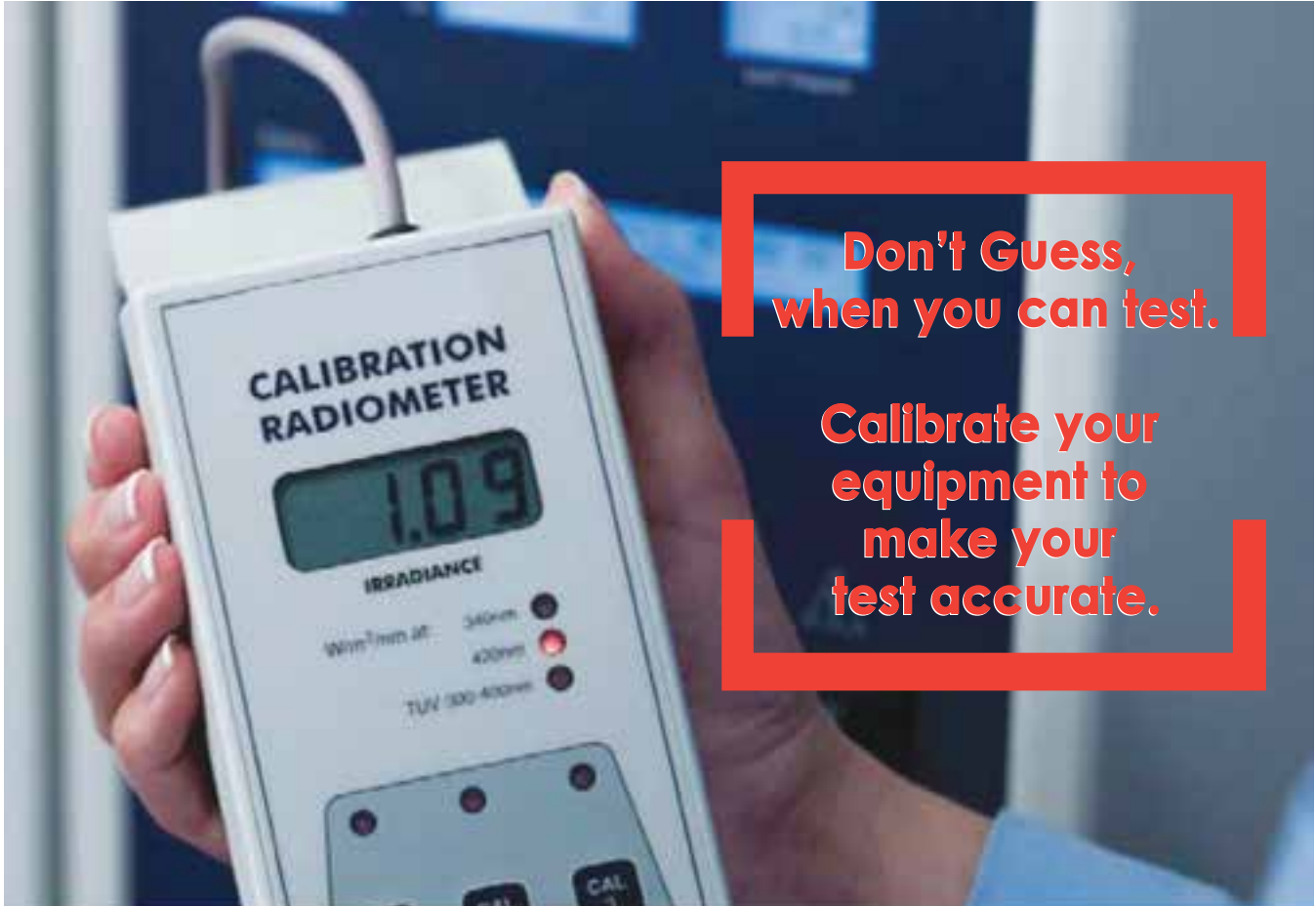


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Direct to garment printing (DTG), best option for startup business

Mohammad Nurul Alam

Young people dream to be an entrepreneur. Direct to garment printing (DTG) is one of the lucrative business ideas for a new entrepreneur to start up a new business. As this business model require relatively low investment, less space. So it is not necessary to wait for the matured age to start any business rather they can sow the seeds of opportunity today.

This is the best method of trendy and demanding T-shirt printing with colorful designs for small lots like 100 pieces. Modern technology makes the business easy if they want to boost up their success.

What is 'Direct to Garment' printing (DTG)?

In the process of digitization, the old and traditional printing methods are declining in the printing industry gradually. Direct to garment printing (DTG) is a new process of printing on textile materials in an automatic process by a specialized printer.

In other words, the technique is an upgraded model of digital printer of printing paper. The only difference is DTG do print on textile material with specialized aqueous inkjet technology (textile inks- water-based chemistry).

Matthew Rhome invented the



Figure 1: Modern technology makes the Direct to Garment printing business easy if a new entrepreneur want to boost up his success.

technique while he was working at DIS of Bradenton, Florida. DTG printer namely 'Revolution' 1st commercially embarked on in 1996. Because of the easy and instant printing process, same to paper print the technique became popular to do T-shirt printing.

Furthermore, DTG is the go-to technique for print when working with complex designs. The artwork can illustrate tiny details and portray an amazing array of colors that can attract young people.

Why DTG can be easier for gathering experience

The inception of a new business sometimes perilous to the young entrepreneurs if they are not experienced enough and fail to choose perfect business model that matches them. Here, investment and gathering experience for the related business can adhere advantage to be a success.

DTG can be the easiest businesses and door opening opportunity. As it is inexpensive to initiate the overall set up. Low cost of the machine and requires less space to start. So, if anyone finds unfit to run the business he can backtrack with little trouble.

The advantages

DTG print technique is more economical, faster and cleaner than that of screenprint methods. This method requires less operating space, with a small initial investment. Designers can create endless masterpieces regardless of the number of colors - without having to create film positives, stretching screens, and using chemicals to reclaim screens.

Since DTG printing is more precise than screen printing, even photographs can be printed with pixel detail. Limitations and design in color are fewer when using a DTG printer.

Furthermore, this set up does not need the additional hand to operate if the person himself is good in design and understand the overall print process.

The business is also suitable, as making a T-shirt is very cheap as Bangladesh has a big market for stock fabric. One can buy the desired fabric and make T-shirts from any local manufacturer and as per demand, size with DTG print.

What is the market size for DTG print?

Young people have a trend to wear a T-shirt where they can write their mind by DTG print. Meaning there is good market size for it. But designs need to be unique and eye-catching for the target market to get a proper entry.

