



# Bangladesh Textile Today

January 2025  
An Innovation Hub

Navigating as an  
**Innovation Hub**  
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**88** Textile Today  
Business Hub  
January 2025

**Factory Tales**  
Bringing Bangladesh Textile & Apparel  
January 2025

**Denim Today**  
Unveiling Industry Best Practices Fabric to denim brands  
January 2025

**Innovation & Sustainability**  
January 2025

**Spinning Today**  
January 2025

## Resilience amid challenges & prospects for 2025



### We should prioritize retention beyond value and volume

**Mahmud Hasan Khan (Babu)**  
Managing Director  
Rising Group



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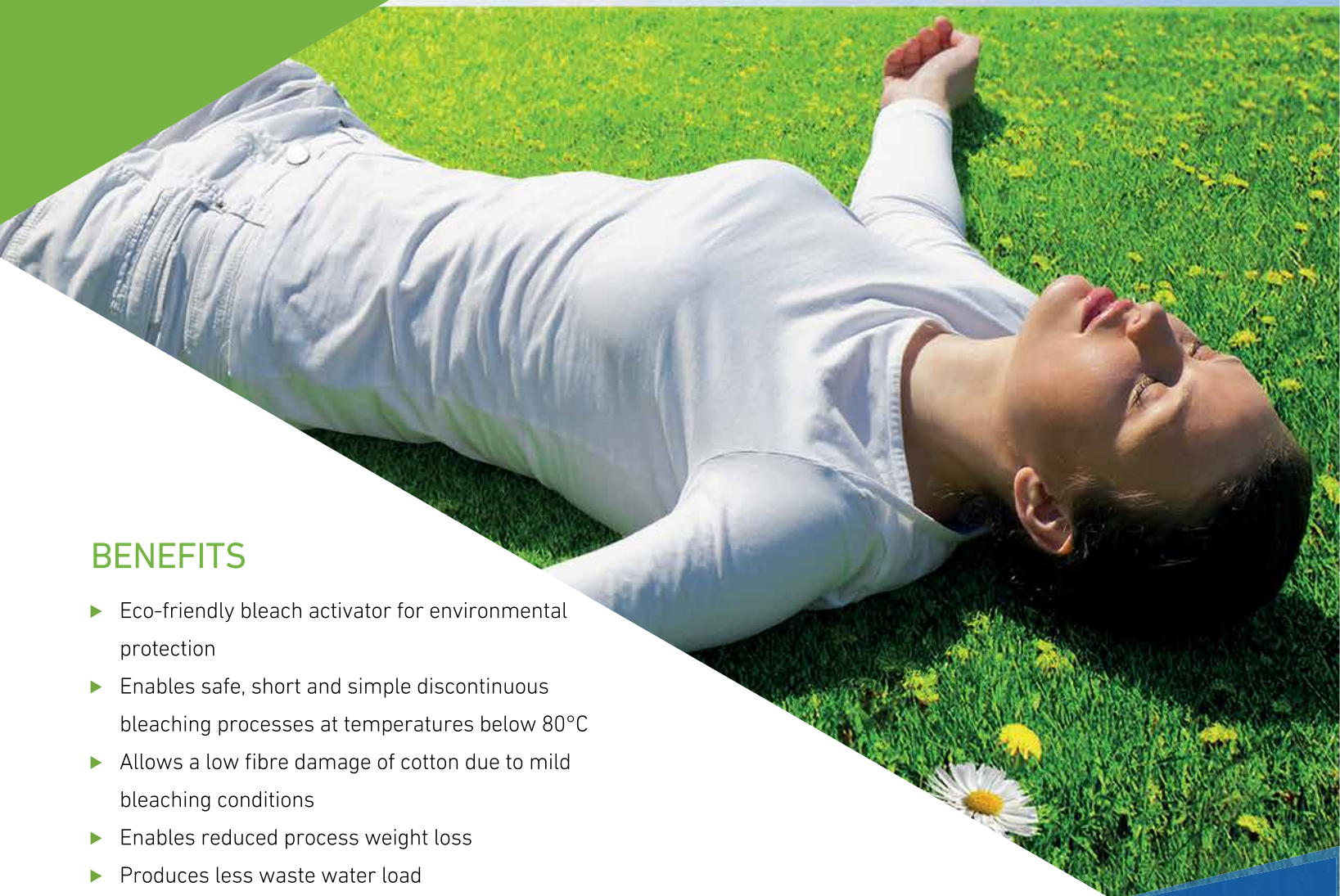


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<b>DTY</b>	Semi Dull, Full Dull, Super Bright, Dope Dyed, Melange	30 to 1200	24 to 384	62000	Virgin, Recycled and Cationic
<b>ACY</b>	Semi Dull, Full Dull, Super Bright, Dope Dyed, Melange	50+20 to 450+70	36 to 288	2880	Virgin and Recycled
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Donald Trump has proposed a **60%** tariff on goods from China, a **25% to 100%** tariff on goods from Mexico, and a **10% to 20%** tariff on all other goods.

The country's garment exports from July to November increased by **16.25 percent** compared to the same period last year to **\$16.11 billion**. According to industry insiders, garment exports will increase in the new year 2025.

We need to find the scope of innovation, such as shifting from cotton items to non-cotton items; focusing on military, athleisure or technical textiles; and moving towards the chemical and machinery industries.

# 2025 starts with a great vibe

Arif-Uz-Zaman

The year 2024 was a critical one for the country's garment industry. As the market starts to recover, there is a new ray of hope in the new year.

Energy and dollar crises, supply chain disruptions, workers' demands for higher wages, political uncertainty, and law and order - all of these created an internal crisis for garment manufacturers in the past year.

However, Bangladesh's garment exports to major markets like the European Union and the United States have rebounded. The country's garment exports from July to November increased by 16.25 percent compared to the same period last year to \$16.11 billion. According to industry insiders, garment exports will increase in the new year 2025. But we need to retain our current growth.

Donald Trump has sworn in as President of the United States for the second time on January 20. As previously announced, the new tariffs he has announced on Chinese goods will hopefully create opportunities for Bangladesh.

Notably, Donald Trump has proposed a 60% tariff on goods from China, a 25% to 100% tariff on goods from Mexico, and a 10% to 20% tariff on all other goods.

Entrepreneurs believe that the new US president is business-friendly. He will be able to end the Russia-Ukraine war. As a result, Europe and the US will be able to come out of the inflation that they are suffering from. And as a result, Bangladesh's two main markets will expand again. The country's export income will increase.

To capitalize on this opportunity, Bangladesh must ensure reliable gas and electricity supplies. At the same time, it needs to address the challenges in the banking sector, and improve law and order to curb labor unrest and enhance factory safety. By achieving these goals, the country can expect a business-friendly environment and robust export growth by mid-2025.

**2025** starts with a **great vibe** for Textile and Apparel industry



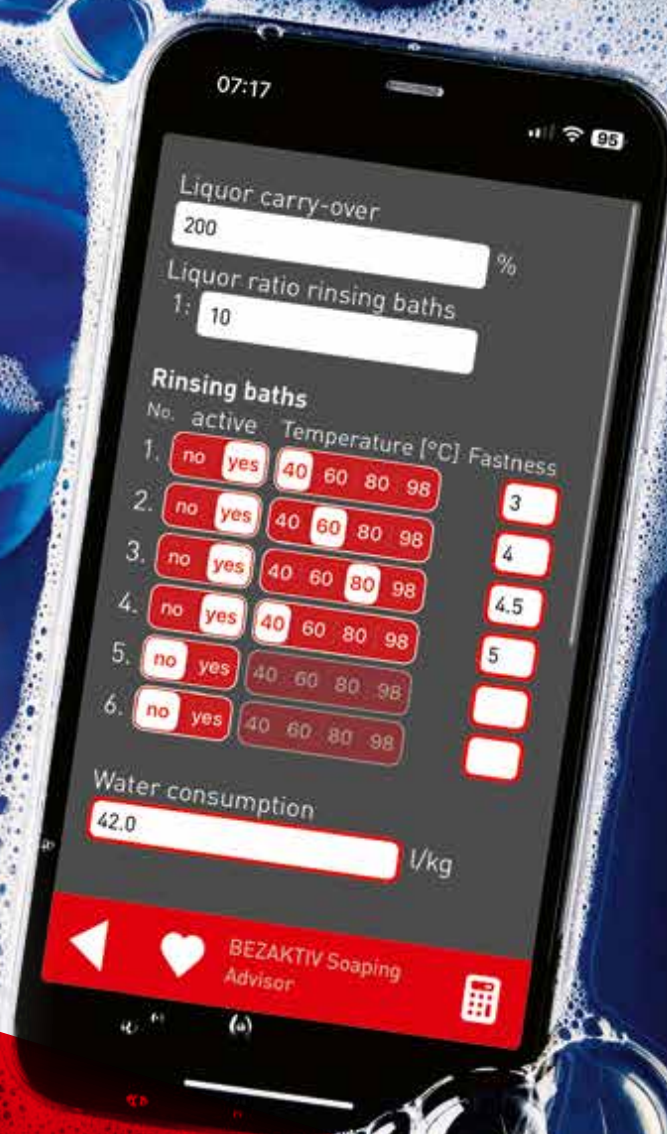
**More orders** to pour in Bangladesh due to **Trump Tariffs** and Bangladesh's **Increased Manufacturing Excellence**

To enhance economic growth and create a more equitable trade environment, it is essential to adopt forward-looking policies that address structural inefficiencies. Key measures include easing the bond license facility, introducing anti-discriminatory import taxes, and reforming the tax policy frameworks of Customs and the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

Innovation is crucial for competitive survival and expansion into high-value markets. Diversifying from traditional cotton-based products to non-cotton textiles such as polyester, nylon and other synthetic blends can create new opportunities.

Focusing on specialized areas such as military textiles, sportswear and technical textiles opens up lucrative market opportunities. For example, advanced performance such as durability, fire resistance and comfort are important for military textiles. Similarly, technical textiles including medical fabrics, industrial materials and geotextiles offer high margins and sustainable demand.

Furthermore, investment in the chemical and machinery industry can help reduce import dependency and strengthen backward linkages. By producing high-quality dyes, chemicals and textile machinery domestically, the industry can reduce production costs, improve efficiency and strengthen Bangladesh's position in the global textile supply chain.



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# Resilience amid challenges and prospects for 2025

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

The textile and apparel industry of Bangladesh has long been a cornerstone of its economy, driving employment, export earnings, and industrial growth. As the world's second-largest exporter of ready-made garments (RMG), Bangladesh holds a pivotal position in the global apparel supply chain. However, 2024 brought a mixed bag of challenges and opportunities for the sector. Political instability, environmental disruptions, and global economic pressures tested the industry's resilience, while strategic shifts and policy reforms opened new doors for growth.

## Navigating the challenges of 2024

Despite maintaining remarkable operational stability—with 99.76% of the 2,093 BGMEA member factories active as of December 22—the year 2024 was fraught with hurdles. Political unrest disrupted production schedules, with strikes and protests causing temporary factory closures. This unrest not only delayed shipments but also affected the confidence of international buyers, who value consistency and reliability in their sourcing partners.

Environmental disruptions added to the woes, with severe flooding impacting the supply chain, especially in the procurement of cotton and other raw materials. As a result, many manufacturers faced delays in meeting production deadlines. These disruptions underscored the industry's vulnerability to climate-related challenges, highlighting the need for sustainable and adaptive practices.

Global economic pressures further compounded the situation. High inflation rates and reduced consumer spending in major export markets such as the US and the EU led to a decline in demand for apparel products. Consequently, many manufacturers reported lower order volumes, forcing them to rethink their operational strategies.

Adding to these challenges was the revision of Bangladesh's 2023 RMG export earnings from \$47.38 billion to \$35.88 billion—a stark \$11.5 billion correction. This discrepancy highlighted a critical need for data accuracy and reliability, as such errors can impact the industry's credibility and hinder strategic decision-making.

## Strategic responses and policy interventions

Stakeholders across the industry have emphasized the need for targeted measures to address these challenges and bolster growth. The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has consistently advocated for government support in ensuring a stable supply of energy. Reliable access to gas and electricity is crucial for maintaining production efficiency and meeting export deadlines.

The Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) has also underscored the importance of addressing infrastructural bottlenecks. Poor logistics and transportation networks often delay shipments, increasing costs and reducing competitiveness. BKMEA has called for significant investments in infrastructure

to create a more conducive environment for business growth.

Fiscal policies have been another area of focus. Industry leaders have urged the government to reconsider certain measures, such as the proposed 400% fine for documentation errors, which they fear could lead to increased harassment of exporters. Instead, stakeholders have recommended extending cash incentives on export receipts until 2032 to support the sector's post-LDC graduation transition. Such incentives would provide financial stability and encourage manufacturers to invest in diversification and innovation.

## Emerging trends and opportunities

Looking forward to 2025, diversification is expected to play a key role in driving the industry's growth. The global demand for non-cotton garments, particularly those made from man-made fibers (MMF), is rising rapidly. Bangladesh, traditionally reliant on cotton-based apparel, has begun to pivot toward MMF products to capture this emerging market. However, significant investments in technology, training, and supply chain optimization will be needed to fully capitalize on this opportunity.

Sustainability and ethical practices are also gaining prominence. International buyers are increasingly prioritizing suppliers who adhere to environmental and social governance (ESG) principles. This shift presents both a challenge and an opportunity for Bangladeshi manufacturers. Adopting green technologies and sustainable

# Current Status and Future Outlook of Bangladesh's Textile and Apparel Industry



## 2024 in Review



**99.76%**

of BGMEA member factories remained active in 2024 (2,088 out of 2,093)



Revised RMG export earnings for 2023: **\$35.88** billion (previously reported as \$47.38 billion)



Political unrest caused factory closures and shipment delays



Severe flooding disrupted cotton supply chains



Global inflation reduced demand in major markets

## Policy Measures in 2024



Cash incentives on export receipts

Corporate tax reductions for RMG exporters

Investments in transportation and logistics infrastructure

## Priorities for 2025



Reliable gas and electricity supply for uninterrupted production

Expanding into non-traditional markets in Asia, Africa, and South America

Investments in renewable energy (solar and wind)

Focusing on non-cotton and man-made fiber garments

Eco-friendly manufacturing processes to meet global ESG standards

Tax incentives for green technology adoption

## Emerging Opportunities



- ✓ Growth in man-made fiber garments due to rising global demand
- ✓ Expanding into high-value segments like activewear and technical textiles

manufacturing practices can enhance the industry's reputation, attract premium buyers, and secure long-term contracts.

The government has shown a willingness to support these initiatives. Policies aimed at promoting sustainable practices, such as tax incentives for eco-friendly production facilities and funding for green projects, could position Bangladesh as a leader in sustainable apparel manufacturing.

### The road ahead: Prospects for 2025

As Bangladesh enters 2025, the textile and apparel industry stands at a crossroads. On one hand, the challenges of 2024 have underscored the need for structural reforms and strategic planning. On the other, the sector is well-positioned to leverage its strengths—cost competitiveness, skilled labor, and a robust production base—to

navigate these challenges and seize new opportunities.

Key priorities for 2025 include improving energy infrastructure to ensure uninterrupted production, particularly during peak seasons. Investments in renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, could not only reduce dependency on fossil fuels but also align with global sustainability goals.

Fiscal reforms will also be crucial. Reducing the source tax and simplifying export documentation processes can ease the financial and administrative burden on manufacturers. Additionally, providing financial support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the RMG sector can foster innovation and capacity building.

Diversifying export markets and product offerings will be another strategic focus. While traditional markets like the US and the EU remain important, exploring non-traditional markets in Asia, Africa, and

South America could open new avenues for growth. Similarly, expanding into high-value product segments, such as activewear and technical textiles, could enhance the industry's competitiveness.

Finally, enhancing labor rights and working conditions will remain a priority. Ensuring fair wages, safe workplaces, and compliance with international labor standards can improve the industry's image and attract buyers who prioritize ethical sourcing.

The textile and apparel industry of Bangladesh has demonstrated remarkable resilience in the face of adversity. While 2024 presented significant challenges, it also offered valuable lessons and opportunities for growth. As the industry looks to 2025, with the right investments and reforms, the industry is poised not only to recover from its recent setbacks but also to achieve new heights of success in the years to come.

*Textile Talent Hunt Season-9 National Conference was held at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in the capital on Tuesday, January 21. On this day, 100 contestants were given 'YES Cards' to become future innovation masterminds. In addition, the top 20 contestants from the 4 competing zones were given award money of Tk 5,000 each, for a total of Tk 1,00,000.*

## Textile Talent Hunt Season-9 National Conference

# 100 future Innovation Masterminds selected

Arif-Uz-Zaman

Earlier, Textile Talent Hunt Season 9, Presented by Centro Tex Limited and Powered by Euro Dye-CTC – launched on November 9, 2024 at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka.

More than 2500 students from 25 textile universities across the country participated in TTH campus drives and seminars to compete in the National Conference. Finally, 100 contestants were selected through video audition, innovation idea audition and MCQ test in National Conference.

Out of 100 future innovation masterminds, the four champions from four zones are - Md Abdul Ohab Shams, Bangladesh Textile University; Md. Rakib Raihan, Northern University; Mohammad Akibur Rashid, Textile Engineering College, Chattogram and Mehrab Hossain Maharaz, BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology.

Earlier, Eousup Abu Abdullah, COO of Textile Today Innovation Hub conducted a training titled "Preparation for Innovation". All the participants were given certificates for participating in the training.

TTH Judges Panel Chairman Prof. Dr. Ayub Nabi Khan Pro-VC, BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology, and Member Secretary Mohammad Abbas Uddin (Shiyak), Assistant Professor, Bangladesh Textile University were present.

The 100 selected future innovation masterminds will be attached to various innovation projects in the factories and

will be transformed into Innovation Masterminds (IMs) through training, grooming, idea audition, aptitude test and implementation of research or innovation projects under close supervision.

The Textile Talent Hunt will engage more than 30 partner factories of Textile Today Innovation Hub to complete the projects by supervision under industry experts. The outcome of the projects would provide immediate results to the textile and apparel industry. Industry experts, academicians and Textile Today Innovation Hub's own coordinators will work to execute these projects.

In the second part of the event, there were two panel discussions- Industry-Academia Linkage and Innovation Partners' Panel Discussion. Professor Engr. MA Kashem, former Vice Chancellor, BUTEX; Prof. Dr. Ayub Nabi Khan Pro-VC, BUFT; Dr. A N M Ahmed Ullah, Professor, Southeast University; G.M. Faysal, Associate Professor, Northern University; Engr. Asif Muhammad Sami, Prominent Industry Consultant, Dr. Mohammad Abbas Uddin (Shiyak), Assistant Professor, BUTEX and Engr. Md. Enayet Hossain, Member Secretary of ITET participated. They all emphasize the importance of innovation in the textile industry. They also praised Textile Today Innovation Hub for inspiring such innovation in the textile industry through the Textile Talent Hunt competition.

While in the Innovation Partners' Panel Discussion, Engr. Md. Shamsuzzaman Nasim CIP, Joint Convenor of ITET

and Managing Director, Micro Fibre Group; Dr. Hasib Uddin, Chairman, APS Group; Engr. Abdus Sobhan CIP, Managing Director, Auko-TEX Group; Mahub Alam Milton, Executive Director, Masco Group, Engr. Shamim Rahman, Director, South West Composite Ltd; Engr. Shafi Uddin, COO (Operation), Alliance Knit Composite Ltd.; Md. Azhar Ali, COO, Salma Group and Sultan Mahbulul Haque, Director (Admin, HR & Compliance), Fakir Fashion were present. They assured all the contestants of Textile Talent Hunt Season-9 of providing full cooperation in implementing their respective projects.

Tareq Amin, Founder & CEO, Textile Today Innovation Hub moderated the panel discussions.

The honorable panel guests handed over mementos to the representatives of 18 campus all over the country to facilitate TTH season-9 campus drive and seminars and crests to 20 clubs as implementation partners.

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.



Figure 1: The top 20 contestants from the 4 competing zones have been awarded.



Figure 2: Dr. A N M Ahmed Ullah, Professor, Southeast University; Professor Engr. MA Kashem, former Vice Chancellor, BUTEX; Prof. Dr. Ayub Nabi Khan Pro-VC, BUFT; Md. Enayet Hossain, Member Secretary of ITET; Dr. Mohammad Abbas Uddin (Shiyak), Assistant Professor, BUTEX and G. M. Faysal, Associate Professor, Northern University participated in the panel discussion.



Figure 3: Engr. Md. Shamsuzzaman Nasim CIP, Joint Convenor of ITET and Managing Director, Micro Fibre Group speaking in the panel discussion where Dr. Hasib Uddin, Chairman, APS Group; Mahub Alam Milton, Executive Director, Masco Group, Engr. Shamim Rahman, Director, South West Composite Ltd; Engr. Shafi Uddin, COO (Operation), Alliance Knit Composite Ltd.; Md. Azhar Ali, COO, Salma Group and Sultan Mahbulul Haque, Director (Admin, HR & Compliance), Fakir Fashion were present.



# Implications of Bangladesh's premature graduation from LDC Status

Sayed Abdullah

*The premature graduation of Bangladesh from LDC status poses significant concerns for RMG exporters like myself. I characterize this graduation as premature due to the widely recognized fact that the data used to qualify for LDC status, particularly regarding per capita income, human resources, economic stability, and environmental criteria, appear to be inflated and selectively tailored.*



**Shovon Islam**

Managing Director  
Sparrow Group

Bangladesh is on the cusp of a significant economic milestone: graduating from the status of a Least Developed Country (LDC) to a developing country. This transition is scheduled for November 2026. Recently, during the three-day National Workshop on WTO Dispute Settlement event in Dhaka – the government's Trade Adviser Sheikh Bashir Uddin also reaffirmed that. Graduation from the LDC group would mean relinquishing a wide variety of preferences and privileges currently enjoyed by Bangladesh.

On the other hand, the Recent government white papers have highlighted significant data mismatches across various economic indicators, including growth, inflation, exports, revenue, and expenditure. And the country has entered the middle-income trap, a situation where economic growth stagnates despite initial rapid development. This economic phenomenon occurs when countries struggle to transition from middle-income to high-income status despite experiencing rapid growth.

The White Paper states that Bangladesh's economic growth has been exaggerated since 1995. In that case, the question of how effective LDC graduation will be, depending on exaggerated growth, is also on everyone's mind.

Bangladesh, as a middle-income country, faces the challenge of breaking free from the middle-income trap. To overcome this, the country must prioritize increasing its total

factor productivity, particularly labor productivity. This will enable Bangladesh to compete effectively with both low-wage and high-income countries. By addressing issues such as skill development, technological innovation, and infrastructure development, Bangladesh can unlock its full economic potential and achieve sustainable growth.

These discrepancies raise concerns about the accuracy of the country's financial data and its implications for policymaking and investment decisions. The recent White Paper committee examines the growth narrative of the previous regime revealing how the growth rate was overstated. The GDP growth has tended to be overstated irrespective of political regimes, but the overstatement itself grew noticeably in the past decade, while inflation rates are understated, it points out. It debunks the last decade and a half into the paradox of the fastest growth economy, stating that the 'fastest' part of the narrative is a figment of biased measurement.

As an LDC, the facilities Bangladesh enjoys can be classified into three groups: (i) preferential treatment, (ii) development assistance and technical cooperation and (iii) general support and other forms of assistance. The most severe shock is supposed to be felt in the country's flagship sector, the export-oriented RMG industry: what will be the possible repercussions for LDC graduation in this sector?

In no sector will the implications of Bangladesh's LDC graduation be felt



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**Due to LDC graduation, our cost of making will surely go high. For instance, the impending withdrawal of the GSP facility from the European Union, our primary export market, poses a significant challenge. This will lead to a 17% increase in our production costs. For example, a product currently priced at \$10 will cost \$11.70 to produce, making it difficult to maintain competitive pricing and meet our export targets.**



## Mohammed Zakir Hossain

Secretary General  
BGBA

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**These discrepancies raise concerns about the accuracy of the country's financial data and its implications for policymaking and investment decisions. The recent White Paper committee examines the growth narrative of the previous regime revealing how the growth rate was overstated.**

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more acutely, and in such impactful ways, as the RMG sector. Not only because the sector accounts for more than four-fifths of Bangladesh's total export earnings, but also because RMG faces tariff peaks in almost all key markets of Bangladesh. For example, tariffs facing Bangladesh's apparel are, on average, about 12 percent in the EU and 16-18 percent in Canada. Accordingly, the depth of preference erosion will be significantly high in the case of exports of RMG items from Bangladesh.

RMG will face the largest part of this loss as it constitutes the lion's share of the country's total exports. According to the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM), Bangladesh will lose the flexibility to offer export incentives and subsidies to the exporters. In this context, the incentives the RMG industry is enjoying currently will no longer be available and that will pose pressure on the competitiveness and profitability of Bangladeshi companies.

Md. Hatem, President, Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) said, "The crooked policies in the name of development have choked us. It is no exaggeration to say that LDC graduation at this time is suicidal for us. 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."

Shovon Islam, Managing Director, Sparrow Group of Industries said, "The premature graduation of Bangladesh from LDC status poses significant concerns for RMG exporters like myself. I characterize this graduation as premature due to the widely recognized fact that the data used to qualify for LDC status, particularly regarding per capita income, human resources, economic stability, and environmental criteria, appear to be inflated and selectively tailored. This premature transition could trigger substantial economic instability, as the country may not be adequately equipped to navigate the heightened competition that will arise from losing duty-free access to key markets for the RMG sector and facing a reduction in international support."

"The RMG, pharmaceutical, and agricultural sectors are particularly vulnerable to adverse impacts following LDC graduation. The imposition of tariffs on exports could substantially increase costs, while the enforcement of patent laws may lead to higher prices for essential medicines, which are currently exempt from such fees. Furthermore, the potential loss of preferential trade benefits is critical, as these incentives are vital for sustaining export growth. Therefore, it is imperative for the government and all relevant sectors to accelerate preparations, as the graduation deadline of November 24, 2026, approaches rapidly," Shovon Islam added.

Mohammed Zakir Hossain, Secretary General, Bangladesh Garment Buying House Association (BGBA) & Chairman, Tex Solution Consulting Bangladesh Ltd. said, "Due to LDC graduation, our cost of making will surely go high. For instance, the impending withdrawal of the GSP facility from the European Union, our primary export market, poses a significant challenge. This will lead to a 17% increase in our production costs. For example, a product currently priced at \$10 will cost \$11.70 to produce, making it difficult to maintain competitive pricing and meet our export targets."

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# Market Trends in the Changing Global Landscape

## Insights from 2<sup>nd</sup> Merchandising & Marketing Cell Meeting

M A Mohiemen Tanim & Zahid Hossen

### Key Insights:

To remain competitive in the global landscape, panelists at the 2nd Merchandising & Marketing Innovation Cell meeting proposed key recommendations :

- » Foster partnerships between brands and manufacturers, and advocate for policies that support large-scale projects to match global competitors.
- » Invest in advanced textiles like sportswear and polyester blends to meet shifting market demands.
- » Compliance & Certifications: Ensure adherence to global standards (e.g., Nirapon, RSC) to maintain buyer trust and market access.
- » Sustainability & Traceability: Develop eco-friendly, traceable products to meet growing demands for transparency and durability.
- » Local Ecosystem Development: Strengthen domestic production of raw materials and supporting industries to reduce reliance on imports.
- » Market-Centric Innovation: Create culturally aligned, sustainable designs to differentiate products and command premium prices.



Figure: The second meeting of the Merchandising & Marketing Innovation Cell was recently held at the premises of the Textile Today Innovation Hub.

### Introduction

The Textile Today Innovation Hub (TTIH) successfully conducted its 2nd cell meeting of the Marketing & Merchandising Innovation Cell on December 8, 2024 at Textile Today premises. This meeting served as a platform for industry leaders and professionals in the area of marketing & merchandising to share insights, discuss challenges, and explore innovative strategies for navigating the dynamic global market.

### Context and Objective

The textile and apparel industry faces unprecedented disruptions from global geopolitical and economic challenges. Revived Trump-era trade policies, U.S.-China trade tensions, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict have triggered shifts in global supply chains, impacting trade flows and altering consumer demand patterns.

For Bangladesh, as a critical player in the global apparel sector, these external pressures are compounded by domestic hurdles, including political uncertainty, inflation, and escalating energy costs.

Merchandisers are at the forefront of adapting to these challenges. Their pivotal role ensures timely, efficient, and cost-effective production while meeting buyer demands and navigating complexities.



**“Collaboration and foresight are essential for navigating these uncertain times.”**

**Shihab Nur**

Pricing and Sourcing Manager  
Stanley/Stella



**“Government policies must focus on scalability to help local industries compete on the global stage.”**

**Saiful Islam Khan**

Managing Director  
Essential Clothing Ltd.

## Cell Meeting Overview

As the moderator of the session, Shihab set the tone by highlighting the critical role of strategic collaboration between brands, trade offices, and manufacturers in adapting to global shifts. He emphasized the importance of foresight in tackling challenges such as inflation, energy cost hikes, and political instability, which are impacting production timelines and trade flows. *"The future of merchandising lies in its ability to innovate and anticipate buyer needs, especially as global markets become more unpredictable,"* he stated. Shihab also underscored the necessity of centralized industry efforts, such as the creation of a design hub and standardization of recycling practices, to support mid-level industries and entrepreneurs.

