



While the latter was the most refined version with a thread count of over 800 to 1000, Khadi had a count that was below 200. It was mainly patronised by the masses and was quite popular as well. But with the industrial revolution and the ascent of power mills, and the influx of British textile, the demand for handcrafted Khadi died along with the Muslim.

Thousands of weavers involved in the commerce lost their jobs and their comfortable way of life was permanently lost. The Indian subcontinent became completely depended on the products of the power loom, set by the supreme colonial authority.

However, with Gandhi and the 'Swadeshi Andolon' the story of Khadi re-emerged, becoming very popular in the united India including East and West Bengal.

"Today, we see a growing demand for Khadi, Muslin and Jamdani because of their ethical production lineage. Both men and women in rural

areas can generate income from production of the hand spun yarns. To develop income generating ethically green products, there is a market, although niche, has developed for handloom products," said renowned fashion designer Maheen Khan, also the current president of Fashion Design Council of Bangladesh (FDCB).

And she also expressed that "a lot of government support is placed in this area. FDCB has taken upon itself to promote the initiative for Khadi with the help from private institutions and the Bangladesh government. We are keenly looking into the possibility and feasibility for the product."

So, all is not lost as there is still hope for revival in this sector and artisans like Ismail Hossain may one day notice an upsurge towards his long-lost business tradition. We are still hoping for that very day, when he will encourage his children to join the hereditary business, to take to broader horizons.