Besides as mentioned before the machine is designed to print a small lot of T-shirts, as there are many occasions, festivals, as well as organizations who need printed T-shirt for their events in a small quantity.

Sometimes NGOs use T-shirt for campaign purpose and provides an opportunity for business..

The process of Direct to Garment printing (DTG)

Pre-treatment: Before printing, a pretreatment process is necessary for textile materials. The pre-treatment is heat-pressed into the custom causing the fibers of the



Figure 2: Trendy and eye-catching designs with details is the killer recipe for Direct to Garment printing to make it a market success.

shirt to lay down. Before that, a liquid spray is required to properly set the ink on the fabric. This pretreatment process will help -

- Strengthening the bond between garment fibers and the pigmented inks
- Pretreatment lays down loose fibers for a smoother substrate
- To create a best chemical reaction with the inks for drying and curing.

Type of fabric: Designed to print directly onto cotton-based shirts, caps, bags, pillowcases, home furnishings etc. As DTG is water-based ink it works better on natural fibers such as cotton, bamboo, hemp, and linen or cotton banded fabric.

Special software to prepare design:

The printer needs special software for designing the artwork and to transfer in a compatible file. This artwork must be saved in at least 300 DPI for better result. When printing on fabric colors other than white, a white underlayer should include in the artwork to allow the colors to pop more.

Setting up garment flat: Before printing the garment most important to lay it completely flat in the printer. This will help to avoid white spaces after printing because a single wrinkle in the wrong place can ruin the entire process.

Start printing: If everything is set and done properly then the process is ready to print a T-shirt. Remember, the printing process should not be done in a hurry otherwise desired print quality

may not be achieved.

Curing after print: As soon print is complete, remove the printed T-shirt from the DTG printer gently and load it onto the heat press platen.

Before the heat-press, a reusable Teflon protective cover sheet has to use on top of the printed garment so that the wet ink will not transfer on the heat press machine and damage the print quality. When the setting is done properly on the pressing specifications then it requires to pull the heat press clamp closed until it's locked.

After the pressing completes on a garment, for a careful measure, a soft finger tap on the printed design is needed to check that the ink has cured completely.

Operational Environment:

Temperature has to be 20 to 30° C (78-86° F), humidity: 40-70% (recommended), electrical: single phase 220V 10% (50/60(Hz. AC); 7 twos maximum. 1 KM.

Wash care: The inks used for DTG are water-based, they can fade a bit after a few washes. Usually, this technique is used to create vintage look T-shirts. So, wash care has to put on each of the printed garment.

Lastly, it can be said once someone completed all the process to start-up business activities for T-shirt printing, he should keep in mind that success doesn't happen overnight. But using the plan and experience anyone can create a consistent business, and definitely, it will increase chances of success.



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Soy printing inks: new era in sustainable chemical for textile industry

Eng. Ahmed Javed Jamal, Head of Technical Operations & Marketing, Silkflex Bangladesh Limited

Introduction

The demand for eco-friendly materials and textiles in recent years has considerably increased and therefore more emphasis is laid on sustainable clothing. It is a known fact that textile industries are causing harm by polluting the environment throughout the world. Hence, it has become crucial for the textile industries all over the world, to switch to sustainable dyes, to ensure least harmful materials are used, while producing clothes.

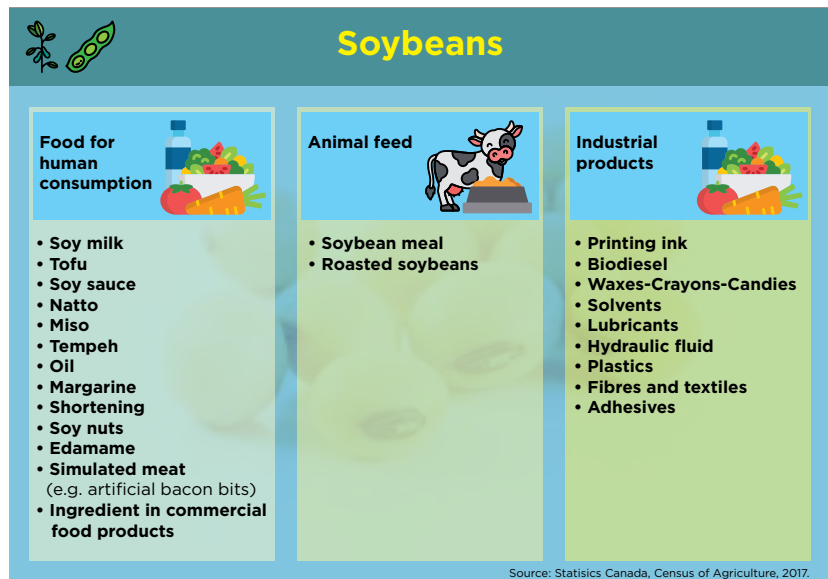
Soy-based ink is an excellent alternative to petroleum or oil-based inks. Soy based inks are already popular in paper industry for versatile paper printing. Recent days, Soy based screen printing inks are also used for fabric printing. Soy based screen printing ink is made from soybean oil that is designed for use on 100% cotton, poly/cotton blends, and untreated 100% nylon fabrics.

Various uses of Soybean

Soybeans are versatile and can be used in a number of different ways. While many of these applications involve the creation of food products, the soybean can also be used for other purposes as well.

The most common use of the soybean is as food for humans. In addition to simply cooking a pot of beans, the soybean can be used to make oil and also to create a finely milled powder that can be used in a wide range of products. Fish products like sardines and tuna are often packaged in the oil as well, since it helps preserve the product with relative ease.

Soybean powder can be used in



a number of dairy alternatives and vegetarian dishes as a means of adding protein to the daily diet. Tofu is a good example of a tasty and nutritious soy product. Soy curd is also processed from the powder and used to create alternatives to various cheese products. Soy milk can also be created using the powder, providing people with dairy allergies a healthy alternative.

Soy based printing ink

Soy ink may be the solution to the environmental health and safety concerns of the printing industry. A new study confirms that soy ink can help to reduce the environmental burden of the printing industry. Soybean oil comes from a renewable source—soybeans. Soybeans are widely available at low cost. Soybean agriculture uses only 0.5 percent of the total energy needed to produce soy ink. Almost half of all soybeans produced in America needs no irrigation. As soybeans

are growing they temporarily remove damaging carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere.

Soy ink is naturally low in VOCs (volatile organic compounds, chemical compounds that evaporate and react to sunlight) and its usage can reduce emissions causing air pollution.

Why Soy based screen printing is popular?