Mr. Saiful highlighted the unique challenges faced by Bangladesh's apparel industry, especially in the U.S. market. He emphasized the impact of the absence of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and China's growing dominance in polyester production. *"While China enjoys scalability due to its massive polyester plants, Bangladesh struggles with space shortages and high capital costs,"* he explained.

Discussing the U.S.-China trade tensions, Saiful noted that industries already doing business with the U.S. could benefit from the ongoing shift in trade dynamics. *"The opportunities created by U.S.-China tensions during the Trump era are real, but entering and sustaining a foothold in the U.S. market requires significant investment in compliance, innovation, and capacity building,"* he said.

Mr. Farhad noted that higher tariffs on Chinese goods have opened up chances for Bangladeshi manufacturers to secure more orders. However, he pointed out a major issue: Bangladesh heavily depends on imported raw materials for premium products. *"Ninety-nine percent of our man-made fibers come from China,"* he said. He stressed the need for Bangladesh to move beyond basic fabrics and focus on making advanced textiles for premium markets. *"We can't even produce Taffeta locally,"* he remarked. *"If we want better prices and to meet global demand, we need to prioritize developing man-*



***We must invest in developing supportive industries like chemicals, and machinery for domestic textile production to reduce dependency and build resilience."***

### AKM Saifur Rahman Farhad

CEO, Interlink Dresses WIKITEX-BD



***To meet shifting market demands, we must focus on enhancing compliance and certifications, like 'Nirapon' for U.S. clients and RSC for Europe, which is non-negotiable."***

### Sk. Mamun Ferdoush

General Manager (Marketing & Merchandising)  
Masco Group



***Traceability and digital passports are no longer optional; they're the future."***

### Md. Ferdaush Imtiaz

GM (Fabrics), Poeticgem International Ltd.



***Understanding the target market's culture and creating unique products are essential for success in today's global landscape."***

### Nazmut Tarek

Business Development Manager, Nahl Fashion Ltd.

*made fibers and advanced fabrics like sportswear and polyester blends."*

Farhad emphasized the need to invest in local production of raw materials to support the textile industry. *"To compete globally, we must reduce our reliance on imports and develop a robust ecosystem that fosters growth and innovation,"* he added. Mr. Sk. Mamun highlighted potential solutions to domestic and international challenges:

- » **Product Diversification**
- » **Enhancing Compliance & Certifications**
- » **Leveraging Preferential Trade Agreements**
- » **Strengthening Buyer Relationships**

Ferdaush focused on the growing importance of traceability and sustainability in the global apparel market. He explained how U.S. buyers are demanding transparency from raw materials to finished garments, often requiring digital passports to verify claims like reduced water usage or recycled polyester content.

Nazmut Tarek, Business Development Manager, Nahl Fashion Ltd. emphasized the importance of aligning product development with the cultural preferences of the target market, particularly in Europe. He noted, *"To resonate with consumers, it's crucial to consider what they value and how our products reflect their lifestyle."*

Tarek also advocated for innovation in sustainable materials, such as blending jute with other fibers to create eco-friendly, high-value products. *"By incorporating materials like jute, we align with sustainability trends while offering something truly distinctive to global markets,"* he concluded.

## Conclusion

The discussion illuminated the complexities of navigating global market trends in a rapidly changing landscape. Each panelist provided actionable insights on how Bangladesh's apparel industry can adapt to these challenges by prioritizing scalability, sustainability, innovation, and market diversification.

Shihab Nur, the moderator of the discussion, suggested adopting a model observed in China, where multiple small factories collaborate and position themselves nearby to streamline production and support each other in creating the ultimate product.

# Textile Today Innovation Hub Membership



## A vibrant community of Textile & Apparel Professionals for Learning-**Sharing**-**Rewarding**

LSR is the an effective method of fostering innovation in companies and professions. TTIH coordinates year-round regular learning and sharing programs among its members. It also connects global knowledge, resources, experts, academicians, and innovators with its members.

### Learning

1. Regular special **Trainings/Masterclasses**
2. Participating in TTIH Innovation Cells and its **Innovation Projects.**
3. Receiving complimentary copy(s) of **TTIH Magazines.**
4. Priority access to TTIH **events, seminars, and programs.**

### Sharing

5. Regular **Workshops, Seminars & Round table discussions.**
6. **Mentor and Train** aspiring professionals/learners.
7. Contribute Your Expertise and share your implementations, and best practices by participating in **TTIH publications.**

### Rewarding

8. Scopes of getting **TTIH Professional Award.**
9. Scopes to be Featured in Various **TTIH Services and TT magazines**
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# Strategies for detection and prevention

# Gaslighting in the workplace

Nazmut Tarek, Business Development Manager, Nahl Fashion Ltd.



***In today's corporate world, many executives are exhausted, stressed, and unable to focus on their tasks. The most common reasons that might come to mind are overwork, multitasking, procrastination, etc. However, recent research has found that gaslighting is one of the major causes of an underperforming workforce. Executives are frequently subjected to gaslighting by their bosses and colleagues, which undermines their abilities and confidence. This constant manipulation can push some to change their career paths, and in worse cases, it has even been linked to instances of suicide.***

## What is gaslighting?

Gaslighting is a harmful behavior pattern that minimizes, demeans, or disregards the thoughts and feelings of another. This is a deliberate manipulation of reality to make you doubt your own perceptions and sanity. To put it simply, gaslighting makes you feel crazy.

## Example of gaslighting

Gaslighting can happen with friends, family, on social media, and in everyday life. Here are a few examples:

Parents might tell their crying child scary ghost stories to make them stop, which could be an early form of gaslighting.

On social media, conspiracy theories, trolls, fake news, and deep fakes are all forms of gaslighting.

A fascist government might try to make people believe nothing is wrong, even when evidence is widely available online.

Beauty brands often convince women that using their products will boost their confidence and create new opportunities, which can be a form of gaslighting.

In the corporate world, gaslighting can manifest in subtle yet damaging ways, such as a manager taking credit for an employee's work, constantly shifting blame,

denying conversations or agreements that occurred, or minimizing an employee's feelings and concerns.

## Are you a victim of gaslighting?

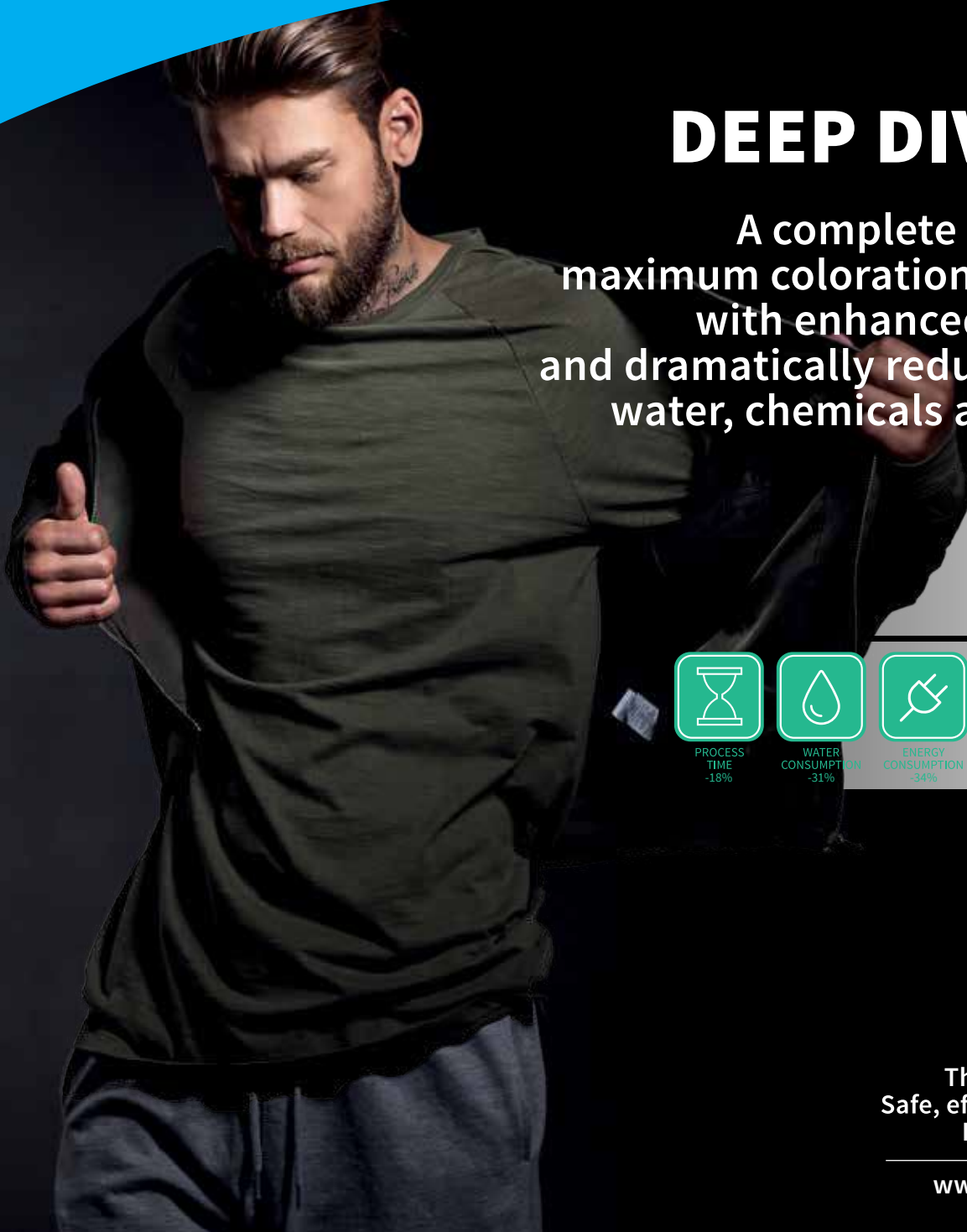
If you are beginning to wonder if you are a victim of gaslighting, there are some common gaslighting phrases that you will want to pay attention to.

"That never happened," "You're remembering it wrong," "You're imagining things," "You're too sensitive," "It was just a joke," "You're overreacting," "You're crazy," "I never said that," "You're just being paranoid," "You're making that up," "You're too emotional," "Everyone agrees with me," "You're the problem," "You're just looking for attention," "Why can't you take a joke?" or "I was only trying to help."

## Impact of gaslighting

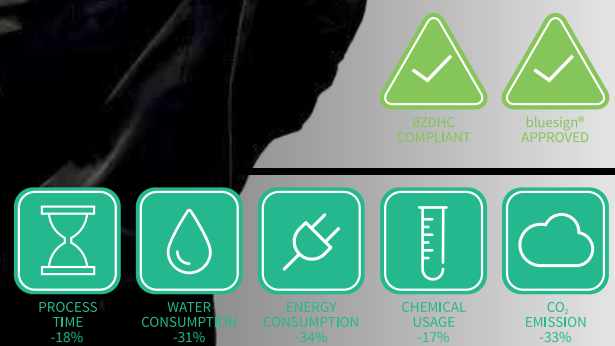
Gaslighting has a significant negative effect on the workforce. Employees who fall prey to this manipulation often experience anxiety, decreased self-esteem, and a constant state of doubt. These consequences may eventually result in disengagement, burnout, and a sharp decline in productivity. Gaslit employees may become less willing to take initiative

Do you know the eco-impact of a deep colored t-shirt?



## DEEP DIVE 2.0

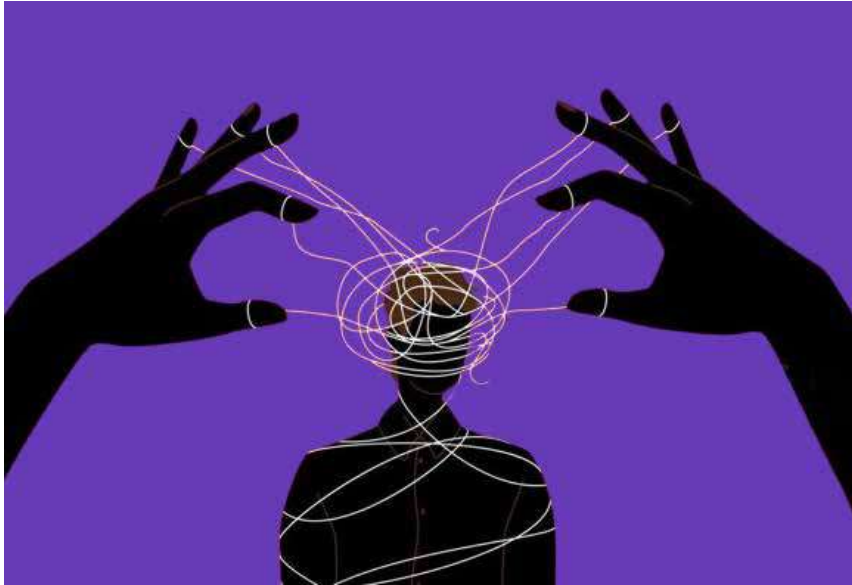
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***If something feels wrong, trust your instincts. Remember that you are important and capable. It's not your fault that you feel confused or upset. Surround yourself with friends, family, and colleagues who believe in you and can provide emotional support.***

or share ideas, fearing that they will be undermined or dismissed. This hurts team dynamics and organizational growth in addition to the individual's performance.

**Dealing with gaslighting**

The first step in dealing with gaslighting is recognizing its patterns. Familiarize yourself with the common tactics gaslighters use, such as denial (claiming they didn't say or do something they

record gives you concrete evidence, which can be important if you need to address the issue or defend yourself later.

Gaslighters like to argue to confuse you. Don't argue back. Talk less to them, and tell them what you won't accept. Use the "Gray Rock" method—be as unresponsive and boring as possible to avoid giving the gaslighter any emotional leverage. This will make them less powerful over you.

If something feels wrong, trust your

If the gaslighting is severe and persistent, start changing departments, jobs, or social circles to protect your mental health. Having a plan can help you feel less anxious and more in control. Focus on your future goals.

After leaving, work with a therapist to rebuild your self-esteem and identity, which gaslighting may have eroded. Therapy can help you regain confidence and move forward without the lingering effects of the gaslighter's manipulation.

***In the corporate world, gaslighting can manifest in subtle yet damaging ways, such as a manager taking credit for an employee's work, constantly shifting blame, denying conversations or agreements that occurred, or minimizing an employee's feelings and concerns.***

**Conclusion**

Gaslighting in the workplace is a hidden threat that breaks down trust, harms morale, and weakens organizational integrity. By identifying and addressing these harmful behaviors, companies can safeguard their employees' mental health and cultivate a culture of transparency and respect. Establishing clear policies, offering support systems, and encouraging open communication are crucial in countering the damaging effects of gaslighting. Ultimately, a healthy work environment boosts productivity and secures long-term success for the organization.

clearly did), contradiction (challenging your version of events to make you doubt your memory), deflection (shifting blame onto you, making you feel responsible for their behavior), and trivialization (dismissing your feelings or experiences as unimportant or overreactions). Understanding these patterns will help you identify and counteract manipulation.

Your next step is to document any interactions where you suspect gaslighting. Note the dates, times, conversations, and any witnesses. This

instincts. Remember that you are important and capable. It's not your fault that you feel confused or upset. Surround yourself with friends, family, and colleagues who believe in you and can provide emotional support. Exercise is a powerful tool for managing stress and maintaining mental health. Regular physical activity can help you stay resilient in the face of gaslighting.

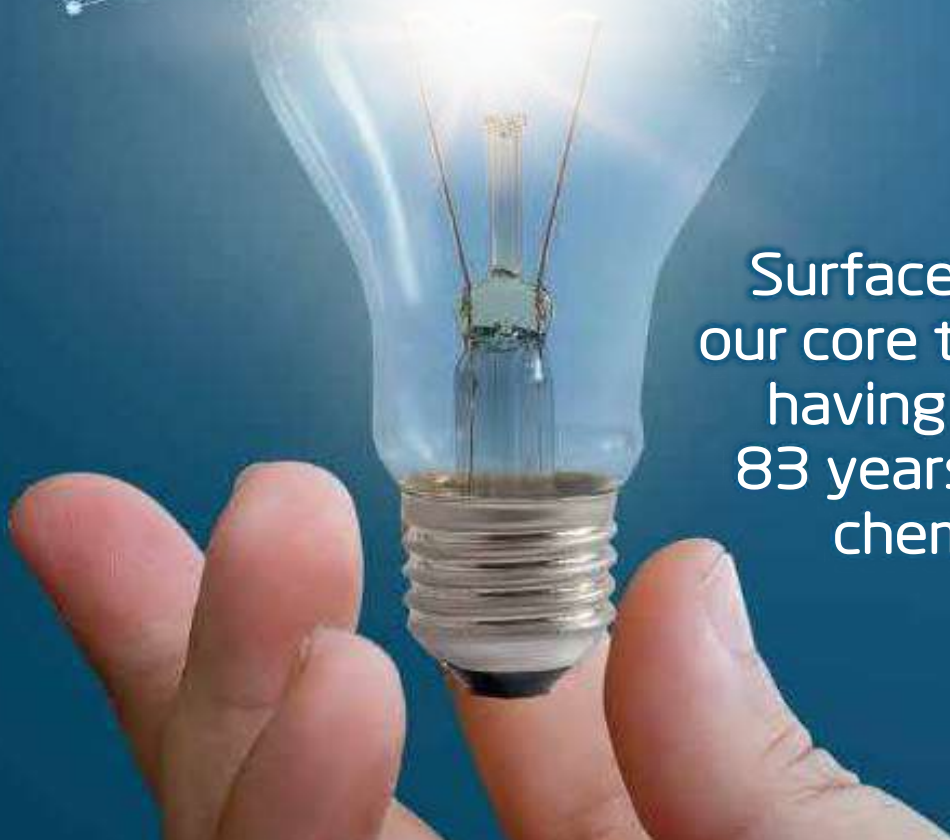
If you are being gaslighted at work or in other groups, seek advice from HR or legal professionals to understand your rights and options.

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## Expanding Middle East modest fashion market

# Bangladesh's strategy to tap-in

Shafiun Nahar Elma

*Middle Eastern markets, especially in modest fashion, are growing fast since people are embracing fashionable clothes that simultaneously uphold cultural dignity and sustainability. Global Islamic Economy Report 2023 highlights that by 2024, the global market size for modest clothing will be \$295 billion and by 2025 is \$375 billion.*

*Products like hijabs, abayas, and tunics, in the Middle East, comprising Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar, lead the expansion of this market. Bangladesh provided \$1.2 billion of modest apparel exports in the Middle East this year, though, rising 18% as compared to 2023.*

### Market migration plan

The modest fashion market is earning substantial revenue of \$311 billion globally and the overall industry is expected to reach a CAGR of 6.5% within five years. Currently, there is a growing demand for modest attire across the Middle East, Asia, and most parts of the West. The Dubai Chamber of Commerce recently released findings from surveys that revealed that 78% of Middle Eastern consumers prefer eco-friendly products such as cotton, linen, and bamboo and they are suited




for the warm climate. Their import has an increasing demand for customized products, which younger consumers try to complement cultural and modern tendencies in fashion.

Yasmin Rahman, a modest fashion designer based in Dubai, observes that textiles from Bangladesh are becoming popular because they are cheap and

can offer designers the flexibility to blend tradition and fashion relevant to today's trends.

### Key consumer demands in the Middle East

The consumers are in search of apparel that admires, prudish Middle Eastern values and at the same time captures

Middle Eastern Modest Fashion Market Insights -2024	
<p>Projected Growth by 2025: <b>\$375 Bn</b> (CAGR: 6.5%)</p>	
<p>Growth rate forecast: <b>10-15%</b> Annually over the next five years.</p> 	
<p><b>60%</b> of Bangladeshi factories use digital tracking, meeting sustainability standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Quality &amp; Durability</li> <li>» Cultural Relevance &amp; Style</li> <li>» Inclusive Fashion</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Improved Chittagong Port logistics (shipping now averages <b>15-20 days</b>).</li> <li>» <b>20%</b> of exports via air for fast delivery of high-value products.</li> <li>» Plans for centers in Dubai and Riyadh to reduce delivery time and costs.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Participation in Trade fairs and Expos to boost the <b>"Made in Bangladesh"</b> brand.</li> <li>» Collaborations with Middle Eastern brands for joint ventures.</li> </ul>
	<p>Investment in user-friendly platforms and influencer-driven marketing.</p>

the fashionable sleek look.

- **Quality and durability:** Clothing has to endure the climates in this region; warm and humid, and be able to retain such characteristics as sturdiness, and the quality of sewing and material used.
- **Cultural relevance with style:** Customers are interested in modern products that are stylish and not too revealing, comfortable for everyday wear and special occasions.
- **Inclusive fashion:** There is an emerging influence for different sizes, plus-size modest wear is also included. Those brands that try to be diverse in their products are enjoying a better response from more people.

Rahman Alam, CEO of Bangladesh Apparel Group, remarked: “Bangladesh has been supplying Western markets for several years but the Middle Eastern market is another different era altogether. We know that we have the means to be very flexible when it comes to the production requirements of the consumers in the market for modest fashion, which is a focus for us in the years ahead.”

Bangladesh’s growth in the Middle Eastern modest fashion market can be attributed to several key factors that have positioned the country as a strong supplier. Let’s see the factors:

- 1. Efficient supply chains:** Bangladesh has to bring revolutionary changes in supply chain developments, particularly to the Port of Chittagong, where almost 90% of exports are traded. Real-time tracking and automation have made shipment to the Middle East much faster and now it takes only 15-20 days on average.
- 2. Air freight facilities:** Bangladesh has to develop air freight capacity. A new shipping method showed that nearly 20% of total exports to the Middle East are through air transport to enable quick delivery, especially for products with high value.
- 3. Transparency in supply chains:** Bangladeshi suppliers are raising transparency when sustainability emerges as one of the key factors for customers. Around 60% of the factories in Bangladesh that provide modest fashion clothing to Middle Eastern countries have adopted

digital tracking technologies.

- 4. Potential distribution hubs:** Bangladesh needs its factories to open several distribution centers in cities like Dubai and Riyadh to shorten delivery time and costs as well as obtain ethical business management.
- 5. E-commerce and social media engagements for strategies:** It is here that capturing the growing online consumer base requires investment in user-friendly e-commerce platforms and mobile apps, underpinned by effective digital marketing strategies. Besides that, the usage of social media for community engagement; one can also create new collections and utilize influencers to reach a wider audience.

### **Bangladeshi modest fashion brands**

Do we know about the brands that are already doing modest attire business? Although Bangladesh’s modest fashion market is still developing compared to established Middle Eastern brands, several Bangladeshi manufacturers are making their mark:

- **Artisti:** A clothing line from Bangladesh where you will find fashionable, comfortable, and restriction-free clothing for Muslim women.
- **Ruh collection:** Still not as popular as Middle Eastern brands, but already entering the Middle Eastern market, you have a diverse collection of modest wear with Ruh Collection.
- **SHEFashion:** Bangladesh A new fancy line of clothes for conservative dressers, including consumers in the Middle East, is still a strong market.

Modest attire with the "Made in Bangladesh" tag is being indirectly exported to the Middle East through various foreign and renowned brands and is gaining popularity.

By leveraging this opportunity, the government of Bangladesh can participate in Trade fairs and textile-related expos in the Middle East to enhance the value of Bangladeshi brands and open new avenues for creating additional brands for entrepreneurs.

**“Bangladesh has been supplying Western markets for several years but the Middle Eastern market is another different era altogether. We know that we have the means to be very flexible when it comes to the production requirements of the consumers in the market for modest fashion, which is a focus for us in the years ahead.”**

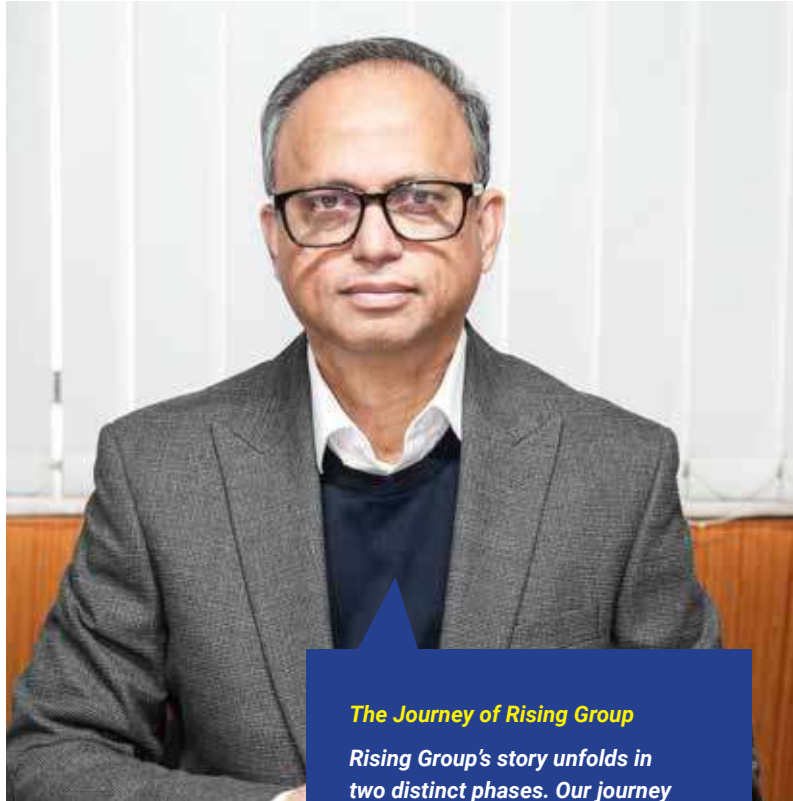
Bangladesh also has problems with competition with well-developed suppliers such as Turkey and Indonesia. Besides, since Middle Eastern consumers seem to be waking up to the need for ethical and sustainable production, factories must adapt for further development. These are already adding up to expectations that come along with international certifications like GOTS and OEKO-TEX Standard 100.

Bangladesh has a good plan in terms of the Middle Eastern fashion market. As noted by Samiha Noor, director of a leading Bangladeshi garment export company, “We’ve only started experimenting with opportunities with the ME market, and the results are encouraging. Strengthening and expanding our partnerships, we are optimistic about Bangladeshi potential to become the desired supplier of the Middle Eastern region’s modest wear.”

It can also be noted that Bangladesh’s share in the Middle Eastern modest fashion will experience a growth rate of 10-15% over the space of the following five years. BGMEA’s efforts invested in export in 2024 comprising of trade delegations and trade agreements enhanced exports to the region by 20% from the previous year. There are expectations of increased growth through affiliations and collaborations with regional brands and companies, joint ventures, and local distribution and logistics centers.



*Under the dynamic leadership of Mahmud Hasan Khan (Babu), Managing Director of Rising Group, the company exemplifies how vision and strategic decision-making can drive sustainable success. Rising Group has forged a unique path in Bangladesh's textile and apparel sector, emphasizing value retention over mere volume growth. In a recent conversation with Textile Today, Mahmud Hasan Khan shared insights into the group's journey, strategies, and industry perspectives.*



**The Journey of Rising Group**

*Rising Group's story unfolds in two distinct phases. Our journey began in 1994 with Popular Packages & Accessories Ltd., a carton manufacturing unit. In 1997, we expanded into garment manufacturing by establishing Rising Fashions Ltd. Despite various challenges, our resilience and innovation have propelled us forward. Today, we operate 14 factories, including six ready-made garments (RMG) units and a vertically integrated textile setup that spans the entire fabric manufacturing process, supported by in-house trims production.*

*Currently, our operations employ around 14,000 individuals, with an annual turnover ranging between \$175 and \$190 million. Of this, RMG exports contribute approximately \$140 million. As our name suggests, Rising Group is committed to continuous growth and progress.*

# We should prioritize retention beyond value and volume

Amzad Hossain Monir & Sayed Abdullah

**Strategic focus on retention**

Rising Group's growth strategy emphasizes sustainable retention. Instead of increasing turnover from \$200 million to \$300 million with minimal retention gains, we prioritize stabilizing at \$200 million while maximizing retention to \$50 million. This approach underscores our commitment to value addition and long-term sustainability.

**Commitment to timely payments**

Ensuring financial stability is a core policy. Regardless of growth or external challenges, we prioritize

timely payments for workers and other stakeholders. This discipline fosters trust and smooth operations, reinforcing our reputation as a responsible employer.

**Challenges in 2024 and hopes for 2025**

**Mahmud Hasan Khan (Babu):** 2024 was uncertain and challenging. Anticipating disruptions during Bangladesh's election period, we prepared for a difficult environment. The political instability and US dollar crisis, inflation, and rising interest rates created a tough operating climate. Events in July and August



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B.	Circle Leader	01
C.	Circle Member	02-04
D.	Coordinator	01
	<b>Total</b>	<b>05-07</b>



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**01775 999368**





Figure 2: Textile Today team with Mahmud Hasan Khan.

further exacerbated the situation, deterring investment plans.

