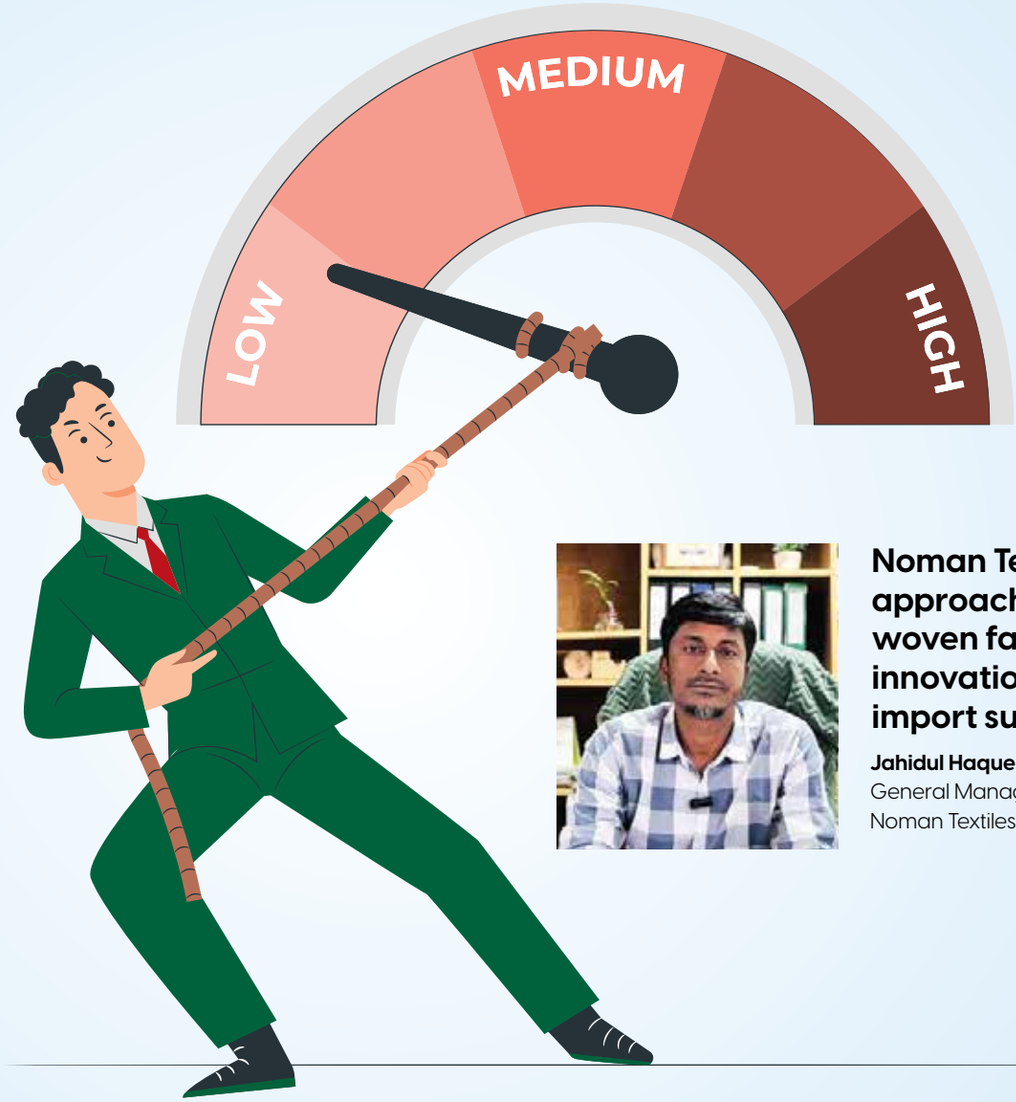
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April 2025

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Noman Textiles' approach to woven fabric innovation and import substitution

Jahidul Haque Majumdar
General Manager,
Noman Textiles Mills Ltd.

Can Bangladesh reduce its reliance on imported woven fabric?

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Can Bangladesh reduce its reliance on imported woven fabric?

Assaduzzaman Khan

Industrialization is a cornerstone of economic development, and Bangladesh's textile sector—anchored in centuries-old tradition—has grown substantially, particularly in yarn and fabric production. As globalization has shifted textile manufacturing to developing nations, Bangladesh has become the world's second-largest apparel exporter.

