



Piles of garment waste strewn about a street in Ashulia. A recent study says if managed properly, garment waste can generate a revenue over \$4 billion annually and reduce environmental damage. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Turning waste into fashion

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surely has a business potential within the country's garment sector, said Fazlul Hoque, managing director of Plummy Fashions Ltd.

The regenerated yarn can capture an emerging market in developed parts of the world, with people becoming more sensitive to environmental impacts caused by industrial pollution, he added.

However, the market of recycled materials has remained largely unexplored in Bangladesh.

There is, however, at least one good example -- Simco Spinning and Textiles Ltd founded in 2010. According to its website, the factory, located in Bhaluka of Mymensingh, has the capacity to produce 15 tonnes of yarn a day from "cotton clips" that are cut out during the garment stitching process.

The eco-friendly yarn is used for knitting and weaving products like T-shirts, socks, gloves, towels, home textiles, denims, sweaters etc. And its customers are from as far as the US, Mexico, Spain, Italy and Turkey.

Simco declined to be interviewed, as it says information about the company, other than what is available on its website, is confidential.

However, Hemel Bhuiya, project manager of RR, who along with a team had visited Simco's setup, confirmed their methods of recycling. He said the

country needs more such initiatives for recycling the leftover of its garment industry.

Recycled products don't require any dye, chemical and almost no water, making it a sustainable solution to pollution from garment production.

The businesses mix scraps of different colours to attain a necessary hue. Fabrics are broken down to fibres once again, carded, spun and then turned into a completely new material. The recycled yarn is 15-30 percent cheaper than the virgin yarn made from cotton, RR said in its report.

If the garment waste or jhoot is not used, it mostly ends up in landfills or is incinerated, contributing to environmental pollution.

As much as 95 percent of all textile wastes that are in landfills are recyclable, according to Recover, a textile company in Spain that produces recycled yarn.

In Bangladesh, a small portion of jhoot is reused in making low-end garments for the local markets. It is also used as filling material in furniture, mattresses, car seats, but the value of it is very low in these cases.

"Despite the low market price of leftovers, the fact that factories commonly operate with very small profit margins means that the extra margin from leftover sale is significant," RR said in its study.

At present, jhoot sold by garment

units is exchanged by multiple traders before it finally lands in the hands of jhoot exporters.

The exporters then sell the scraps at comparatively high rates to India and China that have recycling technologies in place to turn the waste into finer yarn, Hemel, of RR, said.

"We call it down-cycling.... Most of the cotton fabrics that the country's garment sector uses are imported. Then we export the waste to these countries to turn them into yarn as good as the one from cotton."

The recycled yarn can be used to manufacturing export-quality products. "What we are doing now makes less business sense," Hemel added.

Immediately after a garment factory finishes production of one cycle of orders from a buyer, it gets rid of the waste in the interest of production efficiency, moving onto the next cycle.

But there is a business potential of jhoot if demand is created, Fazlul Hoque said. In that case, jhoot suppliers will get more value.

And even if RR estimated \$4billion market looks small, the environmental impact cannot be ignored. For instance, growing cotton and then dyeing one single T-shirt take up as much as 2,700 litres of water that is then dumped into rivers or nearby water bodies contaminating them. Recycling takes almost zero water.

Cat hair catches

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burns and death", the indictment says. He only appeared to escaped because he did not open the package "as intended."

Poff allegedly said she didn't like Obama and she was upset with Governor Abbott because "she had not received support from her ex-husband," the indictment adds. She had applied for and not received social security benefits in Maryland.

FBI investigators were able to track her down using an obliterated shipping label on the package sent to Abbott, according to the documents, which were filed in a Houston court earlier this week.

A cigarette packet bought near her home in the small city of Sealy, around 50 miles west of Houston, also helped them to zero in on her.

But it was "cat hair was found under the address label," of the package posted to Obama which was "microscopically consistent with the hair of one of Poff's cats", that helped them make the breakthrough.

