

## **Knitting Industry in Bangladesh [1] Turning Point from Manual to Automatic Machine Rapidly Increasing Demand for Shima Seiki's Computerized Flat Knitting Machines**

In early October, JSN visited Pacific Associates Ltd. ([www.pacificitdbd.com](http://www.pacificitdbd.com)) that became a new sales agent of Shima Seiki in Bangladesh this August. JSN could interview Mr. M. Sahadat Hossain, chairman of this company and Mr. M. Shahabuddin, managing director. The contents of this interview are summed up here.

At present, knit industry in Bangladesh is very busy. And, Shima Seiki's automatic computerized flat knitting machines are in rapidly increasing demand for the following reasons.

- 1) Personnel expenses are rising day by day. A knitting operator in a Bangladeshi sweater factory receives a monthly pay of US\$ 150 as an average. This pay is very high in comparison with a sewing operator (approx. US\$ 60). In a sweater factory, weft knitting machines are manually operated. This work requires high physical strength, so most work is carried out by male workers. Particular in this November, wages of helpers will be raised 80% from the present level and those of other operators will also be raised 20 to 50%. Annually, wages tend to rise 10 to 20%. Therefore, automatic machines are needed by each factory for reducing a rise in personnel expenses. With a conventional flat knitting machine, each operator can take charge of only one machine. With Shima Seiki's computerized flat knitting machine, however, each operator can operate 5 or 6 machines. So, labor cost can be reduced and productivity can be improved remarkably.
- 2) The second reason concerns the factory and working environments in Bangladeshi knit factories. Sweater factories in this country aim to minimize noise emission from the machines and make transition to a manufacturing process friendly to working environment. This can be realized by use of Shima Seiki's computerized flat knitting machines.
- 3) Recently, famous brand makers in U.S.A./Europe, Japan, etc. have been visiting Bangladesh for purchasing high-end products. Because such buyers always request high-quality sweater products, it is expected that Shima Seiki's computerized flat knitting machines will further be demanded in the future.

For the three reasons above, Pacific Associates predicts that sales of Shima Seiki's automatic computerized flat knitting machines will grow rapidly in the future.