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Bangladesh TextileToday

An Innovation Hub

December 2024

Navigating as an Innovation Hub in 17TH YEAR

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Yarn dumping disrupts local textiles

Md. Showkat Aziz Russell
President, BTMA

Impact of Trump's trade policies on Bangladesh's textile industry

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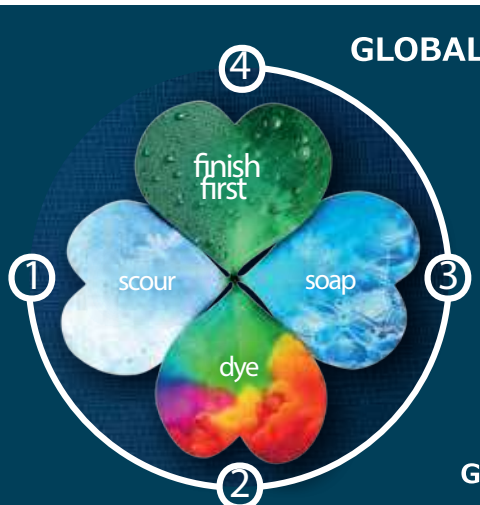

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Trump-Led USA signals to Bangladesh's textile industry

Eousup Abu Abdullah

The United States is being a significant market for cloths manufacturers of Bangladesh, the political climate in Washington may have a profound impact on the RMG sector. Donald Trump returning to the power poses a mix of challenges and opportunities for Bangladesh's textile industry, dominated by his protectionist trade policies and unpredictable geopolitical maneuvers. The industry's fate will depend on how effectively Bangladesh adapts to changing policy dynamics of global trade, and prepares for a more thriving fashion market.

Economic and political stance for trade

Donald Trump's "America First" campaign is a stimulating call for domestic manufacturing. Not surprisingly, this doctrine will not work – Americans will not produce low valued items. The issue for Bangladesh rather, this political stance could lead to higher tariffs on textile imports. It would squeeze the profit margins of apparel manufacturers and forcing U.S. retailers to reconsider their sourcing strategies. Trump's previous term saw a push for reshoring and trade barriers, a trend that could slightly benefit Bangladesh's competitive edge.

The exclusion of Bangladesh from the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) has long been a thorn in the industry's side. Trump's administration was not supposed to reinstate GSP benefits for countries that fell short on labor and compliance issues. Without significant improvements in labor rights and factory conditions, Bangladesh's chances of regaining GSP privileges under Trump term remains narrowed. This puts Bangladeshi exporters at a disadvantage compared to competitors who enjoy duty-free access under GSP.

Outcomes of the tariff policies are not all gloomy for Bangladesh. Trump's aggressive stance on China and other regions could indirectly benefit Bangladesh. During his past presidency, trade tensions led U.S. retailers to shift orders away from China, benefiting alternative suppliers like Bangladesh. If this trend continues, Bangladeshi exporters could see increased demand from the U.S. as brands seek to diversify their sourcing destinations.

Keeping pace with new race

A Trump-led administration might impose stringent compliance requirements too, pressuring Bangladeshi manufacturers to enhance workplace conditions and sustainability practices. Bangladesh, however, progressed significantly than those of the pasts. Global consumers, including those in the U.S., are increasingly demanding products that meet stricter labor and environmental standards.

Figure: Trump may impose tariffs concentrating on the region, and nationality.

Relying heavily on the U.S. leaves Bangladesh looking concerned to the policy changes. Expanding into markets like the Brazil, China and Japan can help spread risk. Meeting international standards for labor rights and sustainability is no longer optional. Bangladesh can also focus on value-added products, such as technical and eco-friendly apparel, to remain competitive. By investing in infrastructure, skill development, and technology, the textile sector can improve its resilience. Engaging with the U.S. government to negotiate better trade terms and lobbying for GSP reinstatement should be placed high on Bangladesh's diplomatic agenda.

Donald Trump's presidency would undoubtedly pose policy triggers to global sourcing and imports including textile industry. Within the multifarious challenges opportunities lie with the thug of China-US presumed trade-war. With strategic foresight, Bangladesh can not only weather the storm but emerge stronger, sustaining its position as a global textile powerhouse.

Author:

Eousup Abu Abdullah
COO – Textile Today Innovation Hub
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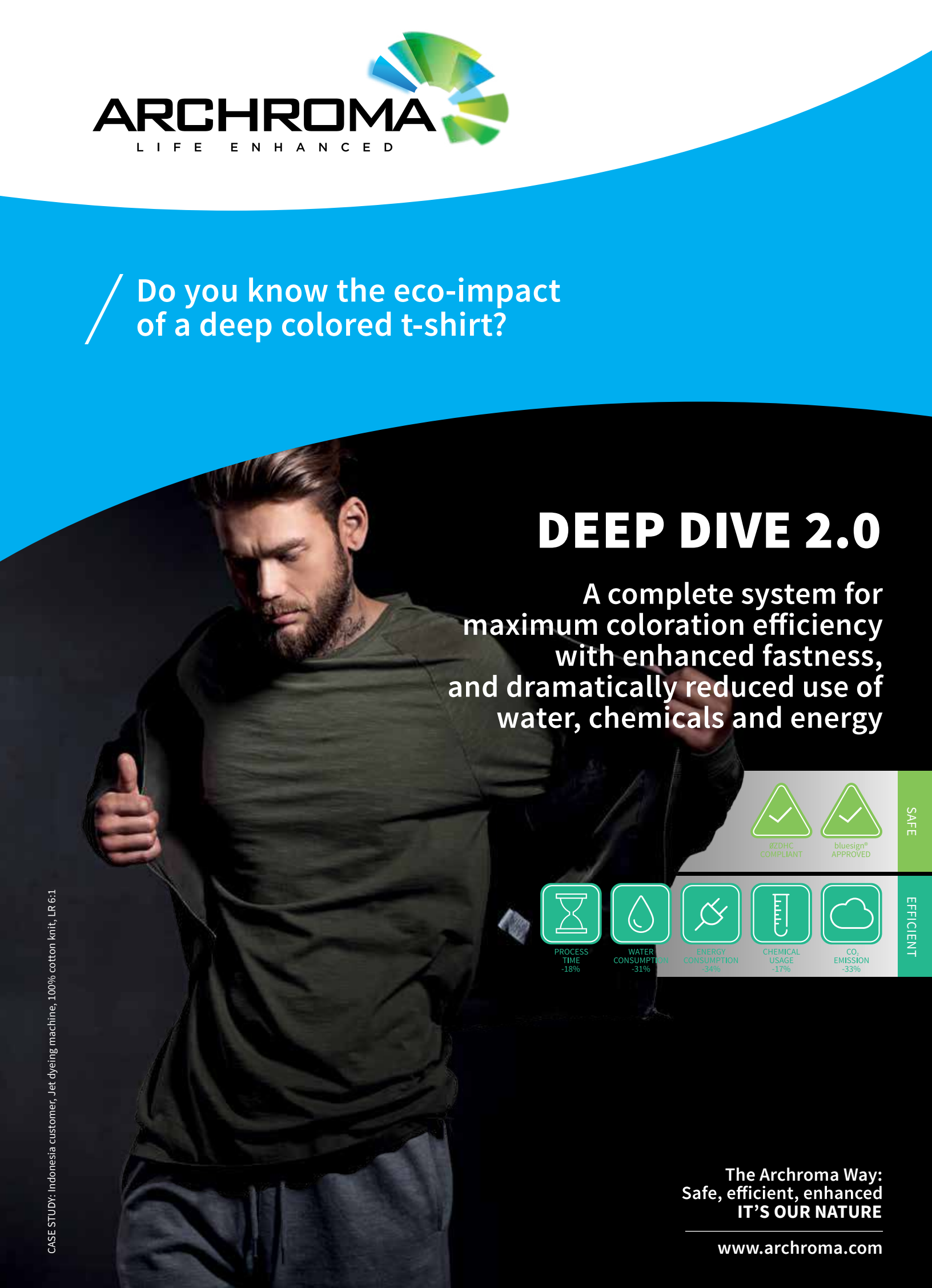

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Impact of Trump's trade policies on Bangladesh's textile industry

With Donald Trump's victory in the 2024 U.S. presidential election, global industries, including Bangladesh's Ready-Made Garment (RMG) sector, are gearing up for potential shifts in trade policies, tariffs, and international relations. As the U.S. remains one of Bangladesh's largest export destinations for garments, the outcome of the election is of significant interest to the country's apparel manufacturers. Below, we explore the potential opportunities and challenges that Trump's policies may present to Bangladesh's RMG sector.

Umme Salma

1. Tariff Policies and Trade Relations with China

Trump's administration has been known for its aggressive stance on tariffs, especially targeting Chinese imports. During his previous term, he imposed steep tariffs on Chinese goods, including textiles and garments, which significantly disrupted global supply chains.

- **Opportunity for Bangladesh:** Trump has proposed an additional 60% tariff on Chinese goods, which would escalate trade tensions with China even further. As a result, U.S. companies may seek alternative sourcing options to avoid the high costs of importing Chinese garments. Bangladesh, already one of the world's largest garment exporters, could stand to benefit from this policy shift, as U.S. companies look to diversify their supply chains away from China.
- **Impact on Bangladesh's Competitiveness:** Bangladesh, which exports over $8 billion worth of apparel to the U.S. annually, could see a surge in demand if Chinese manufacturers struggle with tariffs. Given the lower production costs in Bangladesh, local manufacturers may become even more attractive to U.S. retailers.

2. The U.S. Domestic Manufacturing Shift and Protectionism

In addition to tariffs, Trump has advocated for policies designed to bring manufacturing jobs back to the U.S., especially in industries like textiles. Under his administration, there has been significant pressure on companies to reshore production, incentivized by tax cuts and tariff policies favoring domestic production.

- **Challenges for Bangladesh:** If Trump's administration strengthens its push for domestic manufacturing in the apparel sector, this could impact Bangladesh's garment exports to the U.S. While Bangladesh's labor costs remain competitive, U.S. manufacturing could become more cost-effective if tariffs on imported garments remain high. Moreover, as the U.S. looks to cut its dependence on foreign imports, Bangladesh might face stiff competition in a market that increasingly prioritizes homegrown production.
- **Potential Shifts in U.S. Policy:** However, it's important to note that despite Trump's "America First" policy, reshoring in textiles may not be immediate or feasible in all cases. U.S. manufacturers may still prefer to source from countries like Bangladesh due to the scale and cost-effectiveness of local production, especially for mass-market garments.

3. Sustainability and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Regulations

Trump's stance on environmental and social responsibility policies will also shape the fashion industry. While the Biden administration has focused on stricter environmental regulations and sustainability, Trump's administration could reduce such regulatory pressures, favoring policies that promote business over environmental compliance.

- **Impact on Bangladesh:** Bangladesh's garment sector may face growing scrutiny regarding its sustainability practices. If the Trump administration eases sustainability regulations, there could be less pressure on Bangladesh to adopt green practices in production. However, Bangladesh's RMG sector could still benefit by proactively improving environmental and social governance (ESG) standards, positioning itself as a reliable and ethical sourcing option for U.S. brands seeking compliance with global sustainability trends.
- **Consumer Demand for Sustainability:** Despite potential regulatory changes, U.S. consumer demand for eco-friendly and ethically produced garments is likely to persist, if not grow. For Bangladesh, this means that focusing on sustainable production methods — such as water-efficient technologies, reduced carbon emissions, and better labor standards — will remain critical to staying competitive in the U.S. market.

4. Labor Practices and Forced Labor Legislation

The U.S. has also passed laws like the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA), which targets the import of goods linked to forced labor, particularly from China. While Bangladesh has not been directly implicated in these issues, ongoing scrutiny of labor practices in global supply chains means that Bangladesh must maintain strong labor standards to continue being a preferred sourcing destination for U.S. brands.

Bangladesh's RMG sector must continue to demonstrate that its factories adhere to international labor standards to avoid falling victim to the rising scrutiny of forced labor in global supply chains.

5. Consumer Spending and Economic Impact

Studies have shown that U.S. consumer spending does not always dip during election years. If Trump's protectionist policies lead to higher costs for imported goods, it could lead to reduced consumer purchasing power, particularly in the apparel and footwear sectors, where price sensitivity is high.

If tariffs on imported apparel cause a significant increase in prices, American consumers may reduce their overall consumption, which could lead to lower demand for garments. However, if Bangladesh can continue to offer high-quality garments at competitive prices, it could still capture market share, especially in budget-conscious segments. Bangladesh's RMG sector must be ready to navigate potential fluctuations in demand as the market adapts to higher prices and shifting consumer preferences.

6. U.S. Foreign Policy and Global Trade Relations

Trump's foreign policy approach, which has been characterized by a more isolationist stance, could affect multilateral trade institutions like the World Trade Organization (WTO) and regional trade agreements. A move towards less collaboration with global trade organizations could make it harder for countries like Bangladesh to rely on existing trade frameworks.

If Trump continues to challenge multilateral institutions, Bangladesh may find itself negotiating more bilateral agreements with the U.S. to secure favorable trade terms. This could offer both opportunities and risks, depending on how the U.S. positions itself within the global trade system. Bangladesh must be prepared for a potentially more fragmented trade environment in which it must actively engage with the U.S. to protect its interests.

If Bangladesh can continue to offer high-quality garments at competitive prices, it could still capture market share, especially in budget-conscious segments. Bangladesh's RMG sector must be ready to navigate potential fluctuations in demand as the market adapts to higher prices and shifting consumer preferences.

Balancing Opportunities with Caution

The potential for increased demand driven by higher tariffs on Chinese goods could bolster Bangladesh's apparel exports to the U.S., especially as brands seek alternatives to Chinese suppliers. However, the protectionist policies aimed at restoring U.S. manufacturing, coupled with rising consumer costs due to tariffs, could put pressure on Bangladesh's ability to maintain its position as a leading exporter.

To navigate these shifts, Bangladesh's RMG sector will need to focus on maintaining competitive pricing, improving sustainability practices, ensuring compliance with labor standards, and engaging in proactive trade diplomacy. By addressing these challenges and seizing new opportunities, Bangladesh can continue to thrive as a key player in the U.S. garment market under Trump's presidency.

Highlights of 2024: Turning challenges into opportunities

Textile Today Analysis

A resilient industry with challenges ahead, Bangladesh's RMG sector in 2024 has navigated through a complex set of challenges while demonstrating remarkable resilience.

With export growth showing a positive trend, increased sustainability efforts, and significant improvements in labor practices, Bangladesh is well-positioned to continue its success in the global garment market.

However, challenges remain, including political instability, rising energy costs, and growing competition from neighboring countries. Hence, 2024 has proven to be a year of both challenges and progress, with significant issues impacting the industry while also providing opportunities to evolve in a rapidly changing global market.

Order Fluctuations: A Mixed Outlook

Throughout 2024, Bangladesh's garment exports saw significant fluctuations. According to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), in the first quarter, exports dropped by 3% year-on-year due to global economic uncertainties and inflationary pressures in major markets like the U.S. and Europe.

However, as the year progressed, exports rebounded, with a 5% increase in the third quarter, driven by the ongoing recovery of global supply chains. The year's overall export growth is projected to be around 4%, with export values reaching nearly $45 billion by December, despite fierce competition from neighboring countries.

Gas, Power, and Fuel Shortages: A Lingering Crisis

The country's energy crisis remains one of the major challenges for the RMG sector in 2024. Power outages and fuel shortages have disrupted production, affecting factory schedules and increasing operational costs.

According to industry reports, manufacturers have faced an estimated 15-20% increase in energy costs due to reliance on expensive alternative sources like diesel. This has added strain to profit margins, which have shrunk by approximately 2-3% over the past year.

While some factories have turned to renewable energy solutions such as solar power, the overall lack of stable energy supply continues to hamper the sector's potential for growth.

Sustainability Progress: A Step Forward

As of 2024, Bangladesh continues to lead globally in LEED-certified green factories, particularly in the ready-made garment (RMG) sector. The country now hosts 230 LEED-certified factories, including 92 with Platinum ratings and 124 with Gold certifications.

Impressively, 62 of the world's top 100 LEED-certified factories are located in Bangladesh, including the two highest-rated facilities worldwide.

A notable development in 2024 has been the sector's commitment to sustainability. According to BGMEA, over 300 factories have now received Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) certification, reflecting a broader push towards greener production.

In 2024, nearly 10% of Bangladesh's total garment production is now made using sustainable practices, up from just 3% in 2020. Additionally, the country has increased its investment in water recycling and energy-efficient machinery, with over $200 million in green investments flowing into the industry in the past year. This move is in response to increasing global demand for eco-friendly products, particularly in markets such as Europe and the U.S.

August Uprising and the Aftermath

In July-August 2024, Bangladesh experienced a major shift with a large-scale uprising that led to the Hasina regime change. During this period, garment factories were shut down, ports were closed, and exports were halted, causing significant disruptions to the economy and supply chains. This political upheaval, along with the protests demanding better wages and working conditions, exacerbated the challenges faced by the garment industry. However, despite these setbacks, the resolution of the labor dispute and the eventual reopening of factories and ports allowed the industry to regain its footing, reaffirming Bangladesh's resilience in the face of political instability.

Again, those protests were sparked by a combination of high inflation, rising costs of living, and demands for a minimum wage increase.

Leadership Changes in Trade Bodies

2024 has seen significant leadership changes within the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Following a recent election, SM Mannan Kochi was initially appointed as president. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, Kochi resigned from the position.

Afterward, Anwar Hossain, the Vice Chairman of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), has been newly appointed as the Administrator of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

After 14 consecutive years, AKM Selim Osman has stepped down as the president of the knitwear industry owners' association BKMEA. Mohammad Hatem, who had been serving as the executive president for a long time, has become the new president of the organization. Mohammad Hatem has served as the vice president of BKMEA for a long time. He became the executive president in 2021.

Bangladesh's RMG sector is poised for a significant export boost. The last quarter typically sees an uptick in orders due to the holiday season. According to EPB, exports have surged by 7% in the final quarter, with a forecasted year-end export value reaching approximately $45 billion, up from $43 billion in 2023.

After the resignation of Mohammad Ali Khokon as Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) president due to family and physical illness in the wake of the mass uprising, Amber Group Chairman Shawkat Aziz Russell was elected as the president of BTMA. He had previously served as BTMA senior vice president.

Order Shifts to Neighboring Countries: A Growing Competitor

As Bangladesh grapples with internal challenges, neighboring countries like Vietnam and India have become increasingly competitive in securing orders from global buyers. According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Vietnam's garment exports grew by 7% in 2024, while India's garment exports increased by 5%. These nations have capitalized on Bangladesh's energy and labor cost challenges, drawing some orders away. However, Bangladesh still maintains its edge in terms of established infrastructure, skilled labor, and competitive pricing. The country continues to focus on diversifying its product offerings, from basic garments to high-value items like activewear and denim, to stay ahead in the competitive landscape.

Labor Rights: Progress Amidst Struggles

Labor rights have remained a central issue in the RMG sector in 2024. July protests eventually led to a deal between labor unions and manufacturers, with an agreement on the 18-point demand list, including wage hikes of up to 25%. The deal, while necessary, came at a cost to production timelines and created some tension within the industry. Nonetheless, Bangladesh's ability to address labor concerns has strengthened its global image, with international

buyers taking note of the industry's commitment to worker welfare.

According to reports from the International Labour Organization (ILO), worker safety, wages, and treatment continue to be focal points for the industry. In response, the government and BGMEA have made significant strides in improving working conditions. The adoption of new labor policies, which include increased wages and enhanced safety measures, has been welcomed by both workers and international buyers. Bangladesh's focus on improving labor rights is not only in response to domestic pressure but also to align with international standards set by major buyers in Europe and the U.S.

Export Growth at Year-End: A Positive Turn

As 2024 comes to a close, Bangladesh's RMG sector is poised for a significant export boost. The last quarter typically sees an uptick in orders due to the holiday season, and this year is no exception. According to the Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), exports have surged by 7% in the final quarter, with a forecasted year-end export value reaching approximately $45 billion, up from $43 billion in 2023.

Additionally, the U.S. high-level trade representative visit in November 2024 helped boost confidence in the sector, with assurances from international buyers that product prices will raise by 5-10% in response to inflation. During the July-November period of the current fiscal year was $16.11 billion, compared to $14.34 billion in the same period last year. In this case, exports have increased by 12.34 percent compared to the previous year.

Global Shifts: U.S. presidential election and EU due diligence

The global political landscape in 2024 has added an extra layer of complexity to Bangladesh's RMG sector. The U.S. Presidential election could lead to a shift in trade policies, potentially impacting duty-free access for Bangladeshi goods. Furthermore, new European Union regulations on due diligence for labor practices and sustainability are forcing Bangladesh's manufacturers to adopt stricter standards.

According to the EU's new trade agreements, companies that fail to comply with environmental and social standards may face tariffs and restrictions. Bangladesh's ability to meet these standards is crucial for maintaining its stronghold in European markets, where it exports roughly 40% of its total garment production.

A Resilient Industry with Challenges Ahead, Bangladesh's RMG sector in 2024 has navigated through a complex set of challenges while demonstrating remarkable resilience. With export growth showing a positive trend, increased sustainability efforts, and significant improvements in labor practices, Bangladesh is well-positioned to continue its success in the global garment market.

"Despite political instability, rising energy costs, and growing competition, Bangladesh has shown remarkable resilience. The country continues to lead in sustainable garment production and labor rights, while adapting to global shifts in demand for ethical and eco-friendly fashion."

However, challenges remain, including political instability, rising energy costs, and growing competition from neighboring countries. By continuing to focus on high-value products, embracing green technologies, and fostering labor rights, Bangladesh can overcome these challenges and secure its place as a global leader in the garment manufacturing industry.

With a projected export value nearing $45 billion by year-end, the industry's ability to adapt to global shifts and meet increasing demand for ethical and sustainable fashion will determine its long-term success.

Points to be highlighted

"Despite political instability, rising energy costs, and growing competition, Bangladesh has shown remarkable resilience. The country continues to lead in sustainable garment production and labor rights, while adapting to global shifts in demand for ethical and eco-friendly fashion."

"This excerpt effectively captures the resilience and adaptability of Bangladesh's RMG sector in 2024, highlighting its ongoing commitment to sustainability and labor rights amidst challenges."

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Figure 1: Guests and sponsors launching the TTH 9th season by cutting a cake.

Following the successful conclusion of Textile Talent Hunt Season 8, Textile Today Innovation Hub organized the Grand Launching of Textile Talent Hunt Season 9. The grand launching took place at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka on November 9, 2024. TTH 9, presented by Centro Tex Ltd., powered by EURODYE-ctc, aims to insert innovation in individuals working in the sector and the businesses at large.

Textile Talent Hunt 9.0 kicks off, aiming to innovate textile & apparel landscape

Arif-Uz-Zaman

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Zulhash Uddin, Vice Chancellor, BUTEX chaired and announced the launching of Textile Talent Hunt Season 9. He congratulated Tareq Amin, Founder & CEO, Textile Today Innovation Hub to conduct such innovative program for long time.

In the event, Mohammad Hatem, President, Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA); Inamul Haq Khan, Managing Director, Ananta Companies; Eng. Ehsanul Karim Kaiser, Convener, Institution of Textile Engineers and Technologists; Mofazzal Hossain Pavel, President, Bangladesh Garment Buying House Association (BGBA); Abrar Hossain Sayem, President, Bangladesh Apparel Youth Leaders Association (BAYLA) and ATM Mahabubul Alam Chowdhury, Executive Director, Masco Group.

Prof. Dr. Engr. Ayub Nabi Khan Pro-VC, BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology (BUFT), Chairman, and Mohammad Abbas Uddin (Shiyak), Member Secretary of TTH Judges Panel were present along with many other prominent leaders, experts, factory owners and journalists.

Textile and Apparel industry is continuously evolving. The demand for innovative products, sustainable practices, and creative solutions is growing. That is why innovativeness is vital for textile undergraduates to succeed in the industry. Following the industry's vision, Textile Today Innovation Hub thrives via Textile Talent Hunt to develop innovation masterminds (students) through many impactful initiatives who will take the industry lead.

"Textile Today is inspiring innovation. For this, we need talented students along with brilliant mentors and budget, and the budget should be BDT 1 crore."

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Zulhash Uddin
Vice Chancellor, BUTEX

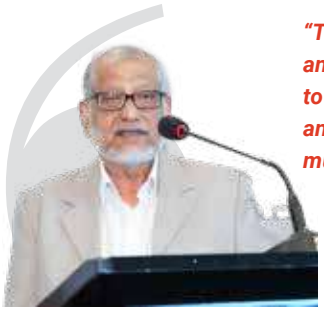
"I hope this program will bring innovative solutions to the industry. This year TTH will engage more than 3000 participants in the competition" Prof. Zulhash Uddin expressed optimism.

"We need more innovative leaders like Mahbub Alam Chowdhury to reduce dependence on expatriates. And the textile talent hunt is creating such innovative leaders for the industry."

Mohammad Hatem
President, BKMEA

Hatem also called Textile Today Innovation Hub to sign MoU with R&D cell of BGMEA and BKMEA to

investigate laws of different countries and suggest the govt. right policy.



"Textile Talent Hunt is an innovative endeavor to build future leaders and ITET will support as much as possible."

Eng. Ehsanul Karim Kaiser
Convener, ITET

"Building a knowledge-based community is important for textile and apparel industry which Textile Today Innovation Hub is relentlessly doing. Govt. and educational institutions should come forward with this effort."

Prof. Dr. Engr. Ayub Nabi Khan
Pro-VC, BUFT

"If we give proper guideline and resources to our students, we will be less dependent on expats and Textile Talent Hunt is such a program to prepare our future leader. We assured full support from BGBA and from my company Dongyi Sourcing."

Mofazzal Hossain Pavel
President, BGBA

Inamul Haq Khan
Managing Director
Ananta Companies;
Current Member of Supporting Committee, BGMEA

"While working towards the target of increasing our textile and apparel exports to $100 billion, we are facing various challenges. The price is falling along with the increase workers' salary and gas crisis. To meet all these challenges, Textile Talent Hunt's innovative projects will play a supporting role in achieving the $100 billion export target."

Figure 2: Representatives from the sponsors company of TTH 9th season launching t-shirts during the event.

"Textile industry is full of dynamism and to face the challenges and be competitive, innovation is must."

Abrar Hossain Sayem
President, BAYLA

Tareq Amin, Organizer of Textile Talent Hunt said, "TTH is looking for enthusiastic and challenge loving students to transform them into Innovation Masterminds (IMs) through training & grooming, idea audition, aptitude test, and supervised research or innovation project execution."

Like the TTH 8th season, about 100 students will be selected through a national level competition in Season 9. They will transform them into innovation masterminds (IMs) through training & grooming, idea audition, aptitude test, and supervised research

Figure 3: (From left to right) Md. Sabbir Hossain, Manager-HR, Centro Tex Ltd; Michel Leclerc, MD, EURODYE-CtC (Online); Md. Rezwanur Rahman, Director, Dysin Group; Engr. ASM Hafizur Rahman Nixon, Executive Director, RH Corporation; Md. Aminul Islam, Director (Bangladesh), Transfar International Group; Sandeep Dave, Country Manager, Apna Organics Pvt. Ltd. (Bangladesh Liaison Office); Tasneem Tayeb, Head of Environmental Compliance & Sustainability, Coats (Bangladesh & Pakistan); Syed Iqbal Rizvi, MD, Sameet Dye Chem Ltd.; Abdur Rashid, Country MD, SGS Bangladesh Ltd.; and S M Sohel Rana, MD, Denim Solutions Ltd. at TTH 9th season.

or innovation project execution. About 2000 students are expected to join the competition from universities all around the country.

"In this 9th season, via involving the industry extensively and at the same time, connecting all the leading input suppliers we will execute all the innovation projects – solving practical and critical day-to-day problems of the industry," said Tareq Amin.

Textile Talent Hunt will engage 30+ partner factories of the Textile Today Innovation Hub through industry leaders/experts to complete 30+ 'Practically Tested Innovation Model' for the industry's innovation needs. Which will provide instant outcomes to the T&A industry. Industry leaders/experts, academics and Textile Today Innovation Hub's own coordinators will work to execute these projects.