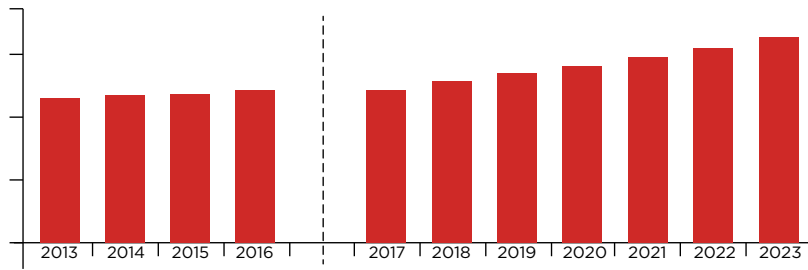
Soy is popular because it is a very stable material that exhibits excellent "wetting" properties which enhance its ability to carry solid pigments and Soy inks show a greater rub resistance. Most manufacturers of soy and vegetable based inks today actually "blend" ingredients, much in the way a winemaker will blend grapes, in order to take advantage of the unique characteristics of each oil.

Also Soy based inks are popular because of below reasons:

1. Recycling of soy ink:

One of the biggest environmental

The global printing inks market is expected to witness a CAGR of 4.7% during the forecast period to reach \$23,881.9 million by 2023



Global printing inks market, by value, \$M (2013 - 2023)

issues is whether something can be used for the long term. These goods might be okay in the short term, but inevitably they will run out at some point in the future.

2. Low price of soy to grow than other alternatives

Other alternatives to soy ink do exist that are also renewable, by relying on other types of plant oils, for example. One of the distinct advantages of soy beans, however, is that the agricultural costs are so low. Soy beans require relatively small amounts of irrigation and fertilizers.

3. Soy Ink is biodegradable

Almost everything you use will need to be processed as trash at some point. The biggest question is whether it is designed in a way to make disposal easier on the environment. Because soy ink is based on naturally grown soy oil, it can degrade more than four times faster than petroleum-based inks.

4. Less Soy ink is required for the same amount of print outs

Soy ink is increasingly being used in large-scale commercial applications, and is now available from environmentally conscious sources. Many professional printers discover that soy ink lasts longer for the same amount of printing, cutting down on the total amount of printer ink they need.

5. Low VOC levels

Using soy-based ink is great for the environment when compared to other inks; it's particularly notable for its low levels of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's), less than one fifth of the amount produced by petroleum-based inks.

Future of Soy based printing inks

The global screen printing inks market size is anticipated to be around USD 1,135.6 million by 2023, this market is anticipated to grow with 4.7% CAGR during the forecast time period. The increasing preference of screen printing inks in commercial printing is expected to drive the growth of the global screen printing inks market. (Acumen Research and Consulting)

Global printing inks market, by value, \$M (2013 - 2023)

The rising demand for screen printing inks from the packaging industry and textile industry is anticipated to boost the global screen printing inks market.

Several factors such as:

- The rise in disposable income,
- Environmental impact, and
- Increase in consumer awareness

Finally, in screen printing textile area, soybased inks are transparent in color and it has great rub fastness. Thus it results in a higher reaction to pigment which results in brighter and accurate colors as per sample artwork.

Author



Eng. Ahmed Javed Jamal,
Head of Technical Operations & Marketing, Silkflex Bangladesh Limited



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Auko-Tex print, the perfect match of man-machine and design

Mohammad Nurul Alam



Figure 1: Graphic designers are working in studio that opens up the creative mindset.

In the present competitive market, no one can survive without the value addition in the product. Print and other applications are most significant to add value. Auko-Tex Group has strong design and R&D team as well as modern print machinery that pursue to add value to the different product category.

Textile Today team had a visit to the print factory and found most interesting keynote success story and had a comprehensive conversation with the print concern: how they work and plan to overcome upcoming challenges.

Strong team for graphic design

To stand in line with up to date trends of design and fashion Auko-Tex Group has built a strong design team that can create the most amazing art and sketches for foreign customers.

The design team works closely and keeps their observation on the upcoming trend for next season. They contrive new design and exhibit ideas at the beginning of each season and put forward them to the buyer during price negotiations.

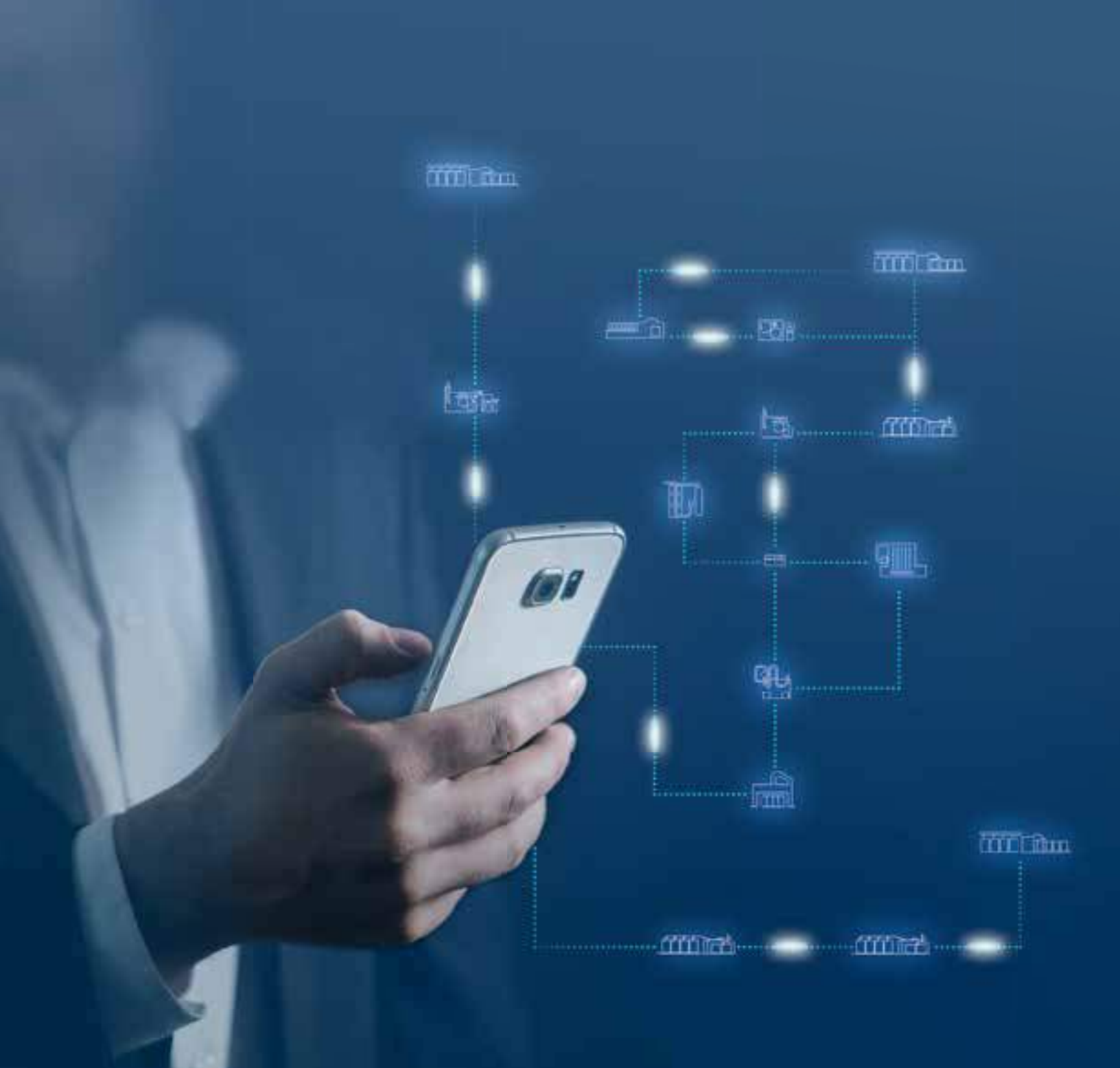
This helps Auko-Tex to get a special advantage in time of