Despite these challenges, there are

***Despite these challenges, there are reasons for optimism in 2025. Global inflation is declining, and the Federal Reserve's reduced interest rates are positive indicators. Bangladesh's improved foreign currency reserves, bolstered by increased remittances and accurate export data, along with reduced corruption, signal a brighter outlook.***

reasons for optimism in 2025. Global inflation is declining, and the Federal Reserve's reduced interest rates are positive indicators. Bangladesh's improved foreign currency reserves, bolstered by increased remittances and accurate export data, along with reduced corruption, signal a brighter outlook.

### **Addressing wage increments and business sustainability**

**Mahmud Hasan Khan (Babu):** While wage increments are necessary to address inflation's impact on workers, they must be balanced against industry sustainability. Historically, annual wage hikes averaged 5%, adjusted to factory efficiency and capacity. However, the current global market's competitive nature, rising costs, and lack of incentives exacerbate challenges for smaller factories.

To navigate these challenges, factories must focus on efficiency, innovation, and competitive pricing. Strengthening negotiating capacity and marketing skills is crucial, as buyers are unlikely to increase prices without justification. Success ultimately rests on individual entrepreneurs' strategic efforts rather than reliance on associations or government support.

An effective exit policy is essential to address struggling businesses. Entrepreneurs do not willingly close factories; challenges often force their hand. The government must implement policies that support industry stability and ensure law and order to facilitate business continuity.

### **LDC graduation and industry preparedness**

**Mahmud Hasan Khan (Babu):** LDC graduation is a significant milestone, but its timing and management are critical. Given the current economic challenges—high inflation, a struggling banking sector, and global uncertainty—Bangladesh should consider delaying the transition by at least three years.

Signing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with key nations is imperative to secure market access. In terms of the RMG perspective, signing FTAs with Brazil and Russia is important. Then we will not be harmed instead we will be benefitted. Also, the present duty-free benefits we are enjoying in countries like Japan, UK, etc. should be continued.

Diversifying beyond textiles and RMG is equally important for economic resilience. Consistent and transparent policymaking is essential to attract foreign investment and foster growth.

### **Upcoming BGMEA election**

**Mahmud Hasan Khan (Babu):** Ensuring a transparent and accurate voter list is fundamental for a fair election.

***Signing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with key nations is imperative to secure market access. In terms of the RMG perspective, signing FTAs with Brazil and Russia is important. Then we will not be harmed instead we will be benefitted. Also, the present duty-free benefits we are enjoying in countries like Japan, UK, etc. should be continued.***

Past inaccuracies, such as including deceased individuals or ineligible voters, must be addressed. Leadership accountability and integrity are crucial for driving the sector forward. Our vision is to ensure the new leadership prioritizes industry betterment and effectively tackles pressing challenges.



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“CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS A BETTER TOMORROW”.

# First-ever 'Made in Bangladesh Exhibition-2025' in Brazil

## Desk Report

The 'Made in Bangladesh Exhibition-2025' is going to be held in Brazil for the first time. The exhibition is being organized by the Brazil Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BBCCI) with the aim of promoting exportable products, diversifying markets, strengthening bilateral trade and facilitating networking in Latin America, especially in Brazil.

The exhibition will be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil from June 15 to 18.

BBCCI made the announcement at a press conference held at Hotel Ascot Palace in the capital's Baridhara Diplomatic Area on Wednesday (January 8).

BBCCI Vice President Md. Saiful Alam delivered the welcome address at the press conference. BBCCI Secretary

General Md. Joynal Abdin delivered the keynote address. Haji Haris Bin Osman, Brunei Ambassador to Bangladesh; Md. Bashir Ahmed, former President of the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry; GM Chowdhury, President of the Dutch Bangla Chamber of Commerce and Industry, among others, were present at the event.

Brazilian Ambassador to Bangladesh Paulo Fernando Dias Feres stressed the immense potential for deepening trade relations between the two countries.

He said, "The 'Made in Bangladesh Exhibition-2025' is an important step in strengthening relations between Brazil and Bangladesh. This initiative is an important platform for businesses to

showcase their excellence and build meaningful partnerships."

**"I am sure that this event will further enhance mutual understanding and pave the way for greater economic cooperation in the future."**



**Paulo Fernando Dias Feres**  
Brazilian Ambassador

# Bangladesh tops export growth in the US

## Staff Correspondent



*Figure: Bangladesh's apparel exports grew by 41.6 percent.*

In November 2024, apparel exports from Bangladesh to the United States increased compared to the same period of the previous year. During this period, Bangladesh's apparel exports grew by 41.6 percent.

The Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA) under the US Department of Commerce recently confirmed this information.

According to OTEXA data, Bangladesh's apparel sector suffered a setback in exports at the beginning of last year. In January of that year, export growth fell by 36.7 percent. After that, growth decreased by another 14.2 percent in March. In November, Bangladesh exported apparel worth \$613.91 million to the United States. This was \$433.56 million in the

same period of the previous year.

The growth in apparel exports in November last year was higher than any other month of the year. Despite the growth in total apparel exports to the United States in 2024, it was lower than most months of 2023.

According to the data, export growth picked up in the last quarter of the year. Export growth was 18.4 percent in September and 26.7 percent in October.

However, despite the record growth in November, apparel exports to the United States from January to November 2024 were 0.44 percent lower than the same period in 2023. While export revenue from January to November 2023 was \$6.79 billion, it was \$6.76 billion in the same period last year.

At the same time, the export growth of India's apparel sector, one of Bangladesh's main competitors, was 4.49 percent. India has been able to export more garments at competitive prices by using local raw materials.

Vietnam's apparel exports to the United States also increased by 4.48 percent. From January to November last year, the country earned \$13.77 billion from apparel exports. The country's exports increased by 9.02 percent.

From January to November last year, China's apparel exports to the United States decreased by 0.30 percent.

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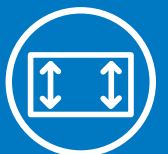
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# Alliance Knit Composite partners with TTIH to enhance efficiency and unlock new opportunities

Faysal Ahmmad



*"This is an important milestone for us. At Alliance Knit Composite Ltd., we are committed to producing a diverse range of textile products with top-class quality. Our product range includes 70% cotton and 30% synthetic, blended, and regenerated cellulosic fibre based product. While our processes and internal management are performing well, we recognize there is always room for improvement. By collaborating with Textile Today Innovation Hub, we are confident we will achieve even better results and create new opportunities to grow further."*

**Md. Shafi Uddin**  
COO, Alliance Knit Composite Ltd.

*Figure: Eousup Abu Abdullah, COO of TTIH, Tareq Amin, Founder and CEO of TTIH, Md. Shafi Uddin, Chief Operating Officer of Alliance Knit Composite Ltd and Mithun Biswas, General Manager (Dyeing) of Alliance Knit Composite Ltd.*

In a significant move to enhance innovation and operational efficiency, Alliance Knit Composite Ltd. has joined hands with the Textile Today Innovation Hub (TTIH) as Innovation Partner. This partnership aims to refine the processes at Alliance Knit Composite Ltd. ensuring better efficiency and more sustainable practices.

The collaboration was formalized in a signing ceremony where Md. Shafi Uddin, Chief Operating Officer of Alliance Knit Composite Ltd. and Tareq Amin, Founder and CEO of TTIH, were the key signatories. The event was also attended by Eousup Abu Abdullah, COO of TTIH, and Mithun Biswas, General Manager (Dyeing) of Alliance Knit Composite Ltd. Tareq Amin, CEO

of TTIH, remarked, "Partnerships like this have the power to bring meaningful changes to the industry. Working together allows us to create practical and innovative solutions that can push the textile sector toward a brighter future."

This collaboration showcases how teamwork and shared expertise can lead to meaningful improvements within Bangladesh's textile industry. Under the leadership of Md. Shafi Uddin, Alliance Knit Composite Ltd. is embracing new opportunities to elevate its operations and promote innovation culture within the company to build & uplift the capacity of the professionals & grow further for a sustainable future.

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# RUDOLF adopts new leadership structure for 2025

## Marcos Furrer has been appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) of the RUDOLF Group

### International Desk



Figure: Wolfgang Schumann, Managing Director; Marcos Furrer, CEO & CMO; Dr. Gunther Duschek, CTOO; Dr. Oliver Kusterle, CSO of RUDOLF.

***"It is with great pleasure and confidence that I hand over the role of CEO to Marcos Furrer. I am equally pleased that Dr. Duschek and Dr. Kusterle, in their existing global responsibilities, will round off the operational management team."***

**Wolfgang Schumann**  
Managing Director, RUDOLF

RUDOLF, a leading global specialty chemical company, announced a new management structure effective at the beginning of 2025. This restructuring is designed to accelerate the implementation of the company's strategic goals and further strengthen its global market position.

Wolfgang Schumann, currently Managing Director of RUDOLF Holding, will assume the role of Co-Chair of the newly established Board of Directors. Schumann will focus on developing strategically important business in Asia, a key growth market for the company.

Marcos Furrer has been appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) of the RUDOLF Group. Dr. Gunther Duschek will continue in his role as Chief Technology

and Operations Officer (CTOO), and Dr. Oliver Kusterle will remain Chief Sales Officer (CSO), ensuring continuity and commitment within the operational management team.

Furrer brings extensive experience in the specialty chemicals industry and strategic expertise to lead the company's global vision.

"In my new role as Chairman of the Board of Directors, I will focus specifically on the development of the strategically important business in Asia and continue to be the point of contact for our joint ventures. I am convinced that this realignment will enable us to expand further and strengthen our market position," Schumann said.

This new management structure represents a decisive step for the future

of RUDOLF, positioning the company for continued growth and success in the global market. The changes will take effect at the beginning of 2025.

The aim remains to strengthen RUDOLF's international market position further and to sustainably, expand the company's innovative strength in an increasingly dynamic competitive environment.

RUDOLF is a global leader in textile chemicals, with growth areas in construction and coatings. Founded over 100 years ago in Germany, RUDOLF is a fourth-generation family business. Committed to the success of our customers, driven by science and dedicated to protecting our environment, we see ourselves as an agent of positive change.



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# TextileToday

## Business Hub

January 2025

A Textile Today Initiative | Published with Volume 18, Issue 01 | Pages 43 to 56

Garment accessories  
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Al Shahriar Ahmed  
President, BGAPMEA

RMG exports  
reaches  
**\$38.48bn**  
in 2024, higher  
**7.23%**



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# UN report says Global economic growth to remain at 2.8% in 2025

## Textile Today Analysis

8-525

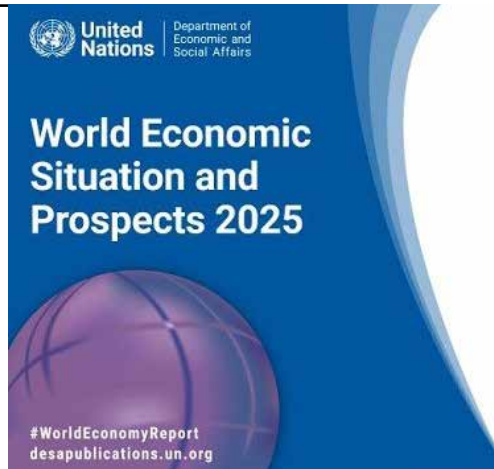
The recently released United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2025 report published on January 09, forecasts global economic growth to remain 2.8% this year, unchanged from last year. Despite showing resilience in the face of multiple shocks, global growth remains below the pre-pandemic average of 3.2%, hampered by weak investment, sluggish productivity and high debt levels.

Low inflation and ongoing monetary easing in many economies could provide a modest boost to global activity. However, uncertainties remain, including geopolitical tensions, escalating trade conflicts and rising borrowing costs.

In the United States, growth is expected to slow from 2.8% in 2024 to 1.9% in 2025, as the labor market weakens and consumer spending falls.

**Europe's economy is expected to recover slightly, with gross domestic product (GDP) growth expected to increase from 0.9 percent in 2024 to 1.3 percent in 2025, supported by falling inflation and a stable labor market, although long-term challenges such as fiscal austerity and weak productivity growth and an aging population continue to weigh on the economic outlook.**

East Asia is forecast to grow by 4.7% in 2025, supported by China's stable 4.8% growth and strong private consumption across the region. South Asia will lead



Courtesy: Collected



To access, scan the QR code or visit: [bit.ly/UN\\_WESP2025](https://bit.ly/UN_WESP2025)



the way as the fastest-growing region, with India's robust 6.6% expansion expected to drive GDP growth to 5.7%.

Africa's growth is projected to increase from 3.4% in 2024 to 3.7% in 2025, as key economies such as Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa recover. However, conflict, rising debt-servicing costs, lack of employment opportunities, and the increasing severity of the impacts of climate change are weighing on Africa's outlook.

Global trade is expected to grow by 3.2% in 2025, down from 3.4% in 2024, driven by improved exports from Asia and strong services trade. However, trade tensions and geopolitical risks pose significant threats to the outlook. Global inflation is expected to ease from 4% in 2024 to 3.4% in 2025, providing some relief to businesses and households.

Major central banks are expected to continue cutting interest rates as inflationary pressures ease. Nevertheless, inflation will remain high in many developing countries, with one in five countries projected to face double-digit rates in 2025.

For developing economies, easing

global financial conditions could reduce borrowing costs, although access to capital remains uneven. Many low-income countries still struggle with high debt-servicing burdens and limited access to international financing, highlighting ongoing challenges to equitable growth.

The report stresses the need for decisive multilateral action to address interconnected challenges, including debt, inequality and climate change. It warns that fiscal easing alone will not be enough to revive global growth or reduce rising inequality. Governments are urged to avoid overly restrictive fiscal measures and prioritize investment in key social sectors such as clean energy, infrastructure, healthcare and education.

The report also stresses the importance of strong international cooperation to address the environmental, social and economic risks associated with critical minerals. It advocates for consistent sustainability standards, fair trade practices and technology transfer initiatives to enable developing countries to manage these resources responsibly and equitably.

**The Team**

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Founder & CEO

**Amzad Hossain Monir**  
Head of Business Development

**Rahbar Hossain**  
Business Development

**SN Abdullah  
Nurnahar Akter**  
**Arif-uz-Zaman**  
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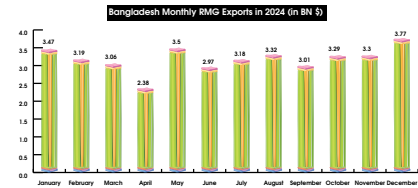
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UN report says Global economic growth to remain at 2.8% in 2025



**Export Today 48**

RMG exports reaches \$38.48bn in 2024, higher 7.23%



**News & Analysis 47**

Russian largest fashion brand to source 30% from Bangladesh



**Textile People 55**

M. A. Jabbar elected President of BSIA



**Exhibition 50-51**

GTB 2025 emphasizes energy efficiency and low-maintenance techs



**Exhibition 52-55**

Garment accessories constantly bringing innovative and bespoke products



# Russian largest fashion brand to source 30% from Bangladesh

## Desk Report

Russia's largest fashion brand, Gloria Jeans, sourced its 30% from Bangladesh with an annual turnover of \$70 million by 2025. This is part of the company's strategy to explore new sourcing destinations by reducing local garment production in Russia.

Recently, Moyeen Ahmed, Gloria Jeans' regional general manager for Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan said this.

He said, "Last year, we saw a significant increase in sourcing from Bangladesh. In 2025, we plan to expand our business by up to 30% compared to the outgoing year."

He mentioned the company's decision to exit Uzbekistan a year ago and hinted at plans to close 6-7 manufacturing units in Russia, with some orders expected to be redirected to key suppliers China and Vietnam, as well as Bangladesh.

The local office in Bangladesh produces a significant amount of denim fabric, which has increased its competitiveness. However, high tariffs

on garment exports to Russia remain a significant challenge, making Bangladeshi products less competitive in price compared to Vietnam, he said.

"If Bangladesh successfully negotiates the removal of these tariffs, it could emerge as the largest supplier to Russia, which has immense potential for garment exports," he added.

Six Bangladeshi suppliers currently supply about a third of Russia's denim imports, with ABA Group and Square Group leading the way as the top exporters.

In addition to denim, Gloria Jeans sources jersey knitwear and sweaters from Bangladesh. The company is also producing outerwear with Text Town



Photo: Collected

Group, aiming to bring in new orders next season.

Currently, 26 garment factories in Bangladesh make Gloria Jeans clothing. When Moyeen joined the company in 2015, its annual sourcing from Bangladesh was worth \$5 million. By 2018, this had increased to \$80 million.

In 2023, Gloria Jeans sourced 13 million pieces from Bangladesh, with a 15% increase projected for this year – a number that could increase further with the tariff waivers.

# Sloth growth to EU due to price cuts

## Desk Report

According to Eurostat data, from January to October this year, the European Union's imports from Bangladesh saw a growth of only 0.8 percent. During this period, Bangladesh's garment exports reached €15.19 billion, compared to €15.88 billion in the same period the previous year.

However, the quantity increased by 6.68 percent, but this was due to a 4.92 percent decrease in product prices.

During this period, EU countries imported a total of €71.47 billion worth of apparel products from various countries, which is an increase of 0.16 percent only compared to the previous year.

Among the main garment exporters to the European Union, also China's exports increased slightly, 0.24 percent to €20.03 billion during this period. Turkey, the third largest garment

China's exports 	€20.03 billion
Turkey exports 	€7.9 billion
Vietnam exports 	€3.27 billion
Pakistan exports 	€2.88 billion

exporter in the EU region, also experienced a negative growth of 6.18 percent. During this period, Turkey exported garments worth €7.9 billion.

Among other major garment suppliers to the EU, Vietnam exported garments worth €3.27 billion, with a growth of 2.46 percent. And Pakistan exported garments worth €2.88 billion, with a growth of 20.66 percent.

However, in October 2024, Bangladesh saw a huge 33.78 percent growth compared to the previous year, which is the strongest growth record in the last 10 months.

In October 2024, European Union countries imported a total of €1.75 billion worth of apparel from Bangladesh which was 1.30 billion in October 2023.

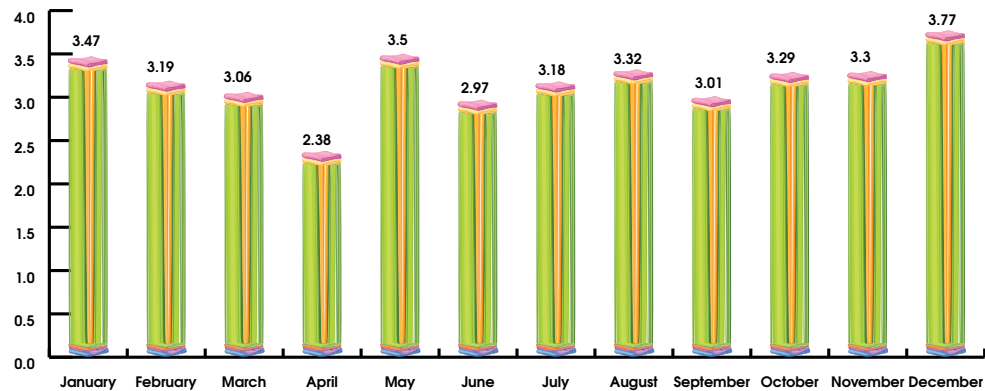
# RMG exports reaches \$38.48bn in 2024, higher 7.23%

Export Desk

The year started on a strong note, with monthly exports of **\$3.47 billion** in January, **\$3.19 billion** in February, and **\$3.06 billion** in March. However, April witnessed a decline of **6.62%**, dropping exports to **\$2.38 billion**. The sector quickly rebounded in May with a **14.59%** growth, reaching **\$3.5 billion**, only to face another dip in June, declining by **10.48%** to **\$2.97 billion**.

In August, despite political turmoil and a massive popular uprising that led to the ousting of the Sheikh Hasina-led government, exports rose by **7.20%**, reaching **\$3.32 billion**. This resilience highlighted the industry's ability to navigate complex socio-political conditions.

**Bangladesh Monthly RMG Exports in 2024 (in BN \$)**



Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) exports grew by 7.23% in 2024, reaching \$38.48 billion, up from \$35.89 billion in 2023, according to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). Despite a volatile political and economic landscape, the RMG sector demonstrated resilience, recording positive growth in ten out of twelve months, as reported by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

From July onward, Bangladesh's garment exports demonstrated steady growth, overcoming challenges to sustain positive momentum throughout the remainder of the year. In July, manufacturers achieved export earnings of \$3.18 billion, reflecting a 2.89% increase compared to the same period in the previous year.

The upward trend continued in September, with export earnings increasing by 14.61% to \$3.01 billion. October saw even stronger performance, with a 22.8% growth driving exports to \$3.29 billion.

This growth trajectory persisted in November and December. November's earnings climbed by 16.25% to \$3.3 billion, while December recorded the highest monthly earnings of the year at \$3.77 billion, marking a 17.45% increase. These results underscored the industry's robustness and ability to achieve record-breaking performance amid challenging circumstances.

Meanwhile, EPB initially reported that

Bangladesh exported garments worth \$47.39 billion in 2023. However, in June 2024, a major discrepancy was found between the export data of EPB, Bangladesh Bank and NBR.

To resolve the discrepancies in the export earnings report, EPB prepared the data based on real-time shipment data according to NBR Assicuda World and the export earnings in 2023 were \$35.89 billion.

Former BGMEA President Faruque Hassan described 2024 as a challenging but opportunistic year for Bangladesh's garment sector. Improved political stability and increased retail sales in the US and EU have led to an increase in work orders. Entrepreneurs are focusing on value-added products and exploring new markets.

Hassan stressed that reducing corruption and resolving customs and tax issues could make 2025 a strong year, citing declining inflation and lower interest rates in key markets as positive indicators.

Former BGMEA Director Mohiuddin Rubel noted the industry's shift towards activewear and non-cotton products, along with efforts to diversify the market.

However, he highlighted the energy crisis as a major obstacle to new and existing investments. Despite the current challenges in banking and financing, Rubel was optimistic about a global economic recovery in 2025 and a strong recovery for the garment sector.



**Bernhard Sandner**  
Chief Scientist

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# GTB 2025 emphasizes energy efficiency and low-maintenance techs

Sayed Abdullah

*Energy-efficient and low-maintenance technology took center stage at the recently concluded 22nd Garments Technology Bangladesh (GTB) exhibition, showcasing the latest advancements in textile machinery to support local exporters and attract international buyers. The 4-day expo was held at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, featuring over 500 companies from 25 countries.*

*For the past 22 years, GTB has successfully established itself as the premier platform for RMG manufacturers to source the latest apparel technology in Bangladesh. GTB has consistently brought together leading global technology providers, showcasing cutting-edge sewing, finishing, embroidery machinery, and allied products under one roof. This curated platform has become the preferred choice for RMG makers to explore and source their technology needs.*

### Insights from technology leaders

Antrix Solutions is committed to quality in products and excellence in processes. Commercial & Industrial Garment Equipment company in Bangladesh. The company is the exclusive partner of Euromac Technology.

Antrix Solutions, Chairman, Sayed Mehedi said, "We are working with sustainability. We have been engaged in the supply and technical support of an extensive selection of all kinds of Industrial Sewing Machines, cutting and spreading solutions. And all our products are environment and customer-friendly."

Andrea Muratori, Asia Area Manager, FK GROUP SPA said, "2025 is a critical year for the garment industry. Following a period of global economic slowdown, customers are now seeking high-performance, sustainable technologies. Italy-based FK GROUP, renowned for its innovative and sustainable solutions, is well-positioned to meet this demand. Our technology offers low power consumption and minimal spare part usage. Moreover, strong after-sales service, provided by our local partner Tech Cell BD Ltd. and its Managing Director Bappy K. Roy, is crucial for success in the Bangladeshi market."



Figure 1: Sayed Mehedi, Chairman, Antrix Solutions.



Figure 2: Andrea Muratori, Asia Area Manager, FK GROUP SPA.



Md. Saiful Islam, Country Manager, KANSAI SPECIAL / Morimoto Mfg. Co., Ltd. said, "The recent GTB 2025 exhibition saw a strong presence of industry leaders seeking innovative solutions and addressing production challenges. Global technology players showcased cutting-edge machinery with enhanced efficiency and reduced maintenance."



Figure 3: Md. Saiful Islam, Country Manager, KANSAI SPECIAL / Morimoto Mfg. Co., Ltd.

"While the Bangladeshi garment industry has adopted technology, there is a need for continuous improvement, particularly in machine maintenance. The focus on reducing manpower through automation was evident, highlighting the need for upskilling the local workforce to effectively adopt and utilize these advanced technologies." KANSAI Country Manager added.



Figure 4: Richard, Sales Manager, Supreme Intelligent Technology Co., Ltd

Richard, Sales Manager, Supreme Intelligent Technology Co., Ltd. said, "Given the growth of the Bangladesh market, we are well-positioned to supply high-quality products."

Bappy K. Roy, Managing Director, Tech Cell BD Ltd. said, "Tech Cell BD Ltd. provides a complete solution in the

apparel manufacturing process. We also focus on Digital Automation solutions for apparel industries aiming to reduce production costs and ensure quality & sustainability. Tech cell BD Ltd. helps companies reach their optimum goal by enabling them to Develop, manufacture, and take their product to market smarter, faster, more affordably, and in a sustainable manner."



Figure 5: Bappy K. Roy, Managing Director, Tech Cell BD Ltd.

Engr. Md. Zahrul Islam Rozen, CEO, Bhashani Machinery Co. agent of ZOJE Industrial Sewing Machine said, "Bangladesh garments demographic dividend is diminishing as the wages are increasing continuously. With this in mind, we have brought our innovations like maximum production with low manpower. As well as we are continuously innovating to provide higher quality. All our automation has been done to enhance quality."



Figure 6: Engr. Md. Zahrul Islam Rozen, CEO, Bhashani Machinery Co. agent of ZOJE Industrial Sewing Machine.

Engr. Md. Shohidul Kamal, Managing Director, Sewmak said, "Sewmak is one of the pioneering agents of HIKARI in the Bangladesh market. In this expo we represented HIKARI. In our garment sector, needle breakage is a big concern – with the HIKARI sewing machine – our customers can reduce thread and needle breakage."



Figure 7: Engr. Md. Shohidul Kamal, Managing Director, Sewmak.

Garments Technology Bangladesh (GTB) exhibition organizer, ASK Exhibition's Head of Marketing – APAC, Salman Bin Sultan said, "The readymade garment (RMG) sector in Bangladesh is optimistic about a promising 2025 following a challenging 2024 that tested its resilience. Industry insiders point to signs of recovery in the global retail market as Western buyers return, aided by easing inflation in key markets like Europe and America."



Figure 8: Salman Bin Sultan, Head of Marketing – APAC, ASK Exhibitions.

"Garment Technology Bangladesh has been showcasing a comprehensive technology-intensive exhibit profile for the last 22 years that covers the entire garment and textile manufacturing value chain. Through specialized product zones and focused segments, stakeholders opportunity to explore the integrated industry requirements all in one place, seizing valuable business opportunities.



# Garment accessories constantly bringing innovative and bespoke products

Sayed Abdullah



*At the recently concluded GAPEXPO 2025, held at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, industry leaders in the garment accessories, trims, and packaging sector emphasized the importance of continuous innovation and the development of bespoke products as a key driver for future growth.*

*The 4-day expo was jointly organized by the Bangladesh Garment Accessories and Packaging Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGAPMEA) and ASK Trade Show and Exhibition Private Limited, the four-day event at ICCB featured over 500 companies from 25 countries.*

***“We have seen a huge turnaround in the expo. Our buyers can get a direct sensation about the quality of the innovative products we are providing and get aware about the new technologies and products in the exhibition. In the exhibition, our members have showcased garments products, cartons, polybags, labels, packaging, threads, buttons, and textile machinery.”***



**Al Shahriar Ahmed**  
President, BGAPMEA

Al Shahriar Ahmed highlighted that recognizing the sector as a direct exporter and providing appropriate policy support would enable it to capitalize on the \$750 billion global market and further contribute to economic growth.

“Despite employing nearly 800,000 people and contributing significantly to the economy and export earnings, the sector remains unrecognized as a direct exporter, creating an imbalance in industry recognition,” said Al Shahriar Ahmed – who is also Managing Director of Adzi Trims Ltd.

Highlighting the achievement of self-sufficiency, the BGAPMEA President said to Textile Today, “As you know the garment accessories, packaging and trims sector – backward and in forward – has grown up into 100% self-sufficiency. A bright illustration of this was shown during the COVID-19 pandemic times when all kinds of imports and exports were halted. But the garment accessories, packaging and trims sector kept on supplying the necessary goods.”