When investigators searched her house they found fireworks in her garage, the indictment states.

She was charged earlier this month on six counts for allegedly mailing the bombs in October 2016, including mailing injurious articles and transporting explosives with the intent to kill and injure and is currently being held at a Houston detention centre.

She has also been charged with food stamp fraud and False Declaration in Bankruptcy.

Iraq forces open new front in final push against IS

AFP, Baghdad

Iraqi forces thrust north from the Euphrates Valley into the desert yesterday, opening up a new front in the drive to flush out fugitive Islamic State group fighters, a commander told AFP.

IS has already been driven from all the towns it once held, but Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has said he will not proclaim victory until the jihadists have been cleared from the western desert bordering Syria.

Troops and paramilitaries had advanced into the desert from the east and north on Thursday at the start of an offensive aimed at inflicting a final defeat on the jihadists.

'Another killer'

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his wife Rafida Ahmed Bonya was returning from the Amar Ekushey book fair on February 26, 2015.

Bonya was critically injured in the attack but she survived.

Police claimed that Siam, like several other arrested accused in the case, in his primary interrogation told them that they carried out the attack on Avijit on the instruction of sacked and absconding army major Syed Ziaul Haque, alleged military chief of Ansar al Islam.

The law enforcers further claimed that Siam also admitted his involvement in the killings of publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan in Shahbagh on October 31 in 2015, blogger Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy in Khilgaon on August 7 the same year, and LGBT rights activists Xulhaz Mannan and his friend Mahbub Rabby Tonoy in Kalabagan on April 25 last year.

Dipan, the owner of Jagriti Prokashony, published several books by Avijit.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed Siam on a five-day remand after police produced him before it seeking a 10-day remand.

Police said they would appeal to the court to show him arrested in the other murder cases as well.

The law enforcers claimed to have

arrested 11 suspects, including Siam, in the Avijit murder so far.

Two of them had already given confessional statements before courts.

Abu Siddique Soheli alias Sakib Sajid, 34, in his confessional statement on November 6 this year said four assailants, including him, followed Avijit at the book fair while four others, who were waiting outside the venue, took part in the killing mission.

Nine of the arrestees -- Sakib, Mojammeel Hossain alias Saimun, Shafiqur Rahman Farabi, Sadekur Rahman Mithu, Alimul Mallik, Towhidur Rahman, Julhaj Biswas, Sabez Ali and Jafran -- are now behind bars.

Another suspect Abul Bashar, brother of Ansarullah Bangla Team's spiritual leader Jashim Uddin Rahmani, died in jail custody while undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Besides, Sharif alias Saleh alias Arif alias Hadi, a suspect in the Avijit murder, was killed in a "gunfight" with law enforcers in the city's Khilgaon on June 19 last year.

Police have collected 11 kinds of evidence from the killing spot and sent those to the DNA lab of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation. However, the DNA profiles did not match with those of the arrestees.

Another rally, another day

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The number of patients at the BSMMU outdoor section during the second shift, which starts from 2:30pm, was almost half the usual number. Many could not reach the hospital due to the horrendous traffic.

On some roads, especially in Nilkhet, Azimpur, Kalabagan, Dhanmondi, New Market, Kantaban, Hatirpul, Manik Mia Avenue, vehicles were seen standing still for 20 to 30 minutes before they crawled a few metres forward.

"Traffic congestion is a daily affair. But I have never seen such a horrific congestion," schoolteacher Manik Mondol told this correspondent while sitting on a rickshaw at Hatirpul bazaar.

"Believe it or not, I have been waiting at the Hatirpul intersection for nearly 30 minutes," he said.

City dwellers who had opted to walk instead also faced trouble on pavements as desperate motor bikers and rickshaw pullers were seen using those.

The situation worsened after the

rally when a huge number of people exited the venue and started walking in the middle of different streets.

The traffic system surrounding Dhaka University virtually collapsed.

