



BANGLADESH

Country targets to catch Russia's \$50 billion clothing market

Bangladeshi apparel exports to non-traditional markets are increasing day by day. Bangladesh has huge potential in the non-traditional markets. Russia, a non-traditional export destination for Bangladeshi garments, has a market of US\$ 52 billion in garments sector. Recently Bangladesh has begun its efforts to increase its share in the market.

According to the Ministry of Textiles and Jute, the fair will be held at the Radisson Slavianskaya Hotel and business centre in Moscow. The Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau and the Bangladesh Embassy of Moscow organized the fair, which costs around 10 million taka.

State Minister of Textiles and Jute Mirza Azam said that at present, Russia is a big market for jute and readymade garments. In the past, no initiative has been taken from Bangladesh to make this market place.



CHINA

Chinese Foreign Ministry praises Cambodia

The Chinese Foreign Ministry referred to Cambodia as a "small but strong country" during a press conference marking 60 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Hua Chunying, spokesman for China's Foreign Affairs Ministry, said: "Although Cambodia is a small country, it showed its strong will in resisting pressure and other political influences."

Responding to the remarks, San Chey, director of the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability, said praise from China wouldn't do much to serve the Kingdom's interests.

San Chey further added: "The praise of China has no bearing on Cambodia's economy, especially for the textile and garment sector. The praise of China could damage Cambodia's image with western countries."



Linking the praise with growing Chinese investment in the Kingdom Sen Karona said: "China has a lot of benefits in term of investment in Cambodia ... If [China] does not praise Cambodia, it means that there is a problem impacting the relations."

But Sok Eysan, spokesperson of the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP), dismissed any allegation, saying China brings developmental benefits to Cambodia.

Eysan added that "China has interest in Cambodia because, if we think, Cambodia has a smaller population than China's. China is the world's new super economy."

Soeng Sen Karona, spokesperson of human rights NGO Adhoc, added that the Kingdom's garment sector relied heavily on the EU and US, but not China.



EGYPT

Garment exports increase by 17% in Q1 2018

The garment exports from Egypt brought US\$385 million (LE 6.77 billion) in the first quarter (Q1) of 2018, showing the enhancement of 17% over exports of US\$330 million during the same period of the previous year, said readymade garments export council. The council expects US\$1.8 billion readymade garments exports this year.

Of the total export in January-March 2018, around 48% or US\$185 million of garments were ascertained to the US.

This a 16% jump compared to US\$160 million during the comparable period of 2017.

The month-wise, exports earned in January, February and March respectively amounts to US\$129 million, \$133 million and \$123 million, as compared to exports of US\$104 million, US\$110 million and US\$116 million in the corresponding months of the previous year.

Egyptian garment industry is also expected to profit from the recently agreed African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA), as it will boost Egyptian apparel exports to other African countries, including South Africa.

Egyptian Cotton brand agreement signed

Egyptian cotton brand agreement signing ceremony was attended by Trade Minister to promote products made of Egyptian cotton. A special unit will be formed to ensure the optimal use of the brand and to sign deals with international textile companies on that score under the agreement.

He commented that the agreement is meant to promote products made of Egyptian cotton on local and international markets. To manage the rights of the "Egyptian Cotton" brand Trade and Industry Minister Tarek Kabil attended the signing ceremony of an agreement. The Ministry, the Egyptian cotton exporters association and Cotton Egypt Association inked the three year deal during the ceremony.

Trade and Industry Minister Tarek Kabil said that the government in Egypt is eager on upgrading the system of cotton

cultivation and textile industry to better meet demands of the local market and enhance exports. Kabil pointed out the importance of a national strategy outlined by his Ministry to expand production and solve problems, in a meeting of the Supreme Council of Textile Industries.



ETHIOPIA

Textile sector gears toward growth and investment

Ethiopia's textile industry is picking up now and fast catching up with the likes of Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia and other Far East countries.

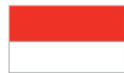
Ethiopia is largely an agrarian economy but eighteen leading apparel and textile companies from the U.S., China, India, Sri Lanka and six local manufacturers have set up factories at an industrial park in Hawassa a lakeside resort city 170 kilometres south of the capital Addis Ababa.

Buoyed by medium term prospects for growth, the textile and apparel

companies are all set to expand their operations. The state-of-the-art park in the regional capital is part of Ethiopia's second growth and transformation plan (GTP II).

Ethiopia with a young labour force of 45 million has a huge potential in the manufacturing sector. The annual manufacturing growth which is currently 25% is projected to increase gross domestic product (GDP) fourfold and its share in exports to 50%.

Of the companies intent on tapping this potential is Chinese manufacturer JP Textile that is currently expanding its production at the park.



INDONESIA

New woven fabrics SME centre

The industry ministry of Indonesia has partnered with the regency of Tanah Datar in West Sumatra to establish a centre for small and medium enterprises

(SMEs) dedicated to developing woven textile industry in the region. Strategic programmes to improve competency, research, production and promotion are also expected to be conducted at the centre.

The centre will encourage makers of woven fabrics to create trendy products with better design, motifs and quality for the customers, said Gati Wibawaningsih, Director General for SMEs, industry ministry of Indonesia. She added that woven textile seems to be a lucrative business for many small to medium sized enterprises.

Indonesia has 369 woven textile SMEs centres which supervise close to 16,971 business units. The growth of the woven textile industry in different regions is expected to distribute income equitably across the country. This type of textile also contributes to foreign exchange and raked in US\$2.6 million in 2016. The Netherlands is the main importer of Indonesian woven textiles.

