



BANGLADESH

Country seeks duty-free market access in China

China-Bangladesh has discussed ways and means to promote cooperation on major projects and the negotiations on the free trade agreement (FTA). The Bangladeshi government has recently sought duty-free market access in China.

Tofail Ahmed, Bangladesh Commerce Minister said that Bangladesh currently exports 5,074 products to China, including ready-made garments. Already a Letter of Exchange (LoE) has been forwarded to China government regarding on the issue.

If China approves the LoE immediately, Bangladesh will enjoy exporting the duty-free benefit of 97% of the products under the World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, reducing the current trade deficit.

The members of the WTO countries can also take advantage of the trade between themselves. According to his speech, under the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), Bangladesh has been enjoying duty benefits for 60% and 83 products in the Chinese market. This facility will expire if Bangladesh gets direct tax and quota-free export advantage from China under LoE.

However, as an LDC, after getting direct duty-free benefits until 2027, Bangladesh will once again be able to take advantage of those benefits, because Bangladesh will not withdraw its membership from APTA.

With a 6.78% growth projection, Bangladesh government has set the export target of US\$ 32.69 billion for the apparel sector in the financial year 2019. The growth is very inspiring for the country as well as exporters. This indicates that Bangladesh now has enough capacity to attract buyers and executes bulk amount of work orders, said Exporters Association of Bangladesh (EAB) President Abdus Salam Murshedy.

In the financial year 2018, Bangladesh's export earnings from the RMG sector stood at US\$ 30.61 billion, posting 8.76% growth. Of the total amount, Knitwear products earned US\$ 15.18 billion, which is 10.40% higher than the US\$ 13.76 in the same period a



year ago. Woven products earned US\$ 15.42 billion, up by 7.18%, compared to US\$ 14.39 billion a year ago.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's export earnings rose by 5.8% to US\$ 36.66 billion in the last fiscal year, while the country earned US\$ 34.65 billion from exports in FY17.



ETHIOPIA

Country expects to earn US\$ 200 million from textiles

Ethiopia expects to earn US\$ 240 million in export taxes this fiscal from the textile and garments sector, which will receive more priority in foreign currency earnings. An agreement with the National Bank of Ethiopia and the Cyprus Development Bank will efficiently release foreign currency for transactions in the sector, said Industry Minister Bogale Feleke.

The textile and garment sector is considered as one of the key industrial sectors prioritized by the government as a source of foreign currency earnings to offset the current shortage in hard currency. Around US\$ 110 million were secured by the export sector in the last fiscal that was only 46% of the plan for the year.

Lower export earnings are attributed to lower exports, shortage of cotton, lack

of trained manpower and instability in some parts of the country. The Ethiopian government has prepared a 15-year National Cotton Development Strategy to tackle the cotton shortage.



INDIA

Steps being taken to stop cotton contamination: CCI

The Centre and the Textile Ministry are taking efforts to reduce contamination in cotton for the benefit of the textile industry, according to a senior official of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). This was in response to concerns expressed by stakeholders in the cotton and textile industry over the contamination in cotton and lower yield in India compared to other countries.

CCI Chairman and Managing Director P. Alli Rani noted that though India was the largest producer, the 'trash level' in the raw material affected end users.

As a first step to check contamination in cotton, the Bureau of Indian Standards would work out a system for traceability of cotton arriving as bales from ginning factories, she said. By doing this, the government would be able to know the source of contamination and take preventive measures.

Apart from this, once the second phase of the Technology Mission on



Cotton, as proposed by the textile ministry, was approved, the problem of contamination could automatically be solved.

Country imposes anti-dumping duty on Chinese polyester yarn

The probe followed complaints by Indian companies, who alleged that below-cost import of the yarn from China is hurting the Indian industry. India has imposed an anti-dumping duty of up to US\$ 528 per tonne for five years on a Chinese polyester yarn used in automotive and other industries. The move will provide a level playing field to domestic players and guard them against below-cost imports.

Commerce Ministry's investigation arm Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) had recommended the duty after a probe into alleged dumping of High Tenacity Polyester Yarn from China. High tenacity polyester yarn, also called industrial yarn, is used for the manufacture of tyre cord fabric, seat belt webbing, ropes, coated fabric, conveyor belt fabric and automotive hose.

The probe followed complaints by the domestic players, who alleged that below-cost import of the yarn from China is hurting the industry in India. The Finance ministry has imposed the duty on the product after considering the recommendations of DGAD.