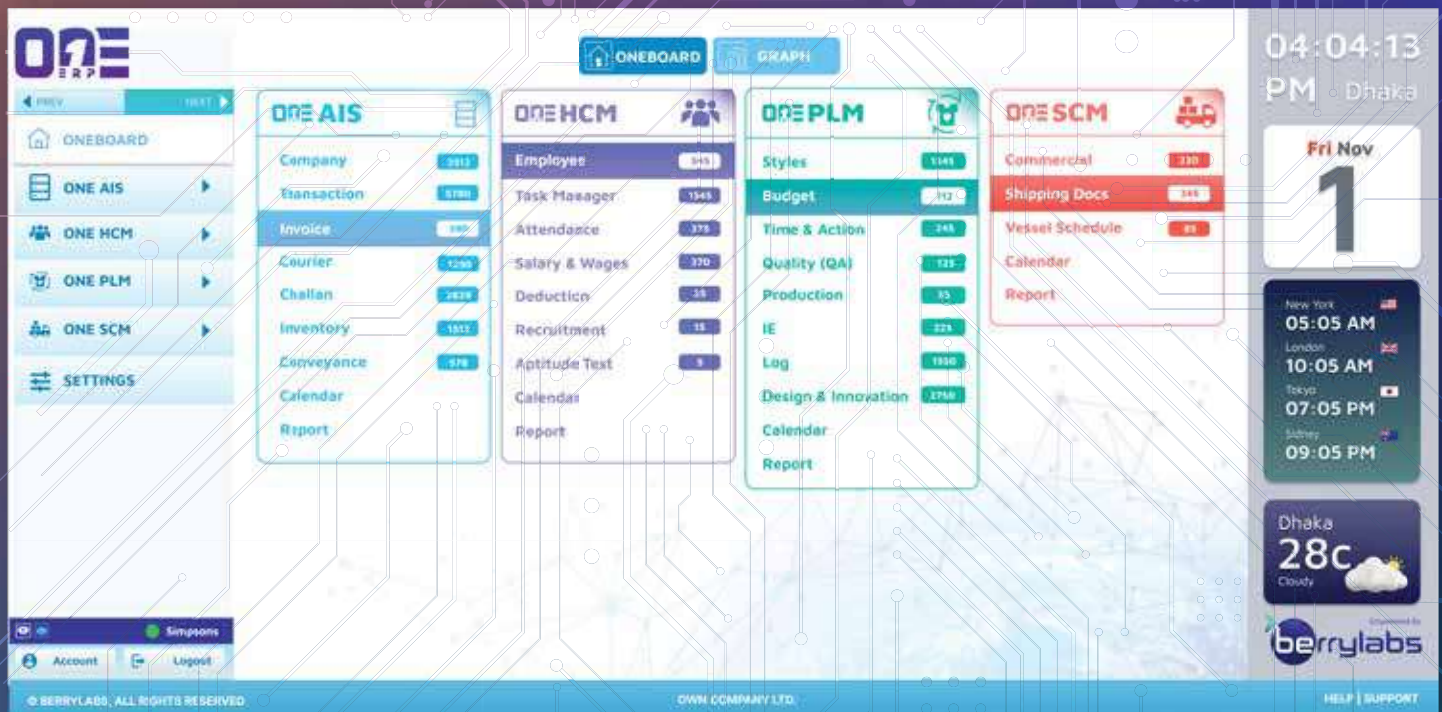
Al Shahriar Ahmed expressed hope as the accessories sector is riding the continuing growth with more investment and expansion. “According to a Bloomberg report, global demand for packaging is around \$750 billion. We are still lagging and it is a huge opportunity for us to catch up.”

“In terms of environmentally friendly initiatives, around 32 new LEED-certified Green factories, are in the pipeline,” he added.

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- Real-time Analytics
- Seamless Integration
- Interactive Graph
- Intelligent T&A Planning





Insights from accessories & packaging leaders

“Garment accessories is a must sector for our RMG sector. Enabling the sector to be self-reliant and most crucially, value retention. We are seeing a tremendous response to the exhibition. And I can confidently say that we have a huge opportunity to increase our exports after fulfilling the local demand to cater to the global fashion market.”



Md. Enamul Haque
Founder & Managing Director
Expo Accessories Ltd.

The veteran sector leader emphasized the prerequisite of supplying uninterrupted utility to make growth possible. He also urged the govt. to work on Bond facilities, customs harassment, banking systems, etc. to ease the businesses.

“Expo Accessories produces environment-friendly products that are recyclable like polybag, label, tag, sewing thread, etc. On top of

“The accessories, trims and packaging sector needs more policy support from the govt. to grow our exports. For instance, NBR needs reforms, as a lot of times these unfriendly policies hinder our business. The GAPEXPO exhibition is a very good initiative to attract and showcase buyers.”



Jahir Uddin Alamgir
Managing Director
Ridoy Rifat Industries Ltd,

that we are soon to produce Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags in Bangladesh,” Md. Enamul Haque added.

Jahir Uddin Alamgir, Managing Director, Ridoy Rifat Industries Ltd, said, “Ridoy Rifat Industries Ltd is a premier manufacturer & supplier of all types of garments accessories in Bangladesh since 2010. We always try to bring the latest technologies in our production line to meet optimum quality and meet current market demands,” Jahir Uddin Alamgir.

“Established in 2011 and since then we have branded ourselves as a leading sustainable accessories item manufacturer. Our commitment to the planet drives us to use sustainable materials and responsible manufacturing practices. For example, our biodegradable polybag gets destroyed within 6 months. The same goes for our other products. We have acquired global standard certifications like: OEKO TEX® STANDARD 100, FSC, Global Recycled Standard, etc.”



Md. Shohidul Bari
Managing Director
Jist Industrial Co. Ltd.

Kazi Fahad, Managing Director, Kazi Printing & Accessories Ltd. said, “We are thrilled to be a part of the largest fair at GAPEXPO. Where we showcased our innovative and sustainable products. The expo created a unique chance to explore how Bangladesh is leading the way in world-class packaging solutions.”

Kazi Printing & Accessories Ltd. stall was awarded 3rd position at the GAPEXPO FAIR 2025.

Shakawatul Islam Sakif, Director, Mumtux Composite Elastic Industries Ltd. said, “Given the current fast-moving fashion trend globally – delving into

“Given the current fast-moving fashion trend globally – delving into innovation and constantly bringing innovative and bespoke products is the way forward. Like previous expos, this year Mumtux brought new innovative items to the table – that had never been produced in Bangladesh.”



Shakawatul Islam Sakif
Director
Mumtux Composite Elastic
Industries Ltd.

innovation and constantly bringing innovative and bespoke products is the way forward. Like previous expos, this year Mumtux brought new innovative items to the table – that had never been produced in Bangladesh. Like silicon printed elastics, warp knitted elastics, etc. The objective is to send a message to the industry, as well as, to the global buyers that we are capable of producing high-end items and no longer sourcing from abroad. Most importantly, I believe that innovation and customer satisfaction are key to business growth.”

“This garment packaging expo is a great platform to meet all the customers and after seeing all the products they are placing orders. I would urge the govt. to provide incentives to the packaging sector like the garments sector as we are directly exporting also. This will help the sector to grow more.”



Esharot Hossain
President
Bangkor Pulp & Paper Corporation

*“This kind of expo is really helpful for our sector – it enables us to showcase our new tech, high-end products. In addition, it also helps us in business growth and exports. As our existing buyers and potential buyers get a chance to directly see our new products and handpick them.”*



**Mahmudul Basit Porash**  
Deputy General Manager  
Micro Trims Ltd.

“Bangkor is a one-stop packaging solution company providing top

Bangladeshi companies with the highest-quality papers,” Esharot Hossain added.

“Micro Trims Ltd. is a concern of Micro Fiber Group. Besides we are a premier manufacturer of diverse trims & accessories items for the apparel industry also we are a direct exporter. Sustainable practices are a core at Micro Trims – thus we produce various types of recycled products. In addition, we harvest rainwater at our premises, we have ETP, and we have a rooftop solar plant.”

Rashik Hassan, Co-Founder & CEO, Ecovia said, “Single-use plastics have been a worldwide headache and microplastic is found even in the human body. As the call for sustainability grows louder, Ecovia – a cleantech company – has come up with an innovative idea in Bangladesh’s textile and garment industry that generates a huge amount of plastics and from this waste, we are making compostable materials. In

garment waste exists a treasured item called cellulose – which is a natural polymer. We are further strengthening the cellulose and converting it into compostable packaging. This will perish in 180 days after it is thrown away.”

“I think this is the high time for compostable packaging, as the govt. banned the single-use polybag a few days ago and it is also echoed around the planet. This is a big opportunity to scale up sustainable initiatives and replace single-use plastic uses with compostable packaging,” Ecovia CEO added.

Khalilur Rahman, Sales Manager, Checkpoint System Bangladesh Ltd. said, “Checkpoint System Bangladesh Ltd. is a fully owned subsidiary of Checkpoint Systems, Inc. We provide sustainable RFID solutions. Sustainability at the heart of every solution and working closely with our global customers daily.”

## M. A. Jabbar elected President of BSIA

### Desk Report



As President of the BSIA, Jabbar’s vision and drive are expected to be instrumental in propelling the growth of Bangladesh’s burgeoning semiconductor industry.

He expects to play a crucial role in aligning the industry with global technological trends, fostering innovation, and

*M. A. Jabbar, the Managing Director of DBL Group, has been elected as the President of the Bangladesh Semiconductor Industry Association (BSIA) for the 2024–2027 term.*

*Jabbar brings a wealth of leadership experience to this role, having previously served as a prominent figure in Neural Semiconductor Limited and successfully steering the DBL Group to significant achievements.*

driving the development of a robust and competitive semiconductor ecosystem within Bangladesh.

M A Jabbar expressed his gratitude and said, “The organization aims to align local entrepreneurs with the growth of Bangladesh’s semiconductor industry and global technological trends.”

BSIA will encourage innovation, growth, and collaboration within the country’s semiconductor sector, paving the way for Bangladesh to establish a competitive position in the global market, he added.

Jabbar’s appointment is seen as a significant step forward for the BSIA and the entire semiconductor industry in Bangladesh, also to bring new momentum and direction to the industry, paving the way for future growth and success.

The Bangladesh Semiconductor Industry Association (BSIA) is an organization focused on promoting and developing the semiconductor sector in Bangladesh.

Its mission is to foster growth in the country’s semiconductor manufacturing and design capabilities, enhance innovation, and support local companies to compete in the global tech market.



# DONGYI SOURCING LIMITED



CEO & Managing Director Message

Customer's & Business partner's satisfaction is one of the central aspects of our organizational culture. Total Customer's & Business partner's satisfaction is the only success formula that drives us to be in this competitive fashion clothing industry. I would like to sincerely thank our valued clients & business partners for your continued support in ensuring that we remain our long-term relationship to have good business in future.

MOHAMMAD MOFAZZAL HOSEN PABEL



**DSL's Target of Achieving \$250 million in RMG Exports By 2030**



## ABOUT US

Dongyi Sourcing Limited is a Multinational apparel buying hub and exporter with a vision to deliver world-class service, quality solutions and value addition services to end products for the textile industries on a global level, beginning from fabrics to fashion through market knowledge, experienced sourcing professionals. Global headquarter of Dongyi sourcing located at North Point, Hong Kong and Global corporate office located at Dhaka, Bangladesh. Our design, sales and sourcing offices in UK, China, Hong Kong & INDIA. Dongyi Sourcing offers product sourcing, amazing design collection, best production execution with on-time shipment, best quality assurance, supply chain solutions towards building a stakeholding approach to business.



## OUR VISION

To become a reliable global apparel sourcing organization that provides excellence and quality through innovation with a forward-looking approach. We will achieve this position through innovations in products and business methods that add value to our customers and by meeting global standards in quality, customer service.



## MANAGEMENT



Mohammad Mofazzal Hosen Pabel  
CEO & Managing Director



Paritosh Chandra Dash  
Director  
Bangladesh



Sphly Sollar  
Director  
United Kingdom



Suman Ahmad  
Director  
Canada



Khan Mohammad Bilal  
Senior Executive Director  
ED - Management



CHRISTO CRAIG  
Chief Operating Officer  
COO - Operation



Salsumar Leganathan  
General Manager  
GM - Operation



SM Srinath Aboyeskera  
General Manager  
GM - Technical



Li Col Mohammad Najim Khan (Retd)  
Head of Department  
HOD - Admin/Human Resources

DSL Dongyi Sourcing Limited



## DSL PRESENCE

Business Start: December, 2019

Total Country: 06

Present Employee: 225+ Employee in (BD/UK/China/Europe)

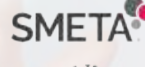
Business Partner (Manufacturer): 32



## ETHICS

# COMPLIANCE

OUR MANUFACTURING PARTNERS ARE COMPLIANT WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND CODE OF CONDUCT



## Our Leading Brands & Companies

next

MATALAN

sinsay



KAPORAL

Walmart

RIVER ISLAND

MORITO

REISS

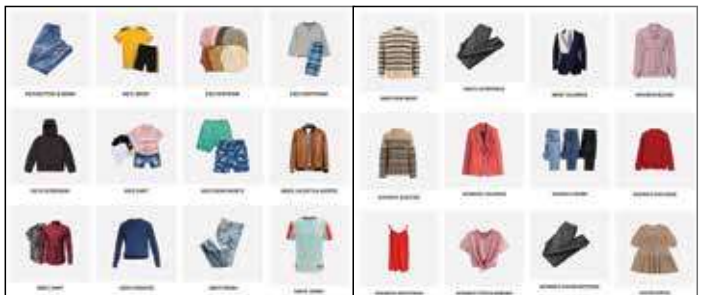


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Desford Hall, Leicester,  
Le9 9J, England  
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Cell: +447305062587



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North Point, Hong Kong  
Email: info@dongyi.hk



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# Factory Tales

Branding Bangladesh Textile & Apparel

January 2025

A Textile Today Initiative | Published with Volume 18, Issue 01 | Pages 57 to 74

**German chemical expertise steers with Bangladeshi textile firm**



**Michael Molière**  
Head of Business (Unit Textile Auxiliaries)  
Zschimmer & Schwarz Mohsdorf  
GmbH & Co. KG

## Checklists:

The key to precision in Textile and Apparel industry

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E-mail: machinery@dysin.com, Web: www.dysin.com

# Checklists: The key to precision in Textile and Apparel industry

Nazmut Tarek

Humans are inherently imperfect and inconsistent, despite their capacity for great accomplishment. Each day we handle a flood of information and take on more responsibility.

As the complexity of our lives increases, we make small consequential oversights in our work, despite having experience and training. These oversights cause our co-workers, managers, and customers to doubt the quality of our work.

One overlooked step or a missed error can derail an entire project and tarnish hard-earned credibility. We're often drawn to new and exciting things, overlooking the finer details. To mitigate these risks, it is imperative to cultivate a disciplined approach to work.

This is where the power of a checklist comes into play, transforming our scattered tendencies into structured, reliable actions. By integrating checklists into our routines, we can enhance efficiency, accuracy, and consistency, ultimately safeguarding our professional reputation and success.

## What is Checklist?

A checklist is a structured and effective tool that turns a list of tasks into a dependable, systematic sequence, ensuring that nothing is missed and processes are carried out efficiently. Checklists are frequently misunderstood by people who believe they are too simple for complicated jobs. According to Checklist Manifesto author Atul Gawande, they serve as a "cognitive net."

They identify our mental defects, such as problems with thoroughness, memory, and focus. The uncomfortable truth of human nature is the tendency

to forget small things, which might lead to a major project's failure. The checklist could be a reminder for experts and a step-by-step learning aid for newcomers. Checklists standardize processes to ensure uniformity, enhance precision by outlining actions, enhance efficiency by streamlining tasks, support memory and attention, and facilitate communication for better team coordination.

## Checklist in different industries:

The concept of checklists existed informally for centuries, but their modern prominence began with the 1935 Boeing Model 299 crash. This incident led engineers to develop systematic pre-flight checklists, enhancing safety and setting a standard in aviation. Since then, checklists have been adopted across various industries, significantly improving outcomes.

- » **Aviation:** Post-adoption, aviation accidents dramatically decreased, reducing fatal incidents to 0.24 per million flights (2022).
- » **Construction:** Checklists have lowered failure rates to 0.00002%, enhancing structural safety.
- » **Medical:** The WHO surgical safety checklist reduced major complications by 36% and deaths by 47%, with a 43% decrease in malpractice claims.

Beyond safety, checklists improve productivity, project efficiency, and standardized procedures, making them essential in diverse fields.

## How Checklist can be an integral part of the textile industry:

The textile and apparel industries are

## Checklists

### Marketing And Merchandising

- » Buyer Sourcing
- » Price Quotation
- » Before Sample Development
- » Sample Development
- » Buyer Hospitality
- » Before Order Confirmation
- » Cad Consumption
- » Fabric Booking
- » Procurement
- » Production Follow-up

### Garment Production

- » Risk Analysis
- » Inventory report
- » PP Meeting
- » Cutting
- » Sewing
- » Finishing
- » Quality Control
- » Compliance and Safety

### Spinning

- » Raw Cotton Inspection
- » Moisture Content Testing
- » Machine Setup
- » Mixing and Blending
- » Process Parameters Setting
- » Carding Quality Check
- Combing Efficiency
- » Roving Quality

**The Team**

**Tareq Amin**  
Founder & CEO

**Amzad Hossain Monir**  
Head of Business Development

**Rahbar Hossain**  
Business Development

**SN Abdullah**  
**Nurnahar Akter**  
**Arif-uz-Zaman**  
Research & Development

**Sanjoy Kumar Saha**  
Engagement & Communication

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Common problems in reactive printing

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German chemical expertise steers with Bangladeshi textile firm



more human-centric than any other industry. Here, people extensively use their brains and labors to do a task. Despite having a big tolerance for mistakes, people still make mistakes, which is not acceptable across different cross-functions.

**Let's have a look at the major issues in the industry for not maintaining a checklist:**

- » We often see people overlook important steps that have big financial consequences.
- » Sometimes, the same first-time mistake circulates through different people throughout the company.
- » When it comes to exceptional processes, we often forget what steps should be taken to avoid difficulties.
- » Departments often struggle with managing work transactions between each other due to the absence of clear guidelines.

Executives miss important tasks because they don't make a to-do list before starting work.

Here we find some common criteria that can be improved if we implement checklists. Let's dive deep into the individual department, where we can set a checkpoint to get the best productive result.

Each of these points represents a check post, which will include a specific checklist designed to ensure tasks are completed efficiently, consistently, and error-free. These detailed checklists at every checkpoint will guide the team to systematically address quality, performance, and compliance requirements while minimizing errors and deviations.

**Checklist for crafting**

Interestingly, to implement a checklist, you need to follow some checklists to make it effective. Atul Gawande recommends 4 points for implementing a checklist.

**1. Pause Point**

Every checklist must have a clear trigger or check-post—a specific location or action that reminds you to use it.

**Trigger:** Fabric booking.

- » Spun Yarn Quality
- » Machine Performance
- » Yarn Testing
- » Defect Inspection
- » Packaging Quality
- » Moisture Control
- » Record-Keeping

**Knitting**

- » Yarn Quality Inspection
- » Machine Setup
- » Yarn Tension and Feed
- » Needle Gauge and Stitch Length
- » Initial Output Inspection
- » Real-Time Quality Monitoring
- » Roll Inspection
- » Fabric Weight and GSM
- » Shrinkage and Dimensional Stability
- » Defect Categorization and Rectification

**Dyeing**

- » Greige Fabric Inspection
- » Lab Dip Approval
- » Dye and Chemical Quality Verification
- » Machine Setup Check
- » Water Quality Testing
- » Dye Liquor Preparation
- » Temperature and Time Monitoring
- » Shade Matching
- » pH Control
- » Defect Monitoring
- » Shade Confirmation
- » Fastness Testing
- » Residual Chemical Check
- » Fabric Hand Feel
- » Fabric Shrinkage and Width Measurement

**All Over Printing**

- » Fabric Preparation
- » Design Approval
- » Color Matching
- » Screen/Rotary Setup
- » Machine Calibration
- » Chemical and Ink Quality
- » Initial Print Test

- » Color Consistency Monitoring
- » Alignment and Registration Check
- » Defect Monitoring
- » Fabric Tension and Feed
- » Curing and Drying Inspection
- » Print Quality Check.
- » Colorfastness Testing
- » Dimensional Stability
- » Defect Categorization

**Screen Printing**

- » Fabric Preparation
- » Artwork Approval
- » Screen Preparation
- » Color Matching
- » Ink Quality Check
- » Machine Calibration
- » Test Print Setup
- » Initial Print Inspection
- » Design Registration
- » Defect Monitoring
- » Ink Flow and Screen Condition
- » Fabric Positioning
- » Curing and Drying Inspection
- » Print Quality Check
- » Fastness Testing
- » Defect Categorization
- » Packaging and Handling

**Embroidery**

- » Fabric Inspection
- » Design Approval
- » Thread Selection
- » Backing Material Machine Setup
- » Test Run
- » Initial Output Inspection
- » Design Registration
- » Thread Break Monitoring
- » Fabric Stability
- » Design Accuracy
- » Thread Quality Check
- » Backing and Stabilizer Removal
- » Trimming and Finishing
- » Fastness Testing

**Checklist:**

- » Fabric Construction, Composition & GSM
- » Fabric Color & Approve Lab Reference
- » Fabric Consumption
- » Fabric Wastage % Considered
- » Dia
- » Garment Order Quantity
- » Special Finish

**2. Speedy**

The checklist should take less than 60 seconds to complete, with 5-9 critical items to prevent oversights that could affect quality or customer relationships.

For example, before sample development, one should make a quick check of the following:

- » Hit Rate
- » Styling
- » Fabrication
- » Historical Data
- » Pre-Pricing
- » Lead Time
- » Risk Analysis

**3. Short and concise items**

Avoid detailed explanations; assume the user has the required expertise. Each item should be a direct and clear reminder.

**Example:** Instead of writing, “Verify that the fabric GSM matches buyer specifications as per the latest email update in the style sheet,” simply write, “Fabric GSM.” This suffices because production teams are trained to access and interpret the style sheet.

**4. Field tested and revised**

Checklists should be based on real-world experiences and adapted from past errors or feedback. They should be continuously updated to reflect process improvements.

**Example:** After facing a delay due to missing pre-production meeting minutes, the checklist might be revised to include: “Confirm pre-production meeting minutes have been shared with all departments.”

**Checklist medium:**

Checklists can be created in various formats, such as written form for

portability or digitally in Excel or Google Sheets. Many free apps are available for managing checklists, and Microsoft To-Do stands out as an excellent option.

Microsoft To-Do is not just a task management system but also an effective tool for creating different types of checklists, such as shopping lists, travel lists, technical lists, and daily to-do lists. When you've completed a checklist and want to reuse it, the challenge often lies in unchecking all the boxes. Here's a simple tip: Duplicate the checklist, choose not to carry forward the completion status, and then delete the original. This way, you can easily reuse your checklist.

Checklists are more than just lists; they are a roadmap to productivity and success, helping us stay organized, focused, and accountable. Implementing checklists can revolutionize operations in the dynamic Textile and Apparel industry, where precision and coordination are critical. From ensuring timely fabric sourcing to maintaining quality at every production stage, a well-defined checklist can transform chaos into order, reduce errors, and drive consistent excellence.

# Youngone’s Ecoloft receives top awards at ISPO

Nurnahar Akter



Figure: The company dedicated a prominent booth to showcase its innovative Ecoloft range of insulation products.

Once again, Youngone Corporation, a leading global outdoor apparel and equipment manufacturer, achieved an award for its Ecoloft machinery.

This year, the company dedicated a prominent booth to showcase its innovative Ecoloft range of insulation products, gathering widespread attention and prestigious awards.

On December 2024 event, Ecoloft HEAT Aerolite was awarded one of ‘Top Five Insulations’, while Fluff CL was recognized as a Textrend Selection, underscoring its innovative design and forward-thinking approach to textile technology.

These accolades build upon Youngone's previous triumphs at ISPO Textrends, where they received innovation awards for their groundbreaking EcoLoft ZERO Fill – a zero-waste insulation solution – and the biodegradable EcoLoft Natural WoolPok insulation.

Ecoloft continues to solidify its position as a leader in sustainable insulation, offering a range of eco-friendly and high-performing options for the outdoor industry.

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# Solaric nourishing solar energy solutions at home & abroad

Rahbar Hossain



*Solaric Group, founded in 2009 by scientist Didar Islam, is a leader in renewable energy, focusing on innovative solar solutions. With its headquarters in Singapore and subsidiaries in Bangladesh and California, Solaric's operations span multinational companies, industrial manufacturers, and its landmark project—a 60MW rooftop solar installation at the Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ). The company aims to achieve 300MW of solar energy installations by 2026.*

## Early innovations and global expansion

Didar Islam, Managing Director and CEO of Solaric, completed his education at BUET and the University of Florida, later earning 10 US patents for his groundbreaking work in electronics. Since founding Solaric, he's led its transformation from supplying off-grid solar systems for rural Bangladesh to becoming a global renewable energy provider. Early achievements include installing the world's largest rooftop solar solution at Youngone Group in Chittagong and expanding operations to India, Pakistan, Malaysia, and Africa.

## Transition to on-grid solar projects

By 2018, Solaric shifted focus to on-grid solar projects targeting high-energy-demand industrial rooftops. Initial installations, like a 324KW system at Debonair Group, validated the potential of solar as a cost-effective and sustainable energy source. As solar costs dropped and conventional energy costs rose, Solaric's predictions about solar's viability proved accurate.

Bangladesh, as the world's second-largest garment producer, offers vast potential for rooftop solar installations, potentially generating 3,000–4,000MW of solar energy. However, challenges such as land limitations, investment-unfriendly environments, and inconsistent policies hinder growth.

## Policy and investment challenges

For Bangladesh to meet its renewable energy goals, long-term policy support and investment are essential. Didar Islam emphasizes the need for stable

policies to attract domestic and international investment. Without such support, achieving sustainability and energy security becomes increasingly difficult.

## Innovative solar solutions

Solaric customizes solutions for each client. For instance, it addressed a factory's low gas pressure issue by integrating a specialized device, enabling compatibility with rooftop solar. Beyond rooftops, the company advocates for policies like "open access," which allows factories to install solar projects on remote lands and transmit power via grid lines. Although common internationally, this practice lacks implementation in Bangladesh.

One of Solaric's groundbreaking innovations is the development of green hydrogen as an energy storage solution. Hydrogen, generated using solar power, can replace batteries for powering boilers and generators. This sustainable technology could revolutionize industrial energy storage.

## Future of solar energy in Bangladesh

Bangladesh aims to produce 30% of its energy from renewable sources by 2041. With supportive policies, Solaric believes this target is achievable. For example, underutilized tea garden lands could host solar projects, significantly increasing energy output while generating higher economic returns.

## Sustainability and global impact

Solaric integrates sustainability into its operations by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and aligning with UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) goals. The company supports clients in obtaining Renewable Energy Certificates (RSCs) and is committed to advancing green hydrogen technology as the next major development in renewable energy.

Solaric's journey reflects a commitment to innovation, sustainability, and expanding access to renewable energy. With a strategic focus on policy advocacy and technological advancements, the company is well-positioned to drive significant progress in Bangladesh's renewable energy sector and beyond.

# Jamuna Group expands globally with launch of Z&H Sourcing LLC in USA

## Jamuna Group Story

Jamuna Group proudly announces the launch of Z&H Sourcing LLC, a dedicated sourcing office in New York, USA, marking a key milestone in its global expansion.

This breakthrough expands Jamuna Group's footprint in the US market, enabling end-to-end sustainable apparel and textile solutions, from fiber to finished garments, with enhanced collaboration and door-to-door service. This strategic move reflects the commitment to growth and innovation on an international scale.

In 2024, Z&H Sourcing LLC is a proud initiative of Jamuna Group, one of Bangladesh's leading conglomerates, founded in 1974. They specialize in providing comprehensive apparel and textile sourcing solutions, covering the entire vertical from fiber to ready-made garments.

With a focus on optimizing product quality, enhancing productivity, and promoting sustainability, Jamuna group partner with factories to streamline production processes and adopt sustainable materials and practices.

And to deliver innovative and reliable solutions that empower our clients to thrive in a competitive and environmentally conscious industry, while offering door-to-door services to meet customer needs efficiently.

As one of Bangladesh's largest and most diversified conglomerates, Jamuna Group is vertically integrated operations span spinning, weaving, and garment manufacturing, producing premium-quality woven garments, and denim.

Additionally, Jamuna's cutting-edge facilities produce 36 million meters of Denim fabric and over 100 million meters of woven fabrics annually.

Z&H Sourcing LLC represents a gateway for expanded collaborations and transformative solutions, reinforcing Jamuna Group's vision to set global benchmarks in quality, sustainability, and customer service.

Z&H Sourcing LLC will leverage Jamuna Group's extensive expertise in sustainable and ethical sourcing, offering a comprehensive range of services, including:

- **Fiber to Finished Garment Solutions:** Sourcing and producing a wide variety of apparel and textile products, from raw materials to finished garments.
- **Enhanced Collaboration:** Direct, on-the-ground communication and collaboration with US-based clients.
- **Improved Efficiency:** Streamlined sourcing processes and faster turnaround times.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Commitment to ethical and



Figure: This strategic move positions Jamuna Group as a prominent player in the US market, offering end-to-end, sustainable apparel and textile solutions.

sustainable sourcing throughout the supply chain.

Along with 6 spinning units, its weaving capacity of 2.5 million yards per month and 50 lines for garmenting to produce 40,000 pieces per day, textile is a major thrust vertical of the highly reputed Jamuna Group with multiple business interest including the Jamuna Future Park, which is considered the largest shopping mall in South Asia and 3rd largest Mall in the world and also J.W. Marriot Dhaka which is set to open in 2018.

