

Corporate News

Bangladesh's largest exporter of garments extends Monforts line-up

The Noman Group, one of the largest vertically integrated textiles producers in Bangladesh and in 2010 the country's biggest exporter of garments, has added a new Monforts Montex stenter to its line-up as part of a massive investment aimed at keeping the group in its premier position.

Noman, originally founded as a trading company in Dhaka in 1968 and which now owns 19 mills and employs a workforce of more than 40,000 is the largest customer of Monforts in Bangladesh.

The new Montex 6500 stenter was supplied and installed by Monforts representative, Bengal Technological Corporation, at the Noman Weaving Mills plant at Sreepur, on the outskirts of Dhaka.

Noman already uses a range of Monforts technology in its continuous dyeing and sanforising lines with Monfortex and Toptex shrinkage units for woven and knitted fabrics. These sanforizers offer increased residual shrinkage, higher production speeds, and reduced water consumption for cooling and substantial time savings for blanket changes.

Gabriel Tagasa, advisor at the group's multiple outlets in the Sreepur Zone, said that Noman has invested in new equipment throughout 2010 to greatly expand capacity in the spinning and dyeing in its woven and knit garment units; ensuring that the group has the capacity to maintain its position as a major exporter.

Installing the new Monforts 6500-6F stenter, which joins two other Monforts stenters, will allow Noman to step up its output of dyed and knitted fabrics and offer faster and more flexible production times to its customers.

"All our work is exported," says Mr Tagasa. "Consequently, the Montex 6500 is an important investment for us. It adds to the enormous flexibility we already

have, which is substantially based on our existing Monforts technology."

"A lot of our customers are producing niche fashion items, sportswear and so on, often in relatively small production runs. We can therefore produce what is needed to meet their design and quality criteria.

"Meeting costs is also extremely important during this period of intensely tough competition, and we have to stay ahead of our domestic competitors as well as the international producers.

"We work very closely with Bengal Technologies and Monforts to achieve this, and regard our relationships as a real working partnership."

"In addition to the size and capacity of the Montex 6500, we are very impressed by the machine's energy saving operation," says Mr Tagasa. "There is a great shortage of energy supply in our country, and although we are fully backed-up by generators, we are always very conscious of the need to reduce our energy consumption."

With \$400-\$420 million worth of exports in 2010, Noman has ended a long-held domination by the Opex Group and the Nassa Group.

"The global downturn prompted many top low-cost retailers to search for more economical supply sources," says Mr Tagasa. "Since we operate on economy of scale and with very low profit margins, we are receiving increased orders from top retailers like Asda, Wal-Mart and Target."

The group's spinning mills have 463,600 spindles manufacturing from 8/s to 80/s counts both in carded and combed form, supporting both the local and export markets.

In the home textiles sector, Noman is the largest producer in Asia and one of the biggest in the world, exporting to Europe and North America generally, with leading names including H&M, M&S, IKEA, Wal-Mart, Asda, Carrefour, Aldi, Lidl, and JYSK amongst its customers.

In apparels, the company is greatly increasing its production capacity for twill, poplin, canvas and yarn dyed fabrics and will



The Noman Group is Monforts' largest customer in Bangladesh has invested in new Monforts technology.

be launching a new product line in 2011 in denim, towel and jersey knitted fabrics.

The company is now expanding its woven and knit garment units, adding a new 75,000 spindle spinning mill and an additional 100,000 m² of fabric dyeing and finishing units. It is also investing in new poplin, bed-net, terry towel and home textile facilities.

Bangladesh's more than 2,500 active garment and textile manufacturers in 2009 exported \$11 billion worth of knit, woven and home textile items, with only a handful exporting over \$100 million or more.

Cotton prices have increased significantly in the last two years but retailers and end customers were unwilling to raise their prices. In terms of pricing, however, Bangladesh is competitive due to the low wage economy. The quality of products made in Bangladesh has also improved greatly, especially with those manufacturers who have recently invested in European technology.