It took private firm employee Rafiqul Islam nearly an hour and a half to reach Farmgate from Palashi on his motorbike.

This correspondent met 40-year-old Ekram Hossain around 1:30pm near Science Laboratory on his way to Bakshibazar from Kalyanpur.

"I waited for a bus for more than 20 minutes but did not see one. I started walking as CNG [autorickshaw] drivers wanted Tk 350 for the trip," he told The Daily Star as he was walking.

Like Ekram, hundreds were seen walking as autorickshaw drivers and rickshaw pullers were charging exorbitant fares in their bid to exploit the situation.

Earlier this month, city dwellers had to suffer twice when Nagorik Committee and the BNP held separate rallies at the Suhrawardy Udyan.

Tulip

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Dhaka on Friday.

"I was so proud to receive a certificate for Labour Newcomer of the Year and to speak to the brilliant volunteers about life as an MP," reads a Facebook post of Tulip, daughter of Sheikh Rehana.

The Patchwork Foundation is a UK-wide organisation that supports the integration of different communities into British democracy and civil society.

Patchwork's annual awards provide politicians with the opportunity to reflect on the projects and campaigns led by the organisation. Tulip has worked hard over the last year on a wide range of issues, including the campaign to free Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, and on Early Years.

The organisation enjoys support from both UK Prime Minister Theresa May and Leader of the Opposition Jeremy Corbyn.

Tulip retained her Hampstead and Kilburn seat in the June 8 elections. She polled 34,464 votes against her Conservative rival's (Claire-Louise Leyland) 18,904.

Tulip was first elected to represent the constituency in the May 2015 general elections.

After the elections, she was inducted into the Labour Party's shadow cabinet and joined shadow minister of education Angela Rayner's team as the shadow minister of early years education.

She, however, resigned as the shadow minister following Corbyn's decision to impose a three-line whip on Labour MPs to vote in favour of triggering Article 50.

Tulip's maiden speech in the House of Commons was rated among top seven memorable speeches, according to a ranking by BBC.

She was a former councillor in Regent's Park and cabinet member for culture and communities in Camden Council.

Born in Mitcham, London in 1982, Tulip completed two Master's degrees in English literature and politics, policy and government from King's College London.

Sinai gunmen

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The gunmen, some wearing masks and military-style uniforms, had arrived in jeeps, surrounded the mosque and opened fire inside, sending panicked worshippers scrambling over each other to escape the carnage.

Witnesses had said gunmen set off a bomb at the end of Friday prayers and then opened fire as people tried to flee, shooting at ambulances and setting fire to cars to block roads. Images on state media showed bloodied victims and bodies covered in blankets inside the mosque.

"When the shooting began everyone was running, and everyone was bumping into one another," Magdy Rezk, a wounded survivor, said from his hospital bed.

Striking a mosque would be a shift in tactics for the Sinai militants, who have previously attacked troops and police and more recently tried to spread their insurgency to the mainland by hitting Christian churches and pilgrims.

Local sources said some of the worshippers were Sufis, whom groups such as Islamic State consider targets because they revere saints and shrines, which for Islamists is tantamount to idolatry. Islamic State has targeted Sufi and Shia Muslims in other countries like Iraq.

The jihadists in Egypt's Sinai have also attacked local tribes and their militias for working with the army and police.

Sisi, a former armed forces commander who supporters see as a bulwark against Islamist militants, promised the "utmost force" against those responsible for Friday's attack. Security has been a key reason for his supporters to back him, and he is expected to run for re-election next year.

Egypt's military carried out air strikes and raids overnight to target hideouts and vehicles involved in the attack, the army said, without giving details on the number of militants.

"What is happening is an attempt to stop us from our efforts in the fight against terrorism," Sisi said on Friday.

The Sinai attack came as Sisi's government looks to draw more foreign investment and finish an IMF reform programme to help revive an economy that struggled through instability after the 2011 uprising ousted long-standing leader Hosni Mubarak.