negotiation over the competitors.

How design team works

The members of the design team that graduated from the fashion institute periodically attend the international fairs and exhibitions to explore and exchange ideas from the world-famous designers in the global platform.

In combination with hand sketch and digital graphs, designers illustrate and portray the most popular sessional theme. They align the trends from the global fashion line perfectly and so the foreign customers never think the



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design is out of season or don't feel out of date. This design combination has a maximum success rate in terms of buyer's acceptance of more than 60% in the year 2018.

"We have a look to discover the ideas and to grab the maximum interest of the buyers. So, we have the biggest success hit rate of our design in the customer's selection," said Safiul Alam Rasell Asst. Manager, Design & Development Dept, who has been working at Auko-Tex for last three years.

Generally, design team make several designs as options and provide them to the buyer to select. Then with necessary correction when buyer select any design it becomes the customer's unique stuff in the market. Off course, Auko-Tex gives the right of patent to buyer in exchange of order.

Print R&D works with design team

Print technique development is the major area to attract buyers and to store more order in grip. Auko-Tex print R&D team develops new conception of technique with up-to-date chemical and the perfect blend of color that can attract customer.

After development of new print technique, it goes to graphic designer's desk for adapting the technique in the upcoming season. This combination of new print technique along with the unique graphic design can serve well and mounting the buyer's choice.

Auko-Tex print factory

Technology is ever-changing so the combination of modern technology with the manual process can be added advantage and open up new opportunity. Because replacement of automation and abolishing the manual process completely from the production unit may not be wisely rather it can be chaotic sometimes.

So Auko-Tex categorizes the print and do them in manual process, semi-auto or in fully automated machine to satisfy customer and to do maximum profit. The Print factory strictly maintains Auko-Tex 100

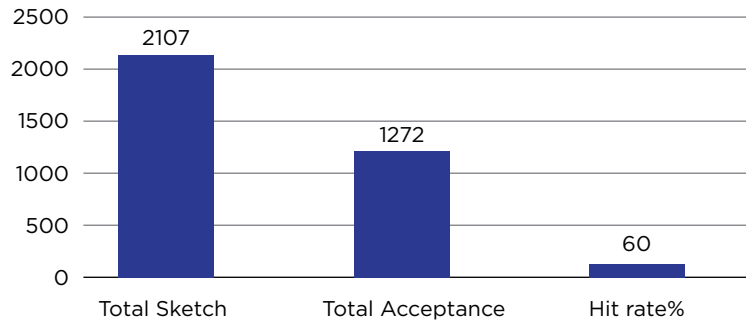


Figure 2: Graphic designers obtained a 60% hit rate in 2018.

standard in the production process.

Dye-sublimation printer

Auko-Tex always put emphasis on the adaptation of the newest technology in its print section. Digital printing machines are one of the initiatives that help Auko-Tex to stay ahead.

There are four Dye-sublimation printer machines that can produce 70000 pieces of garment per month. These sublimation print machines are engaged with cut panel garment pieces and allover print as per requirement. The design of the print obviously done by Auko-Tex team.

"We are doing maximum 80% of digital print that created by our designers," said Md Mizanur Rahman Print Manager.

"Digital print can portray details of the image including high resolution of the picture along with delighted color. So, the trends of digital print that growing in the western country can possible to catch and we never miss the opportunity," mentioned Rathindranath Adhikari, R&D Deputy Head.

Screen print automation

Print in manual process some time unable to perform desired quality. Particularly for screen print technique it creates a various print-shade problem and so customers show their anxiety for the bad output. Automation in screen print is the adhere step to get customer's satisfaction as well as to boost up productivity.

Auko-Tex has 7 Octopus print machines that can produce 4-5 lac pieces of print in accordance with a number of colors.

Octopus print machines can produce accurate quality and never do various print shade while printing CMYK print technique. These machines can provide better productivity and equal quality line as well as it also requires less operating hand in compare to manual process.

"Those prints are in photographic quality we do them in our Octopus print machine and other normal print we prefer to do in the manual screen print process," said Md Mizanur Rahman.

Manual screen print

Glass table for manual print has also huge capacity that can



Figure 3: Dye-sublimation printer can produce 70000 pieces of garment per month.

produce 10 lac pieces of garment per month along with automated process technique.

Computer-to-Screen (CTS) Imaging System

Computer-To-Screen machine brings innovation to the screen-printing industry to improve workflow, reduce consumable costs, allows for substantially faster 'on-press' set-up time, ensures perfect image to image registration as well as improves print quality.

CTS machines do not use film; therefore, the cost of screen-printing film is eliminated. So Auko-Tex added Computer-to-Screen (CTS) Imaging System at their print section to faster up the process though it requires big investment.

Waste management and recycle process

Print factory produces huge chemical waste and other workplace

garbage that can be harmful in many ways for the environment. To minimize the hazardous issue there are some tools and standard Auko-Tex print follow -

- Zero print chemical to waste: Print section along with Corporate Sustainability department formulated a standard that zero chemical waste will be produced by excess print chemical during production. So, the proportion of color preparation always made in accordance with order quantity and never allows to waste any color. If remains any color print, it used for the non-branded cheap product.
- Recycle of resource: Polyester monofilament mesh is the most widely used for screen printing mesh in textile but after one



Figure 4: Operator is checking the print process in the Octopus machine.

use generally the mash goes for dumping. In this regard the initiative for recycling of resources Auko-Tex always use the mash minimum 3 times by a special process. Waste water directly goes to central Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) to purify and reuse.