Top 100 Innovation Masterminds will receive training equivalent to BDT 30 lacs. And they will also access scholarships up to additional BDT 12 lacs.

"In each project, 3 innovation masterminds will be associated with these projects – along with experts, academics and Textile Today Innovation Hub's own coordinators. In this way, each team will be formed. Their outcomes will be shared with the industry through an exhibition called the Textile Today Innovation Hub Innovation Conference," Tareq Amin added.

After the competition, a total prize money of BDT 6,50,000 will be awarded to the champions and first runner-up and second runner-up in both the group and individual categories in the grand finale.

Any undergrad level students from any discipline willing to integrate 'innovativeness' as next big 'competitiveness' for him or her can join the program.

Textile Talent Hunt is a flagship program of Textile Today Innovation Hub to inspire innovation across the industry. Centro Tex Ltd. is the Title Sponsor, Eurodye-ctc is the Powered by Sponsor, Dysin Group and CHT are the Platinum Sponsor, Apna Organics Pvt. Ltd. is the Diamond Sponsor, Coats is the Prize Money Sponsor, Sameet Dye Chem is the Gold Sponsor and Denim Solution is the Sponsor where Transfar Chemicals is Research partner, GIZ is In Association Partner and TexMeta is the Network Partner of Textile Talent Hunt Season 9.

Among the representatives from sponsors –Md. Sabbir Hossain, Manager-HR, Centro Tex Ltd; Michel Leclerc, Managing Director, EURODYE-CtC (Online); Md. Rezwanur Rahman, Director, Dysin Group; Engr. ASM Hafizur Rahman Nixon, Executive Director, RH Corporation; Abdur Rashid, Country Managing Director, SGS Bangladesh Ltd.; Tasneem Tayeb, Head of Environmental Compliance & Sustainability, Coats (Bangladesh & Pakistan); Md. Aminul Islam, Director (Bangladesh), Transfar International Group; Sandeep Dave, Country Manager, Apna Organics Pvt. Ltd. (Bangladesh Liaison Office); Syed Iqbal Rizvi, Managing Director, Sameet Dye Chem Ltd. and S M Sohel Rana, Managing Director, Denim Solutions Ltd. were present in the program.

Apparel exports increase despite instability

Arif-Uz -Zaman

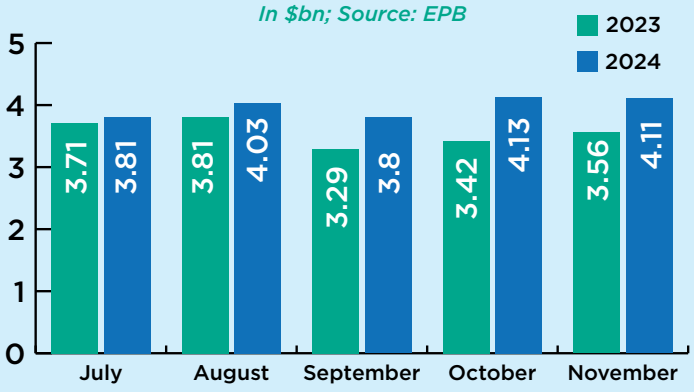
Growth of Major Exports Sectors

Jul-Nov FY: 25; Source: EPB

Knitwear	12.23%	Woven Garments	12.48%
Home textiles	5%	Non-Leather footwear	40.86%
Leather & Leather goods	7.61%	Jute & Jute goods	10%
Frozen & live fresh	11.6%	Agri products	8.34
Overall exports	11.76%		

Bangladesh's Monthly Exports

In $bn; Source: EPB



Since the fall of the government, labor protests in the ready-made garment industry have become a regular occurrence. Despite political unrest, one after another labor protests, and disruptions in production in the ready-made garment sector, the country's apparel export earnings continue to increase.

The Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) said that it has earned a lot of foreign exchange compared to the previous year. The agency released a report on Wednesday. Total exports of goods during July-November of this year were $19.9 billion, representing an export growth of 11.76 percent.

The report shows that the apparel export revenue during the July-November period of the current fiscal year was $16.11 billion, compared to $14.34 billion in the same period last year. In this case, exports have increased by 12.34 percent compared to the previous year.

In addition, in November alone, apparel exports were $3.30 billion, compared to $2.84 billion in the same month last year. As a month, these exports increased by 16.25 percent in November this year.

Knit garment exports worth $1.74 billion were recorded, a growth of about 13 percent. On the other hand, woven garment exports worth $1.57 billion in the last month, a growth of 20 percent.

Export earnings from the knitwear subsector rose by 12.23 percent to $8.96 billion in the five months of FY25 compared with those of $7.97 billion in the same period of FY24. Earnings from woven garments grew by 12.48 percent in the July-November period of FY25, reaching $7.17 billion, up from $6.38 billion in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

In the first five months of this year, agricultural products worth $500 million, leather and leather products worth $470 million, jute and jute products worth $340 million, and home textile products worth $330 million were exported.

During the previous government, questions were raised about the credibility of export earnings data. Responding to a question about whether there is a risk of something like that happening now, EPB Vice Chairman Anwar Hossain said, "Only the actual export data is being presented."

Giving some reasons for the increase in export earnings, he said that despite the gas and electricity crisis in factories during the mass uprising, the workers and owners continued production. Their hard work has mainly resulted in good results in exports.

Besides, it is now the 'peak season' for exports. There are various festivals ahead, including Christmas for Christians. Besides, the purchase orders from the past have also been completed during this time. Exports have increased due to these reasons, he added.

Mohammad Hatem, president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association said, "The reason behind the increase in exports was the release of products we were unable to ship in the first three months due to political and labor unrest."

However, "We are positive due to the support of global leaders, especially Europe and the United States, for Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus, and the restoration of gas supply to factories. If gas supply increases further, our exports will increase," he added.

Belgian textile auxiliary producer EURODYE-CtC extends partnership with Textile Today as Powered by Sponsor for Textile Talent Hunt Season 9

Tareq Amin

Figure 1: Abdul Azeez Asukeen, Director of Nexagen Specialities Ltd., receiving a token of appreciation from Tareq Amin, Founder and CEO of Textile Today.

Renowned Belgian textile auxiliary producer EURODYE-CtC has once again reinforced its commitment to nurturing young talent and driving innovation in the textile industry by extending its partnership with Textile Today as Powered by Sponsor for Textile Talent Hunt Season 9.

Michel Leclerc, Managing Director, EURODYE-CtC, addressed the audience with inspiring words, saying, "It is an honor to be 'Powered by Sponsor' of Textile Talent Hunt Season 9. Our collaboration with Textile Today reflects our unwavering commitment to empowering the next generation of textile innovators. That is why we are proud to be part of this event, which brings together the best and the brightest individuals across the country."

He added that this event aims to provide a platform for young minds to showcase their creativity and contribute to a more sustainable and dynamic textile future.

"Our company, Belgium-based EURODYE-CtC values innovation, creativity and hard work. We are always on the lookout for talented individuals who can bring fresh ideas and perspectives to the industry. We know, that the TTH is the perfect platform to find such individuals."

"We are excited to witness the potential and skills of the participants. We are committed to providing them the opportunity to grow and thrive in their respective fields. We are confident that we will not only find future employees but potential business partners and collaborators."

"As a 'Powered by Sponsor' we are dedicated to supporting the TTH event and its mission, empower and inspire the next generation. We believe that together with Nexagen Specialities in Bangladesh, we can create a brighter future and make a positive impact."

"My message to all the participants – we encourage you to showcase your talent and seize opportunities to shine. Thank you Textile Today and Nexagen Specialities Ltd."

The Textile Talent Hunt, a flagship event of Textile Today, continues to identify and nurture fresh talent in the industry. With the powered by sponsor EURODYE-CtC the event promises to scale new heights, offering participants unmatched opportunities to learn, innovate, and excel where they serve.

Figure 2: Michel Leclerc, Managing Director, EURODYE-CtC, addressed the audience in the Grand Launching of Textile Talent Hunt Season 9.

EURODYE-CtC also added a partnership with Nexagen | a HARRIS & MENUK company to strengthen the vision of both organizations to drive positive change in the textile industry, focusing on sustainability, innovation, and excellence.

Earlier, Abdul Azeez Asukeen, Director, Nexagen Specialities Ltd. on behalf of EURODYE-CtC confirmed the TTH season 9, 2024-25 partnership & signed a MoU with Textile Today at the BTT office.

EURODYE-CtC is one of the renowned textile chemical manufacturers in the world. It is specialized in auxiliaries & special effects products for the textile industry. The company offers a comprehensive solution to meet the diverse needs of the industry. The Belgian textile auxiliary giant has expertise and innovative products to ensure optimal performance, sustainability and quality in every project.

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More about us at www.cht.com

Figure 1: Md. Showkat Aziz Russell, President, BTMA

Yarn dumping disrupts local textiles

Sayed Abdullah

The Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) is a pivotal organization representing the country's 1700 textile mills, manufacturers, and processors. Established in 1983, BTMA plays a crucial role in promoting and protecting the interests of the textile industry.

After the transition of Bangladesh, renowned Bangladeshi businessman and philanthropist Md. Showkat Aziz Russell was unanimously elected as the President of BTMA on 11th August 2024. It is to be noted that Showkat Aziz Russell previously served as Senior Vice President of BTMA for 6 years in three terms and as Director of BTMA for more than a decade in multiple terms with efficiency and success.

Md. Showkat Aziz Russell, Chairman & Managing Director, Amber Group, recently shared his insights in an interview with Textile Today. Here is a glimpse of the discussion.

Textile Today: What will be your primary goal and vision as BTMA President?

Showkat Aziz Russell: I have taken charge of BTMA for the last 3 months. Yes, recent years have been plagued with local and global geopolitical challenges. For instance, while the Bangladeshi textile industry has traditionally focused on cotton-based garments, the global fashion landscape is shifting towards man-made fibers. To remain competitive, the industry must prioritize value-added fashion products and invest in a robust backward linkage industry. This requires strong government support and favorable policies.

Building MMF manufacturing capability

Meaning, to meet growing global demand, the country's backward linkage textile sector needs to build man-made fiber manufacturing capability. Firstly, there is a need for fundamental transformation in the industry and support from the government at the policy level. To build this sector and attract textile entrepreneurs, I would like to help them by insisting the govt. with some policy support which is vital for the sector.

For instance, I would like to have an incentive policy like before to go forward. Also, during the previous main opposition tenure, there was a policy in place that exempted investors in promising sectors from providing a source of funds. I have already given several letters to the concerned Advisor and going forward will push the government for all the required support. Like, a safe environment for the industry, a

continuous supply of energy and banking support are paramount. In addition, providing some policy backing for the manmade fiber sector to grow. Then we can achieve more than the export target of $100 billion.

Textile Today: What kind of policy support do you want from the new government?

Showkat Aziz Russell: India's strong support for its textile industry, including worker subsidies and capital machinery incentives, underscores the country's commitment to value addition and economic growth. On top of it, Indian yarn is often exported at lower prices than it is sold domestically. This is due to government subsidies and other support mechanisms.

In contrast, the Bangladeshi government overlooks the textile sector, treating it as a luxury rather than a crucial industry for employment and economic growth. It's essential to recognize the value of this sector and provide necessary support, including favorable policies and incentives.

The banking sector's lack of support for the textile industry is another major concern. Despite the industry's potential to create jobs and drive economic growth, it faces difficulties securing loans, even for established businesses. Addressing these financing challenges is crucial to ensure the industry's long-term sustainability.

Textile Today: What specific policy measures would you like to see to protect the domestic spinning industry from unfair competition, such as yarn dumping by neighboring countries, and to ensure its sustainable growth?

Showkat Aziz Russell: A substantial amount of yarn and fabrics is illegally smuggled into Bangladesh through our various land borders from India, undermining the domestic spinning industry. In the past 15 years, the last govt. has done very little to stop that. Whereas, the govt. before that implemented various restrictions on cotton imports via land borders. Which was a positive step.

In addition, our reliance on Indian cotton has exposed us to price volatility and supply disruptions. The lack of reliable organic cotton certification from Indian suppliers further limits our options. It is time to explore alternative sources and reduce our dependence on India.

I think, their non-cooperation is a blessing in disguise. It will help us in achieving self-reliance. The current relationship with India lacks mutual benefit. While we face unfair trade practices, such as low prices for truck permits and free fiber optic connections for specific regions, India portrays a different narrative through its media. To create a healthier bilateral relationship, we need to address these issues and work towards a more equitable partnership.

To level the playing field, we need supportive policies, including energy security and improved infrastructure. Investing in domestic gas exploration and reducing reliance on imported LNG can significantly boost our industry's competitiveness.

> *A substantial amount of yarn and fabrics is illegally smuggled into Bangladesh through various land borders from India, undermining the domestic spinning industry.*
>
> **Md. Showkat Aziz Russell**
> President, BTMA

Textile Today: How can Bangladesh strengthen its cotton supply chain?

S**howkat Aziz Russell:** To mitigate reliance on Indian cotton, Bangladesh should explore diversifying its cotton sourcing. This includes importing higher-quality cotton from countries like the USA. Government support, such as providing free warehouse facilities for three months, can help address challenges related to longer lead times and price fluctuations. Additionally, leveraging idle seaport facilities for warehousing can further optimize the supply chain and reduce costs.

Textile Today: In which sectors can Bangladesh diversify its economy beyond the textile industry?

Showkat Aziz Russell: The jute sector, with its potential for value-added products, offers a significant opportunity for Bangladesh. However, the lack of government support and policy incentives hinders its growth. While sectors like microchips show promise, the jute industry, with its strong domestic resource base, should be prioritized for sustainable development.

Textile Today: In terms of building quality engineers, there is no alternative other than giving quality education. Share with us about NITER's plan regarding building quality textile engineers.

To enhance mill profitability and make value-added garments like MMF, there is no alternative other than building quality textile engineers. for example, in BTMA run National Institute of Textile Engineering and Research) NITER, we have included most of the necessary fields in the curriculum. To ensure we can provide the necessary manpower for the textile and RMG industry.

Rising inflation and policy shifts drive up textile costs and retail prices

Shaifun Nahar Elma

The textile industry faces the challenges of high inflation as the price of raw materials, energy, and lingering issues of supply chain management by the end of 2024. It grounded the textile industry in the past because the most common inflationary factors affect different sectors with consideration given to the fact this industry relies on resources power and energy-intensive processes. Let's point out how inflation is redesigning the global textile market in a way that puts immense pressure on manufacturers as well as brands to innovate.

Rising costs of raw materials and impacts on manufacturing

Even cotton prices fluctuation in 2023, having a high price of $1.10 per pound but in early 2024 it was at $0.92 per pound which is much higher than $0.65 per pound of pre-2021. Other synthetic fibers such as polyester for similar reasons also experienced an upsurge in price; market rates rose from 10%-15% in 2023 due to volatility in oil prices which is an essential raw material for synthetic fibers. The high price of raw materials affects all the manufacturers within the industry's value chain eroding profit margins.

Energy and inflationary trend

Labor-intensive processes like dyeing, spinning, and finishing increase the industry's vulnerability to the high cost of energy. In the international market oil price and natural gas prices rose slightly than 15% between 2022 to 2024. European natural gas prices dropped by 15% from the 2022 peak at $18 per MMBtu, cited in March 2024 as around $15 per MMBtu.

The industry is vulnerable to geopolitical factors that further increase problems of energy prices; especially for countries such as Bangladesh India and Pakistan overly dependent on imported energy.

RISING INFLATION

TEXTILE COSTS & PRICES

Automation Can reduce labor costs by 6% and total manufacturing costs by 20%

Global Retail Price Index Increase

6% increase, with higher influence in regions like Asia, South Asia, and Africa.

Rising Costs of Raw Materials

Price increase by 10%-15% in 2023 due to volatile oil prices (crucial for synthetic fiber production)

Energy Price Impact on Textile Manufacturing:

Oil and natural gas prices rose by 15% (2022-2024).Labor-intensive processes like dyeing, spinning, and finishing more vulnerable to energy price hikes.

Demand for Eco-friendly Products

40% of buyers prefer brands with environmentally conscious campaigns.

Rising International Interest Rates:

48% of textile firms delayed expansion due to 8% finance cost increase.

US Tariffs on Chinese Textiles (25%)

Sales increase by up to 15% for brands holding sustainability certifications.

INDIA'S TEXTILE PRODUCTION SUBSIDY SCHEME:

Up to 15% off on textiles. benefiting 40% of regional textile mills.

AI for Demand Forecasting & Inventory Management: Reduces expenses by 10% through better supply chain management.

Consumer behavior and new trends in buying habits

Overall expenditure on apparel has come down by 10-15% in the Western markets, particularly in the category of fast fashion. Customers are getting more concerned about the quality of products and are now on the lookout for eco-friendly products due to product durability when budgets are strained. Therefore, renowned global brands are focusing on quality aspects as well as green practices.

According to the Global Textile Business Outlook 2024, the global retail price index has increased by 6 % but the maximum percentage influenced the buying behavior in specific regions like Asia, South Asia, and Africa. Unofficially it was established that almost 40% of the buyers prefer those brands that are associated with environmentally conscious campaigns.

The hypothesis of localizing supply chains for developing country

For instance, in Bangladesh they have first sourced local raw materials which has increased by 5%

this has lessened the problem of importing raw materials which causes some inflation. The responses mentioned in the backdrop by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) described it as a modular plan of decentralized supply chain war against inflationary threats that emerged from the world economy. Similarly, India's Textile Production Subsidy Scheme provides up to 15% off on textiles and bows 40%

of regional textile mills helping to keep a check on production expenses.

This has however been driven by industry trends moving towards regional sourcing. Any local production increment in countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Pakistan decreases reliance on supply chain disruptions and raw material costs to make ways for stable, inflation-indexed production strategies.

A route to cost efficiency by using technological advancement

In turning the tide against inflation, the textile industry in particular sees the utility of adopting both automation and safe technologies. The McKinsey 2024 State of Fashion suggests that full automation of work floors can down silver labor expenses by 6% and total manufacturing costs by 20%. Several organizations are using AI for demand forecasting and inventory management, and this has helped reduce expenses by 10 % through improved supply chain management.

H&M, the world's biggest fast fashion company, recognized affecting price sensitivity as a hurdle. One participant said, "Increase in price of raw material and transportation cost is also a challenge." A few of these costs may end up being passed on to the consumer even as we work to roll out effective supply chain management strategies capable of reducing these effects. Add another consideration to the list the commitment to sustainability that requires additional investment that we are considering carefully now."

Trade policies and economic pressures

Trade policies such as fiscal adjustment are also putting pressure on the cost in the industry. Rising International interest rates have forced 48% of the textile firms to delay their expansion strategies because the cost of finance has gone up an average of 8%. Moreover, with tariffs on Chinese textiles standing at 25%, US buyers have searched for other markets and turned to southeast Asia and African nations if at a slightly higher initial expense.

Consequently, manufacturers have started

developing regional capacities that can overcome the barriers created by trade policies and are covering up the costs of tariffs through incentives from other regions. For instance, emerging markets in Southeast Asia come with cheaper manufacturing costs borne by governments as they eliminate some cost pressures that firms experience due to inflation as they look for alternatives to imports from China.

Sustainability as a key strategy amid inflation

Moreover, sustainability certification is becoming even more vital because customers care about responsible production today. Brands holding sustainability certificates have increased their sales by up to 15% over the past year, proving that sustainability is a key factor in an inflationary market.

Nike identified inflation and policy changes as the factors that had an impact on operations in the sportswear sector. "Competitive pressures on a global scale include an increase in costs throughout the world in material and transportation. We engage in supply chain advancements for addressing these changes but we are keen on ensuring prices are affordable to our customers, Nike's representative stated. "Very much focused on sustainability, especially here where some of the costs are higher than in a traditional supermarket-format store which we are containing."

High inflation therefore poses a very profound threat to the operation of this textile sector requiring radical change for it to be able to sustain profitability. Strategic improvisations promoting clean operational production mechanisms are essential to the goal. This year industry response to inflation will define future stability; making way for textiles that are balanced and sustainable in the coming years.

RMG leaders emphasize innovation and value-addition for next-level growth

Sayed Abdullah

Figure 1: M A Jabbar, Managing Director of DBL Group.

M A Jabbar, Managing Director of DBL Group said, DBL stopped the 'Price-to-Bottom' approach through innovation in products, R&D, and processes. Only the fire dosing approach won't work- like the T&A industry doing. Our competitor countries have adopted at least 5 years long strategy long ago to thrive. And we are seeing their progress already. For instance, with the aid of long-term policy, Vietnam has excelled far in terms of value-addition, and product diversification."

He was speaking at an event titled 'National Dissemination Session: Future-Proofing RMG for 2030 & beyond.' Where textile and apparel industry stakeholders highlighted that Bangladesh is poised to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status by 2026. This transition, coupled with the ratification of 27 EU conventions, presents both opportunities and challenges.

Speakers at the event highlighted as Bangladesh navigates these challenges, it must prioritize addressing concerning issues, strengthening its regulatory framework, and investing in innovation and technology to maintain its position as a global apparel hub.

"Whereas we have plateaued at an apparel export target – without doing a proper study or amending necessary policies. And to break through this ceiling, we need strong leadership and institutional support. A comprehensive, industry-wide approach is essential, rather than isolated efforts," added the DBL Group leader.

Chief Guest of the event, Anwar Hossain, Vice Chairman of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), and the newly appointed Administrator of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) said, "The energy crisis remains a significant challenge for the textile industry. A major hurdle for the industry is ensuring a consistent power supply. Significant investments, estimated at around $25 billion, are needed to improve the country's infrastructure."

"A long-term, collective approach is necessary. Improving the ease of doing business and fostering stronger industry-academia partnerships are crucial for the sector's growth. To enhance competitiveness, we must prioritize upskilling our workforce and diversifying our product range beyond cotton-based textiles. Additionally, streamlining regulatory processes and reducing the burden of multiple audit platforms will help to improve efficiency."

"Ultimately, a collaborative effort involving all stakeholders is essential to ensure sustainable growth," Anwar Hossain concluded.

Md. Hatem, President, Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) said, "We are pleading to the new govt. to put a hold on LDC graduation in 2026. A premature graduation will doom our T&A industry along with the rest of the industries."

Prof. Mohammad A Momen, Former Director, IBA and Co-Founder, Pride Group in his part revealed the dilemma of Bangladeshi readymade garment (RMG) manufacturers, "The reality is that despite doing R&D – it is an advantage, not the advantage to bargain better prices from brands. Despite top factories leading in R&D and diversification, we do not get premiums but instead get some better prices."

Figure 2: Prof. Mohammad A Momen, Former Director, IBA and Co-Founder, Pride Group.

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Requires milder alkali for efficient peroxide bleaching.

pH gliding technology:
Reduces alkalinity of residual liquid while cooling the bath.

Enhanced absorbency:
Improves saponification, absorbency, and wicking.

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Minimizes the number of auxiliary and suits a wide range of pretreatments from white to black.

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Figure 1: Eric Schöller, Member of the Executive Board, Groz-Beckert.

German-based Groz-Beckert, a global leader in the textile industry showcased its latest innovations at ITMA Asia 2024. With a focus on efficiency, sustainability, and digital integration, Groz-Beckert's cutting-edge solutions address the evolving needs of the textile industry.

At the globally leading textile machinery exhibition, Textile Today talked to Eric Schöller, Member of the Executive Board, Groz-Beckert. He is also in charge of Marketing and Sales, Purchasing, Information Management and Data Protection. Member of the Executive Board at Groz-Beckert KG since 2008. He joined Groz-Beckert KG in 1997.

Reduce 20% energy consumption with innovative Circular Knitting machine needle

Amzad Hossain Monir

Textile Today: Groz-Beckert has been a leading player in the needle and textile technology sector for over 160 years. How do you maintain a competitive edge in such a dynamic market, especially in Asia?

Eric Schöller: Groz-Beckert has maintained a competitive edge for over 160 years through a combination of continuous innovation, strong partnerships, and local market insights. In Asia, which is a key market for us, we focus on understanding regional requirements and maintaining a flexible approach that allows us to address unique challenges.

Our emphasis on research and development, as well as our investment in digital technologies, keeps us ahead of industry changes. We also prioritize customer proximity, which means we have a presence in key textile hubs, providing direct support and tailored solutions. This combination of innovative products, digital services, and localized customer care helps us remain a leader in the needle and textile technology sector across the region.

Textile Today: Groz-Beckert has always been at the forefront of technological innovation. Could you share any insights into the latest innovations that you have showcased at ITMA Asia 2024? How are these innovations addressing industry challenges?

Eric Schöller: At ITMA Asia 2024, Groz-Beckert showcased several innovations across our six product areas, including knitting, weaving, non-wovens, tufting, spinning, and sewing. For instance, in the knitting sector, we have presented the LCmax™ Circular Knitting machine needle, which reduces energy consumption by up to 20%, enhancing both efficiency and sustainability.

We have also highlighted innovations in non-woven such as our new notch design for felting needles, which helps delay wear and minimize clogging. Additionally, our focus on digital integration was demonstrated by tools like the INH quality management system for sewing, ensuring precise and documented needle handling. These innovations are designed to meet the evolving demands of the textile industry by improving efficiency, reducing environmental impact, and enhancing process reliability.

Textile Today: Sustainability has become a key issue for the textile industry. How is Groz-Beckert contributing to the industry's efforts in reducing waste, energy & environmental footprint? Could you share your approach to sustainable manufacturing practices?

Eric Schöller: Sustainability is at the heart of Groz-Beckert's approach to textile innovation. We are taking multiple steps to reduce waste, energy consumption, and environmental impact across our operations. For example, our LCmax™ circular knitting needle reduces energy use by up to 20%, significantly cutting the carbon footprint of the knitting process.

In the non-woven sector, our new notch design for felting needles minimizes wear and clogging, extending product life and reducing waste. We also focus on sustainable manufacturing practices, such as reducing CO2 emissions in needle production and using eco-friendly materials.

Furthermore, our Technology and Development Center (TEZ) offers collaborative development for sustainable solutions, supporting our customers in creating eco-friendly products and reducing their environmental impact. By integrating energy efficiency, waste reduction, and innovative technologies, we are committed to leading the textile industry towards more sustainable practices.

Textile Today: Groz-Beckert's success stems largely from understanding customer needs. How do you collaborate with your customers to develop tailor-made solutions, especially in diverse markets like Asia?

Eric Schöller: We prioritize collaboration by engaging directly with our customers through local sales teams and technical experts. This approach allows us to gather valuable insights into their unique challenges and preferences.

We also invest in partnerships with local industry players to co-develop solutions that are tailored to specific requirements. By leveraging our Technology and Development Center, we provide a platform for joint innovation, enabling us to create products that enhance efficiency, productivity, and sustainability for our customers. This close collaboration ensures we remain agile and responsive to market demands, fostering long-term relationships built on trust and mutual success.

Textile Today: How do you view the growth trajectory of the Asian textile industry, particularly in terms of technology adoption? What role does Groz-Beckert aim to play in this market?

Figure 2: Amzad Hossain Monir, Head of Business Development, Bangladesh Textile Today with Eric Schöller.

Eric Schöller: The growth trajectory of the Asian textile industry is very promising, particularly in terms of technology adoption. As manufacturers increasingly embrace automation, digitalization, and sustainable practices, we see significant opportunities for innovation and efficiency improvements. The demand for advanced textile machinery and solutions that enhance productivity and reduce environmental impact is rising rapidly.

At Groz-Beckert, we aim to be a key player in this transformation by providing cutting-edge technologies and tailored solutions that meet the evolving needs of the market. Our focus is on developing products that not only improve manufacturing efficiency but also support sustainability initiatives, such as energy-efficient machinery and eco-friendly materials.

By fostering close collaboration with our customers and understanding their specific challenges, we are committed to helping them navigate this technological shift and achieve long-term success in the dynamic Asian textile landscape. This approach aligns with industry trends, as many experts believe that technology adoption in textiles will continue to accelerate in Asia, driven by both market demands and regulatory pressures for sustainability.

Textile Today: With changing market dynamics and geopolitical influences, how does Groz-Beckert plan to adapt to shifts in global supply chains, particularly in Asia?

Eric Schöller: Groz-Beckert is proactively adapting to changing market dynamics and geopolitical influences by strengthening local partnerships and expanding our footprint in key Asian markets. We are investing in enhancing responsiveness and agility within our supply chains.