Jamuna Group, established by Nurul Islam Babul (Founder and Ex-Chairman) in 1974, entered the fashion textile business in 1994. Operating as a privately held company, it spans industries such as textiles, chemicals, leather, motorcycles, consumer products, media, and advertisement. Renowned for its significant contributions to the country's economy.

# Centro Tex and SOS Bangladesh renew partnership for vulnerable children

## Desk Report



Figure: The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony was attended by Nicolas Anton, Chief Operating Officer of Centro Tex Limited; Nadia Kader, Head of HR, Aysha Farjana, Manager HR, and Dr. Md. Enamul Haque, National Director of SOS Children's Villages Bangladesh.

Bangladesh-based, one of the leading fashion apparel manufacturers and suppliers, Centro Tex Ltd. renewed its partnership with SOS Children's Villages Bangladesh, focusing on enhancing the lives of vulnerable children through initiatives aimed at food security and Early Childhood Care & Development (ECD) programs.

As per the renewed commitment, Centro Tex Limited will support the "Enhancing Early Childhood Care and Development (ECD) Project through Innovative Intervention Strategies."

This project is designed to benefit 200 children across 10 ECD centers located in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, Chattogram, Bogura, and Sylhet.

The ECD program is dedicated to fostering the physical, socio-emotional, psychological, and language development of young children who have lost parental care or are at risk of losing it.

Also to build resilience, enhance school readiness, and promote social and emotional well-being by providing quality early childhood education. The initiative also includes specialized "Parenting" sessions to empower caregivers with the skills and knowledge to better support their children's growth and development.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony was attended by Nicolas Anton, Chief Operating Officer of Centro Tex Limited; Nadia Kader, Head of HR, Aysha Farjana, Manager HR, and Dr. Md. Enamul Haque, National Director of SOS Children's Villages Bangladesh.

Dalia Das, Senior Director, and Rashal Mia, Deputy Director of Fund Development & Communications were also present.

Centro Tex, a global leader in the textile sector, is committed to promoting education, sustainability, and innovation. The company's support of this initiative reflects its broader mission to empower students and encourage breakthroughs in textile technology.

This renewed partnership underscores Centro Tex Limited's dedication to creating a positive and lasting impact in the communities it serves, ensuring a brighter future for children in need.

# Epyllion Group awarded for HR Excellence

## Nurnahar Akter



Figure: Epyllion Group has been honored with the FBHRO Corporate HR Excellence Award 2024.

Epyllion Group has been honored with the FBHRO Corporate HR Excellence Award 2024, recognizing its commitment to setting new standards in human resources management.

This significant achievement was announced at the FBHRO- 6th National HR Convention 2024.

The award, recommended by the esteemed FBHRO Award Committee, acknowledges

Epyllion Group's dedication to:

- Upholding a positive corporate image.
- Implementing innovative and modern HR practices.
- Championing sustainability initiatives.
- Strategic allocation of resources for HR development.
- Maintaining transparent HR disclosure.



Receiving this award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our talented HR team and the organization's unwavering commitment to prioritizing people. We are honored to be recognized for our efforts in creating a positive and empowering work environment."



# Pure Chemicals Brings Soko Authentica to Bangladesh

Pure Chemicals, the exclusive distributor of Soko in Bangladesh, proudly introduces Soko Authentica, a revolutionary solution in denim fading. Moving beyond potassium permanganate, Authentica redefines natural fading with a stunning, authentic white look and striking contrasts while preserving the fabric's original texture. Unlike traditional substitutes, it eliminates artificial, flat tones and acidity, ensuring a genuine aged aesthetic.

Authored for ease in production, Authentica's activity stops after dryer activation, offering unmatched manageability. Additionally, it maintains the fabric's tearing strength, delivering consistent, high-quality results. Experience the future of denim fading with Soko Authentica—where authenticity meets innovation.



# *Soko Authentica*

*The new story  
after Permanganate*

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**Pure Chemicals**  
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Zschimmer & Schwarz, a German-based global leader in specialty chemicals, has been developing innovative solutions for diverse industries since its establishment in 1894. With a steadfast commitment to sustainability and customer satisfaction, the company delivers high-quality products backed by rigorous research and development.

Through its wide range of specialty chemicals, Zschimmer & Schwarz continues to support industries worldwide, offering tailored solutions and expert advice through its team of highly skilled technical professionals.



Figure 1: Michael Molière, Head of Business Unit Textile Auxiliaries at Zschimmer & Schwarz Mohsdorf GmbH & Co. KG.

# German chemical expertise steers with Bangladeshi textile firm

Amzad Hossain Monir

## Zschimmer & Schwarz

*A legacy of innovation and sustainability*

### Meet Michael Molière: Driving textile excellence in Bangladesh

Michael Molière, Head of Business Unit Textile Auxiliaries at Zschimmer & Schwarz Mohsdorf GmbH & Co. KG, has been an integral part of the company for over 20 years. Starting his career as a Dyeing Master, Molière rose through the ranks to lead the Textile Auxiliaries Unit in 2019. For nearly two decades, he has been closely connected to the Bangladeshi textile market, bringing his expertise and innovative solutions to the region.

During his recent visit to Bangladesh, Michael Molière shared insights on Zschimmer & Schwarz's unique solutions, core competencies, and the promising growth opportunities in the Bangladeshi market in an exclusive interview with Textile Today.

### Textile Today: Can you provide a brief overview of Zschimmer & Schwarz and its

### history, key milestones and achievements in the textile auxiliaries sector?

**Michael Molière:** Zschimmer & Schwarz, a global leader in specialty chemicals, celebrated its 130th anniversary this year. Founded in 1894 by Otto Zschimmer and Max Schwarz, the company has experienced significant growth since World War II. Today, with over 1600 employees, Zschimmer & Schwarz operates production facilities in 18 countries and generates a global turnover of approximately €850 million.

We are a fully vertically integrated chemical manufacturing company. Doing business in two main segments: chemicals processing division and performance chemical division.

In the chemicals processing division – where I am working – we produce specially made chemicals for leather, ceramics, textile and fiber industries. In the performance chemical division, where we produce ground chemistry, special detergent, and phosphonate for the big MNCs.

**Textile Today: Could you elaborate on the core product offerings of ZSCh in textile auxiliaries? Are there any recent innovations or breakthrough technologies for the industry?**

**Michael Molière:** From the beginning, we intended to offer a full solution range for the textile auxiliaries segment – via made and developed in Germany with German engineering. From pre-treatment to the dyeing process, to the finishing process, with Zschimmer & Schwarz’s well-known product groups – we provide tailor-made solutions for our customers’ requirements.

In terms of industrial specialties, we provide Phosphonates based products – A versatile class of chemicals used as scale and corrosion inhibitors, biocides, and flame retardants. A wide range of Surfactants for various applications, including cleaning, personal care, and textile processing. High-performance Polymers for coatings, adhesives, and other industrial applications. Also innovative solutions for water treatment, including coagulation, flocculation, and disinfection.

For Textile Chemicals – Zschimmer & Schwarz has a comprehensive range of chemicals for dyeing, printing, and finishing textiles. Also, Specialty Auxiliaries chemicals for improving the performance and appearance of textile products. Most importantly, our solutions stand for multi-functionality, efficiency and sustainability.

*To remain competitive, the textile industry must focus on reducing lead times and ensuring faster product delivery - both from suppliers like us to manufacturers and from manufacturers to brands. Sourcing sustainable fibers will also be critical for long-term viability. As water becomes the new gold, protecting this vital resource will be essential for safeguarding the next generation.*



**Michael Molière**

Head of Business Unit Textile Auxiliaries at Zschimmer & Schwarz Mohsdorf GmbH & Co. KG

**Textile Today: How would like to address the growth and progress of the Bangladesh T&A industry? What are the key challenges and opportunities you see here?**

**Michael Molière:** As somebody who has been exploring the market for 20 years and is one of Zschimmer & Schwarz’s top priority countries, I am extremely proud of how Bangladesh’s textile and apparel industry has progressed. In terms of overall quality, textile, management and adopting process. The country’s textile industry is always at the forefront of having the latest technology. In addition, consistency, sustainability and quality have been the key to its development.

I am happy to be one part of the puzzle. In a lot of discussion points, the owners and decision-makers want top-notch machinery and textile chemistry with better performance. Which gives them consistency, and minimizes factories’ daily challenges. And we are proud that with our full range of chemistry, we can support and give comfort to the local textile industry.

I aim to find customers/friends to work together with an emphasis on sustainable development and produce innovative solutions that are tailored precisely to the requirements of our clients.

**Bangladesh’s challenges**

Yes, there are challenges but it is not unique to Bangladesh only. Other leading textile and apparel manufacturing countries like China and Türkiye, etc. are shifting a portion of their orders to Bangladesh due



Figure 2: By partnering with Welkin Textiles Innovation Ltd., Zschimmer & Schwarz aims to accelerate market growth and significantly expand its market presence through innovative product offerings.



to rising costs and other factors.

I want to dispel the misconception that the textile industry will move out of Bangladesh in the future. Instead, it will remain here, contributing to educating the nation's people and enhancing the overall wellbeing of the country.

**Key priorities for future of textiles**

To remain competitive, the textile industry must focus on reducing lead times and ensuring faster product delivery - both from suppliers like us to manufacturers and from manufacturers to brands. Sourcing sustainable fibers will also be critical for long-term viability. As water becomes the new gold, protecting this vital resource will be essential for safeguarding the next generation.

This is a call to action for Bangladesh's textile industry entrepreneurs, machinery makers, and chemical producers to collaborate. Together, we must develop a clear plan and vision for the next 10 to 15 years to drive sustainable growth.

With over two decades of experience in the market, I believe this is the perfect time to reignite business opportunities in Bangladesh. The country is brimming with open-minded, highly experienced entrepreneurs who are ready to create sustainable textiles for the global market.

**Textile Today: How do you envision this partnership between Zschimmer & Schwarz and Welkin Textiles Innovation Ltd. contributing to the growth and development of the Bangladesh textile industry?**

**Michael Molière:** By partnering with Welkin Textiles Innovation Ltd., a dynamic, young, and innovative company, Zschimmer & Schwarz aims to accelerate market growth and significantly expand its market presence through innovative product offerings. The strategic partnership of Zschimmer & Schwarz and Welkin Textiles Innovation will provide enhanced support and service for the country's textile industry.

**Textile Today: What specific steps is Zschimmer & Schwarz taking to promote sustainability in its products and processes?**

**Michael Molière:** At Zschimmer & Schwarz, sustainability is not just a marketing slogan—it's the foundation of our business. Coming from Germany, sustainability is embedded in our values. As a bluesign® system partner, we prioritize environmentally friendly practices, offering chemical auxiliaries that are often GOTS and OEKO-TEX® certified, ensuring they are safe for both people and the planet. By adhering to ZDHC MRSL standards, we actively contribute to building a more sustainable textile industry.

**Our commitment to innovation drives us to develop new sustainable solutions for textile processing:**

• **OPTAVON LTB:** This environmentally friendly hydrogen peroxide activator enables low-temperature bleaching of cotton and its blends. It accelerates the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide, significantly reducing both bleaching temperatures and times, saving energy, and enhancing efficiency.

• **SINCAL EBC:** A cutting-edge ecological bleaching compound that allows customers to focus on sustainable development by saving water, reducing process time, and lowering carbon emissions.

• **ZETESAL LTS:** A biodegradable soaping agent for reactive dyeing and printing on cellulose fibers. ZETESAL LTS allows soaping at a low temperature of 70°C, achieving excellent wash fastness while significantly reducing energy consumption and process time.

Most importantly, with Zschimmer & Schwarz's innovative product line, we provide customers with sustainable products and process solutions that seamlessly combine profitability and environmental conservation. Together, we're shaping a future where business success goes hand-in-hand with sustainability.

# Ecodesign awards German chemical giant's water-efficient dyeing technology

**Desk Report**



Figure: Celebrating Sustainability, PIGMENTURA wins the German Ecodesign Award.

PIGMENTURA, an innovative water-saving dyeing technology developed by the German chemical giant CHT Group, has been honored with the prestigious German Ecodesign Award in the Product category.

Inspired by Inditex, CHT Group developed PIGMENTURA, a groundbreaking dyeing process that significantly reduces water consumption by up to 96%. This achievement demonstrates the potential for innovation and sustainability within the textile industry.

The German Ecodesign Award, presented annually by the German Ministry for the Environment and the German Environment Agency, recognizes outstanding contributions to sustainable economic and social development.

PIGMENTURA exemplifies how rethinking existing processes can lead to significant environmental benefits. Traditional pigment dyeing involves complex binding processes, while PIGMENTURA utilizes a unique adsorption method, simplifying the process and minimizing water usage. Overcoming various challenges, CHT successfully standardized this process for a wide range of textiles.

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# Common problems in reactive printing



**Ashraf Alam**, Director of Printing, M.N. Dyeing, Printing & Washing Mills Limited

Reactive printing is a critical process in the textile industry that often encounters challenges such as running shades and uneven shades.

## • Running shade:

Running shade refers to the phenomenon where the dye spreads uncontrollably on the fabric during the printing or dyeing process. This results in blurred or distorted patterns and inconsistent color intensity in the design. The primary causes include inadequate viscosity of the printing paste, over-application of the dye, and improper fixation or drying, which allows the dye to migrate before it is fixed on the fabric.

## • Uneven shade:

Uneven shade is characterized by non-uniform coloration across the fabric, leading to visible patches, streaks, or variations in tonal intensity. This defect arises from irregular application of the printing paste, inconsistent absorption of the dye due to fabric pre-treatment anomalies or quality variations, and instability in processing conditions such as temperature, humidity, or chemical composition. Uneven shades significantly affect the aesthetic and functional quality of the finished textile

These issues arise due to chemical reactions, improper chemical adjustments, and process inefficiencies. Reactive printing primarily relies on chemicals and thickeners as its main materials, and maintaining pH control is crucial for achieving consistent quality. Below is an overview of the causes and solutions for common problems in reactive printing.

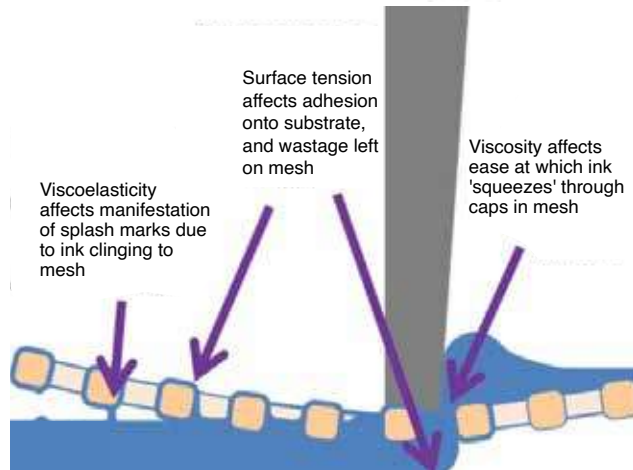
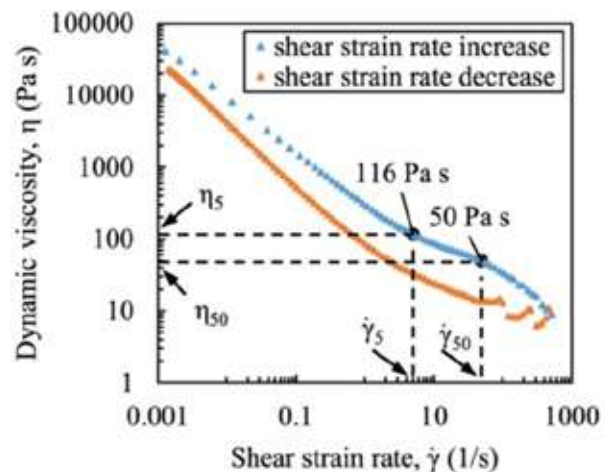
## Key challenges in reactive Printing

### 1. Chemical reactions and viscosity Issues

- » Reactive printing involves thickeners with electrolytic properties that interact with dyestuff. When dye is added, a viscosity drop often occurs. Improper adjustment of viscosity can lead to running shades.
- » The choice of the right thickener and dyestuff is crucial. Monochromatic and vinyl sulfonic dyestuffs are commonly used for their better hydrolysis and color stability properties. These dyestuffs also enhance the lifetime of the print, especially monochromatic dyestuffs, which maintain stability for around 48 hours.

### 2. Thickener performance

- » Natural thickeners such as Alginate (Sodium Alginate),



Tamarind Gum generally perform better in reactive printing due to their lower viscosity drop and greater stability. Synthetic thickeners, while offering better colorant and brightness properties, have drawbacks such as increased viscosity drop during rotary printing.

- » During the printing process, color is pumped from the drum to the screen. As the rotary drum speed increases, synthetic thickeners may not maintain their viscosity, leading to uneven or running shades.

### 3. Urea evaporation

- » Urea is a critical component in reactive printing, but at high temperatures, it evaporates from the fabric. If urea content is not properly controlled, it can cause uneven shades.

#### 4. Fabric Layer Temperature Variation

- » In certain cases, fabric layers may experience uneven drying. For example, in layered fabrics, the inner layers retain higher temperatures than the outer layers, causing shade inconsistencies.

#### 5. Moisture Absorption

- » In humid conditions, particularly during the rainy season, fabrics can absorb excess moisture from the air if not properly covered. This is especially true for trolley-printed fabrics, where the top and edges are more exposed to air moisture. Uneven moisture absorption leads to shade irregularities during steaming.

### Solutions to Common Problems

To address these challenges, the following precautions and process improvements should be implemented:

#### 1. Thickener Selection

- » Use thickeners with low viscosity drop properties to achieve better stability during the printing process. Natural thickeners are recommended for reactive printing due to their reliable performance.

#### 2. Process Parameter Control

- » Maintain proper pH levels and ensure accurate adjustment of chemical compositions.
- » Control the rotation speed of the rotary drum to minimize viscosity fluctuations during printing.

#### 3. Dyestuff Selection

- » Choose high-quality dyestuffs such as monochromatic or vinyl sulfonic dyestuffs for better hydrolysis and improved color fastness.

#### 4. Temperature Regulation

- » Use dryers for even temperature distribution during drying, especially for cotton fabrics.
- » For viscose fabrics, implement cooling methods to prevent shade variations, as viscose is highly sensitive during printing.

#### 5. Moisture Control

- » During the rainy season or in high-moisture environments, cover fabrics with polythene to prevent moisture absorption.
- » Ensure uniform steaming conditions to avoid uneven moisture evaporation.

#### 6. Advanced Fabric Handling

- » Employ cooling machines to relax the fabric and maintain even temperature storage during printing. This reduces the risk of running shades and ensures uniform quality.

By addressing these issues and adopting proper precautions, reactive printing processes can achieve higher quality outputs with reduced occurrences of running or uneven shades. Careful control over thickener properties, dyestuff selection, and process parameters will ensure consistent results and improved efficiency.

## RECIPE SHOULD HAVE TO BE FOLLOWED PROPERLY TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED PRINT EFFECT.

### WATER BASE

- FLOCK GUM-CHINA
- GLITTER PASTE (F53)-CHINA
- SILVER GLITTER PASTE-CHINA
- GOLDEN GLITTER PASTE-CHINA
- PG GUM-TAIWAN
- NYLON FIXER-TAIWAN
- MATT COATING-CHINA
- ANTI MIGRATION PASTE-CHINA
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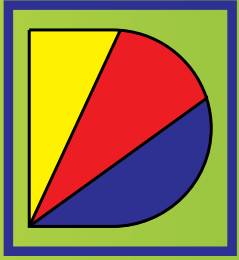
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# Bio-based dyes are shaping Bangladesh's denim future

Safiun Nahar Elma

The core of the global fashion denim industry is further in the eye of the storm over pollution concerns. The mass production of garments has a polluted water resource, exposed workers to toxic chemicals, and used excessive energy sources. In this regard, bio-based dyes are making their way into the market and trending as products with lesser environmental impact, proving to be a game changer.

## Market of bio-based denim dyes

According to a report by Fortune Business Insights, the global bio-based dyes market is expected to rise at a CAGR of 10.3% from 2023 to 2030. This growth is an appreciation of the increasing number of global consumers and brands switching to sustainable and green production.

Today, early leaders such as Denmark-based Oclarine Bio and French biotech Pili Bio and Synovance are setting the pace in this ongoing process. Through microbial fermentation using genetically engineered yeast and natural renewable feedstocks, they have their bio-dyes that are environmentally friendly, for they have minimal impact on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, water consumption, and chemical discharge. It is widely stated that bio-based dyes are 60-90% less ecologically burdensome than their synthetic counterparts. For example, Pili Bio's natural dyes offer memorable bright shades that do not generate dangerous waste, such as aniline, that is dangerous to human health and the environment.

## The second biggest exporter of denim

Thus, being the second largest exporter of denim, Bangladesh now finds itself at a crossroads in terms of Sustainability. Denim production is one of the largest industries contributing to the country's GDP, but old-world dyeing practices have posed serious environmental problems, as seen in contaminated water and high energy consumption.

Shahid Ahmed, a senior professional at a Bangladeshi denim mill, stated: "There is great potential for bio-based dyes in Bangladesh." These sustainable dyes meet international compliance levels and would not require extra investment in dyeing equipment."

## Global and regional tendencies

Globally, premium brands purchase bio-based dyes to integrate their goods with environment-related objectives. Levi's has worked with innovators to integrate natural dyes into the clothes it produces among its collections. Residents of Humanity Group, the denim producer, has recently

collaborated with the biotechnology firm denim manufacturer Órta to develop Bio-Indigo, an eco-friendly dyeing material.

Currently, elements of sustainable dyeing are already present in countries such as Pakistan and South Asia. In conjunction with Bozzetto Group, Sporty Enterprises has helped implement a dyeing process that does not include chemicals such as sodium dithionite. Such activities can be examples for Bangladesh, where similar models can be applied to the circular denim fashion.

## Focusing point to be noted

**Environmental benefits:** The use of bio-based dyes can cut down the pollution of water, toxic wastes, and the energy carried in conventional dyes to a large extent.

**Global market appeal:** Implementing sustainable practices will ensure that the Bangladesh fashion denim industry targets international buyers' green consciousness.

**Improved worker welfare by avoiding greenwashing:** Reducing the use of unbeneficial chemicals helps to make the working conditions of factories safe for the employees.

## Bio-based dyeing has made remarkable progress in Bangladesh.

More encouragingly, though, a few Bangladeshi mills have begun cautiously to play around with bio-dyes. A pilot study by a denim manufacturer in Dhaka showed that microbial fermented dyes received reasonable performance in terms of color brightness and treatment of effluent. Similarly, the executives of Sameet Dye Chem provide green chemicals, such as 100% bio-based black pigments, instead of petroleum-based chemicals. For instance, current techniques such as AMA Herbal's Bio Indigo® dye made from GOTS Version-V, ZDHC, & REACH certification are relatively emerging in Bangladesh.

Last but not least By observing the trend of brands all over the world going green, Bangladesh is not able to avoid bio-dyes. The transition will improve the organization's international standing while protecting the future development of the textile industry in an ever more environmentally aware world. It said that political support, research funds, and global partnerships help Bangladesh successfully eliminate the cost constraint and integrate Sustainability. The training programs and Green certification will ensure a strong position as a responsible and competitive exporter of denim products.

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Noize Jeans aims towards ZERO in water usage and carbon emissions (Part-2)



# Inside Denim Première Vision: Trends, talks, and tomorrow's jeanswear

Md Muddassir Rashid, European Bureau Chief, Textile Today Innovation Hub

Milan, the global fashion capital, once again set the stage for the Denim Première Vision latest edition, held on December 4 and 5, 2024. The show took place at the Superstudio Più, a venue renowned for its contemporary vibe and ability to host creative showcases.

This much-anticipated event brought together key players in the denim industry, including designers, brands, manufacturers, and trendsetters worldwide. Hosted in the heart of Italy's design capital, the trade show celebrated innovation, sustainability, and creativity in denim craftsmanship.

## A Focus on sustainability and circular fashion



Figure 1: Denim Première Vision Milan 2024.

This year's Denim Première Vision stood out for its strong emphasis on sustainability and circular fashion. Many exhibitors highlighted their commitment to reducing the environmental footprint of denim production. From innovative dyeing techniques that minimize water usage to recycled fabrics and biodegradable fibers, reflecting the industry's ongoing commitment to reducing its environmental footprint.

Archroma introduced Denim Halo an innovative technology that allows the production of laser friendly Denim without any laser booster or Potassium Permanganate.

"Along with other important benefits, our product offers the opportunity to optimize resource consumption by shortening the washing process & time," said Umberto De Vita, Denim Segment Director at Archroma.

Officina39, an Italian textile chemical & Auxiliaries



Figure 2: This year's Denim Première Vision stood out for its strong emphasis on sustainability and circular fashion.

manufacturer, has developed a new Enzyme that works alone on the garment without any water. And this Enzyme can 100% replace the conventional pumice stone process.

Andrea Venier, Managing Director of Officina39, shared with us "This new Enzyme is a new milestone in Officina39 Aqualess Mission, to get stone-wash and authentic vintage looks in conventional machines, at room temperature."

ISKO is a very familiar name in the Denim arena. ISKO exhibited numerous recycled denim fabrics along with their other innovations for SS26. One of the key innovations that they were showing at Denim Premier Vision is Multitouch, a fabric that has endless possibilities and that can be used in many different ways by the designers.

"Our focus for this season is recycled fibers and reusing textile waste within our fabrics," added Keith O'Brien, Isko's senior global marketing & PR manager.

Denim Première Vision reaffirmed its role as a trailblazer in



Figure 3: Denim Première Vision reaffirmed its role as a trailblazer in the denim world



Figure 4: Md Muddassir Rashid, European Bureau Chief, Textile Today Innovation Hub in Denim Première Vision Milan 2024.

the denim world, with over 70 exhibitors from 14 countries showcasing their latest collections and solutions for the Spring-Summer 2026 season.

The trend toward movement and deconstruction brought fresh energy to classic designs. Wide, relaxed shapes and playful details like slits and fluid effects redefined denim for a youthful, bold audience.

Retro-inspired silhouettes, patchwork aesthetics, and indigo-dyed traditional weaves paid homage to denim's storied past. At the same time, futuristic designs, including metallic coatings, smart textiles, and performance-enhancing features, pointed toward the fabric's versatility in addressing modern consumer needs.

Keith O'Brien from ISKO said, "Our luxury collections, developed by creative director Paolo Nuti, are a very extraordinary collection of Jacquard fabric that's focused on the luxury market."

The Fashion Forum served as a centerpiece, offering visitors an immersive experience with innovative garments and sustainable concepts curated exclusively for the upcoming season. The new season's themes underscored denim's evolution as a versatile, eco-conscious fabric. Innovations such as recycled fibers, sculptural volumes, and bold color palettes stood out.

### A global networking hub

With exhibitors and visitors from around the world, the Denim Première Vision Trade Show reinforced its status as a global hub for networking. The event facilitated countless connections, collaborations, and opportunities for both established brands and emerging designers.

# DENIM NEXT SHOW SAVE THE DATE MILAN 21-22 MAY 2025

### Engaging talks and seminars

The show's educational program was another highlight, featuring a lineup of inspiring talks and interactive workshops. Attendees gained insights into trends, technical innovations, and market dynamics through expert-led sessions. Key seminars included:

**"Denim Titans":** A panel discussion with iconic figures such as Jimmy Taverniti and Adriano Goldschmied, reflecting on denim's history and future.

**"Jeans: Impact and Innovation":** A deep dive into how sustainability can transform the denim industry.

**"Artificial Intelligence: The Tip of the Iceberg":** Exploring AI's growing role in design and production processes.

The Denim Fashion District, now in its sixth edition, spotlighted emerging brands and upcycling initiatives, reinforcing the event's commitment to responsible fashion.

"We are very happy with the show. There is a nice vibe. There are a lot of people, a lot of designers, brands. So we are very enthusiastic about this show, and we are happy to be here" expressed Alberto Lucchin, Marketing & Sustainability Manager at Tonello.

The 2024 Denim Première Vision Trade Show in Milan was a resounding success, offering a perfect blend of innovation, sustainability, and creativity. As the industry continues to evolve, this event remains a vital platform for shaping the future of denim fashion. With its strong focus on sustainability and forward-thinking designs, the show celebrated the art of denim and emphasized the importance of responsible practices in shaping a more sustainable industry.

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Figure: T&A leaders during the discussion in Bangladesh Denim Expo.

# Denim captains point strategies for Bangladesh to lead global fashion by 2030

Staff Correspondent

Textile and apparel industry captains identified partnership, innovation, and product development as the key factors to propel Bangladesh's T&A industry to the top. Leaders discuss this at the 17th Bangladesh Denim Expo.

Showkat Aziz Russell, President, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) said, "As the representative of BTMA, I am proud to share that our industry has invested a significant \$23 billion. We're on a positive trajectory, but challenges persist.