> ***In FY 2023–24, the country's RMG exports hit $38.14 billion, with woven garments contributing $19.28 billion—nearly half the total. Yet, behind these strong figures lies a structural weakness: Bangladesh meets only 40% of its woven fabric demand locally, relying on imports for the remaining 60%.***

Despite having around 800 weaving mills, many RMG manufacturers prefer importing fabrics from China, India, Pakistan, and Indonesia due to lower costs, even after freight and duties. China alone accounts for over 40% of these imports.

Why are these countries ahead?

Stronger Backward Linkage & Integration: China, India, and Pakistan operate vertically integrated textile value chains, reducing costs and lead times. Bangladeshi weaving mills often work in isolation, lacking efficient linkages with spinning, dyeing, and finishing units.

Advanced Technology: Competitor countries use high-speed looms and automation, ensuring higher productivity and quality. Many local mills in Bangladesh still rely on outdated looms, leading to inefficiencies.

Policy Support & Subsidies: Governments in these countries offer subsidized loans, export incentives, and technology funds. In contrast, Bangladesh suffers from high interest rates, limited capital access, and insufficient sector-specific support.

Economies of Scale: Large-scale operations in China and India reduce per-unit costs. Bangladesh's fragmented, small to mid-sized mills struggle to compete on price and capacity.

Product Diversification & R&D: While regional rivals offer a wide range of fabrics aligned with fashion trends, Bangladeshi mills often focus on basic woven items, with limited investment in R&D and innovation.

The Way Forward for Bangladesh

To reduce import dependence and enhance value addition in RMG exports, Bangladesh must:

Modernize Machinery: Support mills to adopt air-jet or rapier looms, automation, and digital quality control through soft loans and subsidies.

Enhance Backward Linkage: Develop cluster-based industrial zones integrating spinning, weaving, dyeing, and finishing to streamline production.

Encourage Large-Scale Investment: Offer tax incentives and infrastructure support to promote vertically integrated, cost-efficient mills.

Invest in R&D: Foster innovation through design labs, university collaborations, and public-private partnerships to develop high-value fabrics.

Upskill the Workforce: Launch training programs in fabric engineering, machine operations, and quality control in partnership with vocational institutes.

Policy Reform: Implement targeted incentives, including duty-free machinery imports, export subsidies, energy prioritization, and a dedicated woven fabric development fund.

Promote Local Sourcing: Encourage RMG buyers to procure fabric locally, provided quality, price, and lead time align with buyer expectations.

The Role of Textile Today Business Hub (TTBH)

Reducing import reliance also demands better supply chain connectivity. Textile Today Business Hub (TTBH) serves as a platform for weaving mills and textile input suppliers to showcase capabilities and build trust through verified profiles.

Beyond visibility, TTBH fosters industry collaboration, knowledge sharing, and innovation—linking mills, suppliers, investors, and institutions. By bridging demand and supply, it helps create the ecosystem needed for a competitive and self-reliant woven fabric industry in Bangladesh.

With coordinated strategy, investment, and platforms like TTBH, Bangladesh can move closer to becoming both a leading garment exporter and a strong, independent fabric producer.

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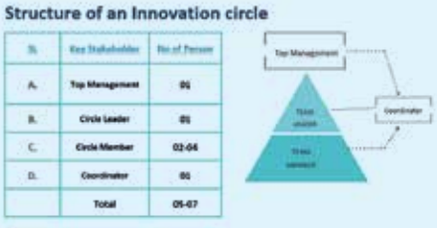


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Contact

Sanjoy Kumar Saha
+880 1776-000475
sanjoy@textiletoday.com.bd

Rahbar Hossain
+8801775999368
rahbar@textiletoday.com.bd

TTBH Editorial

Can Bangladesh reduce the import reliance of woven fabric? **45**

Industry & Innovation

Spintex Technology's low cost, high-quality solutions to overcome weaving challenges **47-48**

Event Review

Intertextile Shanghai Spring 2025 leads textiles future with innovation and sustainability **52-53**

Event



Bangladesh delegates uncover future-forward textile innovations at Intertextile Shanghai 2025 **54-55**

Face to Face



Noman Textiles' approach to woven fabric innovation and import substitution **50-51**

