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# Textile millers expect bumper SALES THIS EID

Confidence of businesses rises as Covid-19 peters out

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Local textile millers are expecting bumper sales in the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr, the biggest shopping season in Bangladesh, since people are apparently set to celebrate the festival joyously as Covid-19 has peters out.

Two mega-events, namely Eid-ul-Fitr and Pahela Baishakh, which celebrates the first day of the Bengali calendar, make up the biggest shopping season in the country.

But spinners, weavers, dealers, wholesalers, and retailers across the country could not make a good business because of on and off countrywide lockdowns in the last two years because of the higher prevalence of coronavirus caseloads, dampening the mood of the people.

But this year might be different as infections have declined sharply and only one person died because of the virus yesterday, the first death in five days.

The improvement in the coronavirus situation in recent months has restored the confidence of businesses, and textile millers are sanguine as most of the local consumers buy clothes to celebrate the occasions.

Spinners start selling yarns to weavers more than two months before the start of Ramadan as weavers target to finish the production of fabrics a lot earlier so that they can supply the finished goods in the first week of the fasting month, which begins next week.

Weavers are now at the end of their sales of textiles as Eid-ul-Fitr is only a month away. Many are still busy making the textile material and will send them to the stores in Baburhaat, Shekherchar and Gausia in Narsingdi, Belkuchi in Sirajganj, Tangail, Chattogram and other major wholesale hubs across the country.

More than 2,500 power looms are running at full capacity alone in Madhabdi, Chowala, Baburhaat, Shekherchar as well as Araihaor of Narayanganj to produce fabrics.

Usually, textile millers sell fabrics like saris, lungis, and salwar kameez and the fabrics used in making trousers and shirts worth Tk 25,000 crore in the run-up to the Eid-ul-Fitr festival alone.

Of the amount, nearly Tk 1,500 crore worth of fabrics are donated as part of Zakat, said Monsoor Ahmed, chief executive officer of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA).

Zakat refers to the obligation that an individual has to donate a certain proportion of wealth each year to charitable causes.

"I am expecting a very good sale this year as the Covid-19 situation has improved," said

Halal Mia, chairman of Amanat Shah Group, a clothing maker that sells saris and lungis in bulk quantity.

"The sales have been on the rise for the last six months thanks to the full reopening of the economy."

Almost 35 per cent of the products made ahead of Pahela

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