working capital, development of human resources, modernisation of handloom technology, efficient marketing management and formation of weavers' societies.

According to BHB, in Bangladesh there are more than 0.183 million handloom units with 0.505 million handlooms and about 1 million handloom weavers. Fifty percent of workers are female. Production of these handloom fabrics is diffused in numerous production centres all over the country linked by a network of primary, secondary and central market.

The manufacturers and traders say the annual sales of the 110 shops would be between Tk 40 crore and Tk 50 crore, which is much lower than it is supposed to be.



Unstitched embroidered shalwar kameez pieces are all the rage during Eid.



In the process of weaving the handloom, the weaver creates a perfect harmony of motion and rhythm. And all this with what is called a 'Bhuti pin,' the only tool they use to make the designs.

To provide proper support BHB has organised the weavers in three different folds based on income and production. According to the code of conduct the weavers have been registered in three tiers- Primary, Secondary and Apex.

The tradition of weaving cloth by hand constitutes one of the richest aspects of Bangladeshi culture and heritage. The craftsmanship behind these handloom fabrics is unparallel. While discussing the weaver's job Atia Begum says, "I do these artworks to express my experiences of my forefathers' displacement, their travel from homeland to a faraway land, so each and every fabric we produce carrying the colourful stories of our past." ■