Noman has been able to build on these advantages by enacting new strategies such as cost minimization in different areas of production, increasing value-added products, product diversification, segmenting the products, opening new markets, and development of new products offering better margins.

"A few years ago, European and North American customers thought Bangladesh was unable to produce good quality products, but now they are buying more from Bangladesh because of the price and quality of the textiles," says Mr Tagasa.

"Noman is beating the competition by quoting reasonable price, right quality of product, on-time delivery commitments, and being responsible in social and environmental policies." ♦



Montex 6500 stenter

Huntsman Textile Effects enters Partnership with Xebec International

Huntsman Textile Effects and Xebec International start collaborating in Sri Lanka to deliver world class, high-quality dyes and specialty chemicals to the textile and related industries.

Mr. Kent Kvaal, Vice President of Specialty Textiles at Huntsman Textile Effects inaugurated this partnership at a grand opening ceremony at the Xebec International offices in Sri Lanka on July 15, 2011. Mr. Kvaal said, "We look forward to successful times for the textile wet processing industry in Sri Lanka following Huntsman's collaboration with Xebec International. The experienced Xebec team will help to provide solutions for technical service and logistics with the support of Huntsman resources."



Mr. Kent Kvaal from Huntsman Textile Effects at opening ceremony at the Xebec International offices in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Naveen Juneja, Managing Director of Xebec International, who has an excellent technical background in textile wet processing, is delighted to be working with the Huntsman team and stated: "We are very excited about this partnership with Huntsman and this association will create a new benchmark of sustainability and differentiation which will be a key ingredient to become a preferred supplier to key customers in Srilanka market".

12th Formulation and Distribution Center in Sao Paolo

Huntsman Textile Effects has officially opened its 12th Formulation and Distribution Center (FDC) in Sao Paolo, Brazil that further enhances the company's ability to shorten the supply chain in its Americas markets. The FDC will focus on the production of dyeing auxiliaries, pre-treatment and finishing products for local customers.

For Textile Effects, the Brazil market represents one of the fast-growing, dynamic markets of increasing importance. The new FDC further strengthens

Huntsman's operations, allowing it to explore local production of chemical and textile products that match premium global standards and use latest innovative technology.

"With the opening of our new low cost production facility for formulated chemicals in Sao Paolo, we will considerably increase our competitiveness and flexibility in textile chemicals in the growing Brazilian textile market," said Mr Rohit Aggarwal, Vice President of Huntsman Textile Effects for Apparel and Home Textiles.

Lenzing Modal® Edelweiss

Lenzing presents an environmental innovation – Lenzing Modal® Edelweiss – a new fiber produced by an innovative, eco-friendly manufacturing technology. Lenzing will introduce the new fiber at the fall trade shows.

The Lenzing group has always set the technological and environmental standards in the cellulose fiber world. To maintain its reputation as the industry's Best Practices model, enormous investments in the environment are required. Lenzing's aspirations have led to the company's latest achievement: Edelweiss technology. This technology combined with environmental advantages, such as carbon neutrality, a low need for land and a replenishable raw material of natural origins, makes Lenzing Modal® Edelweiss truly an ecological fiber.

Austrian environmental technology

Lenzing Modal® Edelweiss performs identically to the conventional Lenzing Modal® fiber. The fiber properties, softness and color brilliance, remain intact. Even the processing in the textile supply chain is the same. Andreas Dorner of Lenzing explains why Edelweiss is so unique. "The fiber manufacturing plant in Lenzing Austria is the only one in the world which is fully integrated and has all of the production steps, from the pulp to the fiber, perfectly under control. Throughout the



entire process, attention can be paid to environmental protection. The Edelweiss technology is based on a chemical process derived from oxygen which is more eco-friendly than previous ones. Thus Lenzing Modal® Edelweiss is the only Modal fiber which satisfies the highest possible environmental standards. "Initially only selected quantities will be produced for customers with special ecological requirements."