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The Team

Founder & CEO
Tareq Amin

Chief Research Officer
Enamul Hafiz Latifee

Head of Business Development
Amzad Hossain Monir

Business Development
Rahbar Hossain
Assaduzzaman Khan
Shahriar Ahmed
Md. Tanvir Shahriar

Research & Development
Arif-Uz-Zaman
SN Abdullah
Nurnahar Akter Tania
Nazmus Sakib

Engagement & Communication
Sanjoy Kumar Saha
Faysal Ahmmad Ridoy

Graphic Design
Easen Miah
Md. Hasan Mia

Cinematographer
Ashraful Alam

Video Editor
Md. Emon

IT & Digital Media
Riazul Islam
Abrar Hossain

Editorial Contributor
Md. Ariful Islam
Abir Basak
Mohammad Mezbah Uddin
Safiun Nahar Elma

Inquiry:
M. +88 01775 999 748
E. monir@textiletoday.com.bd
W. www.textiletoday.com.bd

Spintex Technology's low-cost, high-quality solutions to overcome weaving challenges

Sayed Abdullah

"Since 2005, Spintex Technology Ltd. has built strong partnerships with premier textile machinery manufacturers in Bangladesh, specializing in weaving solutions. We are proud to represent Picanol NV from Belgium for our weaving preparation and technology. For Jacquard weaving and preparatory solutions, we work with the STÄUBLI Group. Understanding the need for quick sampling, we provide CCI Tech Inc. sampling machines. Furthermore, we offer a range of warping and sizing machines."



Abu Sayeed
Chairman, Spintex Technology Ltd.

Spintex Technology Ltd., a leading supplier of industrial machinery in Bangladesh, showcased the latest innovations from renowned textile machinery manufacturers at DTG 2025.

Representing brands like Picanol, Staubli, Jacquard, Genkinger, and CCI. Since 2005, Spintex has focused on the weaving, sampling, overhead cleaning & humidification plant technologies to ensure electricity usage reduction and increasing productivity.

Spintex Technology Ltd. also provides a comprehensive supporting machinery. Abu Sayeed said, "In addition, supporting machines like textile overhead travelling cleaners for weaving, some trolleys and in accessories segment, we are giving weaving beam and warp beam machine."

Regarding the challenges in weaving the technology side, Spintex Technology Chairman said, "The main challenges in weaving the technology side are to produce superior quality fabric at low cost via increasing productivity and less electricity consumption. Spintex Technology's main focus has remained on that."

PICANOL
Let's grow together

Picanol is a globally recognized leader in the development and manufacturing of high-performance weaving machines, based in Belgium. With a strong legacy of innovation and technological excellence, Picanol offers advanced weaving solutions tailored for various segments of the textile industry. The company produces both airjet and rapier weaving machines, which are known for their durability, precision, and energy-efficient operation. These machines support a wide range of fabric types and are designed to meet the evolving demands of modern textile production.

Picanol has established a strong presence in key textile markets like Bangladesh, where Spintex Technology serves as its official representative. Through this partnership, local weaving mills gain direct access to advanced technology, sales support, and after-sales service—helping them enhance productivity, ensure quality, and remain globally competitive.

"At the DTG Expo, we showcased Stäubli's advanced solutions, including the new TIEPRO warp tying yarn separation system. Bangladesh is a vital market for us, and the response during the event has been highly encouraging.



Jochim Debatin
Area Sales Manager,
Region Asia-Pacific Staubli

Customers here are increasingly seeking high-quality, reliable machinery, and the past few days have been productive in establishing strong connections with key industry players. We are committed to growing together in this market—as one team, with one unified face to the customer. Joachim Debatin also highlighted Stäubli's commitment to providing dependable products, genuine spare parts, and comprehensive customer support tailored to the needs of Bangladeshi customers.

> ***"From the very beginning, Batliboi has maintained a strong focus on developing energy-efficient machinery, recognizing that power consumption and automation are key drivers for the future of the textile industry. With the continuous rise in energy costs and gas prices, optimizing power usage has become more critical than ever.***



Santanu Bera
Divisional Manager, Batliboi.

