

SILKEN DREAMS

ONCE MORE



Smooth as silk is not just a saying, especially when you hold a Rajshahi silk sari against your skin. Yet, if we do not put forward our resources and policy support to the struggling industry in Bangladesh, this famed local fabric might go the same way as the Muslin, long lost in the pages of history.

At the moment, having faced repeated setbacks, Bangladesh remains firmly among the top 10 silk yarn producers in the world, despite having lost a few notches over the past two decades or so. Granted, in terms of quantity of production, output of local yarn is paltry at the moment, especially when compared to global leaders like China, India and Uzbekistan. However, the real concern lies not just with the fall in local yarn production, rather what it entailed for various small producers of silk cloth, and of course, our traditional handloom silk weavers.

Along with Bengal's famed cotton, even as far back as the 13th and 14th century, the silk produced in the northwestern regions of Bengal was coveted by those desirous of finery and luxury, and referred to as the Ganges silk.

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