North Sinai, a mostly desert area stretching from the Suez Canal eastwards to the Gaza Strip and Israel, has long been a security headache for Egypt and is a strategic region for Cairo because of its sensitive borders.

Local militant group Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, once allied to al-Qaeda, split from it and declared allegiance to Islamic State in 2014. But attacks in the Sinai worsened after 2013 when Sisi led the overthrow of President Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood after mass protests against his rule.

HC verdict

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A Dhaka court on November 5, 2013, sentenced 152 soldiers of the erstwhile Bangladesh Rifles and two civilians to death, and 161 others to life imprisonment for their involvement in the BDR mutiny.

A total of 257 appeals were filed with the High Court against the lower court verdict.

Seventy-four people, including 57 army officials, were killed in the BDR mutiny on February 25-26 in 2009 at the Pilkhana headquarters in Dhaka.

The paramilitary force was later renamed Border Guard Bangladesh.

6 killed as Pak cops clash

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remained in the streets of the capital late Saturday.

There had been roughly 2,000 as the operation began, but AFP reporters said dozens more were arriving throughout the day. Many were galvanised by posts on social media, despite apparent efforts to block sites including Twitter.

Police and paramilitary forces retreated following the clashes, with the Islamabad Capital Territory authorities making the request for the army to step in soon after.

An interior ministry order said the federal government had authorised the deployment of "sufficient troops" to "control law and order" in the city until further notice.

There was no immediate comment from military officials and no sign of troops in the streets late Saturday.

The demonstrations have threatened the beleaguered Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) government ahead of a general election due to be held next year.

The PML-N is already reeling from a Supreme Court decision to oust former prime minister Nawaz Sharif over graft allegations in the summer, while finance minister Ishaq Dar -- also embroiled in a corruption scandal -- has taken indefinite medical leave.

Sharif had repeatedly clashed with the military, which has ruled Pakistan for half of its 70-year history.

Analysts and critics accused the government of bungling its response to the protests, with authorities hesitating for days over fears of violence as the city's commuters seethed in the traffic choked streets.

During the unrest Pakistan's media regulator barred local TV channels from broadcasting live images.

Twitter said it was "monitoring" reports of the government blocking the site, adding "We...hope service will be fully restored soon".

ALARMED RESIDENTS
The TLYRAP are demanding that Pakistan's law minister Zahid Hamid resign over a hastily-abandoned amendment to the oath that election candidates must swear.

Demonstrators have linked it to blasphemy -- a highly contentious issue in Muslim Pakistan -- and claim the oath was softened to enable the participation of Ahmadis, a long-persecuted Islamic minority sect.

Earlier, police in Karachi said some 200 protesters had blockaded a major road in the southern port, with at least 27 injured -- including 22 people with gunshot wounds -- brought to hospital, according to doctors.

Markets and shops were shuttered in the megacity, Pakistan's commercial hub, as alarmed residents stayed inside, while hardline clerics urged more people to take to the streets.

An AFP journalist in Lahore, the capital of Punjab province, said a main artery road was closed by police due to protests. Smaller rallies were reported

in other towns across the country.

Earlier in the day Pakistan's powerful military chief phoned the prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi to urge the situation be handled "peacefully".

General Qamar Javed Bajwa called for both sides to avoid violence "as it is not in national interest", army spokesman Major General Asif Chafoor said on Twitter.

'EXPLOSIVE' SITUATION

The protesters come from the Bareilvi sect of Islam that has strong ties to Sufism, a mystical branch of the religion that is seen as moderate.

However the execution in 2016 of Bareilvi follower Mumtaz Qadri -- who assassinated liberal Punjab governor Salman Taseer over his stance on the country's blasphemy laws -- led members of the group to take a more hard-line stance against any moves to reform the legislation.

"These people already had a grudge against the government and the government just provided them the opportunity to vent out their anger," said political analyst Hasan Askari.

