

Functional Fashion

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Experts consider in on future of nonwovens market

Seshadri Ramkumar, Ph.D, Professor at Texas Tech University, Lubbock

Textiles are necessities in our daily lives, but single-use and semi-durable products where nonwoven materials find predominant applications have become absolutely indispensable for hygiene and personal protection. COVID-19 has, in fact, strengthened the presence of nonwoven products that quite literally help to save lives.

However, in these applications, quality and cost play dual roles in consumer acceptance. Nonwoven fabrics are relatively less costly compared to other fabric structures due to the type of raw materials used and the processing techniques, which are typically capable of meeting mass production requirements.

While consumers may not have been aware of nonwoven products and technologies, because of the pandemic, life-

saving products such as medical coveralls and facemasks have become common household names. Face masks were the first line of defense till vaccines were available as countermeasures to the pandemic.

Even with the availability of vaccines, face coverings and other protection measures continue to be recommended. Recent work at Texas Tech University has shown that spunbond-meltblown-spunbond masks are good enough to protect the wearer from viral-like particles, provided they are properly used with good fit.

Research data from several groups have reinforced such findings, paving the way for multiple opportunities for nonwovens and other hybrid fabric structures in hygiene, medical and environmental sectors.

The nonwoven sector's status

The recent Global Nonwovens Markets Report by INDA (Association of the Nonwovens Fabric Industry) and EDANA (European Disposables and Nonwovens Association) shows that the sector's production rate outpaced the annual GDP growth of some developed nations. According to this report, global production of nonwoven items increased by 6.2 percent annually during 2010-2020. As expected, market segments such as wipes, filters and medical items led the growth.

According to Brad Kalil, director of marketing intelligence and economic insights of Cary, N.C.-based INDA, worldwide production of nonwoven material reached 17.9 million metric tons in 2020. North America and Greater Europe accounted for 44 percent, China for 40 percent and India for

3 percent of global production.

The nonwovens industry in North America has shown its resilience during the COVID pandemic and is emerging as strong as ever with new investments in capacity, new material developments to address sustainability aspirations, and continued mergers and acquisitions activity, changing the makeup of industry leadership, says INDA president Dave Rousse.

What's next

Sustainability issues are at the fore and provide plenty of opportunities for industry and academia to work together on projects that will take the industry to the next level. Immediate needs include developing sustainable products using economical approaches, biodegradable and sustainable raw materials, green chemistries and environmentally friendly processing.

For Full Story: <https://ff.textiletoday.com.bd/experts-weigh-in-on-the-future-of-the-nonwovens-market/>

New union-employer agreement in Sri Lanka addresses key worker rights issues

Amena Kamal Khan

Garment worker unions in Sri Lanka have signed a ground-breaking agreement with employer association Joint Apparel Association Forum (JAAF) in which both parties reached an understanding about how to address vital workplace issues for garment workers, especially during the pandemic.

Clean Clothes Campaign, Labour behind the Label, Maquila



Figure: Garment worker unions in Sri Lanka have signed a ground-breaking agreement with employer association Joint Apparel Association Forum (JAAF). Courtesy: Clean Clothes Campaign

Solidarity Network, Solidarity

Center, War on Want, Workers United welcome the important progress that this union-employer agreement represents.

Through our research, solidarity statements, public reports and letters to brands and factory owners, we have supported the struggle by Sri Lankan unions and worker groups for better working conditions, effective protection for workers during the

pandemic, and an end to anti-union harassment.

This historic agreement lays out and confirms joint support for fundamental steps towards improving working conditions during the Covid-19 pandemic and importantly towards respect for freedom of association in Sri Lanka's garment industry.

For Full Story: <https://ff.textiletoday.com.bd/new-union-employer-agreement-in-sri-lanka-addresses-key-worker-rights-issues/>

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Bluesign introduces phase-out plan for toxic solvents in Transfer Printing

Abu Hasnat

BLUESIGN and its system partners constantly strive to improve environmental performance and occupational health & safety at work, as well as consumer safety.

Air emissions and the use of solvents can be a topic of concern in many production processes and have always been in the focus of BLUESIGN and its system partners.

For all production sites using solvents, specific requirements apply which are defined by bluesign® CRITERIA. For these sites, solvent mass balances

must be compiled, suitable and effective off-gas treatment systems are indispensable, the workplace atmosphere must be strictly monitored, and the air emissions situation must be checked by regular measurements.

In addition to these general principles, BLUESIGN has initiated, together with its system partners, two further programs to reduce the impact of solvents in textile production.

As a very important measure, BLUESIGN has initiated a program which aims to phase out solvents

with carcinogenic, mutagenic and/or reproductive toxic properties (known as CMR solvents), such as N, N-Dimethylformamide and toluene. The project progress report will be communicated in 2023.