In conclusion, Auko-Tex print is the phenomenon to best combination of man-machine and technology. The combination can provide best output and maximize the profit in the present crisis moment.



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www.officina39.com



Job Responsibilities:

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3D printing allows for high freedom of design

3D printing allows for high freedom of design

Flexible manufacturing technology like 3D printing enables manufacturers to bring products to the market faster and recreate designs more easily than the traditional production methods.

There are some examples of 3D-printed textiles in tailoring, but the most frequent are cases like the one where 3D printed items are mixed with traditional methods and fabrics to improve and create new textiles.

3D printing can bring flexibility for designers because it allows for high freedom of design. Not just designers will profit from the flexibility of 3D printing, from a manufacturing point of view, 3D printing makes on-demand



to adapt trends continuously with multiple duplications on a design. Another aspect where 3D printing can transform the industry by making it more sustainable. 3D printing technologies generate less waste and the on-demand production creates less sleeping inventory.

Selective laser sintering (SLS) is the most common 3D printing

production possible and shortens the development cycles.

3D printing is also a digital technology that makes it easier

technology used for fashion and 3D-printed eyewear. This technology offers design of freedom and also makes high quality finishes possible.

Another material we use for 3D-printed fashion is TPU, a more flexible material.

3D printing is a great technology for 3D-printed couture, but it can be used also as part of other fashion pieces produced with traditional methods or as customized accessories, like eyewear. Making sure that the 3D-printed garments and accessories are adapted to the purpose of use.

ERCA SPA received Global Recycled Standard award

Desk Report

ERCA SPA -Textile Chemicals BU obtained the Certificate of Conformity GRS (Global Recycled Standard) recently as the first chemical company in the world. This important attestation relates to the production of chemicals for the textile industry derived from recycled raw materials.

The Global Recycled Standard (GRS) is a product standard for tracking and verifying the content

Company name: Erca SpA	
Chemical formulation from recycled material	Composition
REVECOL LV TD	Post-consumer recycled oil content (on dry basis) 34,38%
REVECOL LV TS	Post-consumer recycled oil content (on dry basis) 42,05%

of recycled materials in a final product, while ensuring strict production requirements.

ERCA, a group of chemical companies headquartered in northern Italy near Bergamo, is the first chemical company in the world, to have assessed and satisfies the requirements of the Global Recycled Standard (GRS) certified by ICEA- Version 4.0: July 2017.

In specific the certificate covers the following products:

NICCA office moved to new space to provide more support in Bangladesh textile industry

Desk Report

Japan based multinational company Nicca Chemical Co., Ltd. has officially started a new liaison office of sales and marketing on 1st September 2019 at Banani in Dhaka. It's located now in the brand new building of Suvastu Suriya Centre.

Yasumasa Emori, CEO, NICCA Chemical Co., Ltd. attended the inaugural ceremony on 20th July'19 along with Susumu Katagiri, Managing Director, Atsu Kobayashi, Director, Textile

Chemicals Division. From Bangladesh Kotaro Takeuchi, General Manager, and Biswajit Banik, Senior Country Manager, were also present along with other office colleagues.

NICCA is a global manufacturer and marketer of specialty and differentiated chemicals based on surface science. It has total 12 manufacturing sites in 8 countries across the globe with 250 people in R&D.

Having 77 years of history in



Figure: Yasumasa Emori, CEO, NICCA Chemical Co., Ltd. attended the inaugural ceremony.

chemicals NICCA also became partner of bluesign® Technology and important contributor of ZDHC for a sustainable chemical industry.

GOTS no longer recommends testing on chemically processed cotton materials

Mohammad Nurul Alam

Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) organized a day-long seminar on 8th September 2019. With the theme of 'Connecting for Success', the seminar was organized at the International Convention City Bashundhra (ICCB) in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The seminar was designed in 4 sessions including slide show presentation, question-answer and with a panel discussion. The 1st session conducted on 'Sustainable Retail: Stories from Fashion Industry'. Claudia Kersten, GOTS Managing Director, Germany, was present as the moderator of this session.

This session brought forward the recent trends, priorities and experience of conscious buyers. The session also included perspective from international brands and retailers, sourcing from Bangladesh.



Figure: Prominent figures as well as industry experts were present at the event.

A number of 250 senior personals from up to 150 different industry organizations and businesses were present in the seminar.

Rahul Bhajekar, GOTS Managing Director; Bruno Van Sielegem, Stanley and Stella S.A., Belgium and Jan Moritz, Julius Hüpeden GmbH, Germany were present as the speaker.

Rahul Bhajekar, speaks on GMO testing protocol, ISO IWA 32 - Technical Details and Impacts and he also showed Central Database System - Enhanced Traceability in

GOTS supply chain.

GOTS new testing protocol:

1. GOTS requires mandatory seed cotton testing for Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) presence at all GOTS certified gins.
2. ISO 1130:1975 must be used for sampling of the seed cotton.
3. Testing protocol to be followed is ISO IWA 32:2019
4. In case of a positive result on seed cotton, CBs will follow the protocol outlined within the advisory.
5. Testing on chemically processed cotton materials are no longer require for GOTS.

Speakers emphasized on sustainability standard landscape that steadily evolving and presenting new challenges.

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Geo Chem, sustainable and cost-effective testing and inspection partner for Bangladesh apparel Industry

**Manish Kumar, Global Executive Vice President
Geo Chem Consumer Product Services Division**

Geo Chem group started its Bangladesh operation early this year by setting up an international testing laboratory under consumer products services division. The company is providing a wide range of services and solutions on testing, inspections, fitting, audits, environmental and chemical management testing, ZDHC, higg index, industry-related trainings, etc.

Manish Kumar, Global Executive Vice President who has recently visited Bangladesh and had a conversation with Textile Today on various subjects of Geo Chem operations, its services and future plan. Last July, his consumer products services division has celebrated three years journey.

Textile Today: Why did Geo Chem plan to start in Bangladesh?

Manish Kumar: Bangladesh is a unique country which needs support from the company like Geo Chem to grow to the next level. The business volumes are very high here and, we will not be

grabbing anyone's share but will create our own customer base.

Textile Today: How can Geo Chem attract the textile industry?

Manish Kumar: Geo Chem has analyzed and developed the process, where we will provide the testing services within very short span of time, 48 hours inspection booking and issue the report on the same day. Since April 2018 to till today, there is no single complaint on our inspection process, quality, customer support issues and integrity.

Textile Today: How can Geo Chem contribute to the RMG supply chain?