Our commitment to sustainability also drives us to explore eco-friendly sourcing options, aligning with global trends and customer demands. Through these strategies, we aim to remain a reliable partner in the Asian textile industry as it evolves.

Textile Today: What is Groz-Beckert's strategic vision for 2030, particularly in terms of innovation, sustainability, and market leadership?

Eric Schöller: Groz-Beckert's strategic vision for 2030 emphasizes our commitment to leading the textile industry through innovation and sustainability. We envision a future where our advanced technologies not only enhance production efficiency but also significantly reduce the environmental footprint of textile manufacturing. By prioritizing sustainable practices in product development, we aim to create solutions that align with global sustainability goals and meet the increasing demand for eco-friendly textiles.

Our vision also includes strengthening our market presence in Asia and other emerging regions through localized partnerships and tailored solutions, ensuring we are responsive to the unique needs of these markets. Ultimately, Groz-Beckert strives to be recognized not just as a market leader in textile technology but as a pioneer of sustainable practices that drive positive change in the industry.

Minimizing fabric process loss and reduce rejection rates

Dyeing process optimization discussed at TTIH "Textile Processing Innovation Cell Meeting"

Najmus Sakib

The Textile Processing Innovation Cell of the Textile Today Innovation Hub recently held a significant meeting on November 17, 2024. This meeting brought together industry experts to explore strategies for optimizing dyeing processes to reduce fabric process loss and rejection rates in textile manufacturing.

The experts represented a wide range of sectors within the textile industry, including knit dyeing, yarn dyeing, denim washing, all-over printing, and chemical manufacturing. Shamim Rahman, Director of South West Composite Ltd., expertly moderated the discussion, which provided valuable insights on enhancing efficiency and minimizing waste in the industry. The gathering brought together a distinguished panel of industry experts.

Shamim Rahman opened the event by highlighting the challenges in Bangladesh's textile industry. He noted that while buyers haven't increased prices, manufacturing costs have surged due to rising gas prices, higher wages, and raw material expenses. As a result, the industry is focusing on cost-cutting strategies, such as minimizing process loss and improving efficiency.

> ***"Bangladesh's textile industry faces rising costs, but buyers haven't raised prices. To cope, we must cut process loss, improve efficiency, and reduce rejection rates to ensure sustainable production."***

Shamim Rahman
Director, South West Composite Ltd.

Minimizing process loss in woven textiles through proper monitoring

> ***"High process losses in woven textile production often stem from multi-machine processing errors. Proper monitoring of each process, along with the use of Lycra protectors and advanced finishing chemicals, can effectively mitigate these losses and enhance production outcomes."***

Engr. Md. Abdullahel Hossain Bablu
Deputy Managing Director,
Asiatic Group

Engr. Md. Abdullahel Hossain Bablu, Deputy Managing Director of Asiatic Group, highlighted the challenges of high process losses in woven textile production, particularly from multi-machine processing. He noted that errors in machine parameters, such as temperature variation, improper chemical dosing, and extended bleaching times, and heat-setting temperature fluctuations, frequently lead to significant fabric damage, especially in spandex fabrics.

The Textile Processing Innovation Cells of the Textile Today Innovation Hub aim to drive advancements in textile processes, materials, and technologies. By exploring new techniques and solutions focused on sustainability, efficiency, and product enhancement, the cell works closely with industry experts, researchers, and technology providers.

Ensuring consistency in fabric quality through controlled knitting practices

> *"Roll-to-roll GSM and diameter variations occur when fabrics are knitted on machines of different diameters or brands, causing inconsistencies. To remedy this, batches should be knitted on the same machine or on machines of the same brand and diameter to ensure uniformity and minimize variations."*

Engr. Md. Rashedul Islam
Head of Textile, Comfit Composite Ltd.

Engr. Md. Rashedul Islam, Head of Textile at Comfit Composite Ltd., highlighted a crucial issue contributing to fabric process loss: roll-to-roll GSM (grams per square meter) and diameter variation. He explained that these variations often arise when fabrics are knitted on machines of different brands or with differing diameters, leading to inconsistencies. This is especially problematic due to the inherently unstable nature of knit fabrics, which can cause diameter fluctuations. To address this challenge, Engr. Rashedul emphasized the importance of knitting a batch that is to be dyed, on the same machine or, at the very least, machines of the same brand and diameter.

Effective management can reduce process loss by 30% in printing

> *"Proper management in printing can reduce rejection rates by up to 30%. Organizing the printing stages in a linear sequence, rather than a zig-zag pattern, would help minimize process loss."*

Engr. Md. Ashraful Alam
Director of Production (Printing) at M.N. Dyeing, Printing & Washing Mills Ltd.

Engr. Md. Ashraful Alam, Director of Production (Printing) at M.N. Dyeing, Printing & Washing Mills Limited, emphasized that effective management plays a crucial role in reducing rejection and process loss. He highlighted that proper management in the printing process can reduce rejection rates by up to 30%. He also noted that if printing stages are arranged in a linear sequence rather than a zig-zag pattern, process loss would be minimized.

Ensuring even fabric diameter during knitting and dyeing is essential, as fabric diameter variations can cause screen color to transfer unevenly onto the fabric, potentially damaging the print over a width of 3-4 inches. Even minor damage, such as a single inch of misprinted fabric, can lead to the loss of an entire garment panel. To solve this, Ashraful recommended maintaining an even fabric diameter during knitting, dyeing and stentering.

Minimizing variables to reduce process loss in denim washing

> *"Rejection rates can be reduced by minimizing the number of people involved in the process, as fewer individuals mean fewer variables contributing to rejection."*

Engr. Md. Nasir Ullah
Country Director, Officina+39

Engr. Md. Nasir Ullah, country director at Officina+39, shared insights on process optimization in denim washing, focusing on strategies to enhance efficiency and reduce rejection rates in both dry and wet processes.

Nasir Ullah explained that manual tasks like hand-scrapping and whiskering in dry processes often cause more variability and higher rejection rates. In wet processes, Nasir Ullah shared an example of a Bangladeshi denim washing mill using innovative techniques that minimize process loss and lower rejection rates. They utilize a waterless stone enzyme wash, which enhances the beating effect and significantly reduces process time compared to conventional techniques.

Improving yarn quality to minimize process loss and reduce rejection rates

Md. Rahat Ullah Rashed, Head of Technical Support at Taiwan Persotex Corp., emphasized the importance of yarn quality in minimizing process loss. He used the example of adding an extra draw frame to a typical setup of 15, increasing it to 16, to show how this adjustment can improve yarn quality. While slightly increasing costs, higher yarn quality reduces extensive pre-treatment needs, saving steam, water, electricity, time, and manpower, while also lowering rejection rates in downstream processes, making it more efficient.

"Adding an extra draw frame to a typical setup of 15 can significantly improve yarn quality. While it may slightly increase costs, the resulting savings in steam, water, electricity, time, manpower, and reduced rejection rates in downstream processes, make it a highly efficient approach."

Md. Rahat Ullah Rashed
Head of Technical Support at Taiwan Persotex Corp.

Developing and retaining a skilled workforce to ensure quality in washing operations

"The best operator ensures the best quality. In dry processes, focus on operator skills, while in wet processes, the supervisors' expertise and commitment are key to minimizing losses."

Engr. Yamin Chowdhury
General Manager (Production) at Denimach Washing Ltd.

Engr. Yamin Chowdhury, General Manager (Production) at Denimach Washing Ltd., shared key strategies for minimizing process loss through efficient manpower utilization in the garment washing industry.

Yamin emphasized the importance of retaining skilled workers by offering competitive salaries, reducing dependency on new hiring. He stated, "If we take good workers and technicians, then we may not need to check the quality. The best operator ensures the best quality."

Yamin highlighted key practices, including:

- Training lower-level workers to handle multiple roles and follow SOPs ensures production continuity, even without key personnel.
- Promoting juniors internally instead of hiring externally when an employee leaves, which helps maintain morale and enthusiasm among the workforce.
- Placing the right person in the right position.

Establishing a fabric audit department to track and minimize process losses

"A Bangladeshi factory set up an internal fabric audit department to track process losses at each stage, helping them identify areas for improvement to minimize process loss."

Md. Aminul Islam
Director of Business Development at Transfar Chemical

Md. Aminul Islam, Business Development Director at Transfar Chemical, emphasized the importance of a Right First Time (RFT) dyeing approach to increase blind dyeing and reduce shade corrections. He shared a success story from a Bangladeshi factory that set up an internal fabric audit department to track process losses at each stage, leading to significant benefits.

Online GSM checking reduce fabric process loss

"Using online GSM checking, adjustments like overfeed and underfeed are made instantly, significantly reducing GSM variations and improving efficiency."

Nuruzzaman
CEO of LN Dye Chrome Ltd.

Nuruzzaman, CEO of LN Dye Chrome Ltd., shared strategies used at TM Textiles & Garments Limited to minimize process losses and enhance efficiency. In their knitting operations, fabric rolls are stored in each machine until there are 40 to 50 rolls. At that point, they are released as batches for further processing. This helps minimize fabric diameter inconsistencies.

Additionally, he mentioned the use of an advanced technique called online GSM checking. In this process:

- After a fabric roll from a batch exits the stenter machine, a sample is cut using a GSM cutter.
- The cut fabric is then impregnated with detergent.
- After washing, lengthwise shrinkage is measured along the grain line, while widthwise shrinkage is determined by measuring at a 90° angle to the grain line, and then the GSM is measured.

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Ensuring yarn consistency and streamlining GSM cutting to minimize rejection rates

> *"Using different yarn in bulk and samples causes re-lab testing and adjustments, increasing process loss. Consistent yarn use across R&D and production can reduce these losses."*

Abdullah Al Mamun

DGM (Dyeing), Tropical Knitex Ltd.

Abdullah Al Mamun, GM (Dyeing) at Tropical Knitex Ltd., focused on the impact of yarn and grey fabric quality on rejection rates and process loss. He highlighted the challenge of not always being able to use the same yarn in bulk as in samples due to availability issues and lead time pressures. This results in re-lab testing and adjustments, increasing process loss. Mr. Mamun emphasized that using the same yarn across R&D and production would help reduce these losses.

He recommended cutting GSM at only one trustworthy stage and using advanced machinery in other sections to calculate GSM without cutting samples.

Minimizing GSM variations by using the same machine for sample and bulk finishing

Mozammel Huq, DGM, Alim Knit (BD) Ltd, Mondol Group, added that in sample dyeing, shade matching often requires additional steps like topping or applying extra heat, which can extend the dyeing time from 8 to 22 hours. This prolonged process can damage the fabric and lower its GSM. The knitting unit uses the GSM of sample-dyed fabric to adjust stitch length, but relying on sample results for bulk knitting tends to worsen GSM variations in large-scale production.

> *"Using different machines for sample and bulk fabric finishing leads to GSM variations and increased process loss. To minimize this, it's essential to use the same machine for both sample and bulk production. Additionally, negotiating with buyers to allow for higher shade tolerance limits can reduce the need for re-dyeing, lowering costs and minimizing rejection rates."*

Mozammel Huq

DGM, Alim Knit (BD) Ltd,
Mondol Group

Using different machines for finishing sample and bulk fabrics can lead to GSM variations and higher process loss. For instance, if the sample is finished on a compacting machine with a new blanket, but the bulk is processed on an older machine with a worn-out blanket, the bulk fabric will have a lower GSM. This approach would help reduce the need for re-dyeing or washing, cutting costs, boosting productivity, improving fabric quality, and minimizing process loss.

Bangladesh reroutes shipments through Maldives

Nurnahar Akter

Bangladesh, a global textile powerhouse, has reportedly begun rerouting its textile exports through the Maldives.

By bypassing traditional routes and leveraging the Maldives' strategic location, Bangladesh aims to streamline its supply chain and expedite the delivery of goods to international markets, impact the regional trade landscape, and potentially affect the revenue streams of other countries involved in the textile trade.

Exporters claimed they could save up to $1 per kilogram on shipping costs to European nations by using air freight through the Indian Ocean Island, which is roughly 2,800 kilometers from Dhaka.

The traditional air shipment routes through Dhaka, Kolkata, Colombo or Singapore had either become too expensive or too slow, exporters added.

Shipment rates through Dhaka had climbed to $6.30–$6.50 per kg when Bangladeshi exporters stumbled upon the new route through the Maldives, it has now come down to $3.80–$4.10 per kg for shipping to Europe.

The interim government's restoration of order led to a surge in factory production, subsequently driving a significant increase in shipment demand.

The consequent backlog also had to be cleared quickly once operations resumed as exporters became desperate to meet their looming deadlines, many of which had presumably been extended considering the political situation.

Arun Kumar, president of the Association of Multimodal Transport Operators of India said, “This new route gives Bangladesh a strategic advantage and improved reliability, which is crucial for meeting tight international deadlines.”

Minimizing 'Crease Mark' from moderate to heavy GSM fabric with an anionic anti-crease agent named LUDOX ACA

Faysal Ahmmad

Key Insights:

- Crease marks in heavy jersey fabrics results in quality, waste, and cost issues.
- **LUDOX ACA,** an advanced anionic anti-crease agent, improved fabric lubricity and dye leveling while reducing friction during dyeing.
- Its **"pillow effect"** reduced friction, ensuring uniform dye penetration.
- Used at pretreatment and dyeing bath.
- Reduced fabric rejections saved **$144,000** monthly at Lantabur Group

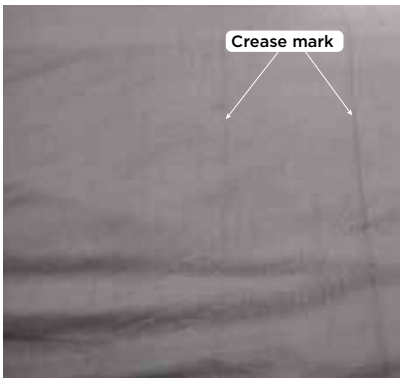

Figure: Crease mark problem found at heavy jersey fabric with 10% black color shade

The knitted textile materials made from cellulosic cotton fiber fabrics are highly sought-after for use in clothing because of their unique features like superior moisture absorption, wear comfort, excellent hydrophilicity, biodegradability, air permeability, and a good ability to absorb different types of dyes better than man-made fibers. Single jersey textiles, including locust, pique, and plain fabrics, are typically utilized extensively for body fabric in clothing in Bangladesh.

The processes of preparation, dying, and post-treatment yield the greatest number of knit fabric issues which commonly include edge marks, crease marks, pinholes etc. Color crease marks typically occur when fabrics fold or crease during dyeing or finishing, causing uneven dye distribution.

According to an established finding, the inherent fiber structure of cotton makes it naturally prone to wrinkling, as well as the propensity for crease marks is notably higher in high GSM fabrics compared to low GSM fabrics, given their thickness and stiffness, making them more susceptible to folding

Additionally, this production volume of cotton-based knitwear is dominated by moderate to high GSM of fabric mostly which is also more likely to be affected by crease mark appearance in dyed fabric. In this context, it can be stated undoubtedly that a cotton-based knit dyed fabric can easily be affected by the crease mark problem due to its inherent characteristics which could be a major concern for countries like Bangladesh. Although, knit fabric dyeing is a complex process that involves various factors such as fiber type, yarn quality, knitting technique, dyeing method, and finishing treatment. Therefore, minimizing crease marks is an important objective for the knit fabric industry. In this realm of crease mark problem, this study focuses on minimizing it within

"Introducing LUDOX ACA for heavy jersey fabric, GSM ranging from 180 to 320 is a change-maker decision for us. We get good results by applying 1 GPL LUDOX®-ACA in the pretreatment stages and 0.5 GPL in the dye bath. It has higher lubricating capabilities, which lessen fabric-to-fabric and fabric-to-machine friction during dyeing by creating a pillow effect."

Md. Robiul Hasan Masud, M.Phil.
Senior Manager (Dyeing),
Lantabur Group

"We had the crease mark problems in heavy jersey fabrics with deep color dyeing for a few months, and for these 27 tons of fabrics worth $216,000, they were rejected per month. Recently, we introduced LUDOX ACA. It saves around $144,000 worth of fabric monthly."

Mohammad Abul kalam Azad
Group General Manager (Textiles), Lantabur Group

a tolerable limit, to improve the quality of dyed cotton fabric following profit maximization by working on some of the raw material and process variables associated with the knitting and dyeing process as reprocessing is required to solve the crease mark problem.

At the initial stage of this project, the baseline study was carried out to extract the entire existing process that might be responsible for the appearance of crease marks in the dyed fabric. As per the project innovation charter, we saw some scopes in studying i.e., yarn count, knitting machine, stitch length selection, knitting tension, fabric knitting, storing, batching, dyeing and finishing. As their previously practiced input, 24's 100% comb compact cotton yarn was used to produce 180 GSM fabric. Which was processed to be knitted at a stitch length of 2.9 mm, at a circular knitting machine. Subsequently, the knitted fabrics were taken through a dyeing process with M:L of 1:8 ratio Where pump speed were being kept at 90% and loading utilization 85%.

Usually, the color crease mark was seen in the fabrics of dark shade dyeing of Uneek buyer

Since Crease marks on dyed fabrics are a persistent challenge for the textile industry, leading to quality concerns, material waste, and increased production costs. So, with advancements in textile accessories, innovative solutions are emerging to mitigate these issues. One such groundbreaking development is LUDOX ACA, developed by Apna Organics, offers advanced lubrication and anti-redeposition properties, providing an integrated solution for crease mark prevention and fabric quality enhancement without interrupting the current process of dyeing. As a crease mark-vanishing agent, it improves the fabric's surface lubricity and the dye's leveling properties. This ensures uniform dye penetration, reducing the occurrence of visible crease marks.

He added, "Crease marks during dyeing are not only caused by dyeing, but they can also be caused by poor yarn quality and knitting. Here in the dyeing stages, we can only minimize it. After taking all precautions, if crease marks appear, then LUDOX can help us. In this case, we must treat the fabric at 90 degrees for 30 minutes with 1.5 GPL LUDOX ACA."

Another notable feature of LUDIX ACA is its compatibility with diverse fabric types and dye classes, making it versatile for various textile sectors. Whether applied to synthetic materials, cotton, or blends, LUDIX ACA ensures a smoother finish, free from color irregularities. Moreover, it is environmentally friendly, aligning with the industry's shift toward sustainable practices. Textile manufacturers adopting LUDOX® - ACA report significant improvements in product quality, leading to enhanced customer satisfaction and reduced waste. Its effectiveness not only optimizes

"At Apna Organics, we take pride in developing innovative solutions like LUDOX ACA that address critical challenges in the textile industry, such as crease marks. This advanced product not only improves fabric lubricity and ensures uniform dyeing but also aligns with our commitment to sustainability through its eco-friendly formulation. Seeing LUDOX ACA deliver outstanding results at Lantabur Group—reducing waste, enhancing fabric quality, and optimizing production efficiency—reinforces our dedication to providing solutions that meet the evolving demands of the global textile sector for sustainable and cost-effective processes."

Sandeep Dave
Country Head, Apna Organics Pvt Ltd. (Bangladesh Liaison office)

production efficiency but also helps businesses save on costs associated with reprocessing and defect management.

In a nutshell, in the competitive landscape of textiles, where quality and sustainability are paramount, innovations like LUDIX ACA pave the way for achieving both. By eliminating color crease marks with ease and efficiency, it empowers manufacturers to deliver flawless fabrics while minimizing environmental impact, marking a step forward in sustainable textile processing.

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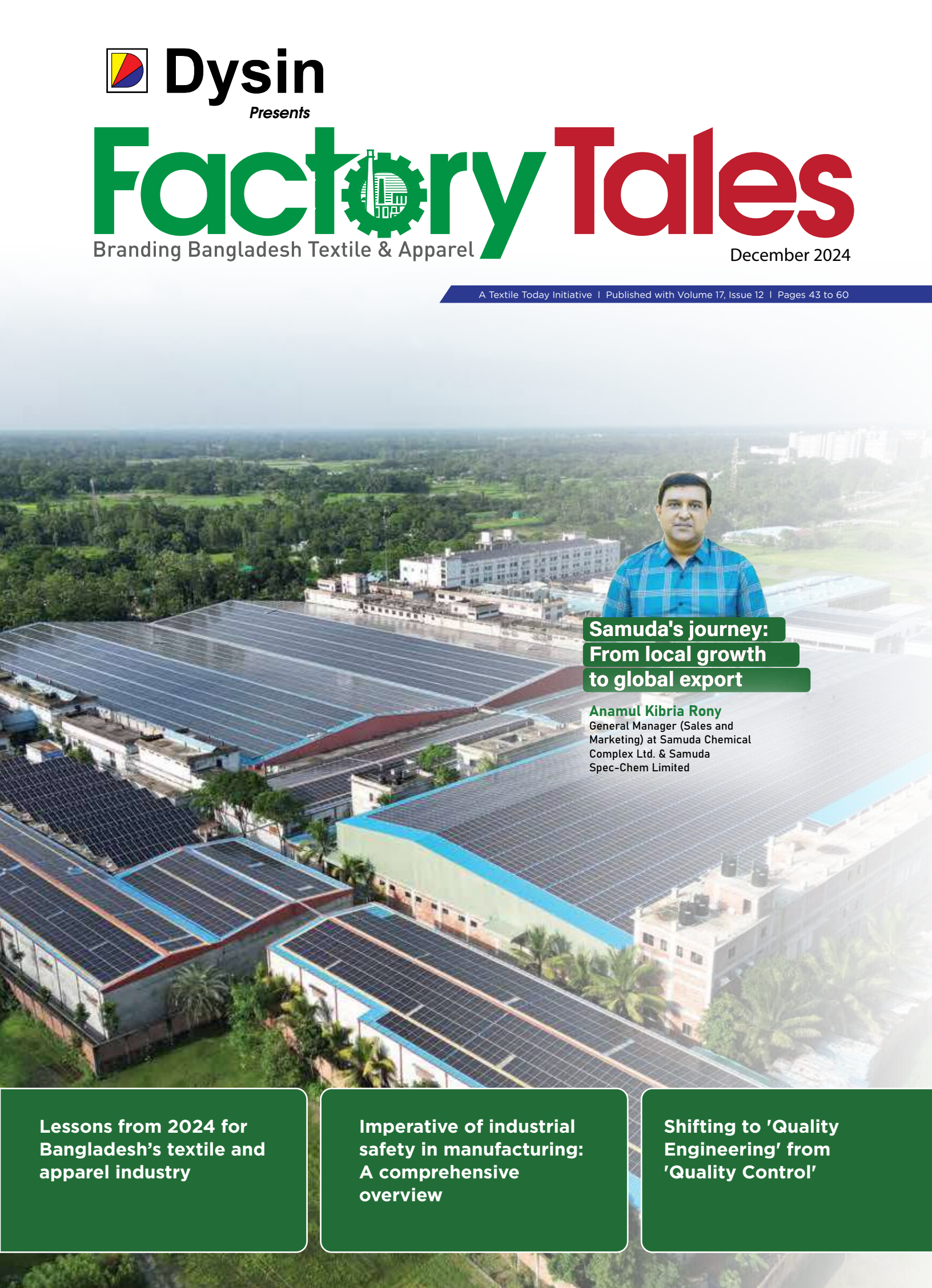

Samuda's journey: From local growth to global export

Anamul Kibria Rony
General Manager (Sales and Marketing) at Samuda Chemical Complex Ltd. & Samuda Spec-Chem Limited

Lessons from 2024 for Bangladesh's textile and apparel industry

Imperative of industrial safety in manufacturing: A comprehensive overview

Shifting to 'Quality Engineering' from 'Quality Control'

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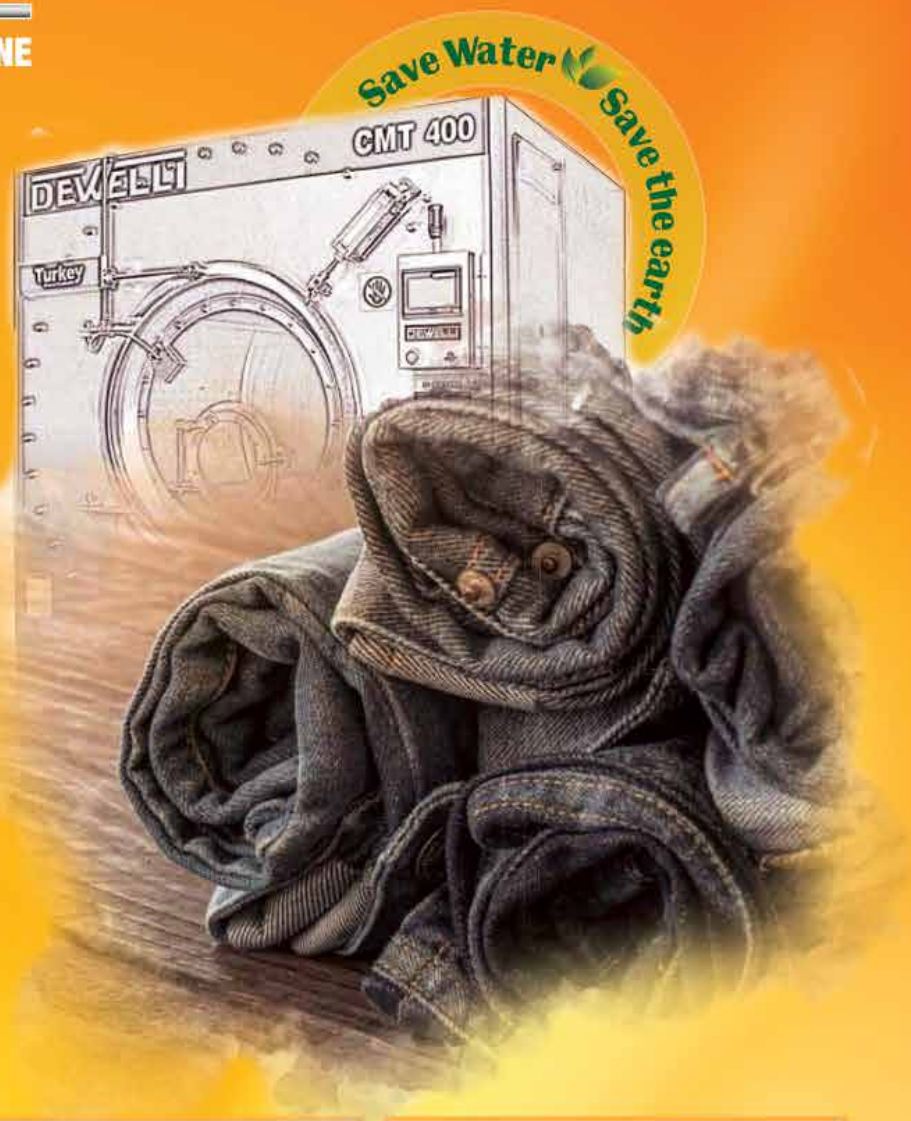

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Lessons from 2024 for Bangladesh's textile and apparel industry

Rahbar Hossain

As 2024 draws close, Bangladesh's textile and apparel industry stands at a critical juncture. This year has been a learning curve, offering challenges and opportunities that provide valuable insights for the future. Political transitions, energy crises, worker unrest, and evolving global market dynamics have tested this sector's resilience.

In 2024's political landscape, leadership changes brought uncertainty in the textile and apparel supply chain. Protests, transport disruptions, and delays in policy decisions created logistical bottlenecks, affecting export schedules and eroding buyer confidence. Yet, the industry showcased its adaptability by reinforcing contingency plans and maintaining communication with international buyers to ensure transparency and reliability.

Energy shortages remained one of the most pressing issues in 2024, increasing production costs and hampering timely order fulfillment. Gas rationing and rising fuel costs hit fabric processing and spinning operations hardest, threatening profit margins and export commitments. Despite these challenges, some factories adopted renewable energy solutions and energy-efficient technologies, setting an example for the industry.

Investments in solar power, biomass, and energy-efficient machinery must be accelerated, with support from both the government and international buyers. Such measures not only reduce dependency on fossil fuels but also align with global sustainability demands.

