

Textile Briefs National

1 In a move that will further widen the gulf between businessmen and the government, the textile sector questioned the credibility of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Rs 180 billion textile package after the Finance ministry allocated a meagre sum of Rs 4 billion to fund it.

2 Federal Minister for Commerce, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan said that the GSP Plus by the EU had played a positive role in boosting Pakistan's exports. Pakistan's exports to EU had increased by 38% from 4.25 billion Euros in 2013 to 6.28 billion Euros in 2016. Garments exports to European Union (EU) increased by 75%.

3 Secretary Trade Development Authority of Pakistan Inam-Ullah Khan has said that non-traditional markets are being focused on in order to enhance Pakistani exports. He said that efforts are under way to create strong links between businessmen of

Pakistan and their counterparts in other countries.

4 Cotton has witnessed 12 percent increase during the current sowing season as compared to the sowing of the same period of last year. Crop cultivation has been completed over 88.2 percent area against the targets set for current sowing season, as per information released by Ministry of Textile Industry, Dr Khalid Abdullah.

5 The Chairman of the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) called for a more competitive business environment in the country to boost the country's exports. Now we want to compete with regional competitors such as India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. He added that enhancing the country's exports would help achieve economic stability and growth.

6 Exports performance remained disappointing, but the Economic Survey 2016-17 pointed out that in some product categories, lower unit value marred the quantitative increase; failing to mention that in many items exports declined both in value and quantity.

7 The government has projected textile exports would fetch \$13.2 billion in the year to come. In textile exports, cotton yarn exports are projected at \$1.2 billion, cotton cloth at \$2.2 billion, knitwear at \$2.5 billion, bed wear at \$2.2 billion, readymade garments at \$2.5 billion and other textile products at \$2.5 billion.

8 Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) released data detailing a fall in textile and clothing exports from Pakistan in the first 11 months of the financial year 2016-17. A decline of 1.98% was recorded in textile and clothing exports reached \$11.234 billion. ♦

Textile Briefs International



1 Bangladesh Cotton Development Board has adopted a five-year project titled "Extensive Cotton Cultivation" considering the importance of the sector and its further development. According to experts, cotton production can be enhanced to around 0.8 million bales to 1.0 million bales from the existing hardly 0.1 million bales annually.

2 In recent years, Ethiopia's textile and apparel industry have grown at an average rate of 51% per year. More than 65 international textile investment projects have been licensed for foreign investors. Around 124 foreign investors have expressed interest in the Ethiopian textile sector, 71 of which are from China.

3 The government of India has trimmed the textile and clothing export target to \$45 billion for the current fiscal. Total shipments in the last fiscal missed the initial target of \$48.5 billion by a huge margin. The target for 2017-18 will nevertheless represent a

17% rise from the actual level of \$38.6 billion in 2016-17.

4 A textile company in Turkey plans to reopen an old textile mill in North Carolina, creating up to 260 jobs over three years. HPFabrics Inc. has agreed to set up an operation in Winston-Salem. HPFabrics president Rafet Tukek told Winston-Salem development officials the company would spend nearly \$4 million to upgrade a closed textile plant in the city.

5 The apparel industry accounts for over 10% of global carbon emissions and remains the second largest industrial polluter, second to the petroleum industry. About 4.0 million people are employed in the US fashion industry. The average household in America spent almost \$2,000 last year on apparel and footwear, with a high carbon footprint.

6 Vietnam is one of the five biggest exporters in the world, with exports of US\$28.5 billion last year, but to achieve this, the country

imports large volumes of raw material including yarn, fabric and others.

7 Sri Lankan apparel export earnings have fallen 5.2% during the first half of 2017 as a result of a decline in shipments to the US and EU markets. From January to June 2017, earnings from textiles and garment exports fell to 2.4 billion as compared with the same period last year. Export earnings from textile and garments account for around 40% of total exports.

8 Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania have raised taxes for used clothes and offered incentives to manufacturers to invest in their local textile sectors starting this financial year 2017/18. Uganda has increased the environmental levy imposed on used clothes from 15% to 20% of the cost and freight insurance (CIF) value and Rwanda has increased taxes on import of used clothes for the second consecutive year from \$0.2 to \$2.5 in the last financial year to US\$4 per kg. ♦