Among the major areas of power consumption, air conditioning and humidification systems stand out significantly. Inefficiencies in these areas can lead to substantial operational losses. To address this, Batliboi has integrated the latest generation automation systems into its solutions, specifically designed to reduce energy consumption while maintaining optimal performance. This strategic approach ensures greater efficiency, cost savings, and long-term sustainability for our clients."

> ***"Genkinger, a Germany-based company, specializes in designing and manufacturing industrial transport equipment for the textile industry. With decades of experience and a focus on innovation, Genkinger offers efficient solutions that support modern textile production processes. Given Bangladesh's status as one of the world's leading textile-producing countries, it is a vital market for Genkinger.***



Anna Stieben
Sales Manager Textile Division, Genkinger Material Handling.

In Bangladesh, Spintex acts as the official representative, handling product distribution and ensuring dependable after-sales service. This partnership allows Genkinger to deliver high-quality solutions and support to Bangladeshi textile manufacturers, helping them improve productivity and operational efficiency."

> ***"I lead Jeanologia's Global Ozone Process Dynamic Project. At Jeanologia, our mission is to drive innovation in the textile industry through sustainable and eco-efficient technologies"***



Jean Pierre Inchauspe
Jeanologia Dynamic Project, Jeanologia.

We focus on reducing the use of critical resources like water and chemicals, aiming to transform traditional processes into cleaner, more responsible alternatives. By advancing these innovative solutions and promoting sustainable practices, we strive to make textile production not only more productive but also significantly more environmentally sustainable for the long-term future of the industry and our planet.

> ***"We supply sampling looms for woven fabric, and consider Bangladesh one of our most important markets, given its position as a global leader in textile and garment production. With the strong interconnection between the garment and textile sectors, the demand for fabric sampling is continuously rising.***



Andy C.R. Yueh
Sales Director, CCI Tech Inc.

We see significant opportunity to further expand our presence in Bangladesh and are confident that this growing demand presents a promising business prospect for our solutions. With rapid industrial development, increasing investments in textile infrastructure, and a focus on modernization, Bangladesh offers an ideal environment for our innovative weaving technologies to thrive and deliver long-term value.



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Email
salahuddin@colourchemistrybd.com
info@colourchemistrybd.com

Phone
+880 1716 585 700,
+880 1913 171 959

Noman Textiles' approach to woven fabric innovation and import substitution

Assaduzzaman Khan & Sayed Abdullah



Figure: Jahidul Haque Majumdar, General Manager of Noman Textiles Mills Limited.

Bangladesh's textile and apparel industry faces a significant challenge in its reliance on imported woven fabrics. To explore the details of this vital sector and identify potential pathways towards greater self-sufficiency, Textile Today had the privilege of speaking with Jahidul Hoque Majumder, General Manager of Noman Textiles Mills Limited. Noman Textiles, a vital arm of the Noman Group – often regarded as a comprehensive resource for the nation's textile needs – places a strong emphasis on weaving capabilities across its extensive network of 36 factories. The group employs around 80,000 people, has been honored with the Highest Exporter Award across all sectors for 10 consecutive years, and contributes approximately 2.5% to the country's overall exports.

In this insightful discussion, Majumder sheds light on Noman Textiles' current product portfolio, the underlying reasons for Bangladesh's dependence on imported woven materials, and the critical strategies required to strengthen the local weaving industry for future growth and reduced reliance on external sources.

Textile Today: Could you provide a brief overview of Noman Textiles and its current product range?

Jahidul Hoque Majumder: For Noman Textiles, a key component of Noman Group, weaving is a primary area of focus. Our expansive weaving facility achieves a daily output of 100,000 yards. Driven by a robust R&D team, we specialize in producing a broad spectrum of woven fabrics, including stretchable spandex. Our investment in approximately 50% of dobby looms allows us to create a variety of decorative fabric designs. Moreover, Noman Textiles excels in blended fabrics, offering options such as cotton-polyester, viscose, linen, and Tencel, in addition to our dedicated 100% polyester weaving capabilities for man-made textiles.

Textile Today: Given Bangladesh's significant reliance on imported woven fabrics, what strategies can be adopted to reduce this dependency and strengthen our local weaving industry?