The second focus is on the use of methanol in transfer printing, also called sublimation printing.

Transfer printing combines techniques of paper and textile printing. The patterns are first printed on paper with suitable inks, and subsequently transferred onto the textile fabric through the application



Figure: For all production sites using solvents, specific requirements apply which are defined by bluesign® CRITERIA. Courtesy: bluesign®

of heat and pressure.

While transfer printing is comparatively clean at the point of application, hazardous chemicals may be used in the paper printing stage.

For Full Story: <https://ff.textiletoday.com.bd/bluesign-introduces-phase-plan-toxic-solvents-transfer-printing/>

Impact of the apparel industry on biodiversity and possible interventions

MD Akhtarujjaman Tony

The apparel industry is continuously fighting against climate change, working on various initiatives to become carbon neutral. But, anyhow its impact on Biodiversity which refers to the variety of life on Earth at all its levels, from genes to ecosystems, and evolutionary, ecological, and cultural processes that sustain life is overlooked.

Though Biodiversity is a distinct issue, it is related to climate change. Biodiversity loss and climate change are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, one accelerates the other, and vice versa. For example, protecting forests could help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. On the other hand, the rise of global temperatures increases the risk of species

extinction on the earth.

Measuring the impact on biodiversity requires multiple metrics and indicators so as for measuring the progress of actions. Setting targets and accountability for such multiple metrics and indicators is much more challenging compared to a single metric of greenhouse emissions.

A McKinsey study has found that the apparel industry's negative impact on biodiversity comes from mainly three stages in the value chain. These are,

- raw-material production
- material preparation and processing
- and end of the life

For Full Story: [Link: https://www.textiletoday.com.bd/impact-apparel-industry-biodiversity-possible-interventions/](https://www.textiletoday.com.bd/impact-apparel-industry-biodiversity-possible-interventions/)

Swiss innovations for smooth textiles processing: Changes and opportunities through automation

Sayed Abdullah

For most textiles, finishing processes are not actually the last stage. Products often need an extra touch of expertise to make them perfectly ready for the customer. At this point in the value chain, that usually means manual tasks – but now there are technical solutions and intelligent systems which can handle complex operations better, while adding extra value and assured quality.

Automation brings reliability and efficiency, ultimately saving costs to produce the right quality every time. Swiss companies are already specialized in many of these disciplines, with machinery for fabric inspection and presentation, labeling and tracking, folding and packaging.

They have the technology to

inspire a new vision at the post-production segment of the textile manufacturing processes. Optimization of workflows, with bottleneck management, is an obvious potential benefit. And it delivers measurable returns on investment. The wider picture with automation will prepare companies for the IoT and Industry 4.0. This article presents the latest



Figure: Folding/Plating. Courtesy: 2021, Maag Brothers.

developments in the field from Swiss Textile Machinery member companies.

For Full Story: <https://www.textiletoday.com.bd/swiss-innovations-textiles-processing-opportunities-automation/>

TCO 21: The next generation comber machine

Eousup Novee

Comber machines from Trützschler are already trusted by customers across the globe. Now, a state-of-the-art new design is building on this track record to boost productivity, ensure quality and support increased automation: Meet the TCO 21!

Higher productivity. Better quality. Automatic optimization. The search for continuous improvement in the textile industry never ends. That's why innovators at Trützschler never stop exploring fresh ways of optimizing combing performance.

The TCO 21 is the latest

milestone in our long history of driving progress for spinners around the globe. It leverages market-proven designs and technologies from Trützschler to offer next-level performance and an expanded range of features that give our customers a decisive advantage over their competitors.

Powerful productivity and raw material savings

One of the key benefits of the TCO 21 is its advanced processing speed. This next-generation combing machine is able to produce at a rate of up to 600 nips per minute. This puts it at the very top of the market, offering best-in-class



Figure: The state-of-the-art combing machine TCO 21.

productivity. To increase this even further, the TCO 21 can perfectly be coordinated with

Trützschler's highly economical JUMBO CANS (Ø 1.200 mm).

For Full Story: <https://ff.textiletoday.com.bd/tco-21-the-next-generation-comber-machine/>

Snowtex Sportswear Ltd. receives LEED Green Factory Award

Rahbar Hossain

Snowtex Sportswear Ltd. of Snowtex Group was honored with the 'LEED Green Factory Award' to recognize efforts in sustainability by achieving LEED Platinum certification.

Since its inception in 2000, Snowtex Group has maintained an unparalleled standard. Snowtex Outerwear Ltd. is a green garments factory, which has achieved LEED gold certificate from the US Green Building Council and Health and Safety Award from the Ministry of Labour and Employment in 2018.