Manish Kumar: Geo Chem is providing full testing and inspection solutions to the industry. The newly constructed lab has comprehensive testing facilities related to textile and apparel, fabric, leather, chemical, environmental, etc.

Besides the testing and inspection, the lab is also the home of "La-

fit" the unique fit and pattern making solution service. The design studio will not only speed-up the pre-production approval process, but also reduce wastage of time, investment and fabric in the sampling process. It will bring transparency and ensure the ability to store and reuse data for quality production in the future too.

Textile Today: How has Geo Chem built the relation in the global footprint?

Manish Kumar: Within only three years of its journey, a good number of global retailers choose Geo Chem as their testing and inspection partner. Our services are available through a network of branch offices and associates, supported by an excellent infrastructure of ultramodern facilities, communication system and staff strength with vast experience in the industry. In addition to textile and apparel, Geo Chem consumer products services division is providing

service to the leather & footwear, toy's, hard goods, home décor, household appliance, furniture etc. which is one of the key advantage for us to approach the global brands with either option to get connected with them.

Textile Today: What is the core competency of Geo Chem and why?

Manish Kumar: People's expertise is the core competency of Geo Chem. We have recruited long experienced people in every position, and they have deep knowledge not only testing but also the entire supply chain. From the beginning, I preferred Bangladeshi talents rather than hiring from abroad. Now, all local experts are leading and driving Geo Chem Bangladesh operations.

More over, I would like highlight an important point that, Geo Chem is managing all its operations with a software called as LIMS (Laboratory Information Management software). It starts from sales, quotation,

test request form (TRF), sample login, proforma invoice, laboratory process, test result feeding, report generation, invoicing, etc. into LIMS.

For transparency of work, we have created a customer portal where our customers are able to track all their sample and also able to access their quotation, TRF, Proforma, Report, invoice, etc. any time. They are not dependent on their mail box, they are able to access their historical data into our Customer Portal after login into System. This ensure hassle free and speedy services, with lesser communication and anytime service.

Apart from historical data, they are also given access of various regulations, accreditation and protocols.

We have given one more interesting feature is 'Chat', they are able to connect with our internal employee (CRM) on Chat and able to communicate instantly.

Customers can access the

inspection solution through a customer portal. They can create multiple users to access the portal and request new inspections, that can see the progress, download the report, pay the charges or request for support through customer portal.

Moreover, all communication and payment can be accessed any time for references. Customers can access the invoices through the customer portal and can do the online payment.

Textile Today: What is your future plan in Bangladesh?

Manish Kumar: Aggression and hunger for growth are obvious in future planning. Our continuous expansion is moving forward. By these three years, we have three labs and our operations covered 17 countries in the globe. Beside apparel and textile sector, we will continue keep our eyes on other sector for diversification of our footprint among other industries.

Three organizations join ZDHC roadmap to zero programme

Desk Report

With the addition of the three new organizations, the total number of ZDHC Contributors is now 138 from 24 locations. Latest additions to ZDHC's Value Chain Affiliates:

New ZDHC Contributors from the Chemical Industry:

TRUMPLER GROUP was founded in Worms in 1868 to supply chemicals to the local tanneries. Still, in family ownership, the company has grown to become a valued supplier to the leather industry worldwide.

Today TRUMPLER GROUP employs nearly four hundred people with daughter companies in Italy, Spain, China, Mexico and Brazil and agents servicing more than one hundred countries.

Trumpler's traditional strengths in beamhouse chemicals, retanning agents, fat liquors and dyes have been further augmented by the acquisition of Langro-Chemie,

the highly regarded producer of leather finishes.

TRUMPLER GROUP now offers the complete spectrum of leather chemicals from beamhouse through dyehouse to finishing, supported by an international team of highly qualified and experienced leather technologists serving customers all over the world.

New ZDHC Contributors from the Textile Industry:

Smart Shirts Limited is a subsidiary company of Sunrise Group. The Sunrise Group is a multinational corporation which integrates a vertical supply chain from yarn spinning, fabric weaving and finishing, garments manufacturing, to import and export trading.

Sunrise is one of the leading designers and manufacturers for premium formal and casual wear. Sunrise owns sales network

spreads across countries and areas including Hong Kong, New York, Dallas, Seattle, London, Shanghai, Changsha, Zhejiang and Vietnam, which enables them to provide their customers with one-stop services and solutions at high quality and efficiency.

Further, we are delighted to have one of our long-standing Contributors, American & Efird LLC, elevating their contribution to the group level. American & Efird LLC now operates as part of the Elevate Textiles portfolio of brands, including Burlington, Cone Denim, Gütermann, and Safety Components.

Elevate Textiles is a newly formed collection of top textile companies focused on innovation, sustainability, and heritage craftsmanship. Elevate offers advanced, high-quality products and mission-critical textile solutions across vast industries.

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Leather industry: Let the golden goose to lay for economic development

Textile Today Analysis

In last couple of years, Bangladesh economy is growing steadily with an average 7% growth riding on the country's export sector, where apparel export is contributing over 11% to Gross Domestic Products (GDP).

After the ready garment sector, leather industry is the only billion-dollar export earner, which is contributing as the second-largest earner in the country's economic development. Unfortunately, the sector is going through its toughest time since the inception, this is because on non-compliance in terms of environmental issues.

As a leather and leather goods manufacturer, Bangladesh has the great advantage of meeting raw materials demands from domestic sources. In addition, the cheap and available workforce is another key element for the sector to fight in the global export markets.

However, the future of the country's \$1 billion leather and leather goods is bleak, which needs proper attention.

Why leather industry suffers

In face of tremendous pressures from the local and global rights group and international buyers of leather goods, in 2003 Bangladesh government took the initiative to relocate tanneries from Hazaribag to Savar.

As a part of this move, the Industries Ministry allocated plots to 155 tannery owners through the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) in the Leather Industrial Park established on 200 acres of land in Savar.

After several extension for



Figure 1: About 99% work of CETP is completed but there are needs for fine-tuning, while automation for monitoring is very close to ending. Courtesy: www.tannersbd.com

relocation, as per a High Court order, the government cut power and gas connections to the tanneries to compel the owners to relocate to the purpose-built Savar Leather Industrial Park to the north of the capital in April 2017.

As of today, out of 155 tanneries 124 have started tanning in the industrial park, of which a good number are doing in a limited scale as they yet to complete full-fledged construction.

The initiative was taken to make the country's billion-dollar leather industry compliant and environment-friendly and to free Buriganga River from hazards and toxic chemicals.

But the sector still polluting air, water and river at its new destination at Savar Leather Industrial Park built on 200 acres of lands.

This is only because of the lack of functional Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP), dedicated dumping station for solid waste management.