Jahidul Hoque Majumder: The fact that Bangladesh imports 60% to 70% of its woven fabrics represents a missed opportunity. While our woven garment exports are growing (4.85% to $4.07 billion in FY 2023-2024), our roughly 800 domestic weaving mills are unable to meet the demand, resulting in over $2 billion in annual imports. To reverse this trend and fully utilize our export potential, a concerted effort to develop our existing weaving mills and establish new ones, equipped with modern technology and a skilled workforce, is essential.

Textile Today: What are the primary reasons behind the technological drawbacks in Bangladesh's weaving industry, and what key actions are necessary to overcome these limitations?

Jahidul Hoque Majumder: The initial investment costs for advanced, high-speed, and automated weaving technologies are substantial, and many local mill owners, particularly smaller ones, lack the financial capacity or access to affordable financing for such upgrades. Also, operating and maintaining modern weaving machinery requires a skilled workforce.

A significant portion of existing weaving mills in Bangladesh operate with outdated machinery. To cater to the country's woven fabrics export demand, adopting cutting-edge weaving technologies are paramount.

Especially, a significant portion of Bangladesh's woven fabric imports consists of polyester fabrics. Given the global demand for durable, versatile, and often cost-effective polyester-based textiles in various apparel and industrial applications.

Textile Today: With gas and energy prices on the rise, how can the textile sector optimize resource utilization to remain competitive and sustainable?

Jahidul Hoque Majumder: The woven sector is a power-oriented segment. Whereas the gas and energy prices have skyrocketed. This has become one of the biggest challenges for the woven sector. For instance, at Noman Textiles, previously our per-yard electricity cost was BDT 5 to 5.5, now it has climbed to TK10 to TK10.5.

So, we are actively pursuing operational excellence as a vital policy to minimize costs, especially in resource-intensive areas. Like, saving electricity in various ways, as the weaving floor environment – RH and temperature – needs to be controlled, so we are controlling temperature with RH. Thus, we are not using chillers anymore. Which reduced the energy cost a bit. Side by side, we are utilizing the exhaust gas emanating from the power generator to run boilers.

Not to mention, we are running our looms at maximum speed to increase productivity and cut costs.

Textile Today: Noman Textiles is recognized as a leading player in the industry. What best practices have contributed to its success and operational excellence?

Jahidul Hoque Majumder: For us, our best practices include saving resources, wastage reduction and increasing productivity. To put, we do lean management, we have an IE (Industrial Engineering) team to look after the matter. We implement 5S, and all the departments and sectors have their own SOPs. Most crucially, we provide continuous training to all our people to build awareness.

Recycling and reusing are key elements at Noman Textiles Mills Limited to reduce wastage. Pre- and post-production waste materials are recycled and reused to boost sustainable fabrics.

What is your vision for Noman Textiles over the next five years?

Jahidul Hoque Majumder: We are strongly focused on making Noman Group a one-stop solution for buyers. We are actively exploring ways to expand our product range and bring in more diversified products. There is no alternative to increasing our product range if we want to reduce dependency on importers. To achieve this, our future target is to minimize import dependence by making the necessary technological modifications and adopting automation where required. Specifically, we aim to reduce the current import dependency from 65% to 30% and strengthen our capacity to supply local RMG factories with the necessary fabrics they require.



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Intertextile Shanghai Spring 2025 leads textiles future with innovation and sustainability

Amzad Hossain

As one of the world's most influential sourcing platforms, Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics – Spring Edition 2025, held from March 11-13 at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai), concluded with remarkable success, solidifying its position as the premier global sourcing platform for the textile and apparel industry.

This year's edition saw participation from 3,124 exhibitors across 190,000 sqm and welcomed nearly 90,000 visitors from 116 countries. New exhibitor nations such as Bangladesh, Belgium, Egypt, Sweden, and Thailand underscored the event's expanding global reach.



Figure 1: This year's edition saw participation from 3,124 exhibitors across 190,000 sqm and welcomed nearly 90,000 visitors from 116 countries.

Spotlight on innovation and sustainability

Beyond numbers, Sustainability and innovation were key themes at this year's event, with dedicated zones such as the Econogy Hub showcasing cutting-edge sustainable solutions, circularity initiatives, and traceability technologies. The Material X: NextGen Sustainable Solutions Forum explored product carbon footprints and innovations in eco-friendly fabrics, while the Circularity in the Global Textile Industry panel discussed the challenges and opportunities in implementing circular business models.