Worker protests over wage disparities and inflation reflected the growing tension between laborers and factory owners. Although the minimum wage increase was a step in the right direction, it failed to address broader issues such as rising living costs and inconsistent labor practices. The unrest underscored the need for a more equitable labor management system to ensure stability.

Now, fair wages, timely payments, and improved working conditions are not only moral obligations but also critical for maintaining productivity and retaining a skilled workforce. Buyers must also acknowledge their role by offering fair pricing that empowers manufacturers to invest in their employees.

The global textile market continues to evolve, with heightened focus on sustainability, circularity, and technological innovation. While Bangladesh remains

Figure: Buyers must also acknowledge their role by offering fair pricing that empowers manufacturers to invest in their employees.

a leader in basic garments, 2024 highlighted the growing demand for diversified and value-added products, such as durable products, technical textiles and sustainable fabrics. The industry's progress in recycling and green production gained international recognition, but scaling these efforts remains a challenge.

Investing in R&D for innovative products, adopting circular economy practices, and meeting global environmental standards are essential to retain buyer trust and competitiveness.

Trade tensions, particularly between the U.S. and China, created new opportunities for Bangladeshi exports. However, competition from emerging players like Vietnam and Ethiopia remains fierce. Regional trade agreements and geopolitical alignments have also played a significant role in shaping sourcing decisions.

Bangladesh must also strengthen its branding as a compliant, sustainable, and innovative sourcing hub to outpace competitors.

2024 has been a year of both trials and achievements for Bangladesh's textile and apparel industry. By learning from its challenges and leveraging its strengths, the sector can chart a resilient and sustainable path forward.

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Figure: The governance of safety encapsulates, among others, the development of distinct rules and regulations, enforced through OSHA, to ensure adherence to minimum safety standards in the United States.

Imperative of industrial safety in manufacturing: A comprehensive overview

Engr. Anisul Hoque Ansari

Industrial safety forms not merely a standard approach of laws and regulations in the manufacturing sector but has grown to become the bedrock for the entire specter of productivity output, quality, and sustainability. With this article, we'll look into a variety of dimensions, including safety protocols, governance, safety-sustainability ties, productivity, return on investment (ROI), as well as industrial engineers' pivotal role in creating a safe and healthy workplace.

1. Types of safety protocols, governance, and culture

Safety protocols for the protection of employees, equipment, and the environment include:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): These comprise equipment like hard hats, gloves, and goggles used to protect workers from hazards. An example is wearing safety glasses while operating machinery in a factory.

Machine Safety Protocols: Examples here include lockout/tag out procedures ensure that machines are not starting up when they are being repaired. Some examples are making sure that all energy sources are isolated while repairs are being carried out.

Emergency Response Plans: These protocols set up procedures for various emergencies like fires or chemical spills. For example, in a manufacturing plant, regular evacuation drills may be conducted to prepare employees for various emergencies.

The governance of safety encapsulates, among others, the development of distinct rules and regulations, enforced through OSHA, to ensure adherence to minimum safety standards in the United States. Safety culture is grown in an atmosphere wherein all actions reflect the commitment to safety by every member of leaders, training coordination, and communication.

2. Why is Safety the Foremost in Manufacturing?

Safety, thus, remains the first concern of the manufacturing sector for several valid reasons:

Employee Morale: A well-regulated environment ensures protection from any injuries and sudden surfacing of diseases. This enhances overall morale and loyalty towards the industry.

Legal Compliance: Bringing about absolutely lawful ways of working in factories results in non-legal consequences, aka penalties.

Sustainability: A safe workplace ensures reduction of wastage of processes and resource utilities due to less in the form of accidents or downtimes.

3. Connection to Sustainability

The connection between safety and sustainability in industrial settings is multifaceted, intertwining employee welfare, ecological impact, and overall operational efficiency. Here's a deeper look at how these two concepts are linked:

A. Reduction of Waste and Resource Use

Safety protocols often lead to more efficient use of materials and resources. By focusing on safety,

companies typically implement better operational practices, which can minimize waste. For example:

- **Preventing Spills and Leaks**: Effective safety measures around hazardous materials can prevent spills that not only pose a risk to worker safety but also harm the environment. By ensuring that chemicals are stored and handled properly, companies reduce the risk of contamination and the associated cleanup costs.
- **Improved Processes:** Safety audits can lead to the identification of inefficiencies in production processes. By addressing these inefficiencies, companies can reduce material waste and energy consumption, aligning with sustainability goals.

B. Enhanced Occupational Health

Worker safety is closely tied to occupational health, which is a critical component of sustainability. A healthy workforce is more productive and less prone to accidents. By investing in safety measures, companies can reduce illness and injury and promote employee well-being.

C. Regulatory Compliance and Risk Management

Sustainability and safety are often governed by similar regulations and standards. Compliance with safety regulations can help companies meet environmental standards as well, reducing their risk of legal issues and fines.

D. Increased Efficiency and Productivity

A safe workplace is typically a more efficient one, which contributes to sustainability in terms of operational practices, such as minimized Downtime caused by safety incidents and quality assurance leads to less rework and waste, contributing to sustainability.

E. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Businesses today are increasingly held accountable for their environmental and social impacts. By prioritizing safety, organizations can bolster their CSR initiatives. Safe practices not only protect employees but also reduce the risk of accidents that could affect surrounding communities. Companies that demonstrate a commitment to safety and sustainability are often viewed more favorably by consumers and stakeholders, enhancing their reputation and marketability.

F. Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The drive for safety often leads to innovation in processes and technologies that also promote sustainability. It encourages the adoption of cleaner, safer technologies that reduce environmental impact. For instance, switching to non-toxic materials not only enhances worker safety but also lessens ecological harm. Continuous safety assessments can lead to iterative improvements in product design and processes that prioritize both safety and environmental sustainability.

4. ROI of Safety Investment in Manufacturing Industries

Safety investments extract a high return. Several studies have shown that for every dollar invested in safety training, the returns are $4 to $6 in terms of lessened injury or illness-related costs. Savings amount through Lower Workers' Compensation Costs, Increased Productivity and Enhanced Employee Retention.

5. The Function of Industrial Engineers in Making Safety in Careers

Industrial engineers indeed possess the unique capability to forge a significant impact in promoting safety in all work setups. Training in systems optimization and technique improvement enables them to design Safe Systems. They are able to analyze the procedures or workflows in place and identify possible risks, implementing designs that could reduce or even eliminate hazards.

Moreover, Industrial engineers can develop effective training modules, through which employees can be informed about safety protocols and best practices. Industrial engineers, by their endeavors, can promote safety in organizations and set forth a culture that benefits employee well-being and operational excellence.

Conclusion

Industrial safety is an integral area of manufacturing that goes far beyond merely meeting compliance with regulations. It covers employee welfare, productivity, and sustainability. The investment in safety process and procedures in the workplace, promulgation of vigorous culture towards safety, and recognition of industrial engineers' contributions enable manufacturers not only to provide an accident-free work zone but also surge ahead for successful operations. Safety is an investment in compliance, not just for regulatory requirements but to ensure that sustainable approaches are supported. By safeguarding employees, businesses also cultivate environmental stewardship, better operational efficiencies, and improved reputational glory. This synergic approach fosters compliance and the reduction of risks, positioning organizations as torchbearers of greening practices. The commitment to safety is, therefore, a foundation for sustainable development going beyond manufacturing.

Author:

Engr. Anisul Hoque Ansari
Director, RNT (BD) Ltd.

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Figure 1: Anamul Kibria Rony, General Manager (Sales and Marketing) at Samuda Chemical Complex Ltd. & Samuda Spec-Chem Limited.

Samuda's journey: From local growth to global export

Amzad Hossain Monir & Sayed Abdullah

Samuda Chemical Complex Ltd. & Samuda Spec-Chem Limited, concerns of Samuda Group, is a leading chemical manufacturing company in Bangladesh, renowned for its high-quality products and firm commitment to customer satisfaction.

The company offers a wide range of chemical solutions, including textile chemicals, adhesives, and other industrial chemicals. As a leader in the production of basic textile chemicals in the country, Samuda Chemical also exports its products to over 30 countries worldwide.

With a strong emphasis on innovation and sustainability, Samuda Group is dedicated to addressing its customers' evolving needs. The company's expert team continuously develops and delivers advanced products that enhance productivity and efficiency.

Anamul Kibria Rony, General Manager (Sales and Marketing) at Samuda Chemical Complex Ltd. & Samuda Spec-Chem Limited, has been serving the textile and apparel (T&A) industry for the last two decades. In the early stages of his career, he contributed to the growth of local companies engaged in basic chemical manufacturing, playing a vital role in establishing a competitive local chemical manufacturing industry. Since joining Samuda Chemical in 2008, he has been playing a vibrant role in expanding the company's footprint.

In an interview with Textile Today, Anamul Kibria Rony shared insights about Samuda Chemical's legacy, growth, challenges, opportunities, and future plans.

Textile Today: Could you please share the rich history of Samuda's journey in the T&A industry?

Anamul Kibria Rony: Samuda Chemical was initiated as a family business under the visionary leadership of Mohammad Abul Kalam, one of the founding members of T.K. Group, established in 1972. Initially, Samuda Chemical focused on hydrogen peroxide & caustic soda production but gradually diversified its product portfolio. In 2015, we began producing textile chemical auxiliaries, further strengthening our market presence.

Textile Today: Can you give us an overview of Samuda Chemical's key product lines and solutions?

Anamul Kibria Rony: Samuda Chemical is a major supplier of basic chemicals like hydrogen peroxide, caustic soda, liquid chlorine, hydrochloric acid, sodium hypochlorite, calcium carbonate, filler compounds, and chlorinated paraffin wax. These high-quality, competitively priced products deliver exceptional value to our customers.

Our customer base includes almost all knit-dyeing

Figure 2: The plant's Continuous Polymerization unit produces polyester staple fibers (PSF), textile-grade polyester chips (PET chips), draw-textured yarn (DTY), and fully drawn yarn (FDY).

and woven factories, along with some washing factories in the country. Beyond textiles, we supply chemicals to several other industries as well. Currently, we are the leading manufacturer of basic textile chemicals in Bangladesh and have also ventured into textile auxiliary manufacturing.

Our manufacturing processes adhere to stringent global standards, ensuring the highest quality and compliance with rigorous international specifications.

Textile Today: What are the key challenges you are currently facing as a basic chemical manufacturer, particularly in terms of market competition, supply chain, and regulatory compliance?

Anamul Kibria Rony: One of our primary challenges is the lack of bonded warehouse status, which necessitates complex back-to-back LC arrangements. This puts us at a disadvantage compared to importers of textile auxiliaries, who can directly bond products at seaports.

In terms of exports, we face hurdles due to anti-dumping duties imposed by countries like India and Pakistan. While these countries protect their local industries with such measures, Bangladesh does not enforce similar policies, leaving local manufacturers at a disadvantage.

From a policy perspective, local chemical manufacturers add at least 30% value locally and significantly contribute to foreign currency retention. Therefore, easing policy constraints and providing incentives would boost local manufacturing and benefit the textile sector and the national economy.

Historically, our competitive edge lay in low-cost energy alongside labor. However, the recent gas price hike has slowed growth significantly. Small and medium enterprises are particularly affected, with many merging with larger entities to survive.

Adding to the woes, the ongoing crisis in financial institutions has further strained the export sector. If the banking sector fails to recover soon, the situation may worsen for the industry.

Textile Today: Can you share details about T.K. Group's latest venture, Modern Syntex, at the Mirsarai Economic Zone in Chattogram?

Anamul Kibria Rony: Modern Syntex Limited is one of the largest man-made fibers (MMF) plants in the nation, established with an investment of $131 million. This expansion of Modern Poly can save approximately $60 million in foreign exchange annually.

The plant's Continuous Polymerization unit produces polyester staple fibers (PSF), textile-grade polyester chips (PET chips), draw-textured yarn (DTY), and fully drawn yarn (FDY). These products provide crucial backward-linkage support to meet the local demand in industries such as textiles, garments, footwear, and automotive manufacturing.

Textile Today: What initiatives has Samuda Chemical taken to reduce its environmental impact and promote sustainability?

Anamul Kibria Rony: At Samuda Chemical, we are committed to protecting and enhancing the environment, improving the communities in which we operate, and upholding the highest ethical standards. Most importantly, we ensure that our raw materials are sourced from ZDHC Level-3 Certified suppliers, ensuring environmental compliance at every step.

INNOVATION CELL

Shifting to 'Quality Engineering' from 'Quality Control'

M A Mohiemen Tanim & Zahid Hossen

Figure: The second Efficiency Cell meeting of the Textile Today Innovation Hub focused on the topic 'Quality Engineering: The Heart of Quality Control & Assurance'. This meeting was recently held at Textile Today premises.

Key Insights:

» **Shift to Quality Engineering (QE):** Moving from reactive Quality Control (QC) to proactive Quality Assurance (QA), with a data-driven Quality Engineering (QE) approach to improve consistency and reduce defects.

» **Data-Driven Decisions**: Using data and KPIs to enhance QA processes, minimize defects, and improve efficiency.

» **Risk Management:** QE identifies potential risks early, improving QA and QC effectiveness.

» **Collaboration:** Integrating QA, QC, and QE for continuous improvement across production.

» **Leadership and Culture:** Emphasizing leadership's role in fostering a culture of quality and aligning QA, QC, and QE for long-term success.

T&A manufacturing industry faces growing challenges to maintain high-quality standards in a rapidly evolving market. With increasing consumer demand for faster production, superior durability, and product consistency, the roles of Quality Control (QC), Quality Assurance (QA), and Quality Engineering (QE) have become more critical than ever. These processes work together to ensure quality is embedded at every stage of garment production—from material selection to final inspection—while driving efficiency and preventing defects.

The 2nd Efficiency Cell Meeting, hosted by the Textile Today Innovation Hub on November 24, 2024, brought together industry leaders, quality engineers, and manufacturing experts to discuss "Quality Engineering: The Heart of Quality Control & Assurance." Moderated by Anisul Hoque Ansari, Director at RNT (BD) Ltd., the Innovation Cell Meeting focused on exploring ways to advance to Quality Engineering (QE), building on the foundations of Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC).

> ***"Transparency, continuous improvement, and data-driven decisions are crucial for maintaining global standard in product quality"***

Anisul Hoque Ansari

Director, RNT (BD) Ltd., Riztu Corporation, Assent International, Unicorn Software & Solutions Ltd.

The discussion emphasized how transitioning from QC's reactive inspections and QA's proactive processes to a systematic, data-driven Quality Engineering approach can elevate product consistency, minimize defects, and enhance production efficiency. Key topics included risk management strategies, data-driven decision-making, and the role of leadership in fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation.

Leading the charge for transparency and data-driven decisions

Anisul Hoque Ansari started the meeting by emphasizing better communication and data-driven decision-making within the T&A industry. He remarked, "Miscommunication between design, manufacturing, and quality teams often leads to costly errors. We must transform the industry into one that thrives on transparency, continuous improvement, and data-driven decisions."

Leadership's role in building a quality culture

> ***"Quality assurance is everyone's responsibility, not just the quality team's."***

Md. Matiur Rahman (Robin)

Director, Essential Clothing Ltd.

Md. Matiur Rahman (Robin) discussed the critical role of leadership in shaping a culture of quality. He emphasized, "When top management leads

by example, it fosters a quality culture throughout the organization. Quality assurance is not just the responsibility of the quality team; it is the responsibility of every worker."

Shifting from quality control to proactive quality assurance

> *"Quality assurance is about preventing defects before they happen, not just identifying them after the fact."*

Shafiur Rahman
Regional Operations Manager, G-Star RAW

Shafiur Rahman spoke about the evolution from traditional quality control (QC), which often addresses defects after they occur, to quality assurance (QA), a proactive approach that prevents defects before they happen. He emphasized, "Risk analysis in quality assurance needs to go deeper than product-level issues. We must evaluate each component to prevent defects at every stage."

Cultivating a mindset for continuous quality improvement

> *"By training the top 5% of workers as quality leaders, we can create a culture of continuous improvement throughout the company."*

Engr. Tarun Kumar Mistry
Director of Operation, Chaity Group

Engr. Tarun Kumar Mistry emphasized that a shift in mindset is required for effective quality improvement. He suggested identifying the top 5% of workers and training them to become trainers, thereby creating a multiplier effect of quality knowledge throughout the workforce. Mistry also advocated for lean manufacturing techniques like 5S, Kaizen, and Poka-Yoke, which not only improve operational efficiency but also ensure consistent product quality.

Power of communication and continuous improvement

Dr. Azim Mohammad emphasized the importance of Quality Engineering in ensuring growth and competitiveness in the textile industry. Drawing parallels to Jhumpa Lahiri's Interpreter of Maladies, Dr. Azim highlighted the need for clear communication across all stages of production, stating, "Quality engineers must ensure clear communication to prevent defects and delays." He stressed adopting a culture of continuous improvement through data-driven solutions and innovation, given that global textile production has grown by 4.4% annually.

Dr. Azim also pointed to the need for empathy in understanding consumer needs and being proactive in addressing production issues, as the industry loses over $400 billion annually due to quality problems.

> *"Clear communication and a customer-centric approach are key to the future of quality engineering."*

Dr. Engr. Azim Mohammad
Lead Consultant, Panacea Private Consulting

Aligning financial and operational strategies for quality success

> *"Integrating financial planning with quality engineering ensures resources are effectively allocated to support improvements."*

Bhaskar Ranjan Saha
Founder & Lead Mentor, Bhaskar Accounting Lab

Bhaskar Ranjan Saha discussed how financial planning and quality engineering must be closely aligned to drive sustainable improvements. He remarked, "Quality engineering requires not just technical expertise but also strategic financial planning. Operations and finance must work together to ensure that resources are allocated effectively for quality improvements."

Integrating quality across every production stage

Mohammad Mahbubur Rashid reinforced the importance of integrating quality throughout the entire production process, from design to delivery. He said, "Quality cannot be inspected into the final product—it must be integrated into every step of the production process from the very beginning."

"Quality must be embedded in every step of the production process, not just inspected at the end."

Mohmmad Mahbubur Rashid
GM, Quality, Chorka Textiles Ltd.

Rashid pointed out that defect prevention is more cost-effective than defect detection and rework, and that quality must be embedded from the outset to achieve consistent results.

Anticipating challenges with Manufacturing Control Plans (MCPs)

"Manufacturing Control Plans anticipate problems and streamline production, reducing defects and improving efficiency."

Md. Obaydul Haque
DGM, Quality, Mondol Group

Md. Obaydul Haque discussed the strategic importance of Manufacturing Control Plans (MCPs) in ensuring smooth operations. He remarked, "MCPs allow us to anticipate problems before they arise, enabling smoother processes, reducing defects, and improving productivity."

Right First Time (RFT%) as a core metric for success

"Right First Time is not just a metric; it's a mindset that drives continuous improvement in production."

Mohammad Ali Hasan
AGM, BPA, Tropical Knitex

Mohammad Ali Hasan spoke about the importance of the Right First Time (RFT%) metric, which ensures that every product is made correctly from the start, eliminating the need for rework and reducing waste. He stated, "RFT% should be a mindset, not just a metric. If we focus on getting things right the first time, we drastically reduce waste, rework, and defects."

Proactive risk assessment for operational efficiency

"Proactive risk assessment is key to detecting and addressing issues before they affect production."

Bidhan Chanda
Sr. Manager, IE, HAMS Group

Bidhan Chanda discussed the importance of proactive risk assessments in quality management. He stated, "A proactive risk assessment framework is the key to early detection of issues before they escalate. We cannot afford to be reactive in quality engineering." Chanda emphasized that data analytics and KPIs should be utilized to guide decision-making, monitor process efficiency, and ensure that quality standards are met consistently.

Data-driven planning for consistent quality and efficiency

"Continuous monitoring and data-driven planning are essential for achieving consistent quality and meeting production targets."

A.T.M. Golam Kibria
Manager, IE & Planning, Fortis Group

A.T.M. Golam Kibria highlighted the importance of data-driven planning and continuous monitoring to optimize quality and production efficiency. He stated, "Comprehensive planning and ongoing adjustments are essential to ensuring that production targets are met without compromising on quality."

Conclusion

The 2nd Efficiency Cell Meeting emphasized the need for advanced quality engineering practices to drive the future of textile manufacturing. The experts and leaders who participated underscored the importance of data-driven decisions, proactive risk management, and leadership engagement in creating a culture of continuous improvement. By integrating these strategies, the industry can tackle the growing demand for high-quality production and ensure that Bangladesh remains a global leader in garment manufacturing.

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Figure: On the Left, TANATEX's Global Brand and Retail Director, Ged Doyle, participated in an expert panel discussion on the future of sustainable materials and chemistries.

TANATEX honored with 'Innovative Use of Bio-Based Materials Award' at PCIAW 2024

Desk Report

TANATEX Chemicals, a concern of Transfar Chemicals has been recognized with the 'Innovative Use of Bio-Based Materials Award' at the PCIAW 2024 Annual Summit.

This prestigious award honors companies that are at the forefront of sustainability and innovation in the textile industry.

TANATEX's Biolutions chemical range, a pioneering solution utilizing bio-based materials, was cited as a key driver for this recognition.

This innovative range aligns perfectly with the growing global demand for sustainable and eco-friendly products.

In addition to this award, TANATEX's Global Brand and Retail Director, Ged Doyle, participated in an expert panel discussion on the future of sustainable materials and chemistries.

Doyle shared insights into emerging trends in bio-based materials and alternative solutions to traditional fibers, highlighting the company's commitment to a more sustainable future.

TANATEX remains dedicated to developing innovative solutions that balance performance and environmental responsibility, and this award is a testament to their ongoing efforts.

Solar EPC powers up Dhaka Residential Model College with 23.2 kWh

Amzad Hossain Monir

Figure: Brig. Gen. Kazi Shameem Farhad and Brig. Gen. Muhammed Zaber Hossain, Principals of Dhaka Residential Model College inaugurated the 23.2 kWh rooftop solar project

Solar EPC Development Ltd. (SEPC) is a leading and fastest-growing solar power project developer and consultancy firm, installed a 23.2 kWh rooftop solar project at Dhaka Residential Model College.

This project, generously donated by the Yunnan Provincial People's Association and implemented with the support of Yunnan Commercial Representative Office in Dhaka, Yunnan Provincial Energy Investment Group, Ltd., and Union Resources & Energy Co., Ltd., marks a significant step towards a greener future for Bangladesh.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by distinguished guests including Brigadier General Kazi Shameem Farhad and Brigadier General Muhammed Zaber Hossain, Principals of Dhaka Residential Model College, and Li Xiao, Director of the Yunnan Commercial Representative Office in Bangladesh.

Ezaz Al Qudrat A Mazid, Founder and Managing Director said, "We provide turn-key EPC solutions for rooftop solar projects – a complete range of services, from initial assessment to design, engineering, procurement, installation, and commissioning. We also work as IPP developer, and project management consultancy services for our clients."

Ezaz Al Qudrat A Mazid added, "Solar EPC's experienced team leverages the latest technology and industry best practices to provide its clients with high-quality, cost-effective, and sustainable solar energy solutions."

Southwest Composite partners with TTIH to establish systematic innovation culture

Faysal Ahmmad

Southwest Composite Limited has formed a key partnership with Textile Today Innovation Hub (TTIH), taking an important step towards encouraging innovation within factory.

The partnership was officially announced during a project handover meeting attended by Tareq Amin, founder and CEO of TTIH, Eousup Abu Abdullah, Chief Operating Officer of TTIH, Sanjoy Saha, Assistant General Manager (AGM) of Industry Engagement at TTIH, and Engr. Shamim Rahman and Md. Hasan Kajmir Mahmud, Directors of Southwest Composite Limited.

At the heart of this collaboration, it was a successful project focused on improving Lab-to-Bulk Right First Time Percentage (RFT%).

Engr. Shamim Rahman, Director of Southwest Composite Limited, expressed his excitement about the partnership, saying, "This collaboration is an important milestone for us. It brings new opportunities to integrate innovation culture across the industry to build mid-level management and improve industry efficiency.

Figure: Tareq Amin, founder and CEO of TTIH handed over the project to Engr. Shamim Rahman, Director of Southwest Composite Limited.

Tareq Amin, CEO of TTIH, emphasized the significance of such industry collaborations, noting, "We believe in the power of partnerships to bring about positive change. By working together, we can create sustainable and innovative solutions that move the textile sector forward."

This partnership between Southwest Composite Limited and TTIH sets a powerful example of how collaboration can drive innovation and sustainable growth in the textile industry, helping to shape the future of Bangladesh's textile sector.

Bangladesh's textile seeks to mitigate risks & capitalize on opportunities

Khalid Bin Bashar, Director, TRU Group

The recent disruptions in the global textile industry have presented both challenges and opportunities for Bangladesh. While political instability and labor issues in certain regions have led to increased diversification among global brands, it has also underscored the need for a more proactive and resilient approach.

Open communication with international buyers is paramount to navigating these turbulent times. Transparent discussions about the challenges faced and the strategies in place to address them can help maintain trust

Figure: Khalid Bin Bashar, Director, TRU Group.

and strengthen relationships. Additionally, investing in infrastructure, particularly energy and logistics, is crucial for streamlining operations and improving efficiency.

Diversifying supply chains by exploring partnerships in Southeast Asia can mitigate risks associated with local instability. Simultaneously, attracting foreign investment through robust banking relationships can bolster the industry's long-term resilience.

By taking proactive steps to strengthen private security, enhance production flexibility, and uphold fair labor practices, Bangladesh can survive and thrive in this evolving global market.

Solaric highlights industrial solar power solutions at BUET event

Solaric Story

Figure: Didar Islam, Managing Director of Solaric Group was the special guest at the event.

Solaric Group, a leading industrial rooftop solar EPC company, was the title sponsor of the recent BUET EEE Cultural Day 2024. The event, held at the EC Building of BUET, allowed Solaric to showcase its expertise and commitment to sustainable energy solutions.

To showcase its expertise in industrial solar power, Solaric Group set up a stall at the EC Building of BUET during the cultural day. Visitors had the opportunity to learn about the various aspects of industrial solar power plants.

With its parent company in Singapore and a subsidiary in Bangladesh – Solaric Group – works on implementing rooftop solar power projects in large-scale industrial plants. The company offer the advantages of both CapEx (capital cost) and OpEx (operating cost) models, to provide financial benefits for factory owners. Solaric is the only solar energy company in Bangladesh, backed by a private equity investor named OSIRIS. Only Solaric has the experience of installing the world's largest rooftop solar solution, which is located at the Korean EPZ, Youngone Group in Chittagong and has a production capacity of 50 megawatts. Solaric presented a miniature demo of the solar rooftop project at the event.

Didar Islam, Managing Director of Solaric Group, a leading expert in renewable energy, was the special guest at the event.

> ***We aim to add 300 MW in industrial and IPP projects by 2026, helping reduce reliance on conventional power sources and alleviating load shedding.***
>
> **Didar Islam**
> Managing Director, Solaric Group

In his address at the event, Managing Director Didar Islam highlighted Solaric's achievements and plans.

Didar Islam said, "Solaric Group is one of the leading solar EPC companies in Bangladesh, with operations spanning the USA, Singapore, and Bangladesh. Since 2009, we have been pioneers in home-based solar systems, shifting our focus entirely to industrial solar projects in 2017. To date, we have completed over 45 large industrial projects and are expanding into IPP projects with ground-mounted and floating solar plants."

"Industrial rooftop solar solutions offer the lowest possible installation costs, reducing electricity dependence by more than 50% while providing clean, green energy. Currently, Solaric operates a 123 MW industrial rooftop power plant, serving industries like garments, textiles, plastics, steel, and pharmaceuticals. We aim to add 300 MW in industrial and IPP projects by 2026, helping reduce reliance on conventional power sources and alleviating load shedding. Industrial Rooftop Power Plant is becoming popular day by day, as it can be done at the highest low cost which is less than 50% of electricity consumption from rural electricity, PDB, gas, or other utilities. It is also environmentally friendly, known as green and clean energy."

He also said that Solaric Group has set a target to install 300 MW more solar power plants in industry and IPP projects by 2026. "Among others, other top officials of Solaric: Engineer Naznin Akter - Director; Senior Manager AKM Shahriar; Brand Manager Faisal Hossain were also present.