For Full Story: <https://www.textiletoday.com.bd/snowtex-sportswear-ltd-receives-leed-green-factory-award/>

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Low-carbon running shoe by Adidas, Allbirds

Abu Hasnat

Eight months after introducing the Futurecraft Footprint shoe concept, Allbirds and Adidas on December 13 announced the commercial launch of the product.

The product will be available on both retailers' apps and in selected stores, as well as online at Adidas.

At \$120 per pair, the initial drop will have limited quantities, with four new colorways set to launch in a broader rollout this spring.

The companies have been collaborating on the low-carbon performance shoe for two years.

According to a press release, the shoe produces 2.94 kilograms of CO2 per pair, which is a personal best for both brands.

The new product is based on Adidas' Lightstrike midsole but was redesigned to use Allbirds' bio-based sugarcane material.

With the aim of more sustainable products and processes, Adidas and Allbirds are releasing their collaborative low-carbon Futurecraft Footprint shoe.

The design teams working on the shoe aimed to minimize waste and carbon emissions by using the tangram principle to fit materials together "perfectly."

For Full Story: <https://ff.textiletoday.com.bd/low-carbon-running-shoe-adidas-allbirds/>

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German fashion brand NKD donates Antigen Test Kits to BGMEA's Fund

Zakir Hossain

German fashion brand NKD has donated Antigen Test Kits to a fund initiated by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) to assist people affected by the Covid-19.

Ms. Anchana SUDSAVANG, Country Manager of Sun Fortune Limited, a subsidiary of NKD, handed over antigen test kits to acting President of BGMEA Shahidullah Azim.

They expressed interest to provide more antigen kits to BGMEA later.

BGMEA Director Rajib Chowdhury and Senior

Merchandise Manager of Sun Fortune Limited Ziaul Hoque were present at the handover ceremony held at BGMEA PR office in Gulshan, Dhaka on December 15.

Welcoming the donation acting President of BGMEA Shahidullah Azim said the Covid-19 pandemic has only unfolded harsh realities but also brought people closer with the mindset of kindness and cooperation to deal with the unprecedented crisis.

He requested generous people and organizations including fashion brands to come



Figure: NKD donated Antigen Test Kits to a fund initiated by the BGMEA to assist people affected by the Covid-19.

forward and make contribution to the BGMEA's fund to help the people in need.

Earlier, BGMEA donated Taka 6 crore to the Prime Minister's fund to help the poor affected by Covid fallout.

BGMEA also donated 15 German-made high flow nasal cannula with BiPAP and 50 thousand masks to Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital to meet the needs of patients.

For Full Story: <https://www.textiletoday.com.bd/german-fashion-brand-nkd-donates-antigen-test-kits-bgmeas-fund/>

Bangladesh needs Germany's support to train Bangladeshi workers

Zakir Hossain

Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) President Anwar-ul Alam Chowdhury Parvez made a courtesy call on the German Ambassador in Dhaka Achim Tröster at the latter's office in the capital and asked German support for grooming Bangladeshi human resources.

Besides that, German companies can invest in Bangladesh to produce goods that can cater to local

and international markets. Bangladesh is on course to become a developed one by 2041.

Parvez said, "Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has set a target to turn the country into a developed one by 2041. The economy has been growing at 7-8% over the years under her leadership."

The country would require

skilled and trained workers in different industrial sectors, also the German government and industrialists could help Bangladesh in grooming necessary manpower in the country, the BCI president added.

On the other side, BCI is working with the government in creating new entrepreneurs in small and medium enterprises.



Figure: The German government and industrialists could help Bangladesh in grooming necessary manpower in the country.

For Full Story: <https://www.textiletoday.com.bd/bangladesh-needs-germanys-support-train-bangladeshi-workers/>

Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd starts factory construction in India

Yeasin Miah



Figure: Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited's greenfield garment manufacturing unit's construction has been started at Pulivendula.

Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited (ABFRL)'s greenfield garment manufacturing unit's construction has been started at Pulivendula (Andhra Pradesh).

This apparel manufacturing unit is expected to create over

2,000 jobs, majorly benefitting local women, with a financial outlay of Rs. 110.38 crore.

The factory is expected to start operations within a year. And Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy laid the foundation stone of the factory.

For Full Story: <https://www.textiletoday.com.bd/aditya-birla-fashion-retail-limit-ed-starts-factory-construction-india/>

Fashion Power Group is a diversified agglomerate which has vertically integrated apparel and textile manufacturing facilities, with concerns in Printing, Embroidery etc. Fashion Power Group started its journey in 2003 and till date, it has resulted in a conglomerate of 11 concerns.

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