

Textile Briefs National

1 Greg Hands, UK Minister of State for Trade Policy said that Pakistan is a potential market of 200 million people and both the countries were willing to enhance the bilateral trade. He said that bilateral trade between Pakistan and UK increased after the GSP Plus from the European Union adding that the position of Britain would remain the same as had been before Brexit.

2 Pakistan needs to modernise spinning industry to boost its textile exports, said Shaohui Zhang, Head of a Chinese delegation. He said that the production capacity of spindles is very low. Pakistan has high-quality cotton and good quality labour, with the technology advancement these can be utilised in a better way to produce high-quality yarn.

3 Pakistan has never analysed the challenges to its own industries and manufacturing sector after execution of CPEC. No safeguarding measures have taken in the bilateral agreements of CPEC to save the textile sector which contributes 60% to overall

exports of the country, said an official source at Textile Division. Pakistan may become a trader after the massive investment by China in textile processing, from cotton to ginning, spinning, fabric, processing, made-ups and garments.

4 According to the 10-year textile development plan by China in its Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region which is also sometimes called East Turkestan, Xinjiang will build China's largest cotton textile production base and the largest garment export processing base. By 2023, Xinjiang will become the largest cotton textile industry base in China and the most important clothing export base in Western China.

5 The All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) announced that almost 140 textile mills have already closed their operation and about one million workers have lost their jobs and another 75 to 80 mills are on the verge of closure, which will add to the unemployment figure by another 0.5

million labour forces employed in the textile industry.

6 The government should continue the implementation of the textile package and extend notification for the payment of incentives from July 1, 2017, to onwards, said Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) President Engineer Muhammad Saeed Sheikh. He expressed satisfaction over the increasing trend in textile exports which was the natural outcome of the implementation of the textile package.

7 The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) have urged the US to extend GSP facility till December 2020 and include core Pakistani textile products in the facility. US has given GSP access to Pakistan, allowing duty-free and duty concession access for several products; however, the scheme does not include core textile and leather products export. ♦

Textile Briefs International



1 According to the Annual Report 2016-17 of the Ministry of Textiles, Indian textile sector registered \$194 million FDI inflows in 2013-14, that has trebled in the fiscal year 2016-17 as the sector managed to receive \$619 million FDI inflows during this period.

2 Chinese textile firms are increasingly using North Korean factories to take advantage of cheaper labour across the border. The clothes made in North Korea are labelled "Made in China" and exported across the world.

3 Indian garment shipment to the US, the country's single largest export destination, declined 7.47% year-on-year to US\$ 5.2 billion in 2016-17 largely because of higher duty, longer lead-time and lower prices.

4 The EU, which is Sri Lanka's biggest export destination, absorbing 36% of total shipments, rein-

stated the country into the GSP Plus program in mid-May, removing import tariffs on more than 6,000 products, including clothing.

5 Vietnam's textile and garment export turnover has reached \$12 billion this year, representing a modest increase of 9% compared to the same period last year. The current figure is a three-year low and much lower than the 19% growth rate last year.

6 Islamic clothing market nowadays presents the rapidly expanding niche. Big brands are trying to present their collections related to Muslim religious observances, however, without any visible attempts to single handily secure the Muslim customers in Western countries leaving the space for the emerging young designers mainly from Muslim states.

7 The export of Indian readymade garments increased from the US US\$ 16.21 billion in 2014-15 to

the US \$17.09 billion in 2016-17, whereas in the same period the export of cotton textiles, man-made textiles, silk, wool and woollen textiles, and handloom and jute products witnessed a decline.

8 Indonesia is cotton USA's fourth-largest market after China, Turkey and Mexico. Sales in Indonesia range between US\$300 million and \$600 million a year, according to Cotton Council International (CCI).

10 There are more than 400 companies in Myanmar's garment sector which together employ over 400,000 people. These companies together fetched export earnings of US \$2.2 billion last year, beating estimates of US \$2 billion. Currently, garment exports account for around 16% of total export earnings by Myanmar. ♦