"As of now the CEPT is operational, but solid waste management still remains a great concern for the sector, which

puts a bar on becoming a fully compliant sector," Md Shakawat Ullah, the general secretary of Bangladesh Tanners Association (BTA) told.

It was assumed that after the relocation, the sector will be compliant but it did not happen so. Though the CEPT is operational, sludge, a byproduct of ETP and solid waste management is yet to start, said Shakawat.

As a result, the global buyers and retailers have stopped purchasing leather and leather goods from Bangladesh, which brought woes to the sector as well as the business people, said the tanner leader.

However, the government is making promises that the CETP will be fully operational by this year while dumping station to be established by 2020.

"There is no visible progress in solid waste management. But the government has selected three sites for setting up dumping station for solid waste management," Jitendranath Pal, Project Director of Savar Leather Industrial Park told.

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology look into the projects and we are expecting to complete it by March 2020, he added.

Non-compliance a curse for exports

Export earnings from the country's leather sector, the second-largest earner of foreign currencies after RMG sector, witnessed a 6.06% fall to \$1.01 billion in the just-concluded fiscal year, as non-compliance in environmental issues discouraged foreign buyers.

"We are not environmentally compliant. This is because of absence of the full-fledged operation of CETP. On the other hand, it is easier to sell goods to the global buyers, if the raw materials are certified by the Leather Working Group (LWG)," Md Saiful Islam, Managing Director of PICARD Bangladesh Limited, told Textile Today.

"Manufacturers only do better, when there is enough supply of raw materials. But the tanneries are suffering as the relocation hit the production of leather processing," Md Shakawat Ullah, owner of Salma Tannery Ltd told Textile Today.

"On top of that, some of the tanneries were not in operation as they are yet to complete construction of building in the Savar Park and it reduced production capacity."

Fund shortage hinders new investment

"In completing the construction of the factory, tanners had to spend a huge amount of money and they are now facing fund shortage to spend more," said Md Shakawat Ullah, the General Secretary of BTA told Textile Today.

On the other hand, tanners cannot take loans from banks as they yet to get land registration from the government, said Shakawat. As, borrowing money from banks, providing documents supporting land registration is mandatory, he explained.

However, the government blamed the owners for the delay in land

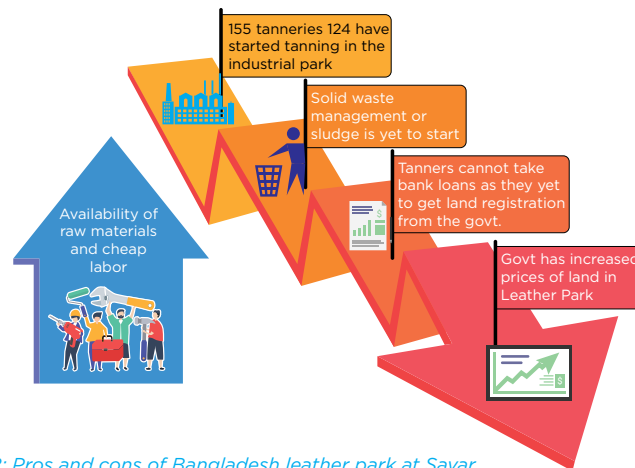


Figure 2: Pros and cons of Bangladesh leather park at Savar.

registration as they did not pay them money.

"Only seven to eight tanners have paid an installment of land prices, while the others are yet to pay. That is why we cannot complete land deed to provide ownership to the tanners," he said.

In May this year, the government has reset prices of land at Tk471 per square feet by adding a 20% cost of CETP.

Earlier, the government set prices of land at Tk191 per square feet.

Meanwhile, the owners claimed that the government did not finalize the land prices, which was a reason for the delay.

Why and how to save the industry

In sustaining the economic growth, Bangladesh needs to keep export sector vibrant. Since the sector is the second largest export earner and continuing to fall, for the sake of economy, the sector needs to

turn around.

"Over the non-compliance issues buyers left the country, brands stopped sourcing from here as a result export earnings from the sector continue to decline risking employment and the sector," Md. Mizanur Rahman Executive Director of Samata Leather told.

On the other hand, the government has set a target to earn \$5 billion from the sector by 2020. In attaining the target, Bangladesh has to make the sector compliant as soon as possible, said the sector people.

Restoring buyer's confidence and bringing back to buy from Bangladesh is a big challenge right now for the industry to attain the government target. In doing so, the government has to make the sector compliant without any delay and brand Bangladesh as an environment-friendly manufacturing hub for leather goods.



Figure 3: A seasonal dealer with unsold raw hides after eid al-Adha this year.

20th Textech displays latest technologies aiming to enhance productivity of textile and apparel industry

Staff Correspondent

CEMS-Global hosted the biggest int'l exhibition in textile and garment sector '20th Textech Bangladesh International Expo 2019' along with two concurrent exhibitions titled the '16th Dhaka International Yarn & Fabric Show 2019-Summer Edition' and '38th Dye+Chem Bangladesh 2019 International Expo' from 4 to 7 September at International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Kuril, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

It is the biggest 360° supplier hub of the textile and apparel manufacturing industry in Bangladesh where visitors saw the biggest display of international yarn, fabrics, trims, accessories, chemical, dyes, machinery and other related products and services.

More than 1300 companies from China, India, Germany, UK, USA, Taiwan, Japan, Turkey, Italy, and Sri Lanka among other countries exhibited their products and services through 1500 booths, showcasing the latest developments.

CEMS-Global USA's International 'TEXTECH series of Exhibition' have reached its accession in popularity in South and South-East Asia having organized extremely successful editions in Bangladesh, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

'TEXTECH Bangladesh' has been serving the textile and apparel sector of Bangladesh for the last 19 years as a great B2B platform for textile garment machinery manufacturers to network with the textile and apparel manufacturers.

This exhibition had two other concurrent exhibitions - the leading international exhibition



on International Yarn & Fabric Manufacturers and Suppliers and on Dyes and Chemicals. The textile and apparel export industry of Bangladesh now stands at USD 32 Billion and is now aggressively focusing on increasing its apparel exports to \$50 Billion by the year 2021.

Textile industries have been a key part of Bangladesh's economy over the past few decades; the industry currently having an export value of nearly 35 billion USD per year.

It is projected that the annual RMG export value will reach about 50 billion USD by 2021. With rapid advancement, the textile sector is now faced with a growing demand for chemicals. It is primarily estimated that local textile industries consume about 1.48 million metric ton chemicals per year.

It is speculated that about 70% of the chemical demand is met by imports.