Engaging forums and knowledge-sharing

A total of 29 events, including 21 seminars and 8 themed forums, were held, covering market intelligence, business strategies, digital transformation, and sustainability. The 2025 Textile Industry Digital Application Forum delved into the impact of AI and automation in textiles, while the Shaping the Future of Sustainability through Innovation panel brought industry leaders together to discuss collaborative solutions.

Buyer delegations & business matching

The event featured a strong buyer delegation program, with 165 delegates from seven countries including Bangladesh, Armenia, Russia, and Singapore. The VIP Buyer Business Matching Program facilitated over 200 scheduled meetings, fostering high-value connections between global buyers and exhibitors. 'Textile Today' led a distinguished trade delegation from Bangladesh, comprising key decision-



Figure 2: The VIP Buyer Business Matching Program facilitated over 200 scheduled meetings, fostering high-value connections between global buyers and exhibitors.

makers from brands, buying offices, and factories. The delegation actively engaged in the expo, unlocking high-value opportunities for cross-border collaborations.

A global showcase of textile excellence

Intertextile Shanghai 2025 featured seven international pavilions from Europe and Asia, along with dedicated zones such as SalonEurope, the Premium Wool Zone, Beyond Denim, and the Functional Lab. The Lenzing Pavilion, ECOCERT Pavilion, and Korea Textile Center highlighted sustainable fiber innovations, while exhibitors from France, Italy, Japan, Korea, and Turkey showcased premium fabrics, high-performance textiles, and advanced manufacturing techniques.



Figure 3: The delegation actively engaged in the expo, unlocking high-value opportunities for cross-border collaborations.

Building on success for the next editions

With sustainability, digitalization, and global partnerships at its core, Intertextile Shanghai continues to be the driving force behind the future of textiles. The upcoming June and September 2025 editions are set to build on this momentum, offering even greater opportunities for industry stakeholders worldwide. 'Textile Today' will continue to lead VIP Trade Delegation programs for these events, facilitating strategic industry connections and collaborations. Stay tuned for more details."

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Figure: Textile Today once again took the lead by organizing a high-profile delegation to the Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics – Spring Edition 2025 (March 11–13)

Bangladesh delegates uncover future-forward textile innovations at Intertextile Shanghai 2025

Amzad Hossain, Assaaduzzaman

Textile Today delegation engages global industry leaders, explores sustainable solutions, and maps the future of fashion sourcing

In its continued efforts to connect Bangladesh's textile and apparel industry with global innovation, Textile Today once again took the lead by organizing a high-profile delegation to the Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics – Spring Edition 2025 (March 11–13), one of the world's largest and most influential textile exhibitions.

Intertextile Shanghai 2025

The delegation included a dynamic mix of leading garment manufacturers, sourcing heads, fabric technologists, and R&D professionals from some of Bangladesh's most progressive companies. These industry leaders shared critical insights below:

Innovation-Driven Sourcing: Preparing for a Smarter Future

Fakir Rafsanuzzaman, Director of Fakir Apparels Ltd., highlighted how their integrated design and R&D team leverages international fairs to accelerate innovation across their value chain:

Fakir Apparels has consistently led the way in apparel innovation—offering a diverse product range from knitwear to outerwear through long-standing collaborations with some of the world's most renowned brands. While a significant share of its fabrics are produced in-house, Fakir Apparels also strategically sources materials from key global textile hubs including China, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea, covering knit, woven, and non-woven fabrics across natural, synthetic, and blended fibers.

"Participation in international trade expos like Intertextile enables our R&D and Design teams to stay updated on the latest materials, sustainable design practices, and technology trends. In the short term, access to such diverse material libraries supports product development using outsourced fabrics, while in the long term, it lays the groundwork for advancing local innovation and technical expertise."



Fakir Rafsanuzzaman
Director of Fakir Apparels Ltd.

Staying Ahead of the Curve: Cross-Functional R&D Participation

Md. Nazmul Alam Apel, DGM (Knitting and R&D) of Epyllion Fabrics Ltd. shared how the company's forward-thinking R&D strategy sets them apart:



Md. Nazmul Alam Apel
DGM, Epyllion Fabrics Ltd.