Austrian beech wood as the raw material supplier

Lenzing Modal® is extracted from beech wood. The beech tree is unique and has a long history. Beech forests thrive in Northern and Central Europe and shape the landscapes of these regions. The tree is thought to improve the earth since it is a deep-rooting plant and conditions the soil. Beech trees propagate by "rejuvenation" hence there is no need for reforestation or replanting of plantations. Forests grow on marginal land and yield a high cellulose harvest without irrigation, fertilizers or pesticides.

More than half of the wood used at Lenzing comes from Austria and the remainder from neighboring countries. Only beech wood from forests managed in compliance with sustainable forestry legislation is used. This means that the biocoenosis of the forest is upheld and it continues to function as a protective shield against natural dangers, a drinking water reservoir, a recreational spot, and natural habitat for animals and plants.

CO₂-neutral fiber thanks to technology from Lenzing

Constantly improving the process integration potential and implementing innovative techniques to further reduce environmental impact have resulted in Lenzing's pulp factory being a net positive energy producer. The Lenzing pulp factory does not require any additional energy and



in fact supplies energy to the entire Lenzing site. Thus Lenzing is a pioneer in

the field of wood-organic refineries. These carbon-neutral thermal processing techniques were developed by Lenzing engineers and are unique to Lenzing.◆

Oerlikon Textile moves Management to Shanghai

The Oerlikon Group will simplify its Textile Segment to further increase competitiveness and profitability. The three key elements of this change: The consolidation of the five Textile machinery and components businesses into three Business Units (BUs), The relocation of Textile's headquarters to Shanghai and Increased R&D investment in both Germany and Asia to around CHF 80 million.

In line with the new organizational structure, Clement Woon, an internationally experienced executive will succeed Thomas Babacan as Segment CEO on 1 January 2012. Oerlikon's CEO, Dr. Michael Buscher, said: "We have seen strong improvement in our Textile business, resulting in record margins. With this announcement we are positioning the Segment even closer to our largest customers, consistent with our strategy to further increase efficiency and profitability. I would like to thank Thomas Babacan for his dedication to Oerlikon and welcome Clement Woon to the company."

The refocusing of Oerlikon Textile comprises three key elements:

Simplified organization with consolidation from five BUs to three: A new Manmade Fibers BU will comprise Oerlikon Barmag and Oerlikon Neumag. The new Natural Fibers BU will consist of Oerlikon Schlafhorst and Oerlikon Saurer. The structure of the Textile Components BU remains unaffected by the realignment. Branding will not change.

Shift of key Oerlikon Textile management to Shanghai: Oerlikon Textile Executives, including the CEO and CFO, will relocate to Shanghai in the first quarter of 2012. By end of 2012 more than 40% of all Textile senior management positions will be based at Oerlikon's new office in Shanghai.

R&D investments in Germany and China: Oerlikon Textile will increase its 2012 R&D investment in Germany to around CHF 60 million (worldwide to around CHF 80 million) and start ramping up R&D capacity in China. The German R&D organization will focus on the continued development of ground breaking innovations such as the recently launched Autocoro 8 from Oerlikon Schlafhorst. The Asian R&D capability will specialize in regional adaptation.

Thomas Babacan will hand over his management responsibilities as Segment CEO to Clement Woon, an executive with extensive international experience, particularly in Asia, has a strong background in both the technology and service industries.

Lenzing Instruments and Retech AG enter into global licencing agreement

With effect from April 2009, Lenzing Instruments GmbH & Co. KG, Austrian producer of testing equipment, has the exclusive and global licence to sell PROMPT ATQ, an online sensor system for monitoring of the yarn tension during the air texturizing process.

The agreement between Lenzing Instruments and the Swiss company was entered with the aim of increasing the existing market coverage by taking advantage of Lenzing Instruments wide network of potential customers and distributors as well as their competence of online monitoring. The new collaboration combines the expertise of these two innovative companies in an ideal manner.