**"Amidst the ongoing transition, we can collaborate and share ideas to further elevate the industry's performance."**



**Showkat Aziz Russell**  
President, BTMA

Anwar Hossain, Administrator, BGMEA & Vice Chairman, Export Promotion Bureau, said, "While the Bangladesh apparel industry has made significant progress, it still has room for improvement, particularly in the area of man-made fiber production."

Antonio Alessandro, Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh said, "Italy boasts a rich heritage in denim, fashion, and innovation. While Bangladesh has already established itself as a global leader in denim production, there's still room for further collaboration and growth."

Abhishek Nath, Country Director, Lidl & Kaufland Asia said, "The textile and apparel industry has made significant strides in sustainability, with a substantial number of Green factories. However, navigating the increasingly stringent EU regulations will require enhanced transparency and compliance."

**"The ultimate goal is to achieve net-zero emissions."**



**Manish Chauhan**  
Chairman, Noize Jeans

"This requires a shift towards sustainable raw materials and process optimization to reduce CO2 emissions," Manish Chauhan, Chairman, Noize Jeans added

Ziaur Rahman, Regional Country Manager, Production (Bangladesh, Pakistan & Ethiopia), H&M said, "While the industry has made significant progress, the gap between workers and owners remains a persistent challenge.

**We need to foster stronger collaboration between brands and manufacturers to ensure transparency and fair practices.**



**Ziaur Rahman**  
Regional Country Manager, Production (Bangladesh, Pakistan & Ethiopia), H&M.

**"To stay competitive, we must prioritize innovation and product development."**



**Syed M Tanvir**  
Managing Director, Pacific Jeans

While technological advancements have occurred, our industry still lags in this area. Unlike our competitors, we cannot rely on external guidance and must drive innovation independently."

Werner Lange, Coordinator, Sustainable Economic Development/Training and Employment Cluster, GIZ Bangladesh said, "GIZ's collaboration with Bangladesh has been instrumental in driving sustainable development. By sharing expertise and supporting key sectors, GIZ has contributed to the country's progress."

Answering the question 'What industry besides RMG holds export potential' Warner Lange said, "I believe that the leather industry still holds significant potential for diversification. However, quality remains a major challenge. He suggests that investing a few hundred million dollars could yield billions in returns, making it a worthwhile endeavor for the new government."

Mostafiz Uddin, Managing Director of Denim Expert Ltd. Founder & CEO of Bangladesh Apparel Exchange gave welcome speech there and Syed M Tanvir, Managing Director, Pacific Jeans moderated the event.

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*Team Textile Today had an insightful interview with Manish Chauhan, Co-Founder of Noize Jeans, where he shared 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.*

# Noize Jeans aims towards ZERO in water usage and carbon emissions (Part-2)

Rahbar Hossain



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

**Textile Today: What challenges does the denim industry face in achieving sustainability, and how are Noize Jeans working to address these?**

**Manish Chauhan:** When you do traditional denim washing, especially with harsh treatments like acid washes, you're almost consuming up to 240 liters of water for just one pair of jeans. This is extremely high. So, as I mentioned, we were newcomers back in 2015, and we started thinking about how to reduce water consumption from the very beginning.

When we set up our new factory, we focused on minimizing water usage. We invested in innovative machines with a low liquor ratio and systems for water recirculation. We also modified many of our processes. Initially, we were using almost 60% less water compared to other manufacturers. But today, we've improved even further and are now using nearly 80% less water than traditional methods.

With our latest developments, we've managed to bring water consumption down to just 10 liters per pair of jeans, compared to the original 240 liters. Imagine the level of innovation and reduction we've achieved. Our next goal, which we plan to reach within the next 12 months, is to achieve zero water discharge.

**Textile Today: Are you seeing an increase in consumer awareness and demand for sustainably produced denim? How does**

**this influence your approach?**

**Manish Chauhan:** Yes, because if you look at the trends, awareness about sustainability is mostly driven by social media. And who uses social media the most? It's the younger generation, especially Gen Z. The highest level of awareness is seen among those aged 15 to 25.

If you compare this to consumers aged 45 to 55, their buying patterns are shaped differently. For them, sustainability is not as much of a priority; they are still purchasing, but they aren't necessarily checking labels for sustainability.

On the other hand, younger consumers, especially those in the 14 to 18 age range, have many questions like: 'What are you guys doing to be sustainable?' and 'Why are you polluting?'

They are always looking for what sets a product apart in terms of sustainability. So, yes, when it comes to fashion products, the more sustainable you are, the more you can increase your sales, especially among the younger demographic.

**Textile Today: How do you perceive the business outlook for the denim industry over the next few years?**

**Manish Chauhan:** Denim has become like bread and butter for the industry. It's a staple, meaning it's an essential product that will never go away. In the fashion world, the dominance of denim is increasing again. Although it declined in popularity about two years ago, we saw a shift last year, and this year, it's making a strong comeback. During those two years, trends shifted towards lighter and more colorful fabrics.

However, now high fashion is moving back towards denim. We're also innovating by creating denim that mimics a sporty look. Next year, we'll be launching a new line of denim that features a very lightweight fabric with a sportswear look and feel, so even consumers who prefer lighter, polyester-based fabrics can enjoy it.

**Textile Today: What regions or demographics are showing significant growth potential for denim, and how are Noize Jeans catering to these markets?**

**Manish Chauhan:** Looking at the future, I believe it's promising. Geographically, the U.S. and Europe are the two major hubs where denim demand is strong. China is a unique case—it's not only a massive production hub but also meets its substantial domestic demand. China controls around 40% of the global textile market. There's a significant gap between China and other countries due to its production capacity, which allows it to cater to both its domestic needs and global markets.

To understand market dynamics, you have to look beyond population numbers and focus on consumer purchasing power. For example, China's economy is around \$18 to \$19 trillion, whereas India's is only about \$4 trillion. This difference affects the denim market significantly.

Moreover, political transitions around the world, like Trump's potential return as the 47th President, could influence global trade. This is why we need to explore new markets and opportunities, especially for countries like India and China, which are more sensitive to policy changes. China, for instance, has faced several sanctions in the past years, especially during Trump's administration. If further sanctions are imposed, it could put additional pressure on their production and exports.

The bulk of sales globally, whether in the U.S., Europe, or even Bangladesh, happens in the affordable price range of \$20 to \$25. Bangladesh excels in producing basic denim products efficiently, and I don't think geopolitical shifts or political changes will have a significant impact on this segment. Yes, there may be some marginal effects, but nothing substantial.

**Textile Today: What does the future of Noize Jeans look like to you, and what goals are you setting for the company in the coming years?**

**Manish Chauhan:** Our first goal in the coming years is to become one of the most sustainable companies in the world. As I've mentioned before, sustainability for us means achieving zero environmental impact. We're working towards reaching zero across all areas—whether it's water usage or carbon emissions. We're also developing projects to share our technical know-how with other companies to help them upgrade their sustainability practices.

In terms of expansion, we're not looking to grow too much within the same denim category. Instead, we're adding more departments. We'll be acquiring factories in other categories, like t-shirts, fleece jackets, and formal clothing. We've also launched a new company called Noize Branches, which will manage these new divisions.

We're also planning to dive deeper into raw materials. We'll be starting our fabric manufacturing unit to create fully sustainable products. We're exploring innovations with new fibers, such as banana and pineapple fibers, which we'll produce in-house.

Another major focus for us is sustainable accessories. Accessories are a big deal, and we've already developed concepts and products around this. For example, we're creating paper from our jute waste. The goal is to make our entire company zero waste. All of our paper trims and hangers will be made from agricultural waste—no plastic involved. We're even developing sustainable polybags. While most polybags today are made from recycled polypropylene (PP), we're introducing a new line of polybags that are starch-based, using corn to create a fully biodegradable product.

We're planning to launch this sustainable division by 2025. We'll produce all of these items in-house, not just for our consumption but also for selling to other markets.

Read Full Interview



# Bleaching process problem & solution in denim washing

Syed Maruf Ahmed, MSc in Textile (KUET), Assistant Technical Officer (Ha-Meem Group)



*Bleach, primarily sodium hypochlorite or hydrogen peroxide, plays a pivotal role in denim processing, acting as a crucial agent in lightening the fabric's color. This chemical treatment is essential for achieving a wide range of denim shades, from subtle fades to dramatic, almost white effects.*

*Denim bleaching involves immersing the fabric in a bleach solution, either directly or diluted with water. The intensity of the bleaching effect is determined by the concentration of the bleach and the duration of the treatment. To prevent further damage to the fabric, the bleaching process is halted by neutralizing the bleach with anti-color agents such as sodium metabisulfite. Excessive bleach usage can weaken the denim fibers, resulting in increased softness but potentially compromising the fabric's durability.*

*Figure: Denim washing has evolved into a sophisticated art form, with bleach washes playing a crucial role in achieving diverse aesthetics.*

Denim washing has evolved into a sophisticated art form, with bleach washes playing a crucial role in achieving diverse aesthetics. From subtle fades to dramatic bleaching effects, these techniques enhance denim's appeal and contribute to its enduring popularity. The dyeing and finishing processes of readymade jeans have become increasingly sophisticated in recent years, driven by the growing demand for fashionable and comfortable denim wear. Designers continually explore innovative modifications and styling techniques to attract a discerning and ever-growing customer base.

## **Purpose of bleaching**

Bleaching is a crucial step in denim finishing, primarily used to achieve desired fading effects and soften the fabric. It involves treating denim with chemicals, typically sodium hypochlorite or hydrogen peroxide, to lighten the color. This process also removes starch and sizing agents from the fabric.

## Types of Bleach

**Chlorine Bleach:** Contains hypochlorite, a powerful oxidizing agent.

**Oxygen Bleach:** Includes peroxides like hydrogen peroxide, considered safer and more environmentally friendly.

**Reducing Bleaches:** Less common, used for specific applications like wool bleaching.

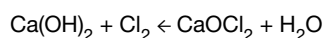
## Effects on Fabric

While effective in lightening denim, excessive bleaching can weaken fibers and potentially damage the fabric. Bleaches can be harmful. Inhalation of fumes, skin contact, or ingestion can cause health issues.

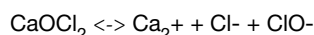
## Bleaching with Calcium Hypochlorite (CaOCl<sub>2</sub>)

Bleaching powder is a mixture of calcium hypochlorite, CaOCl<sub>2</sub> and calcium chloride CaCl<sub>2</sub>. Thus, its chemical composition is CaOCl<sub>2</sub> + CaCl<sub>2</sub> or can be written as CaOCl<sub>2</sub> or Ca (OCl) Cl (Calcium Chloro Hypochlorite).

Bleaching powder is manufactured by passing chlorine gas over dry slaked lime at 400C.



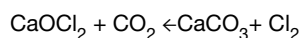
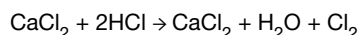
It is a yellowish-white powder with a strong smell of chlorine and is soluble in water. Aqueous solution of bleaching powder contains chloride and hypochlorite ions.



In the presence of small quantities of dilute acids, it liberates nascent oxygen. Thus, it acts as an oxidizing agent.



When bleaching powder is treated with excess of dilute acid or CO<sub>2</sub>, the whole of the chlorine present in the molecules is evolved. The amount of chlorine so liberated is called available chlorine. A good sample of bleaching powder contains 35-38% available chlorine.



## Bleaching with Sodium Hypochlorite (NaOCl)

Bleaching with sodium hypochlorite is by far the most common bleaching process. It is used when the indigo's color needs to be lightened as required by fashion, as well as to clean up the pocket linen and the inner face of the jeans (weft). This particular bleaching process is preferably used whenever a strong contrast between blue and white fibers is desired since it gives the bluest cast of all bleaching processes. Moreover, this process is very cost-effective, however, a major disadvantage is that the AOX content, a measure of organic halogen compounds, often exceeds the permitted effluent pollution.

Sodium hypochlorite is a powerful oxidizing agent with a corresponding high redox potential. Hypochlorite consequently reacts relatively unselective; it reacts even with the fibers. The danger of fiber damage with this bleaching

agent is much greater compared to other bleaching processes. Due to its high oxidation agent potential, hypochlorite bleaching is carried out at low temperatures (approx. 40C).

The actual bleaching agent in bleaching liquors is not sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) itself, but the Hypochlorous acid (HOCl) which is formed from it in a pH-sensitive equilibrium. To ensure mild bleaching conditions, a pH range between 9.0-11.5 has been found as an optimum range for effective bleaching. Since, under practical conditions, pH levels below 10 are difficult to keep constant, an initial pH range of 11.0-12.5 is selected, as a rule to take into account the consumption of soda ash or caustic soda.

The control of the pH value is very important. The strongest bleaching activity is at pH 9.5 - 12.5; at pH 5 - 7 the activity is the lowest. After reaching the required bleaching effect, the bleaching process has to be stopped in the same bath by using hydrogen peroxide or sodium bisulfite.

Another disadvantage of hypochlorite is that the solution loses strength over time, especially at higher temperatures in hot regions. This makes the reproducibility much more complicated, because the amount of hypochlorite should be adjusted by the strength of the solution. But mostly it is only adjusted by continuously checking the bleaching progress.

## Bleaching with potassium permanganate

Potassium permanganate is a very strong oxidative agent. It's a deep red-violet metallic shiny crystalline solid. It can be dissolved in water to form a dark violet solution which is well suitable to bleach denim. Potassium permanganate can be used for local bleaching by spraying application or for complete treatments in drum washing machines. The potassium permanganate solution must be mixed very well with the washing liquor, because of dissolved permanganate can cause different shades in only one bath.

After reaching the desired bleaching effect the rest of unconsumed potassium permanganate and the formed brown manganese oxide hydrate have to be removed thoroughly. After 1-2 rinse bathes the removal of the remaining manganese oxide is usually carried out with sodium bisulfate, respectively SO<sub>2</sub>.

The bleaching process can be used even for every pale shade because potassium permanganate can reduce indigo as well as sulfur dyes. When a longer bleaching process is applied, the jeans processed accordingly can even be completely decolorized.

The reproducibility of the bleaching effect is very good, as long as the same conditions are kept in terms of load weight, liquor ratio, temperature, run time, pH and amount of potassium permanganate. The fabric is not as stressed as with hypochlorite. However, the blue cast is very grey and the garments become very flat.

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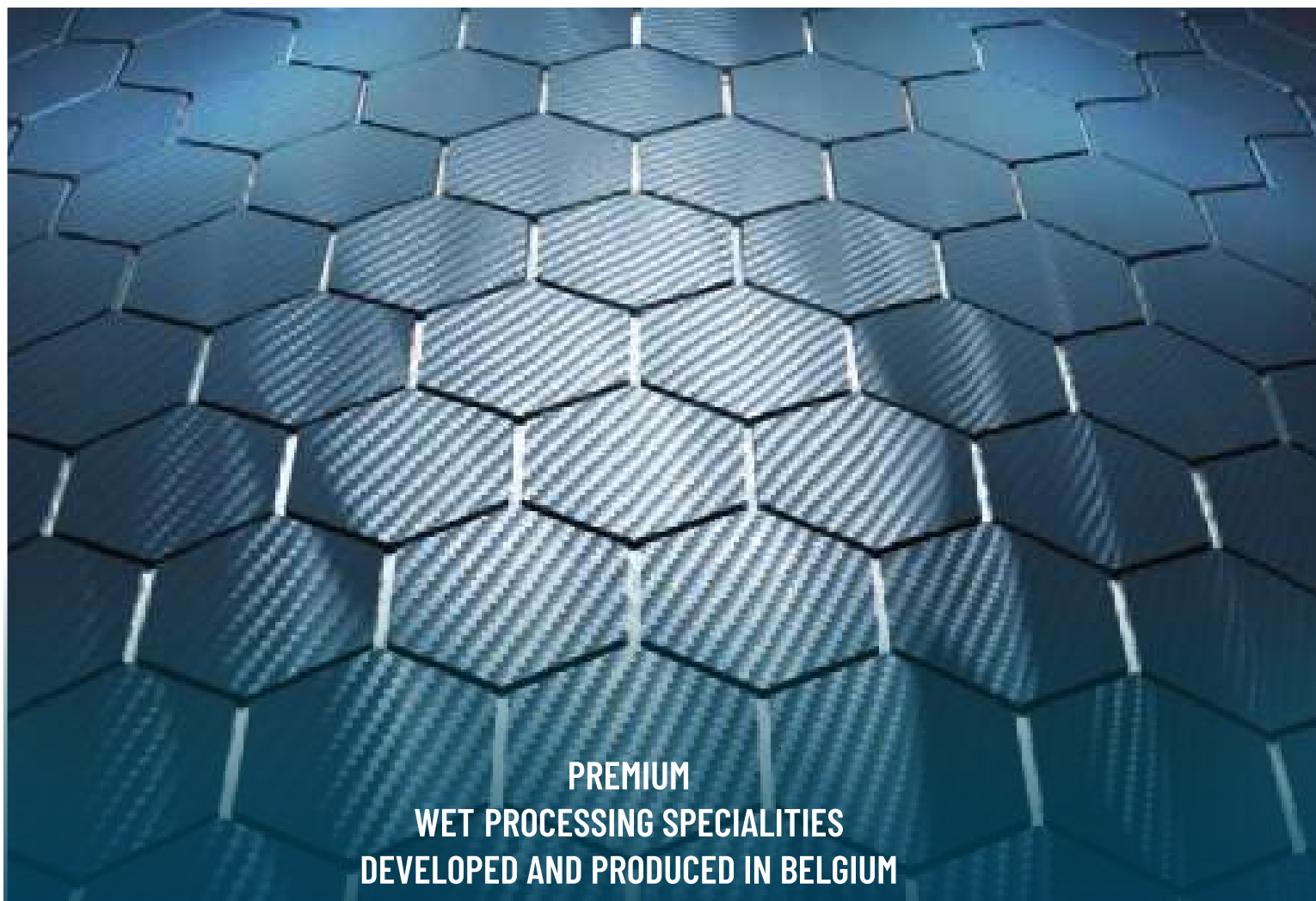
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poised to tap into  
**\$1bn** textile recycling  
market





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SPECIALITIES

# Creating functional SOP key to garment quality to fulfill brand requirements

**Future of textiles lies in mastering fit, engaging graduates, and adopting collaboration for sustainable success**

Jahangir Alam, Technical Manager, Next Sourcing



Figure: Jahangir Alam, Technical Manager, Next Sourcing.

*As a technical expert with over two decades in the apparel industry, I have witnessed the transformation of Bangladesh into a global garment manufacturing hub. Yet, the challenges we face today - from maintaining quality standards, low-quality production, inconsistent quality control, and a lack of skilled manpower to meeting buyer expectations - require us to adopt new strategies, technology, and sustainable practices. This column explores practical insights to bridge gaps in our processes, nurture innovation, and create a stronger, more inclusive industry.*

## Power of SOPs: A roadmap to consistency

Why it matters: A major concern is the lack of emphasis on quality throughout the production process. From raw material sourcing to final inspection, quality control measures are often inadequate. This leads to frequent rejections by buyers and significant financial losses. As a way out, every great product begins with a solid process. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are the backbone of manufacturing, ensuring consistency and quality at every step. Yet, in many factories, SOPs are either not well-documented or not strictly followed.

### What we can do:

- Establish clear SOPs: From tech pack review to final shipment, create detailed SOPs for every stage.
- Audit and train: Regular audits and training programs ensure teams adhere to these standards.
- Track progress: Use digital tools to monitor deviations and maintain real-time accountability.

Takeaway: When SOPs are functional and strictly followed, they reduce errors, improve efficiency, and build buyer confidence in 'right-first-time' (RFT) products. In addition, the industry needs to prioritize quality control at every stage of production. The textile & apparel (T&A) industry needs process audits to ensure RFT every time. This requires investing in training and development programs for workers, improving technical skills, and adopting a culture of

quality within factories. Finally, creating a more conducive and attractive working environment for skilled professionals is crucial for attracting and retaining talent in the industry.

## Fit for success: Mastering fit expertise with technology

Why it matters: Fit is not just about measurements; it is about delivering comfort, style, and confidence to the wearer. Achieving the perfect fit in one go is critical to reducing sample iterations and improving lead times.

- Invest in 3D technology: Tools like CLO and Browzwear allow us to simulate garments virtually, ensuring a precise fit before the first sample is even cut.
- Focus on fit training: Build teams with specialized knowledge in pattern adjustments and movement analysis.
- Streamline communication: A well-reviewed tech pack and a seamless handover process between design and production teams can avoid costly mistakes.

Takeaway: 3D technology and a robust fit strategy can cut down sample submissions by up to 50%, saving time and resources.

## Worker engagement: Heart of sustainable success

Why it matters: Workers are the backbone of our industry, yet their contributions are often undervalued. Recognizing their efforts and providing a respectful work environment is key to long-term growth.

**The Team**

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Founder & CEO

**Amzad Hossain Monir**  
Head of Business Development

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Continental Garments sets sustainability bar high with LEED Gold Certification

### Actionable steps:

- Set worker KPIs: Define metrics based on quality, production efficiency, and attendance to track and reward performance.
- Introduce recognition programs: Simple gestures like thank-you cards or monthly rewards boost morale and productivity.
- Bridge gaps: Organize open forums for direct communication between workers, management, and owners to foster mutual understanding.

Takeaway: A connected workforce ensures higher efficiency and a more harmonious work environment.

### Empowering next generation: Engaging textile fresh graduates

Why it matters: The future of our industry lies in the hands of young, innovative minds. Yet, the gap between academia and real-world practices often leaves graduates unprepared for industry challenges. Despite a large pool of graduates, many lack the practical skills and technical knowledge required for the industry. Moreover, the industry struggles to attract and retain talent due to various challenges.

#### How to involve students:

- Partner with universities to offer internships in areas like quality control, pattern making, and sustainability.
- Assign mentors from within the industry to guide and inspire these young talents.
- Create platforms for students to present ideas on improving production processes or adopting eco-friendly practices.

Takeaway: Involving students today builds a pool of skilled professionals ready to lead tomorrow.

### Sustainability and transparency: New norms

Why it matters: Buyers and consumers increasingly demand sustainable practices and transparency in operations. Meeting these demands is no longer optional—it's essential.

### Practical solutions:

- Eco-friendly processes: Explore technologies like waterless dyeing or energy-efficient machines to reduce environmental impact.
- Transparent communication: Use digital platforms to share real-time updates with buyers, ensuring trust and accountability.
- Data-driven insights: Track sustainability metrics such as waste reduction, energy consumption, and material efficiency to highlight progress.

Takeaway: A sustainable business model not only meets buyer expectations but also secures a better future for our planet.

### Respect and collaboration: A unified vision

Why it matters: The garment industry thrives on teamwork. Respectful collaboration between management, workers, and owners creates a culture of trust and shared purpose.

#### How to gain respect:

- Conduct workshops on workplace ethics for all levels of the organization.
- Set up channels for anonymous feedback to address issues without fear of retaliation.
- Promote diversity and inclusivity to make every employee feel valued.

Takeaway: A respectful, inclusive work culture boosts morale and productivity while attracting and retaining top talent.

The future of Bangladesh's garment industry lies in embracing change, leveraging technology, and putting people at the center of our strategies. By adopting the practices outlined above—establishing SOPs, enhancing fit expertise, engaging workers, involving students, and prioritizing sustainability—we can ensure a thriving, future-ready industry.

Let's lead this transformation together and redefine what it means to be a global leader in garment manufacturing.

# Garment workers demand wage reforms

## Desk Report



Courtesy: Collected

The Dhaka Garment Workers' Wage Increase Struggle Council has issued a six-point demand, including a bonus equal to one month's wages for the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr.

At a rally held on Friday, January 10, in front of the National Press Club, the organization urged immediate action to address their grievances. Speakers highlighted the rising prices of essential goods and the stagnation of workers' wages, making survival increasingly difficult.

The organization stressed the urgency of addressing these issues, listing their demands:

- › Set minimum wages in line with market price increases.
- › Enforce an 8-hour workday and ensure double pay for overtime.
- › Provide an Eid-ul-Fitr bonus equivalent to one month's wages.
- › Guarantee salary payments by the 7th of every month.
- › End the practice of withholding wages until just before Eid.
- › Enhance workplace safety, ensure job security, enforce equal pay for female workers, and provide health-friendly meals and night allowances.

The council urged swift action to ensure fairness, dignity, and compliance with labor laws for garment workers.

# ‘Nexagen & EURODYE-CtC’ strengthening business goals with sustainability and innovation

## Desk Report



Figure 1: Alan Flack; Patrick Leclerc; Dr. Aurore Loudet and Annick Helsen, Technical Incharge-Special Effects EURODYE-CtC.

Nexagen Specialities Ltd recently announced their product portfolio revision along with EURODYE-CtC a well-known Belgian-based speciality auxiliary manufacturer.

Nexagen is delighted to share an exciting update regarding their commitment to strengthening business direction and enhancing their product portfolio. In alignment with the vision

for sustainable growth, the company is making strategic moves to provide innovative and eco-friendly solutions to the industry along with a well-organized supply chain.

As part of this initiative, the company announced the addition of a new global technical team to the industry. This highly experienced team, with deep expertise in processing and compliance,

has joined to drive progress and share their insights. The team closely works with partners in Bangladesh, China, Vietnam and Indonesia, supporting both regular knit and woven processes while extending their expertise to advanced areas like seamless/narrow fabric and high-elastane man-made fiber processing.

As per A Azeez Asukeen, Director, Nexagen Specialities Ltd, well-known Harris & Menek concern, "The Company is committed to investing significantly in supply chain development, sustainability, innovation, and process optimization to meet the evolving demands of our customers."

Also, he thanked the team Nexagen and EURODYE-CtC who are the backbone of the company's success.

Nexagen is confident that these initiatives will enable them to provide unparalleled value to their partners and stakeholders, empowering them to set new benchmarks in quality, efficiency, and sustainability.



Figure 2: (From left) Alan Flack, Manager Application Research; Patrick Leclerc, Senior Technical Sales Manager; Dr. Aurore Loudet (Right), R&D Manager; Azeez Asukeen along with Michel Leclerc (Middle), Managing Director EURODYE-CtC during the recent meeting at EURODYE-CtC, Belgium.

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# Bangladesh poised to tap into \$1bn textile recycling market

Masia Shehzabin

Globally the demand for sustainably made fashion among the end-consumers is rising significantly. As a result, leading fashion brands have stepped up their sustainability efforts and refocused their ethical sourcing of apparel. For instance, by 2025-30, most global fashion brands have pledged to use 100% recycled or sustainable fibers in their products. While some brands push for sustainability and a lot of the big brands already set a target of 30% recycled carbon in their products.



**“While Bangladesh lacks sufficient recycling plants, the textile industry’s established spinning mills are ideally positioned to lead the charge in setting up these facilities. With an estimated \$1 billion market for textile recycling, investing in such infrastructure presents a significant opportunity for local industry players and investors.”**

**Asif Zahir**

Deputy Managing Director  
Ananta Group

As more and more are shifting to recycled yarns in producing apparel products and, yarn – Bangladesh, one of the world’s largest textile producers, sees a unique opportunity to tackle pre-consumer waste in its garment



Figure: Some leading textile mills in Bangladesh are stepping up recycling efforts. Courtesy: BEXIMCO/Recover™

manufacturing industry. The country faces a significant challenge, with estimates suggesting that 20-50% of materials are wasted during the production process—from spinning to garment making.

At a recent event, one of the prominent leader in Bangladesh’s textile and apparel industry Asif Zahir, Deputy Managing Director, Ananta Group said, “With nearly \$8 billion worth of raw cotton and large quantities of finished yarn being imported annually, a significant portion of the waste is exported, potentially costing the country up to \$1 billion each year. However, experts suggest that recycling this waste could not only save foreign currency but also create a sustainable, local recycling market.”

“Mechanical recycling, a proven and cost-effective technology, could help the industry meet global demand for products with up to 50% recycled content. The key hurdle remains organizing waste collection at factories, where the waste generated must be carefully segregated. By providing proper training and incentives—such as higher-than-average payments for waste—factories can be motivated to actively participate in recycling efforts,”

**Mechanical recycling, a proven and cost-effective technology, could help the industry meet global demand for products with up to 50% recycled content. The key hurdle remains organizing waste collection at factories, where the waste generated must be carefully segregated.**

**Asif Zahir**

Deputy Managing Director  
Ananta Group

Asif Zahir added.

“While Bangladesh lacks sufficient recycling plants, the textile industry’s established spinning mills are ideally positioned to lead the charge in setting up these facilities. With an estimated \$1 billion market for textile recycling, investing in such infrastructure presents a significant opportunity for local industry players and investors.”

As the global focus shifts to post-consumer recycling, Bangladesh’s immediate opportunity lies in pre-consumer waste. With the right investments and organizational efforts, Bangladesh can position itself as a leader in textile recycling within the next few years.

# Bangladeshi researchers develop biodegradable e-textiles named ‘SWEET’ for greener future



Dr. Nazmul Karim, Professor of Sustainable Future Textiles at the Department of Fashion and Textiles



Shaila Afroj, co-author of the study and associate professor of sustainable materials at the University of Exeter.