"We don't just look at upcoming seasons — we try to forecast trends two seasons ahead. Our cross-functional teams from merchandising, sourcing, and design attend these fairs to identify transformative trends and materials. Intertextile Shanghai, in particular, is an unparalleled resource for this kind of foresight."

He noted the growing influence of AI-driven design and sustainability-focused sourcing solutions, underscoring how continuous engagement in global exhibitions directly influences product development pipelines and long-term competitiveness.

Empowering Small-Scale Sourcing for Emerging Players

For emerging companies like Power Fashion Bangladesh Ltd, sourcing challenges are different. Managing Partner & CEO - Mehedi Hasan Mamun stressed the practical benefits of flexible sourcing options available at Intertextile.

"Being a relatively new company, small order volumes are a major challenge in Bangladesh. In China, I found mills more open to low-MOQ deals, even if at a slightly higher price. This unlocks potential for startups and smaller buyers to diversify their sourcing base."



Mehedi Hasan Mamun
CEO, Power Fashion Bangladesh

He called on the Bangladeshi industry to adopt a more inclusive sourcing mindset, advocating for greater supplier flexibility to foster a diversified, resilient sector.

Trend Mapping for Strategic Fabric Decisions

Ajoy Chowdhury, Assistant Manager (Fabric Technology) at Hirdaramani Bangladesh, emphasized the critical value of fabric innovation insights gained from the fair:

"From synthetic knits to technical fabrics, the diversity on display helps us make smarter sourcing decisions. We now have a clearer roadmap to integrate advanced materials into our product lines."



Ajoy Chowdhury
Asst. Manager, Hirdaramani Bangladesh

His remarks reflect the growing urgency among sourcing professionals to align procurement strategies with global design, functionality, and sustainability expectations.

One-Stop Destination for Global Sourcing

Md. Hasan Kajmir Mahmud, Chairman of Superior Apparel Ltd., described Intertextile as a "global convergence point":

Bangladesh delegates uncover future-forward textile innovations at Intertextile Shanghai 2025



Md. Hasan Kajmir Mahmud
Chairman, Superior Apparel Ltd.

"This is the most efficient platform to connect with hundreds of fabric mills and solution providers in one place. We explored a range of solutions — from AI in sampling to new yarn developments. The rising demand for wool fabrics was especially noticeable."

He pointed out that several global buyers were actively engaging in wool-based product discussions, signaling a shift in seasonal preferences and market directions.

Access to Global Fashion Intelligence

For Chandra Shekhar, MD of Source Creation BD, exhibitions like Intertextile are essential to overcoming the geographical and informational disconnect:

"It's hard to keep pace with fast-changing global fashion trends while sitting in Dhaka. Events like this allow us to connect with suppliers, spot trends early, and align our product development accordingly."



Chandra Shekhar
MD, Source Creation BD.

This sentiment echoes the collective need for Bangladeshi firms to integrate global exposure into their strategic planning cycles.

China's Sustainability Leadership Leaves Lasting Impact

Rizvan Hasan, Head of Merchandising at Brannerson Apparel Ltd., was particularly struck by China's focus on sustainability:



Rizvan Hasan
Head of Merch., Brannerson Apparel

"The sheer scale and innovation in biodegradable and eco-friendly fabrics were eye-opening. China is not just keeping up — it's leading in sustainable innovation. For companies like ours, such exposure reshapes how we think about the future of fashion."

His experience reinforces the urgent call for Bangladeshi manufacturers to deepen their sustainability initiatives, both in material sourcing and production processes.

Call for Stronger Industry Engagement

Wrapping up the delegation's insights, Sharif Asaduzzaman, Managing Director of ICARUS Fashion Ltd., emphasized the strategic imperative for broader industry participation:

"Intertextile is more than a trade fair — it's a mirror reflecting where we stand and where we need to go. Bangladesh must increase its presence in such forums. This is how we push our industry toward innovation-led growth."



Sharif Asaduzzaman
Managing Director, ICARUS Fashion

Looking Forward: Following the tremendous success of the March 2025 VIP Delegation, Textile Today is set to lead prestigious Trade Delegation Programs to the following programs Intertextile Shenzhen (June 11 – 13, 2025) and Intertextile Shanghai Autumn Edition (September 2 – 4, 2025). This is your opportunity to connect with global suppliers, explore the latest textile innovations, and expand your business network under a premium delegation experience.

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