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Around the World



Walmart plans to open 50 new stores in next five years

Walmart is now looking forward to expanding its business in various parts of India with the opening of 50 new stores in next 4-5 years.

The announcement has come a day after the US retailer's investment in Flipkart, India's largest online retailer. At present, Walmart is operating in nine states and 19 cities, its cash-and-carry business.

We expect to open five stores in the current year and then pick up pace and eventually start opening 12-15 stores a year, said Walmart India President and Chief executive officer Krish Iyer.

Walmart is planning to spread across the country with major focus in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Walmart will also strengthen its online business in India through Flipkart, in which it will 77% stake for US\$16 billion. This investment will benefit India in providing quality, affordable goods to customers, while creating new skilled jobs and fresh opportunities for small suppliers, farmers and women entrepreneurs

Walmart India is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Walmart Stores Inc and offers close to 5,000 items through its cash-and-carry wholesale format.



Country to invest US\$250 million in technical textiles for defence

The Russian government plans to allocate up to US\$ 250 million in the design and production of nonwovens and technical textiles for the needs of the Russian military forces during the next several years, according to senior officials of the Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The majority of funding for the project will be provided from the Russian military budget, which is estimated at



around US\$ 70 billion for 2018, the highest in the history of modern Russia. It is planned that most of the funds will be invested in the design of special materials, based on technical textiles, which will be used in the production of military uniform clothing and other military equipment for Russian soldiers, including those, who are currently deployed in Syria and other Middle Eastern states.

According to sources close to the Russian Ministry of Defence, these will be Russia's largest producers of technical textiles and nonwovens, which have previously supplied their products to Western markets, European Union, in particular.

In recent years, the Russian defence industry has become one of the largest consumers of nonwovens and technical textiles in Russia and it is expected that its share in the overall structure of consumption will continue to grow during the next several years at higher rates.



Textile industry calls for China 301 tariffs on textile

National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO) President & CEO Auggie Tantillo testified as a witness at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative's (USTR) public hearing on proposed China 301 tariffs in Washington, DC on May 17.

The U.S. textile industry strongly supports the Trump administration's Section 301 case to sanction China's rampant intellectual property rights (IPR) theft, said NCTO President & CEO Auggie Tantillo.

The U.S. textile industry urges the Trump administration to include textile

and apparel end products in any Section 301 retaliatory tariff action against China. Tantillo said that China's predatory, illegal trade actions, including IPR theft, have contributed to the loss of millions of U.S. manufacturing jobs, including hundreds of thousands in textiles.

China's domination of global textile markets has clearly been aided by its rampant theft of U.S. textile intellectual property. From the violation of patents on high performance fibers, yarns and fabrics to the infringement of copyrighted designs on textile home furnishings, China has gained pricing advantages through illegal activities.

The U.S. employment in the textile supply chain was 550,500 in 2017. The value of shipments for U.S. textiles and apparel was US\$77.9 billion in 2017. Furthermore, the U.S. exports of fibre, textiles and apparel were \$28.6 billion in 2017. Capital expenditures for textile and apparel production totalled US\$2.4 billion in 2016.

USDA: Global cotton consumption to reach record in 2018-19

In China, cotton consumption is forecast to expand 4% and reach 41.5 million bales in 2018-19, the largest since 2010-11. The investment in the textile industry continues and mills have access to local supplies from the national reserve. China's mill use in 2018-19 may be further supported by a slower pace of yarn imports compared with recent years.

Similarly, India's consumption in 2018-19 is expected to grow nearly 4% to 25.2 million bales, a record if realised; in this context, the global demand for cotton textile and apparel products has supported the recent growth seen in India.

In Pakistan, cotton mill use is forecast at 10.5 million bales in 2018-19, slightly above a year earlier and the largest in 4 years.

Cotton mill use in Bangladesh is forecast to reach 7.8 million bales in 2018-19, up 500,000 bales or 7% over 2017-18 as consumption hits new records annually.

Tremendous growth has also been noted in Vietnam, where 2018-19 mill use is expected to expand 12% to a record 7.4 million bales, up 800,000 bales over the previous season. Likewise, Turkey's consumption is projected 200,000 bales or 3% higher in 2018-19 to a record 7.4 million bales, concluded USDA.



UNDP project to reduce textile emissions

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Vietnam Chemicals Agency, ministry of industry and trade recently held the inception workshop of a project called the 'Application of Green Chemistry in Vietnam to support green growth and reduction in the use and release of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and hazardous chemicals'.



The project will reduce the use of POPs and release of Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants (U-POPs) through the introduction of green chemistry in various industrial sectors in Vietnam including textiles. It aims to create an enabling environment for the introduction and the application of green chemistry to relevant sectors as part of Vietnam's commitment to the Stockholm and the Minamata Conventions.

This is the first green chemistry project that aims to minimise the use and emission of chemicals that are not in the Multilateral Environment Agreements list to be implemented in Vietnam and in Southeast Asia. The project has three objectives: create a legal framework, raise awareness, and piloted practices that will help reduce emissions and the use of POPs, said Dao Xuan Lai, UNDP assistant country director, Head of the environment and climate change unit.

At the workshop, Christine Wellington Moore, UNDP programme advisor Montreal protocol unit/chemicals, Asia Pacific regional centre, introduced the overall project activities, framework and components to be implemented in Vietnam. ♦


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