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Presents

Innovation & Sustainability

Unveiling industry best practices

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Noize Jeans aiming to reach ZERO in water usage and carbon emissions

Manish Chauhan
Co-Founder of Noize Jeans

MMCF sector looks for next-gen fiber solutions in 2025

Leaders' insights: despite potentials why textile recycling suffering

Implementing Kaizen in apparel manufacturing unlocking sustainable growth

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MMCF sector looks for next-gen fiber solutions in 2025

Engr. Mohammad Mezbah Uddin, Head of Marketing & Merchandising, Kimberley Design

Key Insights:

- +500K tons: Increase in MMCF production in 2024
- 53%: MMCF from green-rated producers, a slight drop from 2023
- 78% Global Producers: Signed conservation letters
- 20 Producers: Increased FSC Mix fiber use
- 14 Producers: Adopt traceability systems across multiple MMCF lines

The Man-Made Cellulosic Fiber (MMCF) sector is being called to prioritize sustainable Next Generation (Next Gen) solutions, as highlighted in the latest Hot Button Report by environmental non-profit Canopy. The report expresses concern over the increased reliance on forest-derived fabrics, with production volumes rising by nearly half a million tons in 2024. While many producers are embracing sustainability, the sector faces significant challenges in reducing its impact on ancient and endangered forests.

Canopy reports that MMCF production has expanded, partly driven by acquisitions and capacity growth from 'red shirt' producers—companies at high risk of sourcing from vulnerable forests. Despite a steady increase in the proportion of green-rated producers since 2021, this trend reversed in 2024, with green shirt producers accounting for just 53% of global output, down from 54% in 2023.

The report attributes this decline to consolidations within the industry and stresses the need to accelerate the adoption of Next Gen fibers to mitigate environmental damage. Canopy calls for producers to integrate innovative materials like Sodra, Circ, and Evrnu fibers, which offer sustainable alternatives to forest-derived inputs.

Despite setbacks, the report showcases significant progress. Four producers achieved higher sustainability ratings in 2024, moving to partial dark green shirts. Leading producers such as Aditya Birla, Lenzing, and Tangshan Sanyou tied for first place in Canopy's rankings, highlighting a global commitment to environmental responsibility.

Chinese producers like Yibin Grace and Xinxiang Chemical Fiber also excelled, demonstrating their leadership in scaling Next Gen solutions. However, smaller producers faced technical challenges in integrating alternative fibers, and the bankruptcy of Renewcell disrupted the supply chain for innovative materials like Circulose. Nevertheless, Circulose is set to resume production in 2025, offering renewed hope for scaling Next Gen adoption.

Sustainability efforts extended beyond fiber production, with increased use of FSC Mix fiber and growing adoption of FSC 100%, a certification that ensures compliance with stringent forest conservation criteria. In 2024, 20 producers boosted their use of FSC-certified materials, while 14 implemented traceability systems to improve transparency from fiber production to final garment.

Additionally, Canopy noted that 10 producers supported conservation initiatives, and five reached out to local forest conservation organizations, signaling an increased commitment to environmental stewardship.

Looking forward, Canopy aims to intensify engagement with red-rated producers to encourage sustainability improvements through CanopyStyle audits. The organization also plans to leverage its partnerships with new brands in China and India to drive further progress.

As 2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the Hot Button Report, Canopy remains committed to fostering innovation, enhancing transparency, and scaling sustainable solutions. The MMCF sector is poised to play a pivotal role in global conservation efforts, and Canopy urges stakeholders to align their strategies with the goal of halting and reversing nature loss by 2030.

By prioritizing innovation and collaboration, the MMCF sector can transition toward a more sustainable future, ensuring that forest conservation remains at the heart of its practices.

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Innovation & Sustainability
Unveiling industry best practices
December 2024
An initiative of Textile Today

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Leaders' insights: despite potentials why textile recycling suffering

Mashia Shahejabin

He noted energy cost disparity between different recycling methods, explaining that while mechanical recycling is relatively energy-efficient, chemical recycling remains energy-intensive, posing a major challenge for energy management.

Mustafain Munir
Director, Cyclo Recycled Fiber

The country's textile recycling sector icons discussed bottlenecks holding the pre- and post-textile recycling industry back despite significant strides. The seminar, titled 'Opportunities for sustainable practices in the textile and apparel industry,' was held at the recently concluded Textile Series of Exhibition organized by CEMS Global. was held at the recently concluded Textile Series of Exhibition organized by CEMS Global.

Leaders' insights reveal a path forward. With policy backing, industry collaboration, and customer engagement, Bangladesh's textile recycling sector can elevate its transition toward a more sustainable model.

Mustafain Munir, Director, Cyclo Recycled Fiber; Kajmir Mahmud, Director, Southwest Composite Ltd.; Sharif Tareque, Director of Rashni Poly Fiber Industries Ltd.; Abdur Razzaque, Managing Director, Recycle-Raw Ltd. and Dr. Abbas Uddin Shiyak, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Dyes & Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Textile Chemicals Engineering, Bangladesh University of Textiles (BUTEX) agree that transparency with customers about production costs and environmental impact, combined with an increased focus on post-consumer waste management, could not only make the industry more sustainable but also enhance its global competitiveness.

"Pre- and post-consumer waste are different," he explained. This distinction affects both the costs and logistics of recycling.

Sharif Tareque
Director, Rashni Poly Fiber Industries Ltd.

In addition, energy stability, sustainable sourcing, and effective recycling are essential components of a sustainable T&A sector. Yet, without a supportive policy framework and strong partnerships across the government, academia, and industry, progress will remain slow. As global demand for MMF and other sustainable products continues to grow, Bangladesh's ability to adapt to these trends will be crucial.

One of the notable icons in the recycling sector, Mustafain Munir, Director, Cyclo Recycled Fiber, emphasized while Cyclo has made significant strides,

Sharif Tareque, Director of Rashni Poly Fiber Industries Ltd., elaborated on the complexities

"Our sustainability practice starts from raw material sourcing," Mahmud explained, emphasizing that responsibly sourced materials are the foundation of sustainable production practices in the T&A industry.

Kajmir Mahmud
Director, Southwest Composite Ltd.

of recycling in the T&A sector. He discussed how different types of waste—pre-consumer (from production processes) and post-consumer (from discarded clothing)—require unique treatment and handling.

To address these financial constraints, Tareque noted that his company discloses production costs to customers and asks them to pay a slight premium to support sustainable practices. He believes that customer awareness and transparency can play a significant role in helping companies maintain economic stability while pursuing sustainable initiatives. However, Tareque underscored that policy support is also essential. "If we want to establish a closed-loop fashion economy, we need more collaboration and policy support,"

Another industry expert, Kajmir Mahmud, Director, Southwest Composite Ltd. highlighted that sustainable practices must be embedded from the very beginning of the production cycle, starting with raw material sourcing.

The Lycra Company launched bio-derived 'Renewable LYCRA®' at "Fabric the Future" in Bangladesh

Lycra Story

Tex Tree Ltd. (an Exclusive Representative of The Lycra Company) hosted the "Fabric the Future" event at Radisson Blu, Dhaka on 26 November 2024.

By showcasing its iconic brands—LYCRA COOLMAX®, LYCRA T400®, Black Technology®, THERMOLITE®, dualFX® Technology, FitSense®, etc.—along with cutting-edge innovations, the Lycra Company seeks to bridge the knowledge gap in the industry and strengthen Bangladesh's position in the global apparel market.

Fabrizio Maggi, Commercial Director, South Asia; Rishi Suri, Business Development Director, South Asia and Md. Quamruzzaman, CEO of Tex Tree Ltd. (An Exclusive Representative of The Lycra Company) shared the knowledge about the Lycra fiber and functional technologies with the audience from the industry.

Renewable LYCRA® fiber made with QIRA® was at the center of interest of the program. According to the Lycra Company, it is the world's first bio-derived spandex with 70% renewable content from field corn. It will reduce potential carbon footprint by up to 44%.

Renewable LYCRA® fiber made with QIRA® can be used in knit, woven fabrics, and personal care products. This fiber innovation is going to be the game changer globally for sustainable fashion. From 2025, The Lycra Company will produce and circulate on a large scale.

How does QIRA® ultimately get made into bio-derived LYCRA® fiber?
QIRA® is converted into a key ingredient used in LYCRA® fiber called PTMEG.

Just as important as its sustainability benefits, the new bio-derived LYCRA® fiber made with QIRA® meets the same high-quality performance parameters of traditional LYCRA® fiber. This is a key benefit for brands and retailers as processes will not need to be redesigned, and fabrics will continue to have the same excellent performance in stretch, shape retention and durability as LYCRA® fiber.

The benefits to the bio-derived LYCRA® fiber made with QIRA® are many:
Reduction in GHG emissions; renewable, local field corn feedstocks; a decrease in dependence on fossil-based resources; increased farmer resilience and livelihoods; a more secure supply chain; and helping to transform to a more sustainable textile and apparel industry.

Renewable LYCRA® fiber made with QIRA®

This patented technology has the potential to reduce the carbon footprint of LYCRA® fiber by 44%*.

CO_2 from the air is sequestered by the corn to form starch

Corn starch is extracted and converted into glucose syrup

In a novel production process, glucose is fermented by microrganisms

Bio-derived BDO (1,4-Butanediol), branded as QIRA®, is extracted

QIRA® bio-derived BDO is then converted into PTMEG, the key ingredient that makes up approximately 70% of LYCRA® fiber by weight

PTMEG is mixed with MDI, fossil-based feedstock that makes up nearly 30% of LYCRA® fiber

The mixture is polymerized (chemical reaction of molecules) and spun into fiber

Fibers are wound onto tubes

LYCRA® fiber is shipped to apparel yarn processors, fabric mills, or manufacturers of personal care products

Knit or woven into fabrics, garments or trims or inserted into personal care products

The dedicated bio-derived content in fiber can be certified by an independent body

DISCOVER MORE AT

*Estimate from Cradle-to-Gate Screening LCA for a representative LYCRA® fiber manufacturing facility, June 2022, prepared by Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, Inc

Made with 70% renewable content.

LYCRA® | QIRA

Figure 1: Manish Chauhan, Co-Founder of Noize Jeans.

Noize Jeans aiming to reach ZERO in water usage and carbon emissions

Rahbar Hossain

Manish Chauhan, Co-Founder of Noize Jeans, began his professional journey as a supervisor in a spinning mill in India. Though his academic background was unrelated to textiles, his deep interest in the industry drove his career forward. After two years in the spinning mill, he moved to Nepal, where his career witnessed remarkable growth. Within just eight years, he rose from a supervisor to a senior vice president in a leading company.

Despite achieving such success, Manish Chauhan eventually left his position to explore new opportunities. He relocated to Bangladesh with a vision to establish a raw-material-based business. Initially, he worked as an agent, representing companies from India, China, and other countries, supplying materials to Bangladeshi manufacturers.

However, Manish Chauhan soon recognized the immense potential of the garment industry in Bangladesh. At the time, his younger brother, Anurag Chauhan (Co-Founder of Noize Jeans) who had a textile background, had already initiated a garment business. Inspired by this, he joined forces with his brother, and together they launched their first denim production venture Denim Asia Ltd. in Bangladesh in 2016. It is a fully automated denim manufacturing factory.

Figure 2: Anurag Chauhan, Co-Founder of Noize Jeans.

During 2010 to 2011, Bangladesh had only a handful of denim garment producers. To address this gap and contribute to the growth of the sector, the Chauhan brothers focused on manufacturing fashion denim. Their efforts played an important role in strengthening Bangladesh's denim industry, paving the way for Noize Jeans to become a prominent name in the market globally.

Manish Chauhan's journey is proof of his resilience, vision, and uncompromising passion for the textile and garment industry. Recently, Team Textile Today had an insightful interview with him about his journey, business vision, and many more.

Textile Today: Why did you choose Bangladesh to start your business?

Manish Chauhan: Due to infrastructure, growth, and the demand of buyers in this country, we started the business. Not only that, skilled workforce and expertise are also some key factors involved in starting our business in Bangladesh but not in India.

Textile Today: Please update us about Noize Jean's recent activities.

Manish Chauhan: Noize Jeans is a Hong Kong-based sourcing company. We have two factories running

Figure 3: Denim Asia Ltd.

in Bangladesh one is Denim Asia Ltd. and the other one is Ultimate Fashion Ltd. As we are a fashion company and you know women are more fashion aware, so 70% of our products are for women. But we produce almost all the categories both for men and women and even for kids as well. But our main focus is obviously on denim. Whether it is top, shorts, or bottom everything is made of denim fabrics.

Textile Today: What are the innovations in denim production Noize Jeans brought recently?

Manish Chauhan: When we first started our production, the market was already dominated by some of the big companies. Main buyers would place their orders to them. So as a new supplier, we weren't getting those customers at the beginning. So, we decided to do everything differently and uniquely. First, we adopt a full automation system within our factories. This was extremely expensive and to mitigate the cost we started production in two shifts.

There are several benefits of automation such as improved and consistent quality, high productivity, and a huge reduction in carbon footprint to a greater extent. We and other factories use one line to produce five pocket basics but the difference is where other factories produce up to 5000 pcs per day, we can produce up to 6000 pcs per day. That means we are already having better productivity and efficiency.

We focused more on our washing, we started to practice sustainable washing technologies since 2017. When people were talking, we were actually implementing those. So overall our focus and importance are highly on quality, competitive price, sustainability, shorter lead time, and good fashion.

Textile Today: How do you see the shift in consumer demand affecting denim styles and aesthetics, especially among young generations?

Manish Chauhan: With the increasing uses of different social media like Facebook and Instagram perceptions and choices in fashion have changed a lot. The young generation nowadays widely follows the influencers. Their choice of fashion is changing frequently. No matter where they are from, they are conscious of trendy fashion.

Even retailers are getting confused about what to keep in their outlets due to the fast-changing consumer demand. So, considering their demand we also are producing different styles and keeping the necessary skills and expertise ready to cope with this challenge.

Textile Today: Can you share some of the innovative techniques or materials Noize Jeans has introduced to enhance the durability and hand-feel of your products?

Manish Chauhan: It's a technical question. What we do is produce fast fashion products at affordable prices. To give the same hand feel, smoothness, and stretchability as other top expensive fashion retailers, we had to modify all our processes. We have done cost engineering. The first thing is hand feel, to impart this feature within less price we explored different raw materials such as open-end yarn, and ring yarn. We used the blend of Tencel, Lyocell, etc.

What we have done is made products with the blend of Tencel that is impressively competing with the open-end products. So consumers who are buying our product pricing 20 or 30 dollars get almost equal quality compared to the expensive products. Recently a new trend has been ongoing Nylon and Tencel blend which is quite softer with a unique hand feel.

Within a short time, we will bring this to market as well. Focusing on durability we are ensuring our products can withstand easily up to 30 or 40 washes.

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Figure: Gianpiero Valsecchi, Sales Area Manager (South Asian Region) of Santoni S.p.A.

Santoni's Vision for Driving Bangladesh's Seamless Revolution

Amzad Hossain Monir

Santoni S.p.A., a global leader in seamless knitting machinery and technology, continues to innovate and expand its footprint in the South Asian region. The company is renowned for its advanced circular electronic 'Seamless wear' machines, catering to the growing demand for high-performance sportswear, innerwear, and other value-added apparel segments.

At the recently concluded ITMA Asia 2024 expo in Shanghai, Gianpiero Valsecchi, Sales Area Manager (South Asian Region) of Santoni S.p.A., who has over 30 years of experience in the industry, shared his vision with team Textile Today about Bangladesh's seamless market potential. Valsecchi emphasizes the need for confidence, knowledge, and investment in this segment.

Textile Today: How can Santoni's seamless knitting technology enhance the competitiveness of Bangladeshi manufacturers in the global market?

Gianpiero Valsecchi: Our seamless technology allows factories to produce garments with minimal cutting and sewing. This offers knitters the ability to create different patterns and designs on the same garment without additional steps.

One of the standout advantages is the ability to apply varying compression levels on a single garment. For example, you can have stronger compression on the top and less on the bottom, making it ideal for sportswear production.

Bangladesh, with its aspirations for value-added fashion apparel, is a perfect match for seamless technology. However, the limited adoption of this technology stems from a lack of knowledge and confidence. Currently, only three companies are leveraging seamless machines. To unlock the potential, manufacturers need to embrace this opportunity and invest confidently in seamless technology.

Textile Today: What are the initial investment costs and ROI (return on investment) expectations for Bangladeshi manufacturers looking to adopt Santoni's seamless knitting machines?

Gianpiero Valsecchi: The primary barrier is not the investment itself but the lack of confidence and understanding of this technology. Many manufacturers are hesitant to step into this new segment due to uncertainty about the return on investment.

The perception that seamless technology requires an enormous financial commitment or takes years to see ROI is a misconception. In reality, the market for seamless garments is expanding globally. By entering this segment, Bangladeshi manufacturers could tap into a high-demand market and diversify their product offerings.

Textile Today: What strategies could you share to address skepticism among Bangladeshi manufacturers regarding seamless technology adoption?

Gianpiero Valsecchi: The seamless market offers significant opportunities, from sportswear to innerwear and beyond. With fewer global players in this space, it is an untapped segment with high growth potential.

To succeed, manufacturers need skilled personnel. At Santoni, we offer training programs at our institute in Italy, equipping individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary for seamless garment production. Computerized systems operate these machines, making training and design expertise crucial.

Bangladeshi entrepreneurs must recognize the potential of this market, invest in training their teams, and explore the possibilities of seamless fabric production. Knowledge about yarn and its compatibility with seamless machines is also vital. With the right approach, this segment can attract more buyers and boost product diversification.

Textile Today: What opportunities do you see in the Bangladeshi market, and how does Santoni plan to support local manufacturers in adopting?

Gianpiero Valsecchi: Bangladesh is a promising market due to its vibrant textile industry and entrepreneurial mindset. We see enormous potential for growth in the seamless segment.

I am confident that Bangladesh will soon emerge as a key player in seamless garment manufacturing. With the right investments, training, and adoption of advanced technology, the country can expand its presence in the global apparel market and drive significant value addition.

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Implementing Kaizen in apparel manufacturing unlocking sustainable growth

Sk. Mamun Ferdoush, General Manager (Marketing & Merchandising), Masco Group

Courtesy: Collected

Kaizen, a Japanese term meaning "continuous improvement," has become a cornerstone of modern manufacturing practices. In the apparel industry, implementing Kaizen can lead to significant enhancements in efficiency, quality, and employee engagement. This article delves into the core aspects of Kaizen, exploring its importance, implementation strategies, and the positive impacts it can have on sustainable growth in apparel manufacturing.

Importance of Kaizen for apparel manufacturers

Continuous improvement

Kaizen emphasizes efficiency enhancement by streamlining processes, reducing waste, and increasing efficiency across all production stages. It also prioritizes quality control through regular evaluation and refinement of processes, leading to improved product quality and a reduction in defects and returns. Additionally, Kaizen promotes employee involvement by encouraging participation at all levels, which fosters a culture of collaboration and innovation.

Competitive advantage

Implementing Kaizen practices leads to cost reduction by identifying and eliminating inefficiencies, thereby lowering operational costs and enhancing the company's competitiveness. Additionally, Kaizen fosters adaptability, enabling the company to respond more quickly to market trends and evolving customer demands, ensuring sustained growth and relevance in a dynamic business environment.

Implementing Kaizen in Apparel Manufacturing

Employee training and engagement

To effectively implement Kaizen, it's essential to educate employees about its principles and techniques through dedicated workshops. Additionally, fostering a culture of continuous improvement involves encouraging feedback by creating channels where employees can suggest enhancements and report issues, ensuring everyone is actively engaged in the process of making incremental and sustained improvements within the organization.

Small, incremental changes

To drive continuous improvement, it's essential to focus on small, daily enhancements rather than attempting major overhauls all at once. This approach encourages steady progress and reduces the risk of disruption. A key practice in this effort is conducting Gemba Walks, where managers actively observe the production floor to identify inefficiencies firsthand and develop practical solutions. By regularly engaging with the actual work environment, managers can better understand the processes, listen to employees, and make informed decisions that contribute to incremental, yet impactful, improvements.

Standardize processes

To enhance operational efficiency and maintain consistency, it's essential to standardize successful processes and ensure thorough documentation across all activities. Additionally, implementing key performance indicators (KPIs) is crucial for measuring success and facilitating continuous monitoring of performance. This approach not only ensures that best practices are consistently applied but also allows for the ongoing assessment of outcomes, enabling adjustments and improvements to be made as needed to drive overall success.

Problem-solving techniques

To effectively identify and address the root causes of issues, employ techniques like the "5 Whys," which involves repeatedly asking "why" to drill down to the underlying cause of a problem...

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Figure: Ananta Ahmed, Managing Director of 360 TSL and Waeez R Hossain, Managing Director of Anwar DuraRoof during the signing ceremony.

Anwar DuraRoof partners with 360 TSL towards sustainability

Desk Report

Anwar DuraRoof, a leading provider of sustainable roofing solutions, and a sister concern of Anwar Group is proud to announce its journey towards LEED certification.

Anwar DuraRoof has been partnered with 360 Total Solution Limited (360 TSL), and underscores the company's commitment to environmental responsibility and innovative solutions.

This collaboration aims to leverage 360 TSL's expertise in sustainable development consultancy to guide Anwar DuraRoof towards achieving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for its production facilities.

Waeez R Hossain, Managing Director of Anwar DuraRoof, emphasized the environmental benefits of their Cement Sheet product.

By adopting sustainable practices and utilizing eco-friendly materials, the company aims to minimize its carbon footprint and promote a greener construction industry.

Waeez said, "By lowering indoor temperatures by up to 12°C, our product reduces the reliance on air conditioning, leading to significant energy savings. This positive impact extends to both our customers and the planet."

Partnering with 360 TSL, Anwar DuraRoof demonstrates its dedication to sustainable practices and reducing its environmental impact, aligning with the company's vision of providing eco-friendly and energy-efficient roofing solutions that contribute to a greener future.

This initiative reflects the company's dedication to delivering long-term value to its customers while contributing to a more sustainable future.

Anwar Group is a diversified conglomerate with a rich history dating back to 1834. The company operates across various sectors, including textiles, energy, real estate, and technology. With a strong focus on sustainability and social responsibility, Anwar Group strives to make a positive impact on the lives of millions.

This year, they have celebrated their 190th anniversary and marked a journey of unwavering dedication to innovation, growth, and community development.

360 TSL is the leading sustainable development consultancy company in Bangladesh, serves the country's top Real Estate Developers, Leading RMG's, Shoe Industries, Economic Zone, Construction Industries and various other Companies.

EuroCham debuts to increase investment and good governance

European companies and individuals in Bangladesh are set to launch a business chamber to boost economic ties between both countries

Nurnahar Akter

Figure 1: The European Union Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (EuroCham) officially launched its operations on 3rd December 2024.

The European Union Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (EuroCham) officially launched its operations on 3rd December 2024, aiming to significantly attract more European investment to Bangladesh and promote good governance and sustainable growth.

During the inaugural ceremony, EuroCham Chairperson Nuria Lopez emphasized the chamber's focus on branding Bangladesh as an attractive destination for European investors.

Nuria highlighted Europe's potential to bring capital and a model of good governance and sustainable development.

Lutfey Siddiqui, the Chief Advisor's Special Envoy on International Affairs, attended the event as the chief guest and expressed the interim administration's commitment to streamlining government management in all sectors, including business and trade.

Besides, Md Abdur Rahman Khan, Chairman of the National Board of Revenue, and Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, were present as special guests.

The launch of EuroCham is seen as a pivotal moment in strengthening Bangladesh-EU business relations. Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Bangladesh, Michael Miller, expressed the EU's intention to collaborate closely with EuroCham to maximize trade and investment opportunities.

He emphasized the importance of exploring B2B contacts, addressing the challenges of LDC graduation, and promoting sustainable due diligence in supply chains.

EuroCham aims to address challenges faced by foreign investors, such as complex company registration processes, energy crises, bureaucratic obstacles, and high tax structures.

Figure 2: Nuria Lopez, Chairperson, EuroCham and Managing Director, Zalo Knitting Ltd.; Ziaur Rahman, Regional Country Manager, H&M and Vice-Chairperson, EuroCham; Tahrin Aman, Managing Director, Aman Spinning Mills Ltd and Vice-Chairperson EuroCham; Iqbal Chowdhury, CEO, LafargeHolcim Bangladesh PLC. and Treasurer of EuroCham.

SALMA GROUP

Presents

Spinning Today

Unveiling industry best practices

Fiber to Yarn

December 2024

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Bangladesh textile industry to rebound, eyes digital innovation

Abdullah Al Mamun
Managing Director, Abed Textile Ltd.

Policies that can save Bangladesh spinning industry

MMCF in focus – comparing generations and eco-certifications

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Policies that can save Bangladesh spinning industry

Sanjoy Kumar Saha

The spinning industry in Bangladesh plays a pivotal role in the textile and apparel value chain, contributing significantly to employment and export revenue. Yet, this sector faces mounting challenges that threaten its sustainability.

Strategic policy interventions are urgently needed to secure its future. If the spinning industry does not survive, the export-oriented garment industry will not be able to meet the lead time in the long run. Here are three critical policy supports that could revive and sustain Bangladesh's spinning mills.

1. Aligning payment terms to reduce financial stress

Currently, spinning mills in Bangladesh purchase cotton through At Sight Letters of Credit (L/C), requiring immediate payment, while selling yarn on deferred L/C terms of 90 to 180 days. This misalignment causes liquidity challenges, driving up working capital requirements.

To address this, Bangladesh Bank should mandate that cotton merchants conducting business in Bangladesh accept deferred L/Cs, which can be adjusted through the mother L/Cs of garment manufacturers. This policy will ease cash flow constraints for spinning mills, reduce their financial burden, and help stabilize their operations. A synchronized payment system benefits not only spinners but also the entire textile supply chain.

2. Establishment of a central bonded warehouse for fibers

The lack of a central bonded warehouse for cotton and other fibers in Bangladesh has been a longstanding impediment to the spinning industry. Cotton merchants, especially those from Brazil, have advocated for this support for over 15 years, but progress has stalled. Without such infrastructure, cotton shipments are often delayed, particularly when global prices rise after bookings are made. These delays increase production and holding costs, undermining the competitiveness of local spinning mills.

A central bonded warehouse would allow cotton and fibers to be stored in Bangladesh, ensuring swift delivery to spinning mills upon booking confirmation. This facility would reduce lead times, stabilize costs, and minimize production disruptions. By prioritizing this policy, the government can enhance efficiency and competitiveness across the textile sector. India, Turkey, China, Vietnam & even Sri Lanka do have this central bonded ware house facilities of fiber.

3. Imposing duty on imported yarn

The absence of duties on imported yarn under bond facilities is undermining Bangladesh's spinning industry. Production costs vary across countries, and local mills face approximately 15% higher costs than competitors due to infrastructure, energy, and financing challenges. The unrestricted import of duty-free yarn has created an uneven playing field, putting domestic mills at a severe disadvantage.

Imposing a 15% duty on imported yarn would protect local spinning mills and encourage the use of locally produced yarn. While garment exporters argue that duty-free imports are necessary to stay competitive, evidence suggests otherwise. Reports indicate that buyers often pay 32–83% lower prices to Bangladeshi garment exporters compared to other countries, citing duty-free benefits. As a result, the advantages of duty-free imports are enjoyed by buyers, not the exporters or the spinning industry.

A balanced policy ensuring competitive yarn pricing and fair buyer practices would empower the spinning industry without compromising garment exports.

A sector at a crossroads

The spinning industry's current trajectory is concerning. In FY2013–14, Bangladesh earned $21 billion from textile exports, requiring $7 billion in imports. The net value addition was 66.67 %. By FY2022–23, export earnings had surged to $46.99 billion, but import dependency ballooned to $23 billion. The net value addition was around 50%. This growing import reliance reflects a weakening of the domestic value chain.

The adoption of the three outlined policies—payment term reforms, the establishment of a central bonded warehouse, and imposing duties on imported yarn—can reverse this trend. These measures will reduce operational costs, stabilize supply chains, and protect domestic producers, ensuring long-term sustainability for the spinning sector.