**BUTEX engineers Dr. Nazmul Karim, and Shaila Afroj with Researchers of the Universities of Southampton and UWE Bristol, in collaboration with the Universities of Exeter, Cambridge, Leeds, and Bath, have developed a new paradigm for the design of sustainable and biodegradable electronic textiles-i.e., e-textiles.**

**Professor Nazmul Karim and Shaila Afroj graduated from the Bangladesh University of Textile (BUTEX).**

**Their new solution, named 'Smart Wearable and Eco-friendly Electronic Textiles' (SWEET) heralds a great leap in the realm of wear-ability.**

**Bangladesh University of Textiles (BUTEX) engineers Dr. Nazmul Karim and Shaila Afroj, along with top researchers from UK universities unveiled sustainable, biodegradable electronic textiles named (SWEET).**

Shariful Islam

Wearable electronic textiles have arrived at a cusp of transforming the technology into a device that has the ability to unobtrusively carry out real-time health monitoring and therefore increasing the healthcare efficiency and effectiveness.

However, the main hindrances in their wider use have been substantial issues regarding performance and environmentally sustainable materials as well as end-of-life recycling.

E-textiles are not only existing in the fabric world because they embed electrical components like sensors and batteries into the fabric. Nowadays it finds its application in various areas like clothing, sportswear, and healthcare monitoring.

Traditionally e-textiles often have their component metals made from non-biodegradable materials; thus, the disposal of these electronic waste becomes a hazard to the environment. The SWEET initiative is amending such problems looking into environmentally friendly materials as well as a manufacturing process that optimizes the decomposition.

#### **Innovative SWEET technology**

Today's development focuses on an architectural integration of inkjet-printed graphene and Poly (3, 4-ethylenedioxy thiophene): poly (styrene sulfonate) (PEDOT: PSS) electrodes into tencel fabric for making e-textiles. It is meant to exploit the high-performance nature of such e-textiles for the measurement over human physiology, such as skin temperature and heart rate.

This is one of the top green markets,

as this technology-inkjet technology-usually consumes minimal materials while considering energy consumption. In essence, these technologies, when introduced, become more environmentally friendly than traditional methods of manufacture.

#### **Performance highlights**

- » Skin surface temperature monitoring: The SWEET e-textiles were able to demonstrate TBAs for temperature coefficients of resistance (TCRs) of around  $-4.4\% \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}^{-1}$ , thus allowing very accurate and useful temperature determination under standardized conditions.
- » Heart rate monitoring: Wearable e-textiles measured heart rates very accurately at about 74 beats per minute (bpm), achieving performance comparable to that of gold standards in the industry.
- » Simultaneous monitoring: This system is so versatile that it can now measure several physiological parameters simultaneously and continuously; an example is monitoring ECG signals and skin temperature.

Five human participants have been subjected to the testing of the technology, in which wearables with SWEET e-textiles always end up delivering excellent physiological data, hence the scope of personalized healthcare management.

#### **Biodegradability and environmental impact**

One of the primary benefits of SWEET technology is biodegradability. Samples



buried in soil lost around 48% of their weight and 98% of strength in four months. Therefore, it does minimal long-term environmental harm compared to normal e-textiles.

Moreover, the life cycle assessment (LCA) of the study reported that this graphene-based electrode possesses a climate change impact of only ~0.037 kg CO2 equivalents, which is a factor of 40 smaller than that of conventional reference electrodes. Such reduction in impact reiterates the ecologically responsible design of the SWEET.

**Comments from researchers**

“Integrating electrical components into conventional textiles complicates the recycling of the material because it often contains metals, such as silver, that don’t easily biodegrade.” Professor Nazmul Karim at the University of Southampton’s Winchester School of

Art, who led the study, explains, “Our potential eco-friendly approach for selecting sustainable materials and manufacturing overcomes this, enabling the fabric to decompose when it is disposed of.” Retrieved from University of Southampton News.

“Achieving reliable, industry-standard monitoring with eco-friendly materials is a significant milestone. It demonstrates that sustainability doesn’t have to come at the cost of functionality, especially in critical applications like healthcare,” Shaila Afroj, a co-author of the study and associate professor of sustainable materials at the University of Exeter, said in a statement.

**Broader implications**

The SWEET initiative aligns with global sustainability goals, such as the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and

Production). By addressing material and manufacturing inefficiencies, SWEET e-textiles offer a pathway toward reducing the environmental footprint of wearable technology. Their potential applications span various sectors, including healthcare, fitness, and environmental monitoring, offering a versatile platform for advancing smart textiles while adhering to principles of environmental stewardship.

The development of SWEET e-textiles marks a significant leap forward in wearable technology. By combining high performance with environmental sustainability, this innovation sets a new benchmark for the industry. As the demand for wearable devices continues to grow, SWEET technology provides a scalable, eco-friendly solution that benefits both users and the planet, heralding a new era in sustainable e-textiles.

# Extra-ordinary potential for Bangladesh to lead sustainable fashion

**Desk Report**



Figure: By recycling textile waste and promoting the market for second-hand clothing.

According to the International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (ICCB) Quarterly News Bulletin, Bangladesh has huge potential to lead sustainably. By recycling textile waste and promoting the market for second-hand clothing, the industry can reduce environmental damage and increase profits.

Bangladesh is one of the world's largest textile exporters. Bangladesh has some of the most environmentally

friendly factories in the garment industry. Many factories are recognized for their sustainable practices, setting an example for the global textile and garment industry.

The report highlighted that the circular model can help Bangladesh achieving renewable energy goals and reduce dependence on fossil fuels by producing energy from waste.

The report also highlighted that Bangladesh generates about 3,000 tons of plastic waste every day, of which only 30 percent is recycled. In addition, the irregular disposal of electronic waste and agricultural waste further exacerbates the environmental damage. Investing in recycling infrastructure and waste-to-energy projects can reduce these problems and also generate economic benefits.

Some developed countries have already taken steps to demonstrate the potential of a circular economy. The Netherlands

has set a goal of halving its use of raw materials by 2030. Sweden is converting 99 percent of household waste into energy. Outdoor clothing brand Patagonia is ensuring sustainability by repairing and reprocessing clothing, an example of waste reduction and circularity.

**Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. Therefore, adopting a circular economy model is not only necessary but also a great opportunity.**

As a rapidly developing country, Bangladesh faces environmental challenges such as waste management, pollution, and resource depletion. Transitioning to a circular economy can solve these problems and open up new horizons for economic growth.

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# Masco Group's Kaizen fair showcases team innovations

Nurnahar Akter Tania

Masco Group recently hosted a Kaizen Fair to celebrate and showcase the innovative improvements made by its team members.

The event was inaugurated by Mahbub Milton, Executive Director of Masco Group. He highlighted the company's commitment to the Japanese business philosophy of Kaizen and emphasized continuous improvement through the active participation of all employees.

The Kaizen Fair served as a platform to display and discuss various process enhancements and innovative solutions developed by teams across the organization.

Through this initiative, Masco Group aims to foster a culture of continuous learning and innovation, encouraging employees at all levels to actively contribute to the company's growth and success.

Kaizen, a Japanese term translating to "change for the better," is a management philosophy that focuses on incremental and continuous improvement in all aspects of work. It emphasizes employee involvement, teamwork, and a focus on eliminating waste and improving efficiency.

Implementing Kaizen in apparel manufacturing not only drives operational excellence but also supports long-term sustainability and growth. By continuously refining these



Figure 1: Mahbub Milton, Executive Director of Masco Group

processes, Masco Group is engaging employees, and enhancing overall productivity.

So that, apparel manufacturers can unlock significant benefits and maintain a competitive edge in the market.

Masco Group, one of Bangladesh's leading knit composite conglomerates, experienced its inception in 2001. It is presently an integration of several business units of knitting, dyeing, garments, printing, embroidery, and washing.



Figure 2: Participants in Kaizen Fair hosted by Masco Group

# Continental Garments sets sustainability bar high with LEED Gold Certification

Sayed Abdullah



*Continental Garments Ind. (Pvt.) Ltd., one of Bangladesh's pioneering RMG manufacturers, has achieved a significant milestone by securing LEED Gold Certification for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance (EB O+M) v4 from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). This project is proudly consulted by 360 Total Solution Limited (360 TSL).*

*Founded in 1979 by the late Md. Delwar Hossain, Continental Garments has been a prominent player in the RMG sector for over four decades, exporting its products to Europe, America, and Asia. The company operates a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility specializing in woven tops and lightweight bottoms.*

This prestigious certification recognizes Continental Garments' commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

Md. Muneer Hussain, Managing Director, Continental Garments said, "This LEED Gold certification is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire Continental Garments team. We focused on implementing innovative features and technologies, such as energy-efficient design, water conservation measures, and effective waste management, to enhance our environmental performance."

Continental Garments Ind. (Pvt.) Ltd.	
KEY LEED POINTS	
Location & Transportation:	15/15
Sustainable Sites:	4/10
Water Efficiency:	9/12
Energy & Atmosphere:	16/38
Materials & Resources:	6/8
Indoor Environmental Quality:	10/17
Innovation:	6/6
Regional Priority:	4/4
<b>Total Points:</b>	<b>70/110</b>

"Furthermore, we prioritized the well-being of our workers, ensuring a safe and healthy work environment. We believe that LEED is more than just a certification; it is a valuable management system that, when implemented effectively, can significantly enhance our operational efficiency and environmental performance," Muneer Hussain added.

**"We are proud to have consulted on over 125 companies, successfully delivering more than 3382 green building projects encompassing over 140 million square feet."**

**Ananta Ahmed**

Managing Director, 360 TSL

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Recycling  
complexity of  
blended and  
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**Mustafain Munir**

Director

CYCLO Yarn by SIMCO Spinning Ltd.

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# Bangladesh's path to embrace sustainable Man-Made Fiber industry

Sanjoy Kumar Saha



The global rise of the man-made fiber industry presents a significant opportunity for Bangladesh to diversify its textile sector and strengthen its position in the global market. Currently, Bangladesh's textile industry is heavily reliant on cotton-based spinning, which accounts for around 27% of its apparel market share.

However, with man-made fibers such as polyester, nylon, and spandex comprising over 70% of global fiber use, there is untapped growth potential that Bangladesh can capitalize on.

Unlike countries like India and China, which benefit from extensive domestic cotton production, Bangladesh faces limitations in land availability for large-scale cotton cultivation. This constraint makes man-made fibers a viable and attractive alternative for the country's textile industry.

Notably, for the man-made fiber industry, China, India, and Bangladesh are on a level playing field as all these countries must import crude oil to produce mono ethylene glycol (MEG) and purified terephthalic acid (PTA), the essential raw materials for synthetic fiber production. Significantly, Bangladesh possesses the capability to refine crude oil domestically, creating a strong foundation for the local production of these inputs.

The development of the Eastern Refinery's new project provides a golden opportunity for Bangladesh to produce MEG and PTA locally. If the government integrates MEG and PTA production into the refinery's output, the country could dramatically increase its capacity to manufacture synthetic fibers.

This would not only reduce reliance on imports but also establish a more sustainable and cost-effective supply chain for the textile sector. Furthermore, private companies setting up factories for polyester-oriented yarn (POY), draw-



Figure: With man-made fibers such as polyester, nylon, and spandex comprising over 70% of global fiber use, there is untapped growth potential. Courtesy: Collected

textured yarn (DTY), air-covered yarn (ACY), or polyester staple fiber (PSF) could benefit immensely from such infrastructure.

Currently, these factories need to be located near seaports for easier import of liquid MEG. A government refinery capable of producing MEG and PTA would remove this limitation, enabling mills to be established anywhere in the country—a game-changing strategy for the industry.

Education and innovation are critical components of this transformation. Universities currently lack proper lab setups for textile engineering students specializing in man-made fiber technologies, such as melt spinning. Investing in modernizing these facilities and curricula will empower the next generation of textile professionals with the knowledge and skills to lead this shift.

Academic institutions and industry leaders must collaborate to ensure the workforce is equipped to embrace advanced technologies and sustainable practices in fiber production.

Sustainability must remain at the forefront of Bangladesh's man-made fiber industry growth. Synthetic fibers, while resource-efficient, pose environmental challenges, particularly in terms of waste and recycling. Bangladesh has the opportunity to address these challenges head-on

by adopting cutting-edge recycling technologies and promoting the circular economy.

By investing in infrastructure and research to manage fiber waste effectively, the country can establish itself as a leader in sustainable textile manufacturing.

The economic benefits of this transition are immense. Currently, Bangladesh's cotton-based exports add around 50% value. By exploring the man-made fiber-based apparel industry with locally produced yarn and fiber, the country could achieve an 80% value addition, significantly boosting export earnings.

Today, Bangladesh has 6–7 spinning mills producing filament yarn from imported PET and one mill producing PSF, POY, DTY, and fully drawn yarn (FDY). This infrastructure meets over 60% of the domestic demand for PSF and 5–10% of the demand for filament yarns like FDY and DTY. These figures highlight the vast opportunities for expansion in this sector.

By focusing on local production of key raw materials, fostering innovation through education, and prioritizing sustainability, Bangladesh can enhance its economic prospects and solidify its reputation as a global leader in the textile industry. With strategic planning and collective effort, the country stands poised to embrace this promising transformation.

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# Bangladesh's knit yarn market in January 2025 shows a mixed trend

Kh. Abdul Satter, Founder, BD Yarn



Presently Cotton Carded Yarn Price \$2.90-\$3.02 Per Kgs in Bangladesh Yarn market which last month was \$3.10-3.20 Per kgs. Local yarn production is struggling due to gas and electricity shortages, leading to a rise in yarn imports. Imports grew by 13% in the last fiscal year, reflecting the textile sector's increasing dependence on foreign sources.

The market's trajectory will likely depend on resolving energy issues and strategic government interventions to support local production.

Knit Yarn Prices may stabilize or increase in this month as demand picks up for spring and summer apparel production cycles.

## Last week Knit Yarn Price are below

### Yarn Price-11/01/2025

100% Cotton Carded Yarn Price						
Yarn count	100% Cotton	100% Cotton	100% Cotton	100% Cotton	100% Cotton	100% Cotton (80% ctn+20% Recycled)
	Carded	Carded BCI	Carded CmiA	Carded IC2 (GOTS)	Carded OCS/GOTS	Carded recycled Yarn (GRS)
24/1 & 26/1	\$2.97	\$3.02	\$3.02	\$3.37	\$3.67	\$3.17
28/1 & 30/1	\$3.02	\$3.07	\$3.07	\$3.42	\$3.72	\$3.22
32/1	\$3.12	\$3.17	\$3.17	\$3.52	\$3.82	\$3.32
34/1	\$3.22	\$3.27	\$3.27	\$3.62	\$3.92	\$3.42
36/1	\$3.37	\$3.42	\$3.42	\$3.77	\$4.07	
40/1	\$3.62	\$3.67	\$3.67	\$4.02	\$4.32	

100% Cotton COMBED Yarn Price						
Yarn count	100% Cotton	100% Cotton	100% Cotton	100% Cotton	100% Cotton	100% Cotton (80% ctn+20% Recycled)
	Combed	Combed BCI	Combed CmiA	Combed IC2 (GOTS)	Carded	Carded recycled Yarn (GRS)
OCS/GOTS	\$2.97	\$3.02	\$3.02	\$3.37	\$3.67	\$3.17
24/1 & 26/1	\$3.27	\$3.32	\$3.32	\$3.67	\$3.97	\$3.22
28/1 & 30/1	\$3.32	\$3.37	\$3.37	\$3.72	\$4.02	\$3.32
32/1	\$3.42	\$3.47	\$3.47	\$3.82	\$4.12	\$3.42
34/1	\$3.52	\$3.57	\$3.57	\$3.92	\$4.22	
36/1	\$3.67	\$3.72	\$3.72	\$4.07	\$4.37	
40/1	\$4.92	\$4.97	\$4.97	\$4.32	\$4.62	

# Impact of product diversification of Bangladesh spinning and its challenge with global demand

Engr Mahbubur Rahman, Director, Texvillage



Figure: The spinning industry needs to undergo significant transformation in current years by adapting to changing global market dynamics.

Bangladesh's spinning sector has been a significant contributor and a key driver of the country's economic growth, contributing significantly to the ready-made garment (RMG) industry. This spinning industry needs to undergo significant transformation in current years by adapting to

## Global demand

In globally, a lion share market near about 68% for polyester and rest of other conventional cotton, cellulosic and protein-based fibres but right now we are focusing only conventional cotton items which is also dependence on supply chain complexity. Ultimately, we are far away and losing a potential big market that is not able to value addition in our national economy. On other hand, in globally 115 items of textile product has demand but we able to do only 36 items where China able to make 90 items, Hongkong 60 items and India 60 as well as.

## Impact of product diversification

Product diversification has brought about several positive impacts on Bangladesh's spinning industry: Cotton prices are subject to fluctuations due to factors like weather conditions, geopolitical events, and global demand-supply dynamics.

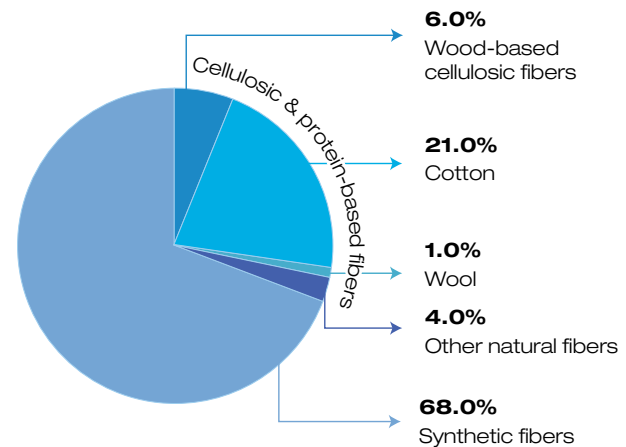
By diversifying into Others natural and MMF, the spinning industry can mitigate the impact of cotton price volatility. So, we have to consider and cultivation extensively in our domestic resource as textile raw materials i.e., Jute, Bambo, Flax, Hemp, Ramie, Kapok, Sisal, Kenaf, Roselle, coir, corn, Pine apple, Bagasse, Agave to diversify as a result the

changing global market dynamics.

Product diversification has emerged as a crucial strategy for the industry to enhance its competitiveness and mitigate risks associated with fluctuating demand for traditional cotton-based products. However, in recent years, the industry has faced increasing challenges due to increasing global demand and rising competition.

To address these challenges, spinning mills in Bangladesh should be started product diversification strategy, expanding their product range beyond traditional cotton yarn to include by crop cultivation of other national resource like Jute, jute blend, Bambo, Linen, Hemp, Ramie, Kapok, Sisal, Kenaf, Roselle, coir, corn, Pine apple, Bagasse, Agave and setting up a plant of man-made fibres (MMF) and specialty yarns.

This diversification strategy aims to enhance the sector's competitiveness, reduce dependence on cotton, and capture new market opportunities. This article delves into the impact of product diversification on Bangladesh's spinning industry, the challenges face in context of global demand fluctuations, and the potential pathways to overcome these obstacles.



industry has reduced its reliance on cotton, which can be minimize to price fluctuations and supply shortages.

By product diversifying into natural and sustainable functional speciality yarn i.e., (antibacterial, antifungal or antiviral and polyester, viscose, Tencel or Lyocell, Modal, Cupro) the industry has reduced its reliance on cotton demand and can scope of work force which can be alternative empowerment from our land limitation. This diversification has helped stabilize production costs and ensure a consistent supply of raw materials and can expose the industry to enhance supply chain resilience and disruptions from dependence

# THE NEW CARD

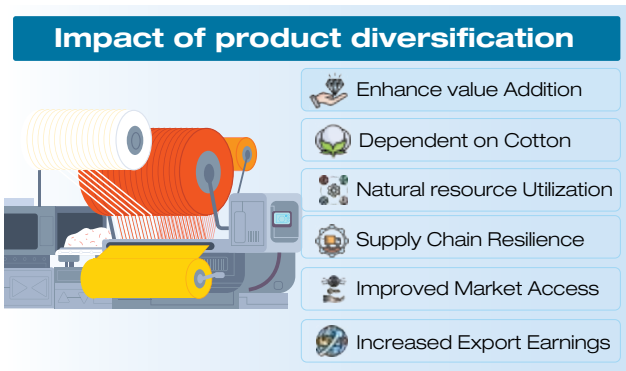


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on imported raw materials. The production of value-added sustainable yarns, such as natural, dyed, mélange, and higher stretch durable, phase change functional has increased the industry's revenue and profit margins. Also, diversification has enabled the industry to tap into new markets and customer segments. By offering a wider range of products, Bangladesh's spinners can cater to the diverse needs of global buyers, including those in the apparel, home textiles, and technical textile sectors. Also, the export of diversified products has contributed to in foreign exchange earnings for Bangladesh. This has positively impacted the country's balance of payments and overall economic growth.

### Challenges posed by global demand



Despite the benefits of product diversification, the Bangladesh spinning industry continues to face challenges related to global demand:

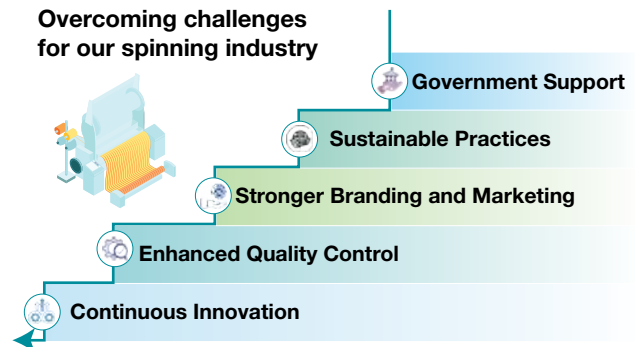
The global textile market is characterized by fluctuating demand patterns, which can impact the sales of diversified products. Global Economic downturns can lead to reduce demand for textile which impacting export-oriented spinning industry, changes in consumer preferences, and geopolitical events can all contribute to fluctuations in demand.

Also, need trade protectionism policy of government that can hinder market access and export growth intense price competition from other low-cost producing countries, such as India, Pakistan, and Vietnam, can erode the profit margins of Bangladesh's spinners.

To remain competitive, the industry needs to continuously

improve its efficiency and productivity. Rapid technological advancements in the textile industry can quickly render existing production processes and equipment obsolete. To stay ahead of the curve, the industry must invest in research and development and adopt innovative technologies. Growing environmental concerns and stricter regulations are putting pressure on the textile industry to adopt sustainable practices. Bangladesh's spinners need to invest in eco-friendly technologies and reduce their environmental footprint.

### Overcoming challenges for our spinning industry



To address these challenges and capitalize on the opportunities presented by product diversification, the Bangladesh spinning industry should focus on the following strategies:

The industry needs to invest in research and development to develop innovative products and processes. This will help the industry stay ahead of the competition and meet the evolving needs of global consumers.

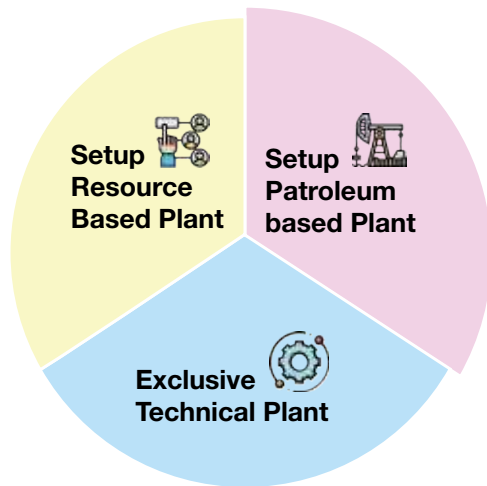
Strict quality control measures are essential to maintain the reputation of Bangladesh's textile products in the global market. Implementing quality management systems and investing in quality testing facilities can help ensure product consistency and reliability. Building strong brand identities and effective marketing strategies can help Bangladesh's spinners differentiate their products and attract premium prices.

Investing in branding and marketing initiatives can enhance the industry's visibility and market reach. Adopting sustainable practices, such as reducing water and energy consumption, minimizing waste, and using eco-friendly materials, can help the industry meet the growing demand for sustainable products.

Government support, in the form of favourable policies, incentives, and infrastructure development, can play a crucial role in the growth and development of the Bangladesh spinning industry.

### Future outlook of diversification for spinning sector

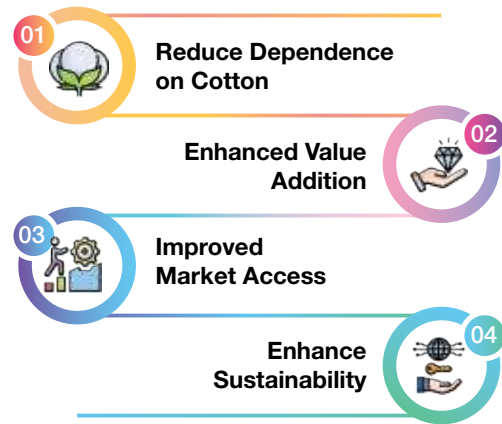
Most of global brand are looking for bio degradable sustainable product like (jute, hemp, flax, Ramie) cellulosic based regenerated fibre (Viscose, modal, Lyocell) and petroleum based (recycle polyester, nylon) to minimize dependence on raw cotton and reduce carbon footprint and water footprint. Also, many brand are asking recycle cotton as Post consumer wastage and pre consumer wastage, but



we are depending for these from import i.e., India, Pakistan, China, Vietnam, Turkey etc. So, we have to set up our inhouse production plant line by growing national resource fibre to yarn (Jute, Bambo, Flax, Hemp, Ramie, Kapok, Sisal, Kenaf, Roselle, coir, corn, Pine apple, Bagasse, Agave) to fill up this vast demand to reduce supply chain dependence (21% as cotton). Also, need to set up technical based production MMF (69% is manmade) plant to meet up our special product demand that is totally foreign dependent.

### Key impact of product diversification on Bangladesh spinning industry

The impact of product diversification on various aspects of the Bangladesh spinning industry, such as reduced dependence on cotton, enhanced value addition, improved



market access, and increased export earnings with enhance sustainability. The diagram should also highlight the challenges faced by the industry, including fluctuating demand, price competition, technological advancements, and environmental concerns.

However, Product diversification is a strategic imperative for the Bangladesh spinning industry to thrive in the global market. By reducing dependence on cotton, enhancing value addition, and expanding market access, diversification has helped the industry to become more resilient and competitive. However, the industry still faces challenges related to global demand, price competition, and environmental concerns. By focusing on innovation, quality, branding, sustainability, and government support, the Bangladesh spinning industry can overcome these challenges and secure a strong position in the global textile market.

# BTMA President raises concerns over gas price increase

Sayed Abdullah

“Without any prior discussion with BTMA, BGMEA or other leading trade bodies this sudden decision to buy gas at import price will be detrimental for the country’s industries as a whole,” said Md. Showkat Aziz Russell, President, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA).

Aziz Russell expressed his deep worry after the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources policy decision to implement a new pricing structure for gas. According to the proposal, industrial and captive power users will have to pay Tk 75.72 per cubic meter for using gas beyond their permitted load.

“The new government should justify the increase to industries and then can think of such absurd policies. Whereas, we were hopeful that the people’s govt. would reduce the gas price – that was suddenly increased by the ousted previous government.”

Earlier, the Awami League government increased gas prices for industry by more than 150% and set them at Tk 30 per unit. However, the interim government had announced that it would not arbitrarily set prices by bypassing BERC like the ousted Awami League government.

In terms of the negative impact of this



Figure: BTMA President raises deep concern over gas price increase.

decision, BTMA President said, “Our textile backward sector is already losing competitiveness to neighboring countries like India. And now if we have to buy gas at import price, then we have to shut down our factories.”



# Recycling complexity of blended and mono-material textile waste

Mashia Sahejabin

*The textile industry, one of the largest contributors to global carbon emissions and waste, is at a critical junction. As calls for sustainability intensify, circular fashion—focused on recycling and reusing materials—has emerged as a beacon of hope.*

*Mustafain Munir, Director of CYCLO Yarn by SIMCO Spinning Ltd., a leading voice in sustainable textiles, recently shared his insights into the promise and pitfalls of circular design, particularly in Bangladesh's burgeoning textile sector.*

***“While mechanical recycling offers a promising solution, it's limited to high-quality textile waste. The majority of waste, including blended and mono-material textiles, remains challenging to recycle due to technological and economic constraints.”***

**Mustafain Munir**

Director of CYCLO Yarn by SIMCO Spinning Ltd.

Munir's detailed analysis paints a complex picture. In a recent event, he stated, “Mechanical recycling allows us to upcycle fibers into fashionable items rather than downcycle them into insulation.”