PROMPT ATQ is a valuable tool for producers of air texturized yarn; giving feedback about the real time status of the texturizing process by measuring the absolute yarn tension. The received feedback gives the operator possibility to react to problems such as dirty nozzle, defect yarn guides, faulty temperature of the heater,



PROMPT ATQ is a valuable tool for producers of air texturized yarn.

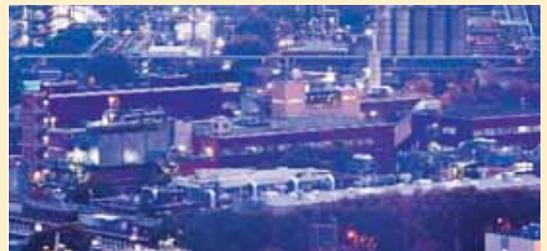
missing fancy yarn etc. PROMPT ATQ is a chemical resistant and robust system, which consists of a number of tension sensors based on Hall effect and a control panel.

Lenzing Instruments offers a wide product range of quality control equipment, designed for the special needs of producers of filaments, fibers, nonwovens and plastic films. The company develops, manufactures and markets testing equipment for laboratory use, at-line use close by the production as well as online systems.

Retech AG is a manufacturer of high efficient mechanical and electronical components for textile machinery. Apart from the tension sensors, Retech AG also develops and produces heated godets with measuring- and control systems, customized draw units and yarn finishing of synthetic yarns. ♦

BASF world's largest manufacturer of caprolactam

Caprolactam plant at Ludwigshafen celebrates 50th anniversary. BASF has been producing caprolactam using a large-scale continuous process at Ludwigshafen for half a century now. During this time around 6.5 million tons of the polyamide 6 intermediate have left the site. "We have constantly improved the production process and expanded the capacity during continuous operation over the past 50 years without major total plant shutdowns.



Caprolactam plant at Ludwigshafen celebrates 50th anniversary.

This demonstrates the strong competence of the production team and the advantage of operating a highly complex technology within an integrated structure (Verbund), comments Hermann Althoff, Senior Vice President of the global business unit Polyamide and Intermediates. With two more plants at Antwerp, Belgium, and Freeport Texas, USA, and a total production capacity of 800,000 tons per year, BASF today is the world's largest manufacturer of caprolactam.

History of caprolactam and BASF

The history of caprolactam and the history of BASF are closely intertwined because caprolactam is the starting material for polyamide 6 (PA 6), also known by the trade name Ultramid®. The industrial production of caprolactam paved the way for BASF to become one of the leading manufacturers of polyamides today and is the backbone of the polyamide 6 value chain within the BASF Verbund.

Caprolactam for engineering plastics, extrusion and fibers

Today it is impossible to imagine the world of engineering plastics, extrusion and fiber polymers without caprolactam and its downstream products. Applications range from transparent and flexible food packaging, fishing lines and nets, cable sheathings, textile fibers for outdoor sportswear and carpets through to lightweight components for cars. ♦

FAKT Exhibitions from Pakistan - Setting industry benchmark

FAKT Exhibition the organizer of Textile & Garment Machinery Exhibition, IGATEX Pakistan has received Brands of the Year Award at Brands of the Year Awards Ceremony.

Yousaf Raza Gillani, Prime Minister of Pakistan presented Brands of the Year Award to Saleem Khan Tanoli, C.E.O, FAKT EXHIBITIONS as being the most acclaimed Textile Brand of Exhibition Industry.

This success of IGATEX Pakistan with a decisive majority is indicative of its recognition as the most corporate, popular and trusted brand of the Exhibition Industry.

This time IGATEX Pakistan scheduled during 3rd to 6th October, 2012 also incorporates ICADEX – Chemical and Dyes Pakistan Exhibition at Lahore Expo Centre. According to FAKT EXHIBITIONS, this is the only event of Pakistan which will showcase the latest developments and emerging technologies of chemical and dyes industry of Pakistan.