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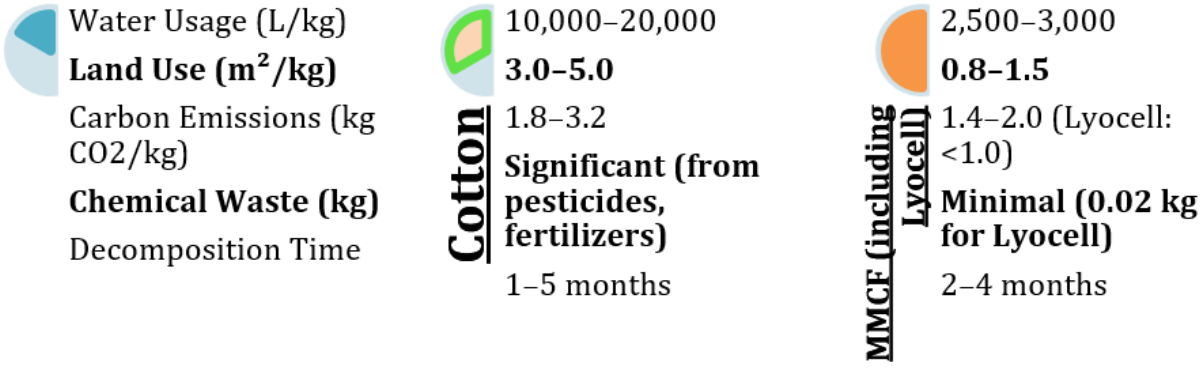
MMCF in focus – comparing generations and eco-certifications

Md Arifur Rahman Talukder, Country Head, Aditya Birla



Introduction to MMCF Generations

Man-Made Cellulosic Fibers (MMCF) are derived from renewable resources like wood pulp, offering biodegradable, eco-friendly solutions for textiles. Over time, MMCFs have evolved through distinct generations, each improving upon sustainability, performance, and application versatility. • First Generation – Viscose:

Viscose is known for its silk-like texture and soft finish. Recent innovations include:

- **Second Generation – Modal:** Modal is a stronger, more durable form of viscose, derived from sustainably sourced beechwood. It is ideal for intimate wear and activewear due to its:
- **Third Generation – Lyocell:** Produced via closed-loop processes that recycle over 99% of water and solvents, lyocell offers:

At the Forefront: Sustainable MMCFs by Livaeco

- **Livaeco by Birla Cellulose:** Focused on minimizing water usage and ensuring traceability.
- **Liva Reviva™:** Incorporates pre-consumer textile waste into fiber production.
- **Livaeco Bamboo:** Uses bamboo pulp for enhanced softness and sustainability.

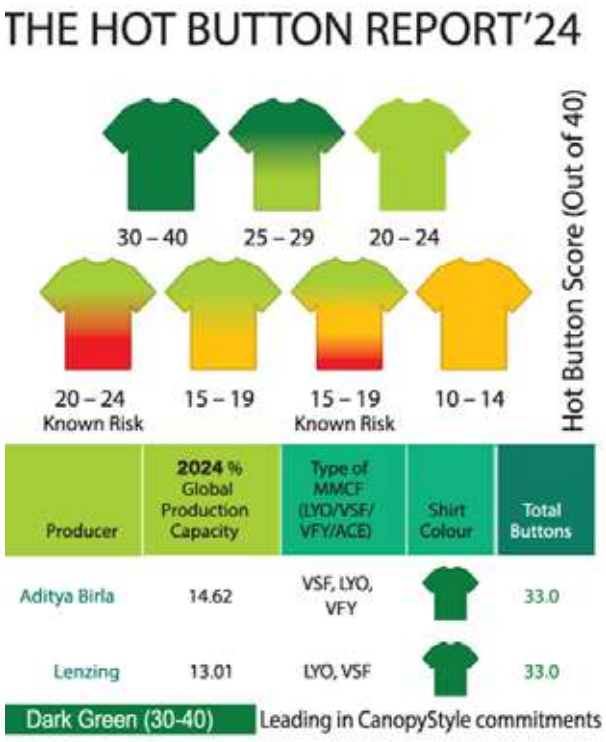
Property	Viscose	Modal	Excel (Lyocell)
Durability	Moderate, weak when wet	Strong, retains strength when wet	Very strong, excellent wet and dry strength
Luster	High, shiny silk-like appearance	Moderate, soft sheen	Low to matte, customizable finish
Moisture Absorption	High	Very high	Superior, ideal for moisture-wicking applications
Texture	Soft, smooth, silky	Smooth and luxurious	Soft and breathable
Elasticity	Low	Improved elasticity, resists creasing	Moderate, with excellent dimensional stability
Shrinkage Resistance	Poor, prone to shrinking	Resistant to shrinkage	Excellent shrinkage resistance
Breathability	Moderate	High	Exceptional, highly breathable
Fiber Strength (Dry)	Moderate	High	Very high
Fiber Strength (Wet)	Low	Retains wet strength	Retains full strength when wet
Environmental Impact	High, dependent on chemicals and water usage	Moderate, fewer chemicals used	Low, closed-loop production reduces impact

Major Applications	Dresses, linings, home textiles	Undergarments, sportswear, bedding	Activewear, denim, technical and medical textiles
Moisture Regain (MR%)	~11-13%	~13%	~13-14% (highest among the three)
Surface Smoothness	Lyocell has a smoother fiber surface compared to viscose and modal, leading to superior skin comfort		

Eco-Certifications:

To ensure sustainability and traceability in MMCF production, various certifications are integral:

- **FSC (Forest Stewardship Council):** Promotes responsible forest management.
- **PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification):** Verifies sustainable sourcing of raw materials.
- **EUBAT Certification:** European Best Available Techniques (EUBAT) for pulp production ensures adherence to the highest environmental standards during raw material processing, reducing emissions and resource consumption.



- **CanopyStyle:** Prevents sourcing from endangered forests and promotes alternative fibers.

- **Higg Facility Environmental Module (Higg FEM):** Assesses environmental performance of MMCF manufacturing facilities.
- **REACH Compliance:** Ensures safe use of chemicals in MMCF production, aligned with European Union regulations, minimizing environmental and health risks.
- **CarbonNeutral® Certification:** Recognizes efforts to achieve carbon neutrality in fiber production.
- **SRCCS (Sustainable Regenerated Cellulosics Content Standard):** Ensures the use of responsibly sourced wood pulp and post-consumer waste.

Conclusion:

Viscose, modal, and lyocell each play significant roles in the textile industry. While viscose remains versatile and cost-effective, modal offers superior durability and comfort, and lyocell leads with its exceptional sustainability and high-performance applications. These fibers, supported by robust certifications, ensure that the MMCF industry meets both market demands and environmental expectations.

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Hemp: the sustainable alternative to cotton

Talal Al Nahian Shammo, Assistant Merchandiser, Sterling Denims Ltd.

As the global appetite for sustainable and environmentally friendly materials continues to grow, the textile industry is increasingly scrutinized for its ecological impact. Cotton, long considered a fundamental fabric, has faced criticism due to its high consumption of resources such as water, pesticides, and arable land. In contrast, hemp presents a promising alternative, providing numerous ecological advantages that establish it as a feasible option for sustainable fashion.

This paper investigates the various benefits of hemp as a sustainable textile, focusing on its diminished environmental footprint, decreased dependence on chemical inputs, and potential to foster regenerative agricultural practices. By examining the cultivation, processing, and adaptability of hemp fibres, we seek to underscore its significance not only as a substitute for cotton but also as a driving force for a more sustainable future within the textile sector.

Cotton is famous for its high water use. Gauges propose that delivering one kilogram of cotton requires around 10,000 liters of water (Kikuchi, 2021) conversely, hemp requires essentially less water. Research demonstrates that hemp utilizes around 600-800 liters of water for each kilogram of fiber.

Cotton cultivating depends intensely on pesticides and composts, prompting soil debasement and water contamination. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) reports that cotton represents 16% of worldwide pesticide use and 6% of worldwide compost use. Hemp, nonetheless, is normally impervious to bothers and requires insignificant substance inputs (McKenna, 2021). Hemp requires minimal no pesticides and approximately 50% of hemp crops can be grown genetically which make it more eco-friendly.

Hemp profound underground root growth contributes decidedly to soil wellbeing. Concentrates on demonstrating the way that hemp can further develop soil structure, forestall disintegration, and improve supplement cycling (Jackson et al., 2023). In examination, cotton development can prompt soil consumption and disintegration because of monoculture rehearses (Woods, 2022). Hemp's capacity to recover soil makes it an economical decision for crop turn frameworks.

Fabric Characteristics

Hemp is more durable than cotton, and 3-8 times stronger than cotton. Hemp and cotton both offer

Figure 1: Hemp requires minimal no pesticides and approximately 50% of hemp crops can be grown genetically which make it more eco-friendly.

good breathability but hemp excel in moisture management and drying speed due to its coarse surface. Which helps regulate body temperature and keeps the wearer cool, comfortable in hot and humid conditions. Another benefit of hemp is that it provides natural UV protection blocking about 95% of harmful rays. But cotton is softer than hemp. Hemp can reach cotton-like softness after 5-10 times wash. So, hemp need to be processed and softened through repeated washing or blending with softer fibres to enhance softness.

Hemp is a quickly developing yield, normally prepared for collect inside 90 to 120 days (USDA, 2022). This fast development cycle diverges from cotton's more extended developing time of close to 150 days. Moreover, hemp can yield between 1.5 to 2.5 tons of fibre per hectare, though cotton yields around 0.9 to 1.2 tons per hectare (Smith, 2023). This better return can upgrade monetary returns for ranchers.

Market Interest and Innovation

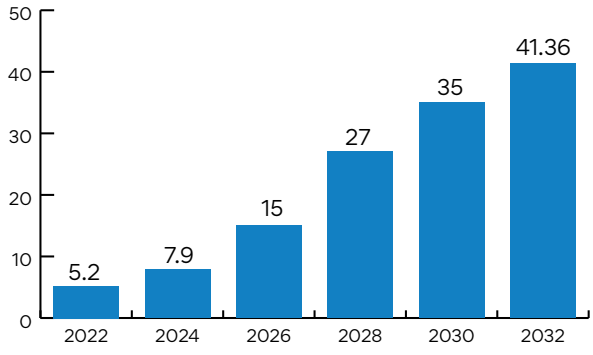

Figure 2: Hemp market size.

As the market for sustainable materials is extending, that's why hemp is progressively viewed as a superior other option. As per a 2023 report by MarketWatch, the worldwide market for hemp materials is supposed to develop at a build yearly development rate (CAGR) of 10% throughout the following five years (MarketWatch, 2023).

In 2022, the hemp fabric market size was valued at 5.62 billion USD and is projected to grow at 41.36 billion by 2032, exhibiting a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 33.50% during the forecast period (2024-2032). Developments in hemp handling and texture mixing are driving this development, with applications spreading over attire, extras, and home materials. Brands like Nike, and Levis are using hemp fibre for their various products. Growing its demand for pulp and paper, composite materials, etc.

Recent advancements in processing technology have significantly enhanced the quality and softness of hemp fabrics, positioning them as strong competitors to conventional textiles like cotton and polyester. This transformation not only improves the tactile experience for consumers but also broadens the application of hemp in the fashion industry.

A recent survey indicates that 62% of consumers are willing to pay a premium for sustainable clothing. This statistic underscores the growing market for hemp products, as more individuals seek environmentally friendly alternatives. As awareness of the environmental impacts of textile production increases, hemp's eco-friendly credentials resonate strongly with today's conscious consumers.

Notably, Millennials and Gen Z are at the forefront of this shift toward sustainable fashion. These demographics exhibit a pronounced preference for brands that prioritize eco-friendly practices, making hemp products particularly attractive due to their sustainability credentials. As these consumers continue to drive demand for ethical and sustainable choices, the market for hemp textiles is poised for significant growth

Investments in hemp cultivation and processing technologies are on the rise, with more startups and established companies entering the market. This influx of investment is driven by the potential for profitability and innovation within the hemp sector. Venture capital funding has surged, indicating strong confidence in the future of hemp as a viable and sustainable textile option. Moreover, the integration of smart technology into textiles is gaining traction. Innovations in hemp fabric that incorporate features such as moisture-wicking, temperature control, and antibacterial properties are being explored, opening new markets in athletic wear and outdoor gear.

Cost Considerations

Introductory handling costs for hemp are higher than for cotton, fundamentally because of less evolved foundation (Johnson, 2024). Hemp fabric is currently more expensive with price ranging from 6$ to 15$ per yard compared to $3 to $10 per yard cotton. This is due to the smaller scale of production. Hemp is less widely available, accounting of less than 0.1% of global fibre production. Nonetheless, mechanical progressions and economies of scale are supposed to bring down these costs after some time. Furthermore, the decreased requirement for synthetic data sources and water in hemp development can assist with balancing higher handling costs.

Conclusion

Finally, hemp appears to be a promising replacement to cotton, with substantial benefits in terms of sustainability, resource efficiency, and adaptability. Notably, hemp production costs can be equivalent to or even lower than those of cotton, particularly with additional research and innovation in cultivation and processing methods. To properly fulfil its worldwide potential, many critical actions must be completed. Increased investment in hemp farming and processing technology is critical for increasing yields and lowering production costs. Governments should adopt supportive policies, such as subsidies and incentives, to encourage farmers to switch from traditional cotton to hemp. Education and awareness campaigns are essential for informing consumers and industry stakeholders about the advantages of hemp fibre, particularly its economic and environmental benefits. Additionally, creating transnational trade networks.

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The TC 30*i* gives productivity, quality and sustainability a boost. Its 14 % extended carding length with 35 % more active flats leads to even higher performance, while the sophisticated new suction system is able to create more value from waste.

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TRÜTZSCHLER
SPINNING

Figure: Shahriare Mahmood, Chief Product & Sustainability Officer and Lasse Holopainen, Chief Revenue Officer of SPINNOVA.

SPINNOVA® mechanical technology can produce new textile fiber from almost any raw materials

There is a global demand and discussion of exploring new sustainable fiber. On top of increasing calls to embrace close the loop approach by exploring the opportunities of recycling to reuse textile waste. Against this backdrop, Finland-based textile material innovation company, SPINNOVA® is poised to disrupt the industry with its innovative mechanical technology-based fiber – that can produce new textile fiber from almost any raw materials.

More importantly, the Finnish company's groundbreaking mechanical technology enables the production of high-quality fibers from a variety of sustainable raw materials, including wood pulp. This innovative approach eliminates the need for harmful chemicals and reduces the industry's environmental impact.

In a recent discussion with Textile Today Innovation Hub, SPINNOVA's Chief Product & Sustainability Officer, Dr. Shahriare Mahmood, and Chief Revenue Officer, Lasse Holopainen, shed light on SPINNOVA's innovative fiber technology and how its unique fiber manufacturing approach produces a cellulosic material resembling cotton but without the chemical dissolving required in typical viscose production. As SPINNOVA scales production, the fiber aims to address the global demand for sustainable textiles.

Textile Today: Can you describe the SPINNOVA spinning process?

Lasse Holopainen: SPINNOVA® is fairly a young company from Finland. It is a spin of Govt. research center in Finland. Spinnova has pioneered a novel mechanical, non-chemical process for producing fiber directly from wood pulp. SPINNOVA has developed a sustainable method for producing fibers using mechanical processes without chemicals. So, we are scaling up this fiber production.

Dr. Shahriare Mahmood: SPINNOVA fiber has a uniqueness of its own. It is worth mentioning that after the SPINNOVA process, it is producing a unique fiber other than any other fiber available in the market. Though technically a part of the man-made cellulosic fibers (MMCF) category, our process stands out by preserving cellulose's original structure, making SPINNOVA closer to natural fibers like cotton. Unlike other MMCFs, which involve chemical dissolving, SPINNOVA uses no chemicals, so the fiber retains its natural qualities. This makes it an entirely new type of fiber, for which we are even considering a generic name for this invention.

Textile Today: Are there any global brands currently using SPINNOVA fiber?

Lasse Holopainen: Yes, several well-known brands use SPINNOVA fiber, including Adidas, Jack & Jones, and even parts of Olympic collections. We have collaborated with ARKET of H&M Group and Finnish brands like Marimekko and Halti, renowned for their commitment to sustainability.

Textile Today: How is SPINNOVA positioned in the market?

Lasse Holopainen: Cotton production has stagnated for about 20 years, mainly due to limited arable land and competition with food crops. Meanwhile, demand for textiles has consistently increased, and though manmade fiber (MMF) has filled the gap, fashion brands are still looking for sustainable options with a natural feel. Given these trends, SPINNOVA is poised to become a valuable alternative. The projected production of MMCFs is set to reach 3-5 million tons over the next six years, further underscoring the need for natural-like fibers.

Textile Today: As you have mentioned MMCF demand increasing and lyocell fiber has stepped up overcoming some environmental challenges it had. How does SPINNOVA compare to lyocell?

Dr. Shahriare Mahmood: While lyocell has indeed overcome several environmental challenges,

particularly around chemical recycling, SPINNOVA is a complete game-changer as it is entirely chemical-free. Our mechanical process means SPINNOVA does not face the same limitations as viscose or lyocell, such as the shiny surface or smoothness that differentiates them from natural fibers.

Whereas, with SPINNOVA – if you replace some part of cotton and replace with SPINNOVA – you retain the feel, appearance, and properties of cotton in fiber or garment.

Textile Today: Given fast fashion's devastating environmental impact, how does SPINNOVA contribute to sustainable fashion, including recycling?

Dr. Shahriare Mahmood: As Lasse mentioned the fashion industry is shifting towards a more circular model in response to growing environmental concerns. Despite this down growth, given the holistic sustainability and durability aspect, SPINNOVA offers an end-to-end sustainable solution. Starting with diverse raw materials, including wood pulp, agricultural waste pulp, and textile waste pulp, or leather wastage, our process reduces carbon emissions by 74% and uses 98% less water than conventional cotton.

The fiber is fully biodegradable and recyclable through SPINNOVA's own technology. After recycling, textile waste can be converted back into pulp, which is 100% usable in creating new SPINNOVA fiber.

Lasse Holopainen: All the global projections show that growth in terms of the global middle class and their clothing demand will continue to rise. Whereas, there are no massive MMCF scale-up initiatives likely on the horizon. To meet this demand sustainably, circularity is essential. SPINNOVA fiber closes the loop by using all types of raw materials.

Textile Today: Given that Bangladesh lacks wood resources, what brings SPINNOVA here, and what raw materials do you aim to explore?

Lasse Holopainen: Bangladesh is crucial for us because of its leading role in the textile industry. We want to learn from this market and understand its challenges. Bangladesh imports most of its textile raw materials, especially cotton, whose price volatility and supply issues are well known. SPINNOVA sees opportunities to use other materials available locally, such as recycled cotton from textile waste. There's also the potential for agricultural residues to be used as feedstock.

Textile Today: Could wood pulp imports be a viable option for Bangladesh's textile industry?

Lasse Holopainen: Absolutely. Wood pulp is a globally traded product with a relatively stable price compared to cotton, offering Bangladesh an alternative raw material option. Importing wood pulp initially could help Bangladesh's textile industry explore SPINNOVA fiber while possibly developing local raw material sources in the future.

Textile Today: For companies interested in SPINNOVA's technology, what steps are involved in setting up production?

Lasse Holopainen: We welcome interest from companies looking to invest in fiber production. As a technology provider, we offer comprehensive support, from equipment sourcing to engineering and production setup. Most of the machinery can be sourced through established suppliers, and we provide the designs and technical guidance needed to build production lines.

Textile Today: We understand SPINNOVA uses a dry spinning process. Could you explain how these impact dyeing and finishing?

Dr. Shahriare Mahmood: In our process, we produce a dope—a pulp mixture that goes through a dry spinning method. This is beneficial because we can add dyes or functional chemicals, such as antimicrobial agents, directly to the dope, creating a pre-colored or functionalized fiber. Since we don't use extensive chemicals, these additives retain their properties throughout the process, unlike other MMCFs where chemicals often lose efficacy due to multiple processing stages.

Textile Today: How does the cost of SPINNOVA fiber compare to cotton?

Lasse Holopainen: Our goal is to make SPINNOVA a cost-competitive, high-volume fiber. We are working toward aligning SPINNOVA's pricing with organic cotton, allowing it to be accessible to a broad range of textile applications.

Textile Today: Given the technology and research investment required, can Bangladeshi companies handle this shift?

Dr. Shahriare Mahmood: Based on my industry experience, Bangladesh possesses the necessary expertise, and SPINNOVA's process is straightforward. It involves three main phases: creating microfibrillated cellulose (MFC), mixing and spinning, followed by drying and finishing. It's not complex to operate, and Bangladeshi companies can certainly manage it.

Textile Today: Which raw materials would you suggest to begin SPINNOVA fiber production?

Lasse Holopainen: Building a local supply of raw materials may take time. But it is easy to get familiar with the fiber using more common and known pulp. Bangladesh is already importing different types of pulp for paper, tissue paper, cardboard, etc. So, it's pretty strait to import the pulp, put it in SPINNOVA process and produce the spindle fiber.

The interview was taken by Tareq Amin; drafted by Sayed Abdullah

Figure 1: Panelists engaged with the audience, answering questions and providing insights.

Cotton USA promises to strengthen collaborations with spinning factories

'Cotton Day 2024 Bangladesh' event stresses U.S. Cotton: A Sustainable and High-Quality Fiber for Bangladesh

Sayed Abdullah

"Despite offering superior quality and sustainability, U.S. cotton often faces challenges due to longer lead times. To resolve this issue, we plan to invest in warehouse facilities to optimize inventory management and increase usage. Thus whenever spinning mills open an LC, it can be delivered in no time. In addition, we want to increase cooperation to create a win-win situation with the USA and Bangladeshi business community. Most importantly, we aim to increase our US cotton usage."

Showkat Aziz Russell
President, BTMA

COTTON USA™ hosted the 'Cotton Day 2024 Bangladesh' event highlighted the benefits of using high-quality, sustainable U.S. cotton in the country's textile industry and promised to strengthen collaborations with spinning factories. The star-studded event held in Dhaka on December 10th emphasized the importance of strong partnerships between U.S. cotton growers and Bangladeshi textile mills. And how Bangladesh's textile spinning industry can leverage high-quality, transparent and sustainable U.S. cotton to stay ahead in the evolving global fashion supply chain.

Cotton Council International (CCI) – the export promotion arm of the National Cotton Council of America (NCC), is a non-profit trade association that promotes U.S. cotton fiber and manufactured cotton products around the globe – with COTTON USA™ organized the event.

"COTTON USA's vision is to lead the industry through innovation and customer partnership. By leveraging data and intelligence, we offer a range of services to enhance the customer experience. In the past five years, we have conducted over 500 mill visits and provided a wide array of solutions

"The global cotton market is facing challenges, with demand lagging behind production and prices remaining low. The ongoing drought in Texas has further impacted the U.S. cotton crop. We must innovate and think creatively to thrive in this competitive environment."

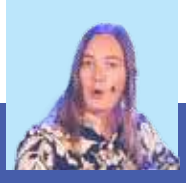
William Bettendorf
Regional Director-SAG, CCI

> ***"COTTON USA Mill Performance Index® is an essential new benchmarking tool for spinning mills. Portraying how your mill compares to your direct competition and how sourcing U.S. cotton ultimately increases productivity and provides higher yields."***
>
> **Ali Arsalan**
> CCI representative for Bangladesh

to our customers."

John King, Senior Vice President, Olam Agri in his presentation showed that in terms of top U.S. cotton export markets, in 2024-25, Bangladesh's commitment is 275,000 bales with a 4% market share. In terms of Bangladesh's cotton imports from the world, Bangladesh remained in the second spot after China. In 2024-25 (till November), the country imported 7.7 million bales – which is 0.1% up then the previous year.

Addressing the discussion, Eva Maria Bille, EU Policy Director at Hill & Knowlton Strategies, highlighted the importance of empowering consumers in the EU Green Transition during her presentation. She emphasized the need for clear and verifiable environmental claims, recognized by EU ecolabels or ISO 14024-type schemes. Additionally, she stressed the importance of fair commercial practices and consumer awareness to drive sustainable consumption patterns. Ultimately, the goal is to empower consumers to make informed choices contributing to a greener future. Most importantly, Zoe Lindsey, Vice President of sales, Oritain said, "The fashion industry is facing increasing scrutiny and regulatory challenges. Oritain's market insights reveal that 10% of garments sold in major Western markets contain cotton sourced from high-risk regions.



> ***The fashion industry is undergoing a structural shift from unregulated to stringent regulations across the value chain, from sourcing to retail. Using U.S. cotton, mills can leverage one of the world's most sustainable cotton sources."***
>
> **Eva Maria Bille**
> EU Policy Director at Hill & Knowlton Strategies

> ***"A significant 76% of consumers prioritize sustainability and ethical practices. They are increasingly avoiding brands that neglect environmental or social responsibility. To address this, scientific verification becomes essential. Our scientific methods provide concrete evidence of product origin and sustainability, helping you comply with stringent regulations and meet consumer expectations,"***
>
> **Zoe Lindsey**
> Vice President of sales, Oritain

Alarmingly, 75% of brands have products containing this high-risk cotton."

The program was hosted by Ali Arsalan, CCI representative for Bangladesh. Around 250 stakeholders from different factories, spinning industry leaders, brands, technology providers and cotton specialists were present at the event.

Figure 2: Around 250 guests participated in the event.

Development of a new Cotton-Nylon Blended Yarn (CNBY) overcoming challenges of spinning process

Md. Likunuzzaman (DUET), Md. Harun -Or- Rashid Hemel (DUET)

Factory Supervisor: Md. Enamul Karim, Executive Director (Spinning) Noman Group.

Academic Supervisor: Dr. Md. Abdus Shahid (Professor, Textile Engineering Dept. DUET)

Key Insights:

- Cotton nylon blended yarn (CNBY) was produced using short staple spinning with cotton-nylon ratios of 80:20 and 90:10.
- Yarn counts developed: 16S, 20S, 30S, and 40S, expanding the yarn product line while optimizing preparatory and ring spinning parameters.
- CNBY with 40D and 70D Lycra was also produced using ring spinning for stylish fabric applications.
- Elongation at maximum forces (E@MF) % increased with Lycra incorporation in 16S, 20S, 30S, and 40S yarns, though CSP values decreased.
- CNBY with 70D showed higher E@MF (%) and lower RKM in 16S+70D, 20S+70D, 30S+70D, and 40S+70D compared to 40D variants.
- Higher E@MF (%) achieved due to nylon short staple fibers in CNBY.

Keywords: Cotton; Nylon staple fibers; Ring spinning; Yarn count; Stylish fabric.

1.0 Introduction:

The demand for stylish fabrics has risen as consumers seek both aesthetic appeal and performance. Yarn variety and quality are crucial for texture, durability, and visual appeal. The global blended fiber market, valued at USD 43.37 billion in 2023, is projected to grow to USD 66.52 billion by 2030, with a CAGR of 6.3%. Common blends like cotton-polyester, wool-polyester, and cotton-viscose vary in fiber percentages to balance properties such as softness, durability, and breathability, catering to applications like clothing and home textiles.

Innovations in blended yarns, especially with cotton-nylon, offer durability and cost efficiency. Nylon enhances cotton's strength, stretchability, and moisture management, countering cotton's tendency to stretch and lose shape over time. Research shows that blending synthetic fibers with cotton improves properties like strength and moisture-wicking but poses spinning challenges. Cotton-nylon blends face issues in fiber distribution, leading to yarn imperfections, and nylon's stretch complicates processing.

This study aims to develop cotton/nylon blended yarn in current production, addressing spinning challenges. By optimizing fiber and spinning parameters, it seeks to enhance yarn quality and performance, providing an alternative for the textile industry.

2.0 Materials

100% cotton fiber came from Burkina Faso, whose supplier was LDC, and were imported from Africa. This cotton fibers were processed from blow room to combing to produce the clean combed cotton fibers. On the other hand, Ningbo Lucky Import & Export Ltd. provided staple nylon fiber, which originated in China. And clean-combed cotton and nylon fibers were mixed in ratios of 80:20 & 90:10 by hand. Table 1 shows the physical properties of cotton and nylon fiber and spandex.

