

## Textile Briefs National

**1** The government has announced the country's biggest export package worth Rs 180 billion to enhance foreign trade. The package envisages abolition of customs duty and sales tax on import of cotton. Similarly, customs duty on man-made fibre rather than polyester and sales tax on import of textile machinery has also been abolished.

**2** The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has exempted sales tax on the import of machinery (not manufactured locally) by textile units registered with the Ministry of Textile Industry from January 16, 2017 till June 30, 2018.

**3** According to Chairman APTMA, Aamir Fayyaz, the textile industry has not sufficiently invested in balancing and modernisation and the situation in 2016 has further deteriorated. The eroding competitiveness of the sector was not only because of high cost of doing business in Pakistan but also due to 10 years old machinery. He said

the older machines consume 40% more power than the latest basic textile machines.

**4** State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Arshad Wathra reiterated the government's resolve to revive the textile industry and pledged unequivocal support for all the stakeholders. He has asked the representatives of the banking sector to play their due role in rehabilitating the textile industry by extending loans to the exporters.

**5** The TDAP Chairman has said that the decline in exports from Pakistan is due to global recession. He said last year Pakistan's exports declined by 14% while there was a dip of 18% in Indian and 12% in Chinese exports.

**6** Towel Manufacturers Association of Pakistan delegation presented a working paper to the governor based on points for revival of the textile industry and assured the Governor that

if their proposals are given due weight age, they can assure that the country's exports will increase manifold which will ultimately help the exporters to come out from the crises which they are facing since long as well as it will help the government in increasing foreign reserves which is badly needed for the country.

**7** Pakistan has missed the cotton production target by around 25 per cent as the production has been recorded at 10.5 million bales against the set target of 14.1 million bales for 2016-17. So far 10.5 million bales of cotton have been recorded.

**8** Muhammad Jawed Bilwani, chairman of Pakistan Apparel Forum demanded release of long pending refunds of exporters from the government. According to Bilwani, exports of knitwear dropped 3.44 per cent, garments fell 3.60 per cent and of all other textile products decreased 1.30 per cent in January 2017, as against January 2016. ♦

## Textile Briefs International



**1** The garment manufacturers in Bangladesh after days of labour unrest that forced the closure of hundreds of factories in Bangladesh have agreed to a US\$73 minimum monthly wage for the country's four million garment workers.

**2** Latest statistics show that China's exports of textiles and garment dropped by 1.7% year-on-year in 2016, in which, the export of textiles grew 1.9%, that of garment declined by 3.9%. The December exports dropped by 6.7% from a year earlier, in which, the export of textiles grew 0.1%, while that of garment dropped by 10.6%.

**3** Egyptian government will not offer any form of subsidies for cotton farmers or spindles during the next season. The government believes that long staple cotton cultivation is very expensive with little or no demand for it either domestically or internationally.

**4** The E-textiles market is growing at a rate of about 36.2% due to its increasing application across varied industries such as defense, healthcare, and sports among others.

**5** The Cotton Advisory Board of India has forecast all-India cotton yield to increase to 568.29 kg per hectare compared to last season's 483.79 kg. The average per hectare yield for south zone is forecast at 690.88 kg while it is 668.06 kg in north zone. The yield is expected to go up to 512.12 kg in central zone.

**6** Morocco produced one billion pieces of fabric per year by 175,000 workers (30% of all industrial jobs nationwide) in 1,600 local companies, 31.4 billion Moroccan Dirham of exports. The textile industry is one of Morocco's most powerful economic segments and Europe's seventh largest textile supplier after China, Bangladesh, Turkey, India, Cambodia and Vietnam.

**7** Ethiopia has managed to attract investment from ten large Chinese companies, according to EIC commissioner Fitsum Arega. About half of these are in textile and apparel manufacturing, and this includes Jiangsu Sunshine Group, which has decided to invest nearly \$1 billion in Ethiopia.

**8** The textile and garment sector of Vietnam is aiming at total exports of US\$ 28 billion in 2015. In 2014, Vietnam's textile and garment industry witnessed good growth in exports and they reached \$24.5 billion, up nearly 16% compared to 2013.

**9** The Government of Nigeria has allocated N51 billion (\$162.034 million) in this year's budget for development of the country's garment and textile industry. The budget allocation is part of the Nigerian government's efforts to promote the garment and textile sector to create jobs, diversify its economy, and to increase the use of 'Made in Nigeria' clothing.

**10** U.S. cotton plantings could be up nearly 10 percent to 11 million acres this spring, judging from grower responses to the National Cotton Council's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Season Planting Intentions Survey. Upland cotton intentions are 10.8 million acres, up 8.8 percent from 2016, while extra-long staple intentions of 266,000 acres represent a 36.9 percent increase. ♦