FAKT EXHIBITIONS most successful event IGATEX Pakistan - International Garment, Textile Machinery & Accessories Exhibition & Conference received Brands Icon of Pakistan 2010 at Brands of the Year Awards Ceremony.

Saleem Khan Tanoli, C.E.O, FAKT EXHIBITIONS said, "we have been organizing this pioneer and trendsetting Exhibition – IGATEX since its launch many years ago and have the privilege to introduce and showcase the latest textile machinery and technology in Pakistan. The Brands Icon of Pakistan Award 2010 classifies IGATEX Pakistan as the "Brand that has achieved the status of an icon of excellence and has given an identity to Garment, Textile Machinery & Accessories industry creating singular distinction, strategic awareness, and differentiation in the mind of the target market".



Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Prime Minister of Pakistan presenting Brands of the year Award 2010 to Saleem Khan Tanoli, CEO, FAKT Exhibitions Pvt. Ltd.

Texas Tech University involves High School Students in Nonwovens Research

The Institute of Environmental and Human Health (TIEHH) at Texas Tech University has made history for the Technical Association of Pulp and Paper Industry's (TAPPI) nonwovens division due to the university's involvement of high school students in its cotton nonwovens research.

Kahan Chavda, a senior from St. Mark's School of Texas in Dallas; Aarav Chavda, a junior from St. Mark's School of Texas; Ronald Kendall Jr., a senior from Lubbock Coronado High School; and Luke Kitten, a senior from Lubbock Trinity High School, participated in the research.

The research from these high school students contributed to the work on oil absorption by cotton nonwovens and was presented at the leading nonwovens conference in Atlanta.

"This is a very significant achievement," said TAPPI President Larry Montague. "To my knowledge this is the first time that high school students were specifically targeted and brought to an event like TAPPI."

TIEHH's research focuses on West Texas cotton, specifically the 10% of cotton that, due to the weather in the region, doesn't fully mature and must be sold at a discounted rate.

"What our lab thought two years back was why can't we take this discounted cotton and find new market opportunities for that cotton," said Seshadri Ramkumar, associate professor of nonwoven materials and countermeasures to chemical threats.

Vinit Singh, a graduate student at Texas Tech, found that the discounted cotton absorbs more oil than higher quality cotton, and to prove that he enlisted the help of the high school students to assist in conducting research.

"I became interested in it a few years back when Fibertect® started getting some recognition," Kendall said.

Kendall and Kitten are currently investigating the oil absorption capabilities of the 2011 cotton crop.

"Ramkumar's research has and is a crucial part of making the world more aware of this fascinating industry," Montague said. "Just about the time we think we have heard it all before, a press release comes out from Texas Tech, with another winning research project that has resulted in a new product line."

James Heal: Winners of 'International Business of the Year Award'

James Heal are winners of 'International Business of the Year Award' for the Halifax Courier Business Awards 2011.

The judges were looking for a business which knew its international market inside and out, who are an ambassador for Calderdale businesses and who show a strong commitment to their overseas reputation.



Elliot Rich, Sales Director holding Halifax Courier Business Award with other participants.

Jill Hague from HSBC presented James Heal Directors with the award. The judges said James Heal demonstrated a consistent record of international success across many years and were worthy winners of the award this year.

They were up against some tough competition in this category, and as one of the few remaining British manufacturers are proud to be recognized.

Michael Minish, Finance Director at James Heal commented; "This really means a lot, we're really honorees to receive this and really proud of all our employees. We may do a lot of work internationally, but our heritage is in Calderdale."

Elliot Rich, Sales Director comments "James Heal are elated to have won this prestigious award and believe we are truly 'Setting the Standard'. This year we have gone through a strategic rebranding process which is helping to raise our profile in international markets. We are a service-oriented company that operates in a complex global marketplace and we maintain a strong national/international customer service with technical support, maintenance and calibration offered through our Halifax-based global Service & Calibration division. ♦