Table 1: Properties of cotton and nylon fiber

Properties	Cotton	Nylon	Spandex	
Fiber types	Burkina Faso	Nylon 6	Creora-H350 Creora-H350	
Fineness (Mic)	4.2	3.95 (1.4D)	40D	70D
Length (mm)	30.36	38	-	-
Tenacity (gm/tex)	31.3	58.5	7.04	8.01

3.0 Experimentation:

Cotton – Nylon blended yarn was made with maintaining the blended ratio in the following manufacturing process:

3.1 Manufacturing process: Based on weight, 80% of combed cotton fibers and 20% of virgin nylon fibers were manually mixed and it was fed to feed lattice of Unimix (brand: Rieter, model: B34) that was integrated with carding machine (brand: Rieter, model: C70). The weight of 6 yards card sliver was 480 grains. The six card slivers were fed into breaker draw frame (model: Toyota DX7A). The weight of 6 yards breaker drawn sliver was 385 grains. The 8 breaker drawn slivers were fed to finisher drawing frame (model: Toyota DX7A-LT). The weight of 6 yards finisher drawn sliver was 380 grains. Roving of 1.05 Ne, TPI 1.15 was prepared by roving frame (model Toyota FL 200). Ring machine (model: Jingwei F1508) was used to produce the CNBY and Drafts 3.5 for 70D and 3.25 for 40D were given in the Lycra for each count in the resulting yarns. Where spandex or Lycra filament imported from Vietnam and the supplier was Pangrim Neotex Co., Ltd. Finally, winding machine of Muratec company (model: 21C) was used to prepare the cones from ring cops. Schematic diagram of manufacturing of CNBY is shown in Figure 1.

3.2 Characterization of Yarn:

High volume instrument (HVI) was used to measure the cotton fiber properties. Uster Tester 5 was used to evaluate the sliver, roving and yarn quality. The unevenness (U%), coefficient of variation in mass (CVm%), thin place (-50%) per km, thick place (+50%) per km, neps (+200%) per km, hairiness of the developed sample was analyzed. Mechanical properties of developed samples were measured by MesdanLab strength tester (model: Tenso-Lab4 2512E). Test GenericYarnTraction - 2024-09-08T16:41 was followed according to the standard traction of yarns. The execution parameters were as follows: sample length of 500 mm; traverse speed during test 500 mm/min; pretension 0 cN/tex; recording rate 0 mm. Traction properties include RKM, maximum force to break (F.Max), elongation at maximum force (E@MF). Uster® Tensojet 4 (Switzerland) was used to examine the breaking-force (B-Force), breaking-work (B-Work), tenacity, scatter diagram. Electronic wrap reel (Mesdan, model: 161W) and wrap drum (Mesdan, model: 254B) were used to measure the length of yarn, sliver/roving respectively. Lea strength tester (model: MAG-Y0501, India) was used to measure the count strength product (CSP) of the yarn. To determine the mean for each sample, the average of ten tests was taken into account. Every test was conducted at 20 ± 2°C with a relative humidity of 65 ± 2%.

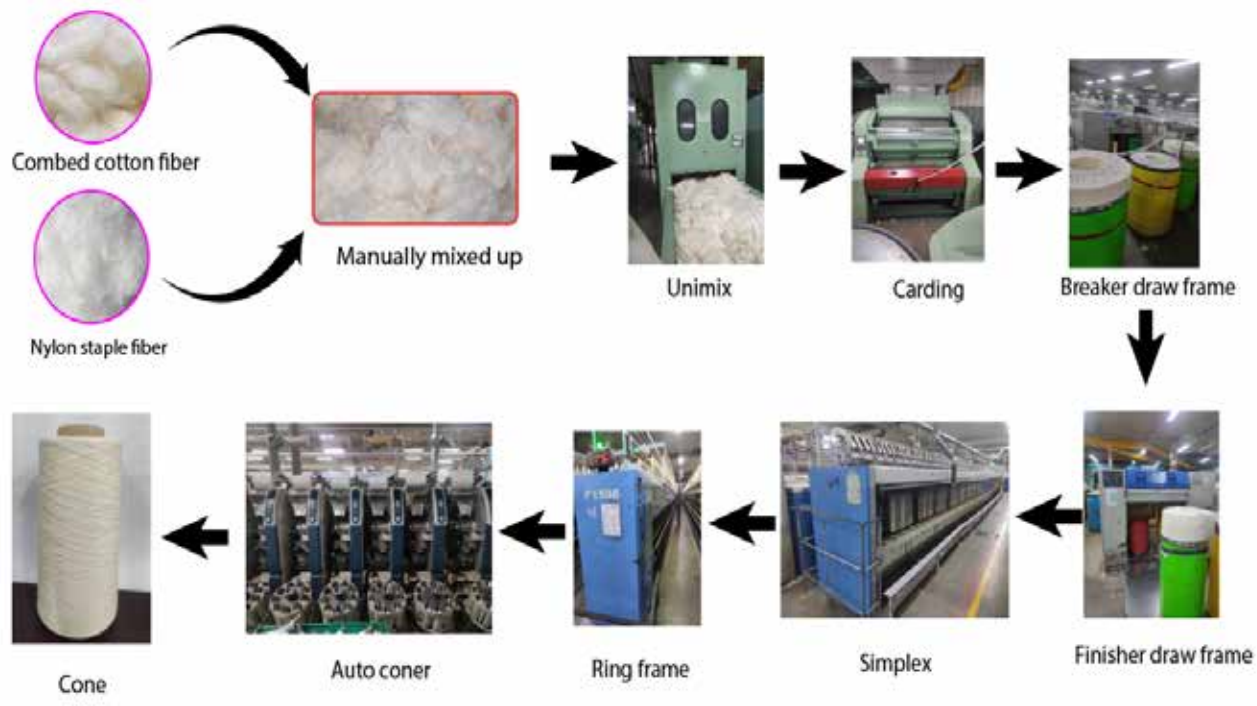


Figure 1: Graphical representation of CNBY manufacturing process

4.0 Results and discussion:

4.1 Optimization in spinning process:

Basically, in this study, focused on the optimization of carding machine parameters. Here, initially the values of the parameters were slightly greater than the findings values are shown in

Table 1: Findings parameters of carding machine

Parameters	Initially	Findings
Taker in speed	1500 rpm	1200 rpm
Cylinder speed	850 rpm	650 rpm
Flat speed	0.35 m/min	0.30 m/min
Number of flats	99	99
Working flats	35	35
Feed speed	700 g/min	660 g/min
Delivery speed	40 kg/hour	30 kg/hour
Card sliver hank	420 grain/6yards	420 grain/6yards
Wings setting	55	55
Mote knife plate	Front=0, Back=2	Front=0, Back=2

4.2 Results of preparatory process:

Table 2: Sliver and roving quality of CNBY

Process	CNBY at 80:20 ratio			CNBY at 90:10 ratio		
	Hank	U%	CVm%	Hank	U%	CVm%
Card sliver	480 grain/6yards	3.65	4.43	480 grain/6yards	3.53	4.39
B/D sliver	385 grain/6yards	2.92	3.67	385 grain/6yards	2.78	3.45
F/D sliver	380 grain/6yards	2.05	2.58	380 grain/6yards	1.91	2.46
Roving	1.05 Ne	3.22	4.04	1.05 Ne	2.97	3.66

Table 2 shows that a higher cotton ratio (90:10) in cotton-nylon blended yarn improves quality across sliver and roving stages. The 90:10 blend consistently reduces unevenness (U%) and mass variation (CVm%) compared to the 80:20 blend: from card sliver (U% 3.53, CVm% 4.39) to roving (U% 2.97, CVm% 3.66). This improvement is due to the enhanced cohesion and alignment of cotton fibers, leading to more uniform sliver and roving production.

China Textile Chemicals Innovation conference explores future pathways

Desk Report

China Textile Chemicals Innovation and Sustainable Development Conference hosted by Transfar Chemicals explored critical topics such as green and sustainable development, textile and chemical safety, innovative chemical research and applications, and supply chain collaboration.

Successfully convened in Hangzhou, China, the event brought together over 400 experts, industry leaders, and enterprise representatives to discuss key topics such as green and sustainable development, textile and chemical safety, innovative research, and supply chain collaboration.

The conference aimed to bolster innovation, promote sustainable practices, and strengthen industry partnerships. By uniting industry stakeholders, the

Figure: The event brought together over 400 experts, industry leaders, and enterprise representatives.

event contributed to the advancement of the textile industry and its environmental impact.

Transfar Chemicals, a subsidiary of Transfar Group, is a leading global provider of ethical and sustainable textile chemicals. The company is dedicated to driving the textile industry towards a greener future.

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Figure: Abdullah Al Mamun, Director, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) & Managing Director, Abed Textile Ltd.

Bangladesh textile industry to rebound, eyes digital innovation

Sayed Abdullah

After weathering recent storms, the Bangladesh textile and apparel industry is poised for a strong resurgence. One of the prominent leaders of the Bangladesh textile industry, Abdullah Al Mamun, Director, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) & Managing Director, Abed Textile Ltd. shared his optimism at the recently concluded Textile Series of Exhibitions held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre, showcased the industry's resilience and innovation. He also shared sensational news on local manufacturing and developing digital textile printing machines, inks and accessories in Bangladesh.

Abdullah Al Mamun believes the sector is well-positioned for future growth. This optimism was reinforced at the Textile Series of Exhibitions organized by CEMS Global, which highlighted the latest advancements in textile technology.

Abdullah Al Mamun highlighted that the latest technological advancements and 4th-generation machinery showcased at the expo are a testament that Bangladesh's textile and apparel industry is moving forward. Even more, the response and turnaround are amazing for the industry.

"Although in recent months, we have been navigating rough weather. Despite this, the influx of inquiries and responses from the industry indicates that after that situation will bounce back. All we need is law & order and financial sector stability to thrive."

The BTMA leader also expressed optimism about the new Bangladesh transformation. Abdullah Al Mamun said, "We are seeing a lot of business favorable policy changes after the country's transition. In addition, the most anticipated mega plan for the textile sector has been underway and some changes have already been made. We are working closely with the government to develop the ease of doing business in the country – especially in the textile sector. I am confident that very soon the backward linkage textile sector and the industry at large will hear some good news."

Riding the coming growth wave, Abdullah Al Mamun shared some exciting news regarding local manufacturing and developing cutting-edge digital textile printing machines, inks and accessories in Bangladesh.

He said, "As the call for fashion sustainability gets louder globally, more and more brands are turning to digital printing. Besides being environmentally sustainable it also delivers quality and is cost-effective for the textile entrepreneurs. Till now, we used to import digital printing machines, accessories and inks. In the new circumstances, joining hands with a leading Chinese pioneering company i.e., RBR Innovations Ltd. Where we set up a digital textile printing machines plant in Narsingdi."

He stressed that this plant is poised to serve both the domestic and international markets with excellence. At the heart of our operation is a commitment to innovation, research, and sustainability. By producing eco-friendly inks and utilizing state-of-the-art equipment, we aim to lead the digital textile industry in both technological advancement and environmental responsibility.

November & December yarn price going down, price may increase in Jan-25

Kh. Abdul Satter, Founder, BD YARN

100% Cotton Carded Yarn Price: 10/11/2024						
Yarn count	100% Cotton Carded	100% Cotton Carded BCI	100% Cotton Carded CmiA	100% Cotton Carded IC2 (GOTS)	100% Cotton Carded OCS/ GOTS	100% Cotton (80% ctn+20% Recycled) Carded recycled Yarn (GRS)
24/1 & 26/1	$3.15	$3.20	$3.20	$3.55	$3.85	$3.35
28/1 & 30/1	$3.20	$3.25	$3.25	$3.60	$3.90	$3.40
32/1	$3.30	$3.35	$3.35	$3.70	$4.00	$3.50
34/1	$3.40	$3.45	$3.45	$3.80	$4.10	$3.60
36/1	$3.55	$3.60	$3.60	$3.95	$4.25	
40/1	$3.80	$3.85	$3.85	$4.20	$4.50	

100% Cotton COMBED Yarn Price					
Yarn count	100% Cotton Combed	100% Cotton Combed BCI	100% Cotton Combed CmiA	100% Cotton Combed IC2 (GOTS)	100% Cotton Carded OCS/GOTS
24/1 & 26/1	$3.45	$3.50	$3.50	$3.85	$4.15
28/1 & 30/1	$3.50	$3.55	$3.55	$3.90	$4.20
32/1	$3.60	$3.65	$3.65	$4.00	$4.30
34/1	$3.70	$3.75	$3.75	$4.10	$4.40
36/1	$3.85	$3.90	$3.90	$4.25	$4.55
40/1	$4.10	$4.15	$4.15	$4.50	$4.80

Generally, Yarn price in our country are relatively low in November and December every Year which start increasing from January.

Why yarn price go dawn?

Recent political unrest, labor unrest, and Gas have hampered production and exports in this sector.

Our main export markets are the United States and the European Union. About 17-18 percent of our ready-made garment products are exported to the United States and about 50 percent to the European Union. However, our exports to these markets have decreased in recent times.

Our monthly report covers the Yarn Prices in Bangladesh, including Cotton Carded and Combed Yarn.

Due to some recent political tensions between India & Bangladesh land based import between the 2 countries have declined significantly. As a result, the yarn price may increase 1 to 2 Dollar per unit.

100% Cotton Carded Yarn Price: 02/12/2024						
Yarn Count	100% Cotton Carded	100% Cotton Carded BCI	100% Cotton Carded CmiA	100% Cotton Carded IC2 (GOTS)	100% Cotton Carded OCS/GOTS	100% Cotton (80% ctn+20% Recycled) Carded recycled Yarn (GRS)
24/1 & 26/1	$3.10	$3.15	$3.15	$3.50	$3.80	$3.30
28/1 & 30/1	$3.15	$3.20	$3.20	$3.55	$3.85	$3.35
32/1	$3.25	$3.30	$3.30	$3.65	$3.65	$3.45
34/1	$3.35	$3.40	$3.40	$3.75	$3.75	$3.55
36/1	$3.50	$3.55	$3.55	$3.90	$3.90	
40/1	$3.75	$3.80	$3.80	$4.15	$4.15	

100% Cotton COMBED Yarn Price: 02/12/2024					
Yarn Count	100% Cotton Combed	100% Cotton Combed BCI	100% Cotton Combed CmiA	100% Cotton Combed IC2 (GOTS)	100% Cotton Carded OCS/ GOTS
24/1 & 26/1	$3.40	$3.45	$3.45	$3.80	$4.10
28/1 & 30/1	$3.45	$3.50	$3.50	$3.85	$4.15
32/1	$3.55	$3.60	$3.60	$3.95	$4.25
34/1	$3.65	$3.70	$3.70	$4.05	$4.35
36/1	$3.80	$3.85	$3.85	$4.20	$4.50
40/1	$4.05	$4.10	$4.10	$4.45	$4.75
Note: Price 5 cents+/- depending in quantities & certification					

Figure 1: LMW Global FZE, a leading Textile Spinning Machinery Manufacturer, has instituted the prestigious annual, "Abdul Matin Chowdhury Award".

LMW Global FZE, UAE celebrates A. Matin Chowdhury Award at AUST

Faysal Ahmed

Figure 2: Keynote Address.

LMW Global FZE, a leading Textile Spinning Machinery Manufacturer, has instituted the prestigious annual award, "Abdul Matin Chowdhury Award", to honor and recognize the dedication and remarkable role played by A. Matin Chowdhury for his contribution towards the growth of Textile Industry in the country and for positioning LMW products & services as a leading technology provider in the Bangladesh market.

This yearly award is being presented to the top-performing textile graduates at Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST), Dhaka. The first prestigious A. Matin Chowdhury Award Ceremony was held at the university premises on 9th Dec 2024 brought together the leaders from the textile industry, academia, and students to celebrate the event and to discuss the future of textiles.

The ceremony opened with keynote address by Ramanadane C., CEO of LMW Global FZE, Dubai, UAE on the journey of LMW in Bangladesh market and the contribution of Matin Chowdhury in putting LMW products and technology at leadership position. The company's commitment to continue to play such stronger position role through high technology products and after-sales services was emphasized.

A. Matin Chowdhury in his inspiring speech to the student community and industry leaders recalled the growth journey of Textiles in the country, how the challenges faced were converted into opportunities and on the leadership role to be played by the outgoing graduates in sustaining this growth to take the industry to the next level. He emphasized that "The future of textiles would be man-made fibers and hence to remain competitive and environmentally responsible, one has to embrace this shift".

Figure 3: Honoring the Dignitaries.

Shawkat Aziz Russel, President - BTMA shared updates on innovative projects, including the establishment of a second plant for producing synthetic fibers from PET bottles. He pointed out the pressing need for skilled manpower in the field, recommending that AUST establish a dedicated department for man-made fibers to train future experts. Besides, he also revealed plans to secure research funding to advance synthetic fiber technology.

Prof. Dr. Md. Ashraful Hoque (Vice Chancellor – AUST), Prof. Dr. Mohammed Mahbubur Rahman (Pro Vice Chancellor – AUST), Prof. Dr. Sharmin Reza Chowdhury (Treasurer – AUST), Engr. Emdadul Haque (HOD – Textile Engineering Dept – AUST), thanked LMW Global FZE for sponsoring such award to encourage the students and to strengthen the bond between academia and industry.

The event concluded by honoring Md. Raihanul Islam and Ms. Maliha Akter Mitu, final-year students from the Yarn Engineering Stream with the award for their exceptional academic achievements.

Figure 4: Student Awardees.

The A. Matin Chowdhury Award will continue to recognize four outstanding final-year students from AUST's textile department each year.

This award ceremony served as a crucial platform for fostering collaboration between academia and industry, sparking meaningful discussions on sustainability, technological innovation, and the expanding role of man-made fibers in the future of textiles.

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Figure: Md. Elias Hossain, CEO, United Textile Services is with N Noa, Director and CEO of Business Europe at Biotex.

Biotex's technical textile ranges bring more value to Bangladesh market

Sayed Abdullah

Germany-based textile auxiliary solution provider Biotex is getting a great response from the Bangladesh Market with its technical textile chemicals. The company hopes to provide more of its wide range of innovative technical textiles chemical solutions.

At the recently concluded Textile Series of Exhibition organized by CEMS Global exhibition, N Noa, Director and CEO of Business Europe at Biotex said to Textile Today, "We have had a great response from the people to see our technical textile chemicals and we hope to present our innovations at this exhibition. Where we hope that the Bangladesh Market will move in the future more to this technology, which brings more high-end value to the fabric like water repellent flame retardant, mosquito repellent finish, or anti-bacterial products. And, by offering these highly technical textile products to the Bangladesh Market, we can good relationship and partnership with him."

"We excel in technical textile chemistry, adding value to fabrics with flame retardants, water repellents, oil repellency, phenolic yellowing, and chlorine fastness. Additionally, we supply regular H/C textile auxiliaries like optimized pretreatment, leveling agents, fixing agents, and sequestering agents. As well as we are working also on the pretreatment & Dyeing process for time, energy and water savings. All these products are made in Malaysia with European technology," Biotex's Director and CEO of Business Europe added.

Biotex's strategically located manufacturing plant in Selangor, Malaysia, ensures rapid delivery of products. N Noa said, "While our chemical development takes place in Germany, our production facilities are strategically located in Malaysia. This proximity allows us to quickly and efficiently supply our Bangladeshi customers. Given the current global supply chain disruptions and rising shipping costs, our ability to deliver products within six to seven days from Malaysia offers a significant advantage over traditional shipping routes from Europe, which can take up to three months."

"Reducing our carbon footprint is a top priority. Sourcing locally not only improves delivery times but also contributes to a more sustainable supply chain," N Noa explained.

United Textile Services, the sole agent for Biotex in Bangladesh since 2008, sees immense potential for Biotex's technical textile ranges in the local market. As per Md. Elias Hossain, CEO of United Textile Services, these products can significantly benefit Bangladeshi textile mills.

Figure: Md Abul Kalam, Managing Director of Chaity Group, has been made panel leader of the Sammilito Parishad panel for the upcoming BGMEA election. Courtesy: Collected

Abul Kalam to lead Sammilito Parishad for upcoming BGMEA election

Staff Correspondent

Chaity Group's Managing Director, Abul Kalam has been made panel leader of the Sammilito Parishad, a Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) panel for the upcoming BGMEA election.

Md Abul Kalam established Chaity Group in 1991, making it one of Bangladesh's leading garments and textiles industries.

On 28 November, in a grand event, Md Abul Kalam, with the presence of past presidents and leaders of the Sammilito Parishad, Kazi Moniruzzaman, president of the Parishad, announced Md Abul Kalam as panel leader.

Abul Kalam said: "At this moment, the sector needs law and order, financial support to sustain export activities, and an adequate supply of gas and electricity to keep the industry running."

Chaity Group's Managing Director, added: "We are optimistic that, with the government's support, we can find solutions for the sector if the members elect our panel to lead the association."

At the event, past presidents and leaders of the Sammilito Parishad spoke about the contribution of the panel to the development of the country's RMG sector.

They also said that they will work to address the ongoing challenges of the sector, including labour issues, wages issues, energy and fuel issues, ports, NBR and customs issues and other challenges if they win the upcoming BGMEA election.

On October 20, the government dissolved the BGMEA's board of directors and appointed EPB Vice-Chairman Md Anwar Hossain as its administrator. On the same day, the Commerce Ministry issued a circular under Section 17 of the Trade Organizations Act, 2022.

Figure: Mahmud Hasan Khan, Managing Director of Rising Group has been formally announced as the leader of Forum for the BGMEA elections.

Forum declares Mahmud Hasan as panel leader for BGMEA elections

Sayed Abdullah

Mahmud Hasan Khan (Babu), Managing Director of Rising Group, has been formally announced as the leader of Forum, a panel of the country's garment makers, for the BGMEA elections.

The announcement was made on 20 November at an event held at a hotel ahead of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association's elections.

The president and general secretary of the Forum panel, Abdus Salam and Rashid Ahmed Hossaini, and BGMEA former presidents Rubana Huq and Anwarul Alam Chowdhury, among others, were present at the event.

"The apparel industry is at a crossroads, requiring bold and strategic decisions. Crisis management cannot be achieved through passive leadership alone. It demands an understanding of the sector's core needs and innovative approaches to problem-solving.," said Mahmud Hasan Babu.

Mahmud Hasan called for timely elections and a transparent and inclusive voter list, ensuring that only legitimate members of the association participate in the electoral process. He urged the administrator to oversee a fair and impartial election process.

The Rising Group started its journey in 1997, and the company has been chasing excellence and customer satisfaction ever since. With cutting-edge technology, Rising Group has adapted to the latest efficient production methodologies and has been manufacturing the best quality products for our stakeholders. Today, Rising Group has a yearly turnover of $188 million.

Figure 1: Eapen Varghese, Sr. Manager – Exports, Silox India.

Silox India's Hydros D in denim and Vat dyeing

Silox India, a leading Global player in Reduction Chemistry, offers Hydros D through Zinc process, providing consistent, competent and credible denim & Vat Dyeing solutions.

Silox India Story

Silox India Private Limited (SIPL), a joint venture between Silox S.A., Belgium, and Transpek Industry Ltd, India is a renowned global manufacturer of inorganic chemicals and has been a significant contributor to the textile industry. With a legacy spanning over five decades, Silox India has created a strong presence in more than 65 countries across six continents. Silox offers a comprehensive range of high-quality chemical products to diverse industries.

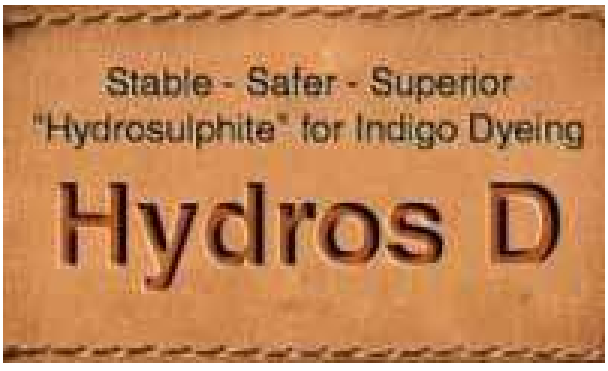
With Silox India's consistent, competent and credible textile chemical solutions – the company has been providing high-quality textile chemicals to the Bangladeshi market through its exclusive agent, Dysin Chemicals Ltd. since 2016. Thanks to their commitment to quality and rapid delivery times, Silox India's solutions have become a preferred choice among leading denim manufacturers in the country.

SIPL's one of the veterans, Eapen Varghese, Sr. Manager – Exports, recently visited Bangladesh to further explore the market's potential. In a conversation with Textile Today, he enlightens, "Silox India Private Limited is part of Silox S.A., Belgium, which holds 87% of the company's shares and the balance rest with their Indian Partner.

Eapen Varghese pays regular visits to the Bangladeshi Denim market to understand the requirements of each individual customer and their shop floor experiences. Through their regular technical interactions with customers, one of the best Sodium Hydrosulphite i.e. Hydros D manufactured through zinc process has been developed and offered to Denim/VAT dyeing industry of Bangladesh.

Strategic Partnership Driving Success in Bangladesh with DYSIN GROUP

In the Bangladesh textile market, Dysin Group has



been the exclusive agent for Silox India, playing a pivotal role in establishing and expanding the brand's presence. Highlighting Dysin's contribution, Varghese remarked, "Dysin Group has been an indispensable partner for us since we began operations in Bangladesh. Their continuous support and market insights have been instrumental in our growth and success."

Silox India's strategic advantage lies in its proximity to the region, enabling exceptional responsiveness and reliable service. The company ensures prompt delivery of its flagship product, Hydros D, with shipments reaching customers within 20 to 30 days via sea and as quickly as 7 to 10 days by land. This efficient supply chain minimizes transit times from Purchase Order (PO) or LC issuance to delivery, helping mills optimize their working capital management.

"Dysin's timely support and dependable market feedback have greatly enhanced our ability to meet the evolving needs of our customers, strengthening our foothold in the industry," Varghese added.

This robust partnership between Dysin Group, Bangladesh and Silox India underscores the value of collaboration in achieving excellence and delivering

tailored solutions to the textile sector.

In the denim development category, Silox India's Hydros D is a premium customized product manufactured through zinc process. Hydros D has gained significant traction in Bangladesh's textile industry, particularly in denim manufacturing and vat dyeing process. It is a Superior quality, more Stable and Safer alternative any other products available in Bangladeshi market. Hydros D's efficiency have made it a preferred choice among leading denim mills & vat dyeing houses.

Eapen Varghese said, "Hydros D is for making premium category denim. And we are competing with globally leading MNCs. Bangladesh's leading denim manufacturers like Envoy, Amber, Pioneer Denim, Chittagong Denim, Square Group, Aaron Denim, Shasha Denim etc. to name a few, uses our Hydros D regularly."

Hydros-D Unique proposition

The ZDHC Level-3 Certified Hydros D, offers:

- Controlled decomposition in dye bath that ensures a precise and efficient dyeing process.
- Controlled Redox potential ensures uniform indigo dyeing that guarantees consistent color results.
- Reduces additional dosing frequency of Hydros into dye bath optimizes chemical usage and reduces costs.
- Less dusty products ensure minimum spillage loss while dosing that improves safety and reduces waste.
- Enhanced reactivity of indigo leads to darker shade that helps to achieve deeper and richer color tones.

Abdullah Al Mahmud, General Manager and Business Line Leader (Washing & Denim) at Dysin Group and an alumnus of BUTEX, Dhaka, shared his insights on the remarkable success of Silox India's Hydros-D in the Bangladeshi denim industry.

"Hydros-D by Silox India has established itself as a leading sodium hydrosulphite solution, setting new benchmarks for quality and efficiency in the premium denim fabric segment. Its unparalleled performance has earned the trust of Bangladesh's top denim manufacturers, with 15 mills relying exclusively on Hydros-D for 100% of their consumption. This reflects an impressive 60% market share in the premium segment," said Mr. Mahmud.

He further highlighted, "Silox India excels not only in product quality but also in understanding and addressing customers' unique needs. Their commitment to delivering tailored solutions has instilled confidence among their partners and solidified their position as a trusted leader in the industry."

Figure 2: Abdullah Al Mahmud, General Manager and Business Line Leader (Washing & Denim) at Dysin Group with Eapen Varghese.

