

Textile Briefs National

1 The Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue, Dr Muhammad Irshad has instructed regional tax officers to stop the issuance of notices to ginners and freezing of their bank accounts. He gave the assurance of some concessions and facilities to the ginning industry in the coming budget.

2 According to KCA Senior Member Ghulam Rabbani, the government need to allow cotton hedge trading through Karachi Cotton Association (KCA) as it will help the economy by providing a cover against the risk of fluctuations in price, thereby facilitating smooth flow of national and international trading in cotton.

3 Pakistan Apparel Forum Chairman Muhammad Jawed Bilwani has expressed deep concern over decline in textile exports in general and of garments in particular and demanded the government to immediately release all pending Sales Tax Refunds, Custom Rebate Claims, DLT Claims and WHT

Claims to provide relief to the textile exporters so that they could focus on increasing their exports.

4 The Pakistan Senate Standing Committee on Textile Industry stressed on the need to protect the domestic textile industry, by expanding exports from the sector. The committee also gave its recommendations on properly implementing the Rs.180 billion Trade Enhancement Package. The package announced by PM Nawaz Sharif will run for eighteen months.

5 Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers Association (PHMA) Chairman Adil Butt said that textile exporters are being exposed to heavy financial losses as they passed on the benefit of cut in cost to international buyers immediately after the announcement of the government's incentive package. He expressed concern over the undue delay in refund payment to the exporters, stating that not even a single penny has been released to the export-oriented industry.

6 Chairman of Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA), Dr. Jeso Mal has demanded a bailout cum incentive oriented package for the ginners since cotton is an important cash crop and lifeline of textile industry millions of farmers are directly associated with cultivation and harvesting of cotton crop and sale of lint.

7 All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) Chairman Aamir Fayyaz has proposed a multi-year tariff, determined by Nepra for the industry, without including the surcharge, which would make available electricity at the regionally competitive price of Rs7 per kilowatt-hour. Fayyaz pointed out that exports of all sectors have declined because of the high cost of doing business. The trade deficit reached \$28 billion in the previous fiscal year as exports dropped to \$19.5 billion from \$24.5 billion in 2013. ♦

Textile Briefs International



1 The global market for denim jeans is expected to touch \$79.2 billion by 2022, driven by the expanding urban population, an increase in white-collar employees, changing perceptions about 'executive wear' and the resulting acceptance of jeans as business casual attire for men and growing number of women in the workforce.

2 Leading fashion brands including H&M and Zara have boycotted a key industry conference in Bangladesh in support of garment workers who have been sacked or jailed for participating in wage strikes. H&M, C&A, Tchibo and Inditex which owns Zara - all top clients of Bangladesh's \$30-billion garment industry have pulled out of the Dhaka Apparel Summit, the signature annual event in the global textile hub.

3 Australia reports that by the end of 2016-17 shorn wool production is forecast to be 5% higher than last year, reflecting flock rebuilding across the sector supported by good pasture growth on the back of 2016 rainfall. The national sheep flock is forecast to increase to 73.6 million head in 2016-17

and to continue increasing to around 83 million head by 2021-22.

4 The production of raw jute in Bangladesh is estimated at around 90 lakh bales in 2016-17 season, a section of jute mills in Bengal are concerned about the poor grades of raw jute stock of around 40 lakh bales that are still with traders and stockists and is yet to arrive in the market, affecting the quality of finished jute bags.

5 Ministry of Textiles in India has announced that the entrepreneurs active in manufacturing of the made-ups and garments will be given 10% subsidy on capital investment under A-TUFS Scheme (Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme).

6 Terry towels coming from the Indian factories accounted for almost 21% of the world market. With another 19% share in the bed linen market, India stands as a leading supplier to the US.

7 The demand for Australian wool is continuing to grow in major international markets for high end imported clothing, like the EU and the

US. The demand is forecast to grow more strongly in China, the world's largest producer and exporter of woollen clothing and textiles. Increasing domestic consumption of luxury woollen textiles is also a factor pushing wool demand in China.

8 Kyrgyzstan plans to create a full cycle of industrial production to develop its textile industry especially sewing. Kyrgyzstan's sewing industry consists of small and medium-sized enterprises and provides about 160,000 jobs. The sewing industry is improving the skills of workers and upgrading production facilities and equipment. The industry is now planning to enter new markets like Germany and Belarus.

9 The international textiles buyers are increasingly switching away from China, and back to Western suppliers, as rising labour, raw material and energy costs make the world's dominant producer more expensive. China remains a world leader in textiles, employing over 4.6 million people, contributing a tenth of GDP and with exports, including apparel, of \$284 billion in 2015. ♦