In the inauguration ceremony Meherunnisa, Group President and Country Director, CEMS-Global said, "Textech Exhibition is the largest exhibition in Bangladesh, and day by day it is growing. We are proud that in this exhibition, we are exhibiting the essentials like top-notch machinery, yarn, fabric,

dyes and chemicals solutions for the Bangladesh textile and apparel industry."

"Though CEMS-Global is based in the US, it has started in Bangladesh. Every year we organize more than 40 international exhibitions," she added.

Mansur Ahmed, 1st Vice-President, BKMEA said, "since the inception of RMG in Bangladesh, for machinery and dyes and chemical solutions we had to travel a lot to see the latest solutions. But Textech has been providing us the one-stop services."

Since its inception in 1992, CEMS Global in this span of over 27 years has made a commendable presence in South & South-East Asia, South America as a Multinational Exhibition Organizer with operations in 7 countries and organizing over 40 exhibitions per annum on all-important sectors of the trade and economy.

Based in New York, which hosts the group's headquarters; the branches of CEMS Global's expanded offices are operated in the following countries: India, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Brazil.

Textile Today was the magazine partner at the exhibition.



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PREMIUM CORPORATE MEMBER



Engr. Md. Nasir Ullah
Country Manager
Officina+39

Officina+39 Combines experience of real professional people, devoted to anticipate, develop and support market demands related to garment field. Officina+39's real heritage is made up of thirty-year experience dedicated to research and chemical application in textile sector, and present engagement to transmit it to new technicians generation. The Range of Garments



Location: 12, Garib -E-Newaz Avenue, Sector 13, Uttara, Dhaka

Product range: Selected range of chemical specialties, dyestuffs and pigments, in particular, for denim and garment fields.

Company objective: Intuition and approach to innovations-essential ingredients of Italian creativity-together with continuous research of materials and new processing technique, make **Officina+39** ideal partner in trend garments production.

Company mission: A workshop of new ideas coordinated by qualified technicians, dedicated to application home lab, creating new "effects" and finishing. **Officina+39** offers a selected range of chemical specialties, dyestuffs and pigments, in particular, for denim and garment fields. Collaboration with customer to create new prototypes, supporting with selected eco-compatible chemical auxiliaries and innovative processes able to guarantee a possible and prompt industrial execution.

Website: www.officina39.com **Email:** bangladesh@officina39.com

CORPORATE MEMBER



Engr. Estahak Ahmed Shaikat
Managing Director
Basher Group of Industries.

Basher Group of Industries: It has many concerns including Basher Spinning Mills Ltd. and Nortex Textile Mills Ltd. established in 2004



Location: Nishinda, Bhaluka, Mymensingh, Bangladesh

Product mix: Ne 20 /1 to Ne 40/1 carded, combed, slub and compact yarn.

Spindles: 36636 and 49152, producing 7.80 and 11.07 million kgs yarn annually.

Cotton sourcing: CIS and West African countries

Machinery Brand: Truetzschler, Toyota, Marzoil (Dongtai) , Murata, Sieger, Uster, Rollair, Bestair, LMW, CMT-Hicorp

No. of employee: 1500

www.basher.group

Welcome on Board!

CORPORATE MEMBER



M. A. Taher
Chairman, Shangu Group.

Shangu Group: Established in 2002

Corporate Office: Shangu Valley, House 5/A, Road 33, Sector 7, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230, Bangladesh



Production capacity: Per month 7-8 lac

Production Range: All kind of woven tops, Bottom & Outerwear such as Mens Shirt, Ladies Bloures, Boxer, Night Wear, Dress Shirt.

Major Customers in Bangladesh: Carrefour, K-Mart Australia, Debenhams, New Look, Next, Ranner- Brazil, Mxpo, Walmart-UK.

Major compliance certifications: Accord, Alliance, Sedex, WRAP, BSCI, GOTS, OCS, OEKO- TEX, ICS etc

www.shangugroup.com



Salman A Rahman
Director Gulshan Spinning Mills Ltd

Gulshan Spinning Mills Ltd: Established in 1995

Location: Sreepur, Gazipur, Bangladesh

Product mix: Ne 20 - Ne 50 both Card or Combed & Rotor Yarn 7/s to 20/s

Spindles: 123,000 (including rotor)

Cotton sourcing: CIS and West African countries

Machinery: Perkins, Crosrol, Truetzschler, Reiter, SKF, Uster, Jenbacher, Toyota and Muratec

No. of employee: 5200

Project value: Approx. USD 50 Million

www.gulshangroupbd.com



Uzzal Dakua
Merchandising Manager Echotex Ltd.

Uzzal Dakua

Position: Merchandising Manager, Echotex Ltd.

Experience: 11 Years (2008 - continuing)

Education: B.Sc. in Textile Engineering, Primeasia University.

Social Activities: President of Textile Engineering Alumni, Primeasia University.

Founder member of 'Merchandising Association of Primeasia' and 'Textile Engineers Community'. He is also mentor of 'Youth Career Institute'.

Email: uzzal@echotex.com

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SAFATEX



ARGUS CrossFire Rx

The only fire suppression agent specifically formulated to extinguish cotton fires

The Cotton Fire Challenge

Cotton is one of the most flammable materials ever tested by the US government. Even minor sparks can lead to ignition. In addition, cotton is extremely hydrophobic, i.e. it actively repels water and applications of water are ineffective in extinguishing cotton fires. Unlike other fire extinguishing agents, when combined with its hydrophobic nature, makes it considerably more difficult to penetrate and extinguish. These characteristics demand its to a very high level of expertise.

The Crossfire Solution

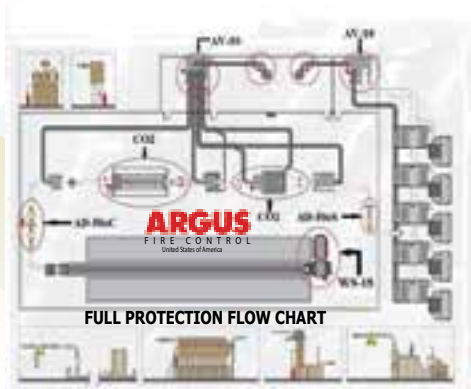
Based on years of testing and research, Crossfire Rx is unique in a fire arena for different "uses of water".

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- Proven flame-retardant and a hydrophobic environment
- Used in multiple test areas the most effective available wetting agent for cotton fire suppression

Approved for use on: Cotton, Wool, Silk, Linen, Rayon, Jute, Hemp, Flax, etc.

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Safatex Associates Ltd.

House No. 400 (4th Floor), Road No. 29, New D.O.H.S, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206, Bangladesh
 Tel: +88 02 9888485, Fax: +88 02 9897835, E-mail: info@safatexbd.com Web: www.safatexbd.com



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