But weeks of inaction from authorities sparked the wrath of Pakistan's judiciary, with the Supreme Court issuing a blistering statement earlier in the week and the Islamabad High Court threatening to hold government officials in contempt.

Analysts said the government had allowed a minor issue to grow into a headline-grabbing and potentially dangerous situation.

Even before Saturday's clashes the sit-in had cost the life of an eight-year-old child whose ambulance could not reach a hospital in time due to the blocked roads.

Rail links

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Khulna-Dhaka, Khulna-Goaland, Khulna-Rajshahi, Khulna-Saidpur, Khulna-Parbatipur and Khulna-Rangpur routes got snapped.

A salvage train from Ishwardi Railway Station of West Zone lifted the carriages and restored the rail link at 3:40pm, Abdul Khaleque said.

Insiders said the shipping train coming from Ishwardi for Darshana International Railway Station wrongly entered Darshana Halt Station leading to the accident.

Contacted, driver Raihan Hasan alleged that Darshana Station did not send any signal for not entering the halt station.

However, Darshana Station Master Hafizur Rahman said the accident occurred because of a mistake of the train coming from Ishwardi.

"The track was clear for the train coming from Khulna, so it was not necessary to show signal the other way," Hafizur said.

After the incident, the West Zone authorities suspended Raihan, Jewel and Hafizur.

'Rape alarm' for Rohingya

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is of great support for refugee women.

"To be able to leave the tent knowing that I would be able to let others know when I am attacked, is a relief. It reduces the fear to some extent," she said.

She added that most people in the camp know what the siren is about and are likely to come out and look for its source when it goes off.

She came to Teknaf with her elderly father in late August when the Myanmar armed forces' crackdown on Rohingya villages in Maungdaw began.

Since her father is paralysed and bed-ridden, she is the one who has to run errands.

Over 5,549 unaccompanied or separated Rohingya children have come to Bangladesh, according to the Unicef, UNHCR and Save the Children data. These children are particularly at risk of being trafficked and abused.

The small device, called a "rape



alarm" by Rohingya women, can be useful for those children, Mohammed Anik, project coordinator of Moonlight Development Society, told The Daily Star.

The NGO has distributed 175 such devices

among women aged between 12 and 25.

"The girls are really vulnerable. We have been trying to come up with something that is cheap and could at least be of help for the time being. Then we designed the battery-run device which is also a torch," Anik added.

Marufa Munni, manager of a medical camp run by the organisation, said, "We trained the people in the camps on how they should respond when they hear the siren. We need more such devices in other Rohingya settlements as well."

Seventeen-year-old Chomira said she has often been stalked in the camp. "I am often scared. But the alarm gives me some courage."

Take formal steps

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for UIN recognition of the day," said Shahriar, also the president of Ekattorer Ghatik Dalal Nirmul Committee.

Referring to the persecution of Rohingyas in Myanmar, he said the atrocities are similar to the ones faced by Bengalees in 1971. Bangladesh is also being affected by the events.

Educationist Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir said Bangladesh achieved freedom after going through genocide.

"Trial of the genocide perpetrators is a prerequisite... And the nation will never step back from that demand," he said.

Prime minister's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi, who attended the event as guest of honour, said studying of genocide was necessary to combat the propaganda aiming to demean the country's Liberation War.

It is also important to educate the future generations about history, he

added.

Lauding the organisers, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed shared his memory of freedom fighters slaughtered and chopped into pieces for uttering the historic six-point demands.

Thomas A Dine, who received "Friends of Liberation War Honour" from Bangladesh government, said Pakistan army launched a systematic and pre-planned attack on unarmed Bengalees.

The evidence of genocide was apparent from the very beginning, said the American social worker.

Hiranmay Karlekar, another recipient of the honour, said the memory of Pakistan army's brutality has burdened him since 1971.

Prof Muntassir Mamoon, Bir Protik Lt Col (Retd) Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahir, and Brig (Retd) RP Singh of Indian army, among others, spoke at the event.