Munir explained,

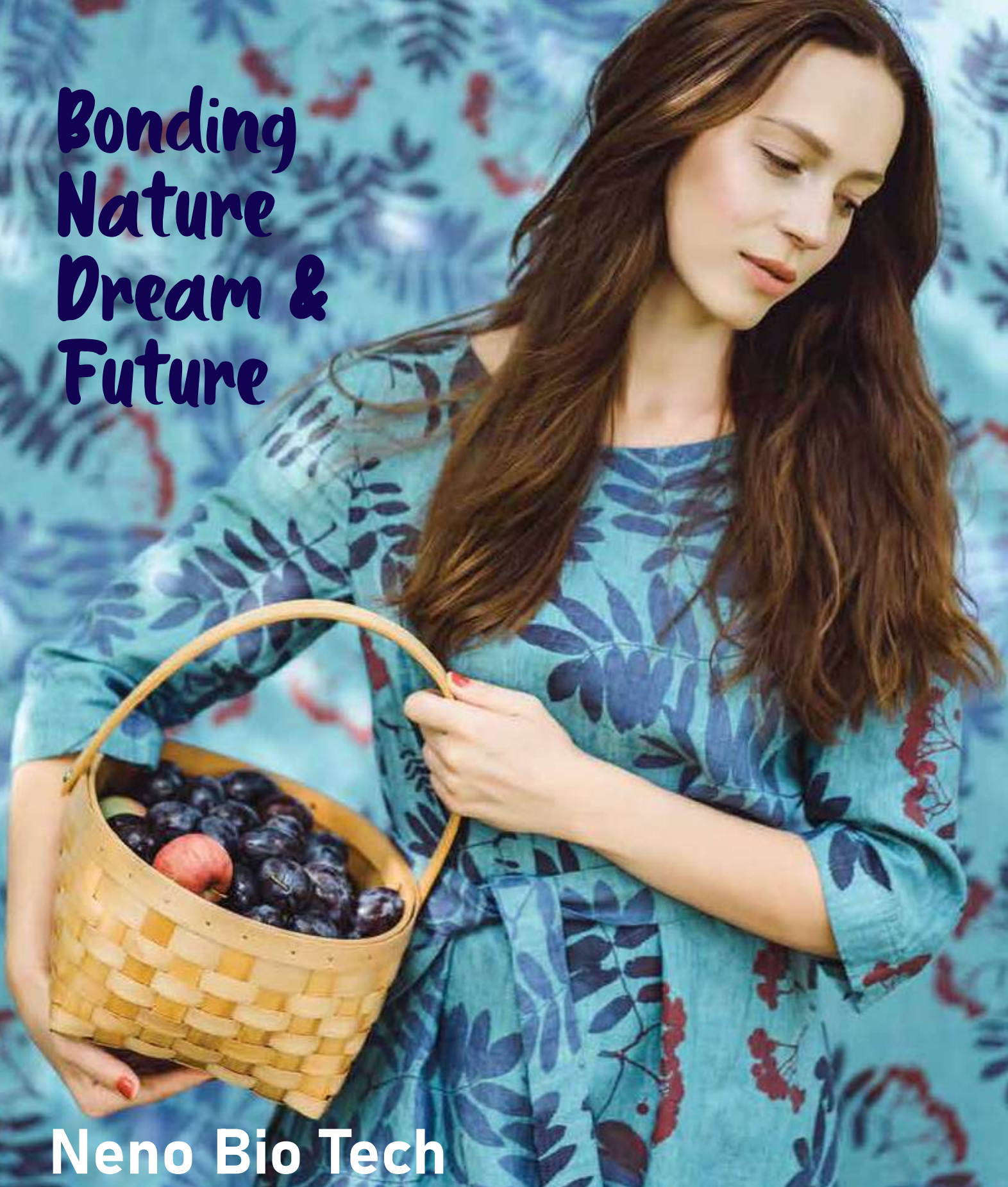
SIMCO Spinning's Director emphasizes the importance of strategic innovation, collaboration, and realistic expectations in steering the transition to a more sustainable textile industry.

## **Future of textile recycling**

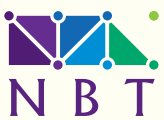
The concept of recycling in textiles is not new. Mechanical recycling, which has been in use for over five decades, has seen notable advancements in recent years. These innovations have enabled fibers to be upcycled into fashionable items, shifting away from their traditional use in insulation materials. Bangladesh, a global hub for textile production, benefits from a significant volume of high-quality waste suitable for this process.



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“Mechanical recycling lets us upcycle fibers into fashionable items rather than downcycle them into insulation. However, this method is insufficient for a small percentage of premium waste, leaving the majority—blended and mono-material waste—untouched by present capabilities.”

Enter chemical recycling, a process with the potential to revolutionize the industry by converting a broader range of materials into near-virgin-quality fibers. However, as Munir highlighted, this approach is still in its embryonic stage. The recent downfall of Renewcell, a Swedish chemical recycling pioneer, serves as a cautionary tale. Despite launching the first scaled facility under the brand Circulose, the company declared bankruptcy due to high costs and insufficient sales highlighting the challenges related to scaling chemical recycling technologies.

“Even with brand commitments to purchase recycled fibers, the high price did not fit into their models,” Munir noted. This economic mismatch shows the challenges of aligning sustainability with profitability.

### Price of circularity

While recycling offers a pathway to sustainability, it is not without its challenges. Munir pointed out that scalability—a key catalyst of cost reduction—remains untested in circular models. Linear supply chains, which can guarantee the availability of raw materials, differ fundamentally from circular supply chains, where the availability of used materials is unpredictable.

For example, sourcing virgin cotton is direct. However, sourcing a million tons of 100% used cotton T-shirts poses significant logistical and supply challenges. This variability undermines the reliability of circular production models, stalling their scalability.

Environmental impacts further complicate the equation. Munir emphasized that fiber and yarn preparation stages account for 20–25% of a garment’s carbon and water usage while dyeing and finishing contribute an additional 36%. Recycling processes, while reducing initial impacts, often reintroduce these costs when preparing recycled materials for reuse.

“To convert recycled fibers back into a state ready for dyeing, you re-implement the carbon and water usage associated with the finishing stage,” he explained. These trade-offs highlight the need for technologies that minimize reprocessing impacts while remaining cost-effective.

### Gen Z's impact on fashion's future

Consumer behavior, particularly among Gen Z, adds another layer of complexity. While surveys and social media posts suggest this generation prioritizes sustainability, their purchasing habits often contradict their stated values. Munir pointed to the meteoric rise of Shein, a Chinese fast-fashion giant, as evidence of this disconnect.

“Shein does not care about circularity or sustainability, yet

their sales have skyrocketed, driven by Gen Z consumers,” Munir remarked. In just six years, Shein has become one of the world’s top five largest retailers, demonstrating that affordability and trends often outweigh environmental concerns for many shoppers. This irony stresses a grave challenge for the textile industry: making circular designs not only sustainable but also desirable and accessible.

### Long road to circular fashion

Addressing the future of circular fashion, Munir urged stakeholders to adopt realistic timelines. While technological advancements are promising, significant progress will likely take decades.

“In the next five years, I do not see much change,” he admitted. “But over the next 10 to 20 years, we can be more optimistic as technologies scale and consumer behaviors evolve.”

He called for greater collaboration among industry players, researchers, and policymakers to drive innovation and create scalable solutions that address both environmental and economic challenges.

### Bangladesh's Potential in Circular Fashion

As one of the world’s largest textile producers, Bangladesh is uniquely positioned to lead the circular fashion charge. With a wealth of recyclable waste and a growing focus on sustainability, the country has the potential to set global standards. However, Munir cautioned against complacency, urging Bangladesh’s textile industry to focus on innovation and scalability.

---

***The path forward will require balancing sustainability with economic viability, aligning consumer preferences with environmental goals, and fostering collaboration across the value chain. Munir’s insights serve as a wake-up call, emphasizing that while the challenges are significant, the opportunities are equally profound.***

---

Munir’s analysis highlights several serious action points like emphasizing the circular fashion movement, it is vital to invest in scalable recycling technologies, educating consumers about the environmental benefits, cultivating collaboration across sectors, and setting realistic timelines for achieving sustainability goals.

However, as Munir rightly noted, realizing this vision requires patience, innovation, and a collective commitment to change. For Bangladesh and the global industry, the journey is just beginning—but the stakes could not be higher.



# Training Activities of Textile Today Innovation Hub



# Indian cotton farmers struggle to meet global moisture standards

Nurnahar Akter Tania



Figure: Moisture content plays a crucial role in determining the quality and durability of cotton, particularly during storage and transit.

In a significant move aimed at improving quality standards and ensuring Indian cotton meets global market requirements, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has implemented a new moisture regulation for cotton procurement.

According to the revised guidelines, the state-run agency will reject any cotton with a moisture content exceeding 12% and will only accept stock with moisture levels below 8%.

This decision has posed considerable challenges for Indian cotton farmers, industry experts warn that the new policy could disrupt the supply chain and severely impact farmers and traders unless immediate investments are made in drying and storage infrastructure.

Moisture content plays a crucial role in determining the quality and durability of cotton, particularly during storage and transit.

"This step will help ensure Indian cotton meets global standards," said CCI and emphasized the importance of quality assurance to enhance buyer confidence in Indian cotton.

However, the outcomes of the new moisture policy are already being felt by farmers. Ramesh Patel, a cotton farmer from Maharashtra, expressed his concern, "We don't have the necessary infrastructure to reduce moisture levels in cotton. If

CCI rejects our produce, we could face massive losses."

In Kurnool district, cotton cultivation spans approximately 1.97 lakh hectares, with an average yield of 7.41 quintals per acre, translating to an estimated total yield of 3.72 lakh metric tons.

By the end of December last year, CCI had purchased 3.24 lakh quintals of cotton from about 14,000 farmers, amounting to 240 crore in purchases. Despite these numbers, farmers are struggling to sell their entire harvest at fair prices. "If a farmer has 20 quintals, only 8 quintals are bought by CCI, while the rest are sold in the open market at a much lower price," lamented a farmer from the region.

Out of an estimated 4 lakh metric tons of cotton harvested, the CCI has so far procured 3.25 lakh quintals. Procurement activities have been initiated in 15 ginning mills under the Mantralayam, Adoni, Yemmiganur, and Kodumur agricultural market committees in Kurnool district. Despite these efforts, the lack of adequate drying and storage facilities remains a major bottleneck.

Industry experts have noted that while the CCI's decision aims to align Indian cotton with global standards, its success depends on addressing challenges at the grassroots level.



# BUTEX's Nafis and Shahriarul awarded Innovation Black Belt in Garment Washing & Dyeing

Staff Correspondent



Figure: Md. Nafis Kamal Alif and Shahriarul Islam receiving the Innovation Black Belt certificate at an event held at Textile Today Innovation Hub's premises.

At a special recognition ceremony organized by Textile Today Innovation Hub, Md. Nafis Kamal Alif and Shahriarul Islam were awarded the prestigious Innovation Black Belt certifications in Garment Washing & Dyeing. Both learners earned the highest grade of A+ for their outstanding project work and completion of training.

The duo completed their Innovation Black Belt under the mentorship of Engr. Md. Nasir Ullah, Country Director, Officina +39, with their project titled: "Comparative Analysis of Stone, Aqualess with Synergic Compound, and All-in-One Waterless Washing Technologies for Denim to Enhance Efficiency and Durability," successfully completed at DENITEX Limited.

Their rigorous training included specialized courses in Denim Development & Manufacturing, Product Development (PD), Apparel Supply Chain Management (ASCM), Weaving

& Woven Process, Textile Fiber, Yarn & Fabrics, Garment Washing & Effects, Knit Dyeing & Finishing Process, and International Export Import & Commercial Management.

Both professionals excelled with a total score of 500 marks, achieving the grade A+ in the Innovation Black Belt program, which requires a score above 75%.

The certificate handover ceremony was graced by distinguished figures including Engr. Md. Nasir Ullah, Country Director, Officina +39, ASM Tareq Amin, CEO & Founder of Textile Today Innovation Hub.

During the ceremony, ASM Tareq Amin remarked, "As students, it's challenging to find opportunities to engage with real industry problems. We're working to build stronger industry-academia links through this program. Both of you have done an excellent job on this impactful, advanced project. Your talent is evident, and we're happy to give you this

opportunity."

Engr. Md. Nasir Ullah, who supervise their project as industry expert, praised their dedication and innovative approach, "Nafis and Shahriarul have shown great dedication and innovation in their project on denim washing technologies. It was a pleasure mentoring them, and their achievement of the Innovation Black Belt reflects their hard work and potential. I am confident they will continue to make significant contributions to textile innovation"

#### About Innovation Black Belt:

This Textile Today Innovation Hub's program equips students & professionals to innovate and solve real-world challenges in the textile & apparel manufacturing sector. It includes 128 hours of training in 8 different subjects and 128 hours of hands-on project work in a factory guided by an Innovation Team, fostering sustainable growth and transformative industry practices.

To know more about Innovation Black Belt, Please Visit: [training.textiletoday.com.bd](http://training.textiletoday.com.bd)

# Wash-fast, metal-free, bright and yet compatible

*Disulphonated acid dyes are brilliant, offer very good wet fastness properties and are metal-free. However, most disulphonated acid dyes react differently to dyeing conditions and therefore are not compatible with each other. As a result, dye formulations with multiple disulphonated acid dyes have a low reproducibility. The new Bemacid F-T dyes are optimally matched to each other and therefore offer the best dyeing reliability, while at the same time fulfilling the desirable properties mentioned above.*

## CHT Story

Acid or metal complex dyes contain sulfonic groups that have affinity to the amino end groups of the polyamide polymer or the wool. This affinity is mainly controlled by temperature, pH value and the dyeing auxiliaries used. The absorption rate at which the dyes are absorbed onto the substrate depends, among other things, on the temperature and the dye itself. Especially in dark shades not all dye molecules can be exhausted onto the fiber and remain in the dye liquor, since the number of amino end groups is limited and the sulfonic groups of the dyes themselves accumulate on the fiber surface, creating a strong negative charge.

Deviations from critical process parameters can cause differences in the exhaustion rate of individual dyes in a recipe and may lead to an unproportional shift on the dyed product, resulting in a shade change. In some cases, this incident can be compensated for with dye migration during the leveling phase in the dye process. However, the migration capacity of disulphonated acid dyes is low.

It is therefore even more important to apply the dyes to the



Figure 1: Exhaust behavior and compatibility of classical disulphonated acid dyes.



Figure 2: Exhaust behavior and compatibility of Bemacid F-T dyes

fiber as simultaneously as possible. Figure 1 shows that this is not the case with trichromatic dyeings with disulphonated acid dyes. In this formulation, consisting of the classic elements Acid Yellow 79, Acid Red 249 and Acid Blue 225, it is easy to see that the red and blue dyes are already absorbed onto the fiber at lower temperatures, while the yellow component is absorbed later, causing the shade to change significantly during the dyeing process. To make matters worse, the absorption behavior of disulfonated acid dyes is sensitive to different pH values and dyeing auxiliaries, which affects the reproducibility of the shade.

Small-molecule and monosulphonated acid levelling dyes produce much more reliably reproducible and even dyeing than disulphonated acid dyes. However, articles dyed with these dyes, especially in medium to dark shades, have a low wet fastness level, which often does not meet the requirements. Selected monosulphonated metal complex

dyes offer good wet fastness and good compatibility. However, such metal-containing dyes are often no longer accepted for ecological reasons and they also tend to be dull in shade, which significantly restricts the color space. Therefore there is a demand for dyes that offer good wet fastness, even in dark shades, but are metal-free, bright and also offer good reproducibility.

Wash-fast, metal-free, bright and yet well compatible (easy to combine)

During the development of Bemacid F-T dyes, special care was taken to achieve a well-balanced exhaustion behavior and to compensate for the effect of pH change or the influence of dye-affine auxiliaries.

As a result, even in trichromatic dyeings, a color tone-constant color build-up was achieved with increasing temperature (Figure 2), resulting in better reproducibility and more even dyeings compared to any combination of disulfonated acid dyes. Nevertheless, Bemacid F-T dyes are very bright dyes. The Bemacid F-T dyes shown in Figure 3 cover a very wide range in the color space (red line), especially in comparison to dyes of a trichromatic metal complex dye (blue line). The special characteristic of disulphonated acid dyes - the exceptionally high wet fastness of the dyed articles - is of course also evident in the Bemacid F-T dyes.

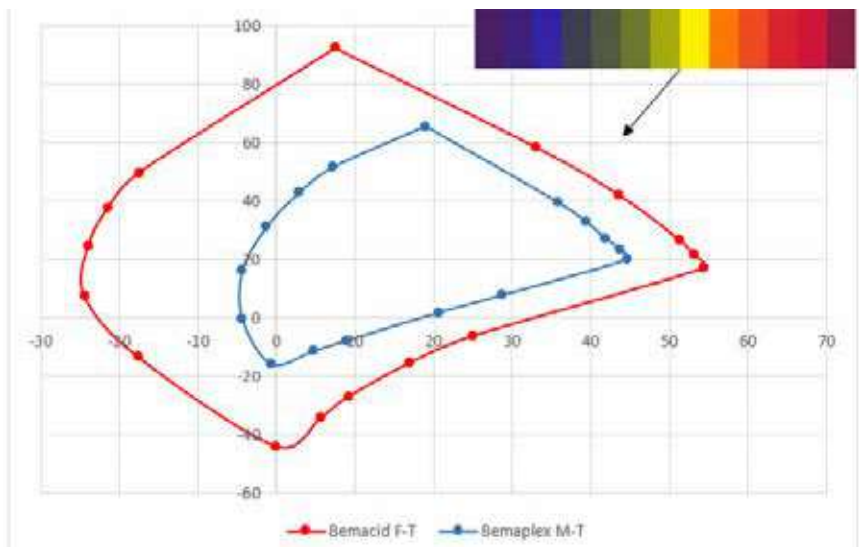


Figure 3: Color space coverage of Bemacid F-T compared to MCD Metal complex dyes.

However, to the dyer new dyes are now available offer a high level of process reliability if the specifications for wet fastness, brilliance and metal-free require the use of disulphonated acid dyes.

Figure 4 shows the result of a wash fastness test according to DIN EN ISO 105-C06/C2S (60 °C) of a dyeing with Bemacid F-T without additional anionic aftertreatment. Although the light fastness of disulphonated acid dyes is not exceptionally high, the light fastnesses of the individual elements are well matched, resulting in a better overall color consistency during exposure than, for example, with Acid Yellow 79, Acid Red 249 and Acid Blue 225 (Figure 5).

Of course, also for Bemacid F-T dyes, the normal challenges of disulphonated dyes cannot be completely avoided.

Bemacid F-T

Acid Yellow 79  
 Acid Red 249  
 Acid Blue 225



Figure 5: Comparison of light fastness.

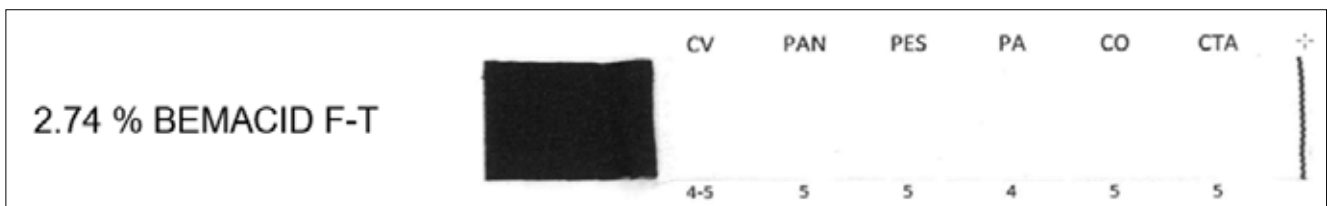


Figure 4: Wash fastness without anionic aftertreatment.

# Increasing VAT and gas prices is suicidal

Nazmus Sakib



Figure: DCCI press conference. Courtesy: Collected

**It has recently been proposed to more than double the price of gas per unit for industry and captives from Tk 30 and Tk 31.50 paisa respectively to Tk 75.72 paisa. Also, the decision has taken to double VAT and customs duty on about 43 products.**

The government's decision to increase VAT, customs and taxes, and the initiative to increase gas prices in industry, is suicidal for the economy.

Taskin Ahmed, President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) has said this at a meeting with media representatives at DCCI office on Saturday titled 'Overall situation of contemporary economy of the country

and year-long action plan of DCCI in 2025'.

At the press conference, the DCCI President presented a detailed picture on 11 economic issues as well as a keynote speech on DCCI's work plan for 2025. Rajib H Chowdhury, Senior Vice President of DCCI and other leaders of the organization were present at that time.

He said that the country's private sector is already facing challenges due to global geopolitical instability, its impact on the international and local economy, foreign exchange reserves, increasing import costs, high energy costs and uncertainty about uninterrupted energy supply, high inflation, obstacles to obtaining credit and high interest rates, high customs duties, increased VAT rates, and above all, the deterioration of the law-and-order situation.

The DCCI President said, amid global geopolitical instability, existing challenges in the international and local economy, the initiative to increase VAT on more than a hundred products, increase tax rates on several products, and more than double the price of gas in industry is a suicidal decision for our overall economy, including business,

trade and investment.

Regarding the proposal to increase gas prices, he said, it has recently been proposed to more than double the price of gas per unit for industry and captives from Tk 30 and Tk 31.50 paisa respectively to Tk 75.72 paisa. Also, the decision has taken to double VAT and customs duty on about 43 products.

He said, "In the last three years, gas prices have been increased by 200 percent. If the proposed price is implemented, it will increase by 400 percent." In the economic situation, the increase in gas prices and the proposal to increase VAT and tax rates on various products will pose challenges for the country's economy. It will disrupt production and reduce competitiveness.

He emphasized, a concerted effort by the government and stakeholders is essential to overcome the existing economic challenges by ensuring a business-friendly environment. He demanded that the government reconsider the initiative to increase VAT and tax rates at this time to reduce the pressure on business operating costs and inflation.

## Oikko Parishad wants strong BGMEA leadership

Sayed Abdullah



Figure: Oikko Parishad leaders

The leaders of 'Oikko Parishad,' an election-focused coalition of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), have sought robust leadership within the organization to tackle the challenges facing the country's apparel industry.

Md. Mohsin, Chief-Coordinator, Oikko Parishad said, "BGMEA must work in the interest of its members. Today, Oikko Parishad has been launched formally. There has been an anti-discrimination movement across the country, but it still exists in BGMEA."

BGMEA member Kafiluddin said, "There are many problems in our industry, such as customs, bonds, electricity, and banks. The Oikko Parishad has been formed solely to secure the rights of general members. Whoever is elected from the Forum, Sammilita, or Oikko Parishad will come through transparent elections."

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CARD SLIVER SYSTEM

# U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol leaders share updates at Beltwide Cotton Conferences

## U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol Story



Figure : The Climate Smart Cotton Program partners met at the recent 2025 Beltwide Cotton Conferences to help advance the program's mission. Courtesy: U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol

### Growers Benefits

- » Technical & Financial Support
- » Cost Saving
- » Additional Revenue
- » Enhanced Resilience
- » Improved Soil Health
- » Yield Improvements
- » Reduced Erosion
- » Nutrient Use Efficiency

At the recent Beltwide Cotton Conferences, the Climate Smart Cotton Program partners met to help advance the program's mission. Partners collaborated on future program strategies and goals, including carbon inset opportunities for both growers and brands. These discussions are key to ensuring the program's continued growth and impact.

At the Cotton Sustainability Conference, which is part of the broader Beltwide Cotton Conferences, U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol leaders Gary Adams, Daren Abney, and Chaz Holt provided key industry and program updates, highlighting the impact and growth of both the Trust Protocol and Climate Smart Cotton Program.

The Climate Smart Cotton Program, led by the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol, is providing technical and financial support

to farmers to advance climate-friendly practices such as planting cover crops, soil nutrient management and reduced tilling. Recognizing the risks posed by carbon emissions, improving carbon footprint is a key focus area in the coming years. U.S. cotton farmers and brands and retailers can play a vital role in achieving this goal through the U.S. Climate Smart Cotton Program.

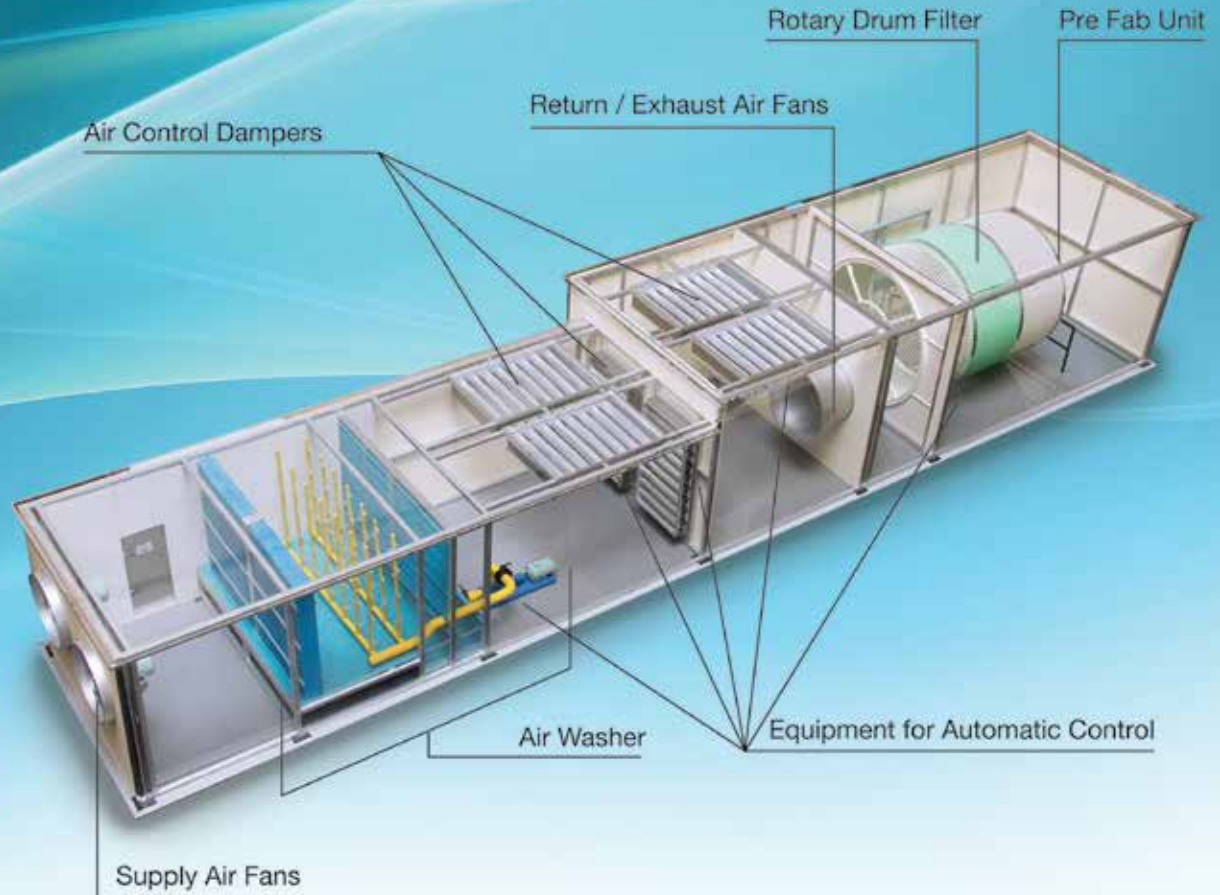
Climate Smart Agriculture, or CSA, involves practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience to climate change and sustainably increase productivity and incomes. The Trust Protocol collects and disseminates field-level metrics. This approach extends to the Climate Smart Cotton Program. As brands and retailers are seeking out detailed data on Scope 3 emissions—or those that extend beyond their operations to the rest of the supply chain—Climate Smart Cotton Program participating growers can also glean more of a market return for their efforts.

### Brands & Retailers Benefits

- Sustainable Fiber Sourcing
- Emission Reductions
- Scope 3 Emissions Reporting

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# ULTRAFAB 3356



Robust silicone emulsion for padding/exhaust application, hydrophilic in nature.

## ULTRAFAB 3356

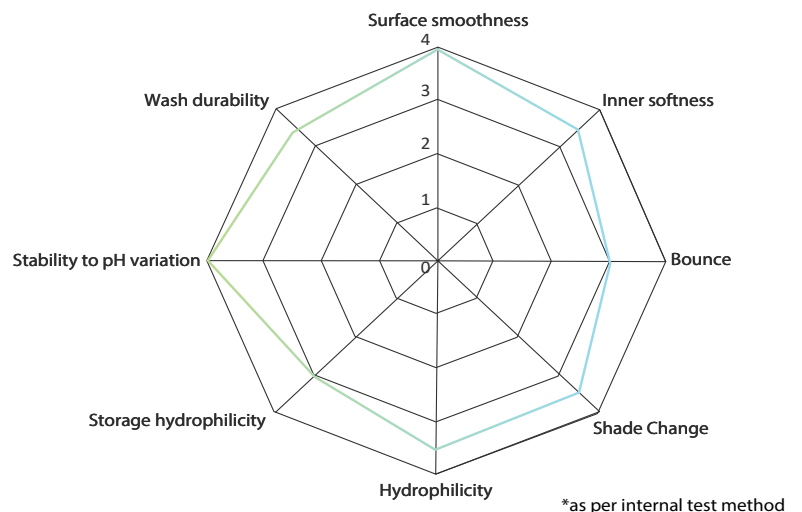
Hydrophilic micro silicone emulsion with modified backbone(pendant) for soft, smooth and bouncy hand feel, with good wash durability.



## Conventional System

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 susceptible 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
What's new?		
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 reactivs 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.

■ ULTRAFAB 3356






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