With its proven capabilities, Hydros-D continues to redefine standards, supporting Bangladesh's denim sector in achieving excellence on a global scale.

Pioneering Cutting-Edge Chemical Solutions

Silox India harnesses its extensive global expertise to bring innovative and cutting-edge chemical solutions to the market. With state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities and a strong commitment to research and development (R&D), the company consistently delivers an extensive range of high-quality products tailored to industry needs.

A Commitment to Quality and Sustainability

Silox India exemplifies its dedication to excellence and sustainability through a comprehensive portfolio of globally recognized certifications. Its manufacturing plants are accredited with ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 45001:2018, and OSHAS 18001 standards by TUV Nord, Germany. The company's Quality Assurance Laboratory is also certified by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL).

Furthermore, Silox India's products hold the prestigious ECO PASSPORT, GOTS, and ZDHC certifications, ensuring their suitability and compliance with the highest standards in the textile industry.

Driving Operational Excellence with Sustainability

Silox India continues to excel by adopting forward-thinking operational standards and prioritizing sustainable practices. The company actively contributes to environmental preservation through energy conservation initiatives, exploring alternative energy sources, minimizing waste, and enhancing recycling processes.

By integrating innovation, sustainability, and quality, Silox India remains at the forefront of delivering chemical solutions that meet the evolving demands of the textile industry while championing a greener future.

Algae-Based textiles becoming the next frontier in sustainable fashion

Shafiun Nahar Elma

As sustainability becomes necessary for individuals and businesses, research is being conducted into new materials that may diminish environmental damage. One of the most interesting new substances is algae-based materials, which are a more sustainable alternative to fabrics and will enable circular fashion in the future.

Concept of Algae-Based Textiles

Algae-based textiles arose in response to the ever-increasing demand for an ecological substitute for man-made synthetic fibers such as polyester and nylon which consume massive amounts of natural resources and cause long-term environmental degradation. For example, making one T-shirt from cotton can use up to 2,700 liters of water, a popular and cheap raw material in the fast fashion industry, polyester is sourced from petroleum and contributes to ocean microplastic contamination. Researchers began their deliberations on algae, a global, fast-growing organism, for the sustainable role of raw material in this sector. Tjeerd Veenhoven, a Dutch fashion designer, was an early adopter of algae, using it as a medium to generate biodegradable paints in his design.

Key environmental benefits of algae-based textiles

Rapid growth and minimal resource use

Algae are among the most rapidly growing creatures, with some species doubling in biomass within 24 hours. Algae do not require a lot of land or freshwater to grow. Kelp, a form of seaweed, can grow up to 60 centimeters per day in ideal conditions and

Courtesy: Collected

yield up to 30 tons per hectare annually without any fertilizer, whereas cotton yields only 2 to 3 tons per hectare with pesticides. Furthermore, algae production can take place in saltwater or brackish environments, which do not compete with freshwater resources.

Carbon absorption and climate impact

One of the most important environmental benefits of algae is its ability to sequester carbon dioxide. During photosynthesis, algae absorb vast volumes of CO2, serving as natural carbon sinks. According to World Economic Forum research, seaweed farming might trap up to 2 billion tons of CO2 each year, accounting for approximately 5% of total global emissions. This makes algae farming a useful weapon for mitigating climate change effects, especially when contrasted to the fossil fuel-intensive manufacture of synthetic fibers, which emits around 706 million tons of CO2 annually.

Biodegradability and waste reduction

Algae-based textiles are 100% biodegradable, unlike polyester or manmade fabric, which can take up to 200 years to compost. Algae can degrade in natural conditions in 3 to 6 months, leaving no hazardous microplastics, or chemicals behind. According to statistical research, because of availability and fast fashion trend more than 92 million tons of textile waste were generated worldwide in 2023, maximum are ending up in landfills. Algae-based textiles contribute to a circular fashion economy and reduce

Courtesy: Collected

the environmental impact of fast fashion by composting textile waste and returning nutrients to the soil.

Other sustainable character:

The environmental footprint of algae-based textile production is significantly smaller than other fabrics. Organic cotton production is responsible for at least 16% of global pesticide use and requires substantial irrigation.

UV protection: Algae fibers provide natural sun protection in clothing.

Moisture-wicking: Helps to keep garments breathable and dry. Versatile applications include clothes, footwear, and cosmetics.

Pioneering brands in algae-based textiles

Vollebak

USA brand Vollebak is known for its eco-friendly innovations, including a biodegradable T-shirt made from wood pulp and algae that decomposes in 12 weeks. Using algae-based pigments, the brand sets a new standard for circular fashion and contributes to reducing 17-20% of global industrial water pollution from textile dyeing.

Algiknit

Their bio-yarns use up to 50% less water than conventional fibers like cotton.

Expanding Applications of Algae-Based Textiles

The global market for algae-based products is estimated to reach $6.6 billion by 2027, driven by growing applications in a variety of industries. Due to their biocompatibility and antibacterial qualities, algae fibers are employed in medical applications such as injury dressings and biodegradable implants. This market is predicted to expand at a 6.2% CAGR over the next five years. The sustainable home textile industry was assessed at $3.8 billion in 2023. The market for algae-based cosmetic packaging is expected to grow fast, reaching $660 million by the end of 2023.

The Future of Algae Textiles and Innovation

Technological Breakthroughs

Ongoing advancements in biotechnology are improving the durability, softness, and dyeability of algae-based fabrics.

Shifting Consumer Demand

In a 2023 Euromonitor International report, over 70% of global consumers are searching for sustainable alternatives and they appreciate natural substances. As consumer consciousness continues to rise, brands incorporating algae-based textiles will be better positioned to meet this ongoing demand.

Data from Market Analysis:

The global algae market is expected to experience rapid growth, with Markets projecting a value of $5.17 billion by 2025. Increased investment in algae-based technologies will help sustainable production and reduce costs, enabling algae textiles to become more accessible to mainstream fashion brands.

Collaborative Partnerships

Brands such as Pangaia collaborate with environmental organizations and research universities to expand algae-based textile manufacture. This is the sort of collaboration that will drive the organic material's adoption in the fashion sector.

By 2050, this material may be very well the future of fashion since it grows fast, absorbs carbon, is biodegradable, and hardly affects the environment at all. With ever-improving technology, consumer demand, and much-needed investment, algae-based textiles are just about to become the core of eco-friendly fashion. By embracing large-scale production of algae-based textiles the fashion industry will be reducing its overall negative ecological footprint and assuming the leading role in innovation. The high time for algae-based textiles development is now.

Figure: Cixing Bangladesh Ltd. is a prominent subsidiary of Ningbo Cixing Co. Ltd., a global leader in intelligent knitting equipment and digital knitting factory solutions.

'Cixing Bangladesh Night' to strengthen knitwear innovation & collaboration

Staff Correspondent

Ningbo Cixing Company Limited (Cixing), a global leader in intelligent knitting equipment, successfully organized the 'Cixing Bangladesh Night Products Promotion Meeting' on November 26, 2024.

Cixing Bangladesh Ltd. is a prominent subsidiary of Ningbo Cixing Co. Ltd., a global leader in intelligent knitting equipment and digital knitting factory solutions.

The event brought together over 300 key stakeholders, including owners and executives from Bangladesh's leading sweater production companies, along with representatives from BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology (BUFT).

In a strategic move to nurture future talent in the knitting industry, Cixing signed multiple cooperation agreements with renowned Bangladeshi companies, including BSKL, Knit Asia, Bettex, NEXUS, TWELVETEX, and SWEATERTECH.

During the event, Zalal Uddin Tuhin, Managing Director of Cixing Bangladesh Ltd., emphasized the company's commitment to introducing advanced knitting technology to Bangladesh.

He said, "This event marked a pivotal moment in strengthening industry ties and advancing the local sweater production landscape."

Frank Sun, Chairman of Ningbo Cixing Group said, "The Cixing Group's focus on research and development, with an annual R&D investment exceeding $12 million to ensure sustainable growth. He highlighted Bangladesh's significance as a global hub for clothing manufacturing, reiterating Cixing's commitment to enhancing the country's textile industry.".

Cixing is committed to improving the technical level of knitting machinery, promoting the development of knitting technology processing, and realizing the intelligent upgrade of the knitting industry.

At the end of the event, a grand fashion show showcased Cixing's latest sweater designs and cutting-edge technology and underscored Cixing's industrial strengths and it's potential to revolutionize Bangladesh's sweater production landscape while deepening ties with existing and new customers.

EGM approves interim committee of ITET, election within 31st Dec 2025

Staff Correspondent

Figure: The meeting decided to hold the ITET election by December 31.

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Institution of Textile Engineers and Technologists (ITET), an organization of textile engineers, was held at the ITET office Yesterday (December 7). The meeting decided to hold the ITET election by December 31.

The EGM held under the chairmanship of Eng. Ehsanul Karim Kaiser, Convener and the facilitation of Eng. Enayet Hossain, Member Secretary of the interim convening committee of ITET.

The EGM passed the interim 13-member committee and 7 standing committees of ITET by the direct votes of all those present. And the committee was allowed to work until December 31, 2025.

It is worth noting that the interim convening committee of ITET was formed on November 13 after all the members of the previous committee resigned. The main objectives of the ITET interim committee were to hold the election as soon as possible, collect members and make a directory, and pay installment about 1 crore taka of the 10 katha plot's of RAJUK received by the 14th Council.

Joint convener Eng Shams Uz Zaman announced to give 1 crore taka this month, which made the committee's work easier. The meeting also highlighted the status of the financial statements received from the ITET 14th Council.

About 120 members from all parties were present at the meeting to make the EGM successful.

Textile leaders inspire students at BUTEX Campus Drive for Talent Hunt 9.0

Homayra Anjumi Hoque

Textile Talent Hunt 9.0- Campus drive of BUTEX zone was held at BUTEX auditorium. BUTEX Business Club was the implementation partner. The event featured prominent speakers from industry, who shared their insights on the future of the textile industry.

> ***I urge universities to prepare students to be industry-ready from day one. Entrepreneurs are willing to pay competitive salaries if freshers can take on responsibilities immediately after joining.***
>
> **Saiful Islam Khan**
> Managing Director, Essential Clothing

From the session, the students also came to know about the whole process of participating in the competition which was previously launched on November 9, at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.

Dr. Mohammad Forhad Hossain, Head of the Department of DCE at BUTEX, Saiful Islam Khan, Managing Director of Essential Clothing, Engr. Ehsanul Karim Kaiser, Convener of ITET and Prof. Dr. Engr. Md. Zulhash Uddin, Vice Chancellor of BUTEX were present as the guests. They put their valuable perspectives which enriched the audience's understanding of the industry's challenges and opportunities.

Saiful Islam Khan, Managing Director of Essential Clothing, underscored the crucial role of innovation and leadership in the textile industry. Reflecting on his journey, he shared, "Coming from a family involved in the apparel business, I always aspired to start my own venture. This ambition led me to join the textile industry after completing my graduation. In the early days of Bangladesh's garment sector, profit margins were substantial. However, over the past four decades, these margins have significantly shrunk, while the cost of doing business has risen due to factors such as increased gas prices, bank interest rates, and other challenges

He further stated, if we consider labor efficiency compared to competitor countries, the level of efficiency is not that bad as per the salary we are providing to them. We have made significant improvements in that area. However, the efficiency of mid-level management is not that satisfactory. We need to work with mid-level professionals to help them become more efficient. We can equip them with different training and tools to uplift their capacity & performance.

> ***The Textile Talent Hunt represents a unique opportunity for young minds to explore the breadth of possibilities within the textile industry. It bridges the gap between academic learning and industrial application, encouraging students to think critically and work collaboratively. Events like these are crucial in inspiring the next generation to embrace innovation and contribute meaningfully to the industry's growth.***
>
> **Engr. Ehsanul Karim Kaiser**
> Convener, ITET

Discussing the role of academia, he highlighted, "Currently, around 40 universities in Bangladesh are producing Textile Engineering graduates, making the job market far more competitive than before. Despite this, factories often struggle to offer attractive salaries to fresh graduates because they require significant training—up to two years—to reach desired productivity levels. He further

emphasized the importance of initiatives like Textile Talent Hunt, saying, "Platforms like these play a vital role in bridging the gap between academia and industry, helping students become better equipped for their careers. My advice to students is to stay focused, dedicated, and take ownership of their roles, as this benefits both the company and their personal growth."

In conclusion, he added, "Teamwork is essential. Students must learn to collaborate with professionals from diverse backgrounds, as such synergy often leads to more impactful results for the organization."

Engr. Ehsanul Karim Kaiser, Convener of ITET emphasized the importance of innovation and leadership in the textile industry.

He also described the Textile Talent Hunt as an innovative endeavor aimed at building future leaders.

The campus drive was commenced by Sanjoy Shaha, AGM of Industry Engagement at Textile Today. Faysal Ahmmad, Coordinator of Textile Talent Hunt, outlined the competition's flowchart, while Tareq Amin, CEO and Founder of Textile Today Innovation Hub, discussed the mission and vision of this prestigious competition.

Asif Iqbal, President of BUTEX Business Club who was also a finalist of Textile Talent Hunt 8.0, shared about his impactful journey and valuable experiences from talent hunt. The speakers and BUTEX Business club were presented with token of appreciation from Textile Today.

More than 100+ students were present at the session. They all were from 1st year students to final years from all departments. The registration has been started for the national round of Talent Hunt season 9.0.

Increase productivity and efficiency with rotary-hook quilting machine automation

Staff Correspondent

Figure: Nicole Xin, Country Manager (Bangladesh), Tianjin GetonAgain Technology Co. Ltd.

Tianjin GetonAgain Technology Co. Ltd., a global leader in advanced textile machinery, showcased its innovative Computerized Multi-head Rotary-hook Quilting Machine at ITMA Asia 2024. This state-of-the-art machine is designed to meet the evolving needs of the home textile industry, offering superior efficiency and quality.

At the ITMA Asia 2024 exhibition, GetonAgain Technology's Nicole Xin, Country Manager (Bangladesh) shared with Textile Today Special Correspondent that its Computerized Multi-head Rotary-hook Quilting Machine to meet the evolving needs of home textiles – suitable for multi-needle quilting of winter comforter, summer quilts, bed covers, mattress protector, mattress, etc.

The machine boasts a range of advanced features, including a double-row lock-stitch multi-needle quilter with a high-speed rotary hook, a 5-fold capacity rotary hook for reduced bobbin changes, and a user-friendly touchscreen interface. Its full servo motor driving system ensures precise control and strong power, while the adjustable needle bar spacing and unique atomized oiling system enhance performance and durability.

By adopting this cutting-edge quilting technology, manufacturers can significantly boost productivity, improve product quality, and reduce operating costs. GetonAgain's commitment to innovation and customer satisfaction has solidified its position as a trusted partner for the global textile industry.

Nicole Xin, Country Manager (Bangladesh) of Tianjin GetonAgain Technology Co. Ltd., recently highlighted the benefits of rotary-hook quilting machine automation at ITMA Asia 2024 in Shanghai. She emphasized how this technology can boost productivity and efficiency in the home textile industry.

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Figure 1: CHT Group's Bangladesh representative – RH Corporation and Textile Today team at the MoU signing event.

German chemical giant CHT partners TTH 9.0

Sayed Abdullah

Germany-based CHT Group, a leading innovative solutions provider, teamed up with Textile Today Innovation Hub (TTIH) and became a proud 'Platinum Partner' of Textile Talent Hunt (TTH) 2024-25 – Season 9.

Recently, CHT Group's Bangladesh representative – RH Corporation (a concern of Aziz Group) and Textile Today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Aziz Group Convention Hall in Tejgaon, Dhaka.

At the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing event, Eng. A.S.M Hafizur Rahman Nixon, Executive Director, RH Corporation and Tareq Amin, Founder & CEO, Textile Today respectively signed on behalf of the two organizations.

Eng. A.S.M Hafizur Rahman Nixon said, "RH Corporation – on behalf of CHT Group signed a MoU with Textile Today – bolstering CHT's commitment to innovation. For many years, Textile Today's flagship event Textile Talent Hunt has been working in the industry encompassing all the textile universities, academicians, and industry experts. Under the leadership of Eousup Abu Abdullah, TTH's motto is to complete the 'Practically Tested Innovation Model' for the industry's innovation needs to resolve challenges within the textile and apparel industry."

Figure 2: Eng. A.S.M Hafizur Rahman Nixon, Executive Director, RH Corporation expressed CHT's commitment to innovation.

"In every Talent Hunt event season, around 100 Innovation Masterminds (IMs) are developed. Where TTIH is upskilling the students and giving them ideas regarding new technology and ultimately inserting them in the T&A industry. It is a great initiative the way TTIH is working for the industry. RH Corporation is always supportive of such initiatives."

"This is a good opportunity for the industry's future leaders to be involved with this initiative. I think the third and fourth-year students must join here and solving the TTH projects will be a milestone in their future careers. As the universities cannot facilitate working in the industry – TTH gives them a great chance to stay ahead."

As a global leader in specialty chemicals, CHT Group, celebrating its 70th anniversary, remains committed to driving innovation and sustainability in the textile industry. The company's strategic investment in Bangladesh aligns with its vision of expanding its global footprint and supporting local growth. By partnering with initiatives like TTH 2024-25, CHT aims to foster talent development and contribute to the long-term success of the Bangladeshi textile sector.

TTH 9 aims to insert innovation in individuals working in the sector and businesses. Textile Talent Hunt is an innovative endeavor to build future leaders. After successfully completing Season 8, TTH kick-started its 9th Season to find and develop future leaders for the country's textile and apparel (T&A) industry.

At the event, Miraz Feda, Senior General Manager - Operations, HR & Admin, RH Corporation and Eousup Abu Abdullah, Chief Operating Officer & Amzad Hossain Monir, Head of Business Development, Textile Today were also present.

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Classical Approach	Application quantity	Finish performance
Old silicone fluid technology along with classical emulsifiers	Higher dosage required to get satisfactory level of softness	Classical fluid emulsions may affect different fastness properties
Bath stability	**Environment aspect**	**Application restriction**
High suspectable to OBA, dye leaching, pH variation and water hardness	Classical approach always results in higher BOD and COD values.	Not suitable for exhaust application where higher shear force is in play

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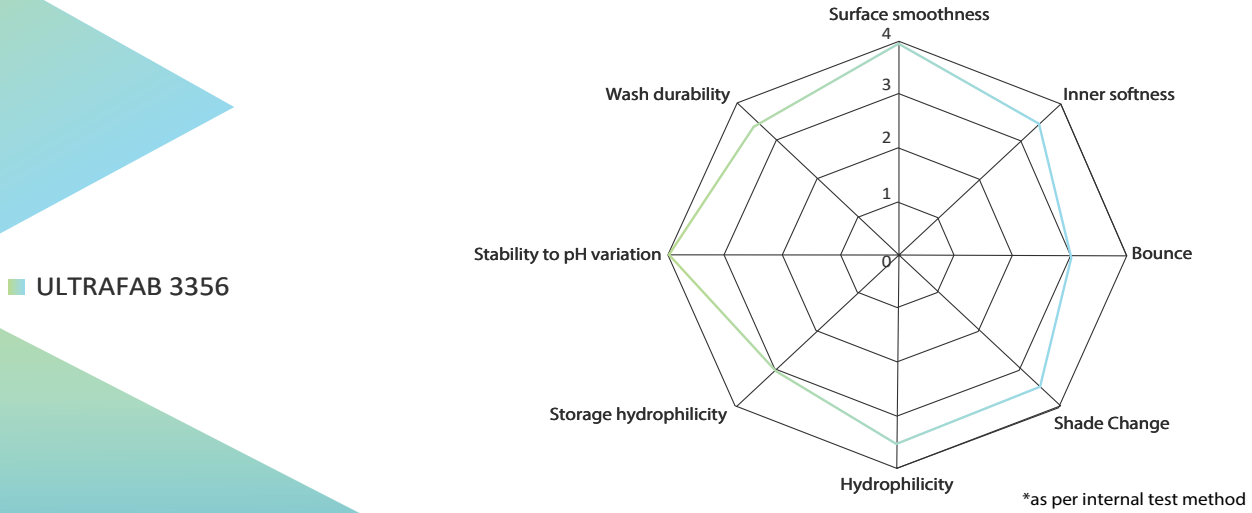
Backbone modification	Min/no yellowing for white substrate	Finish performance
Hydrophilic polar end blocked amino silicone with better anchoring to deliver durable hydrophilic rich finish.	Hindered chemistry resulting in min/no shade change or drop in whiteness.	Bounce with super soft finish No/little effect on the fastness of the substrate- Wash / water fastness for reactives Rubbing fastness pigment printed fabric
Stability	**Exhaustion on the fabric**	**Phenolic yellowing**
Good stability to moderate quantity of OBA, leached dye in finishing bath. Excellent stability during padding application.	High polar nature attracts water molecules full and fast with block quaternary amino polymer having good anchoring to substrate	Substrate finished with ULTRAFAB 3356 doesn't hamper the phenolic yellowing.



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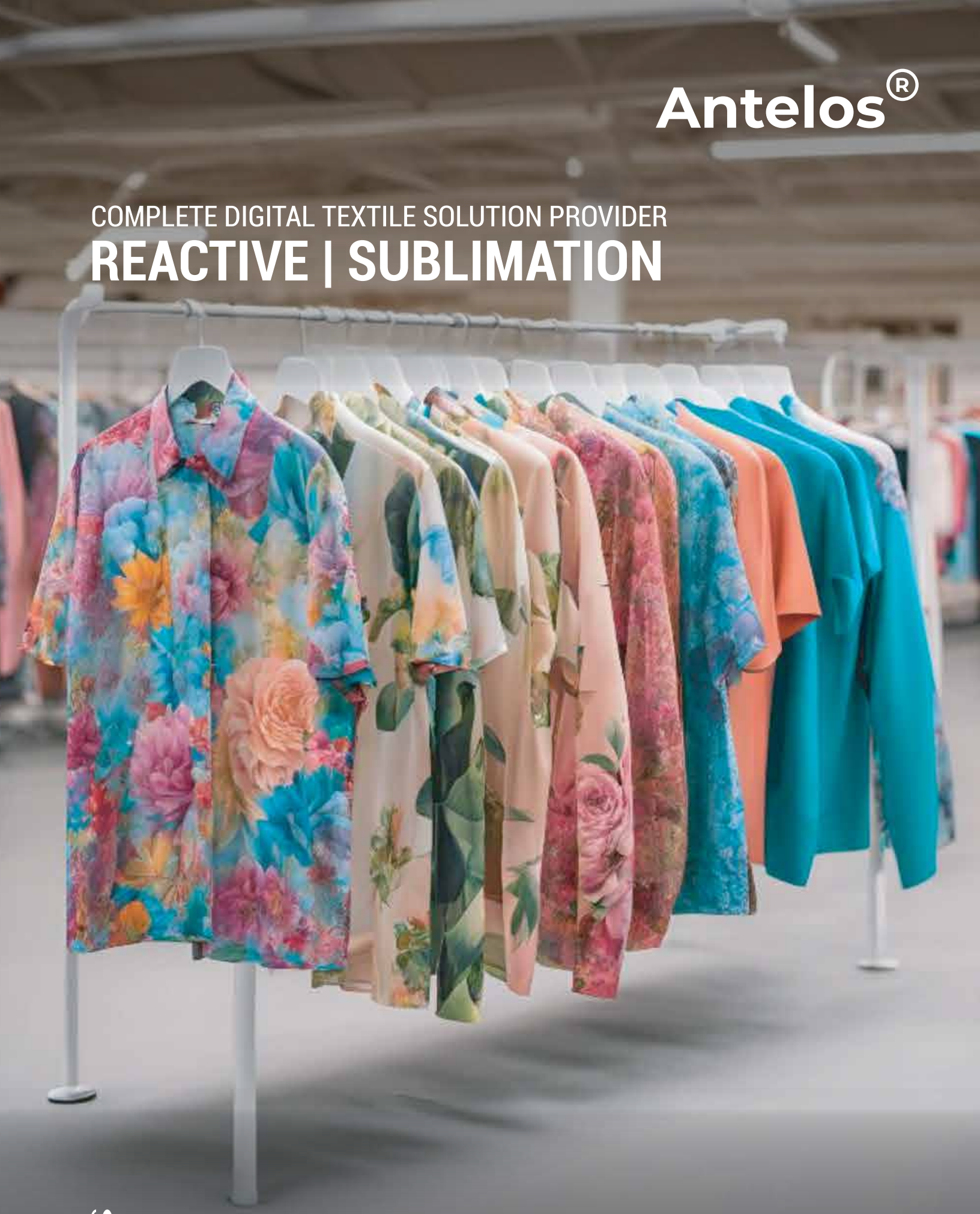

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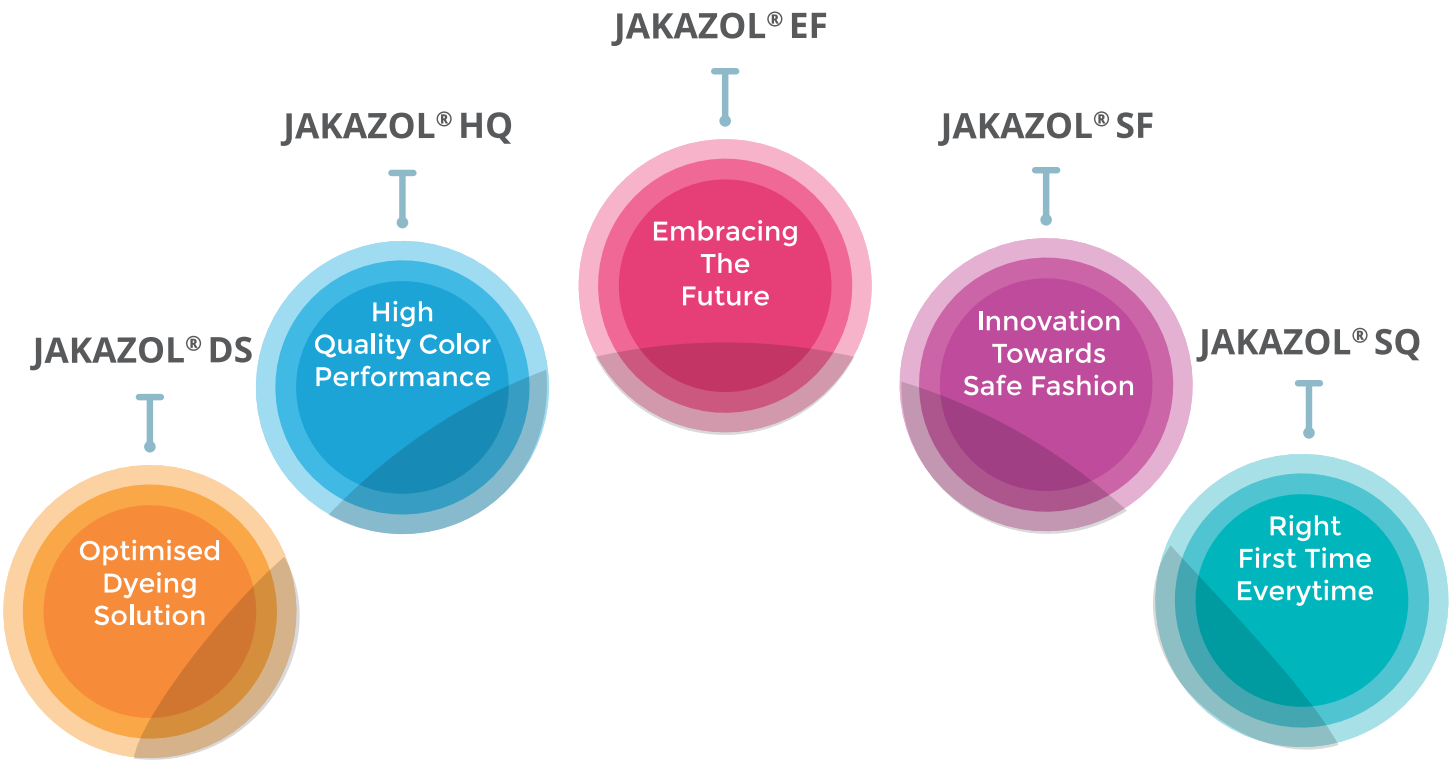

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