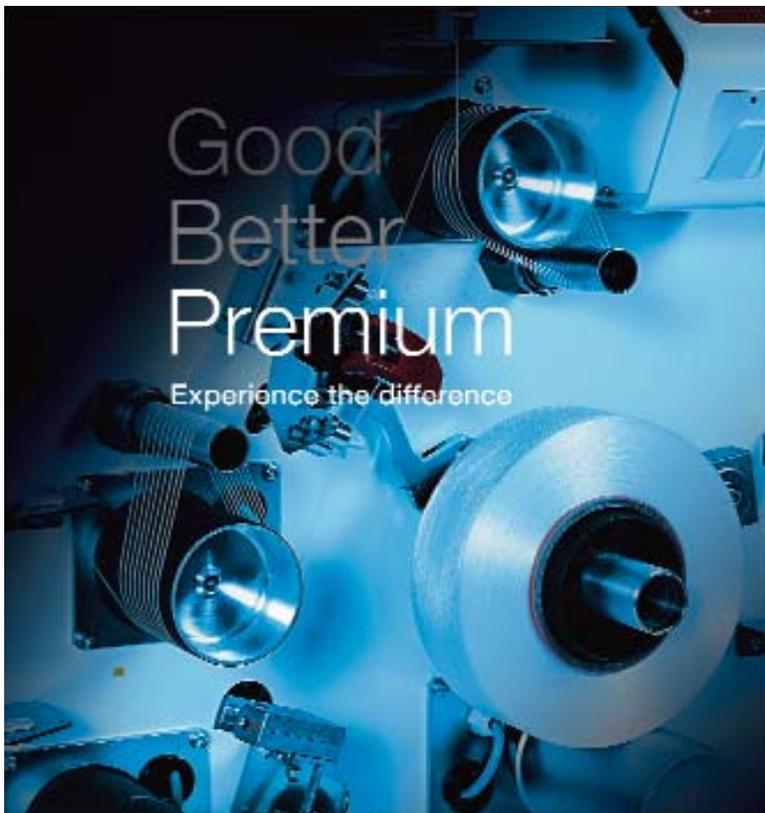


Textile exports may reach US\$ 15 billion by 2019

Indonesia's textile-related exports are projected to reach US\$ 15 billion by 2019 and will employ 3.11 million people, said Industry Minister Airlangga Hartanto. The industry ministry predicted that textile and textile products exports will grow around 11% annually. The sector is estimated to contribute US\$ 12.09 billion to the economy in 2017 and US\$ 13.5 billion in 2018. By 2017 end, this sector can absorb up to 2.73 million workers, and increase that to 2.95 million in 2018. Hartanto urged industry players to utilize digital technology, such as 3D printing and automation, to turn competitive and efficient.

The Indonesian textile industry has the potential to accelerate the stable growth observed in the last few years with a better and more investor-friendly business climate, said ITMF General Director Christian Schindler.

Indonesia is ranked the ninth best country for value-added manufacturing in the world, surpassing Russia, Australia and other ASEAN countries, according to statistics from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.



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MALAYSIA

Malaysian Ministry plans textile design federation

Malaysia's ministry of international trade and industry (MITI) plans to set up a textile design federation to help fashion entrepreneurs, its secretary-general Datuk Isham Ishak told the Fashion and Design Conference 2018 in Kuala Lumpur recently.

The Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) also approved twelve projects with an investment of RM 428.8 million.

Malaysia's textile and apparel exports were worth RM15.3 billion in 2017, according to Malaysian news agency report. The MIDA projects, including those related to the production of primary textiles, garments and textile accessories, have generated 1,850 jobs.

The conference was organized by MIDA in collaboration with Kuala Lumpur Fashion Week and the Malaysian Textile and Apparel Centre.



TURKEY

Technical textiles exports up 20%

The technical textile exports from Turkey increased by 20.1% in the first half of 2018 to US\$ 898 million. The product group that recorded the biggest growth in the first half of the year was parachute fabrics. Turkey's technical textile exports grew by 20.1% to US\$ 898 million in the first half of 2018.

The most exported product group from January to June was nonwovens. The exports of these products increased by 30.6% and were worth around US\$ 294 million. This product group accounted for 32.7% of total technical textile exports.

The second major product group in the first half of 2018 was packaging products, worth around US\$ 182 million. Total technical textile exports account for 20.2%. The product group that recorded the biggest growth in the first half of the year was parachute fabrics. Exports of these products rose by 135.7%, compared to the same period last year.



Germany has become the most important export market. Technical textile exports made to Germany during this period were worth US\$84 million, with an increase of 23.6%.

The second most important country was Italy, with an export value of US\$ 58 million and an increase of 15.8%. The third export market was the USA. This country imported US\$ 58.5 million worth of technical textile products from Turkey in the first half of the year. The share of the USA was 6.5%.

Exports worth US\$ 480 million were realized in the 28 EU member countries, with an increase of 26.1%.



USA

Imports of textiles and apparel rose by 7.3% in July

According to data from the U.S. Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA), overall U.S. imports of textiles and apparel increased by 7.3% in July to 6.24 billion square meter equivalents (SME) compared to a year earlier. In value, imports climbed 2.72% to US\$ 46.18 billion from a year earlier. Textiles and apparels import climbed to the U.S. 2.72% to \$46.18 billion from a year earlier.

At the same time, U.S. exports of textiles and apparel increased by 4.59% in the month to US\$ 13.59 billion, with apparel shipments rising by 5.61% to US\$ 3.34 billion.

Year over year, imports of textiles from around the world grew 11.2% to 3.64 billion SME, while apparel exports were up 2.2% to 2.6 billion SME in July as retailers prepare to stock up for crucial fourth-quarter selling.

Among the top ten suppliers of apparel to the U.S., Vietnam, Bangladesh and Cambodia were the big winners, with India and Pakistan also faring well, as importers spread out their sourcing in light of ongoing trade tensions between the U.S. and China.



VIETNAM

Textile-garment exports grow robustly

Vietnamese garment exports have started looking up in a big way this year. The figures for garment textile exports are expected to touch the US\$ 35 billion mark. This happens to be higher than the target that was set up at the beginning of the year.



The contributing factors for this surge in exports are a large number of orders from foreign partners and healthy prospects of the world and domestic economies.

According to Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association Vice President, Truong Van Cam, "Domestic businesses have received full orders for the third quarter of this year and are negotiating to secure long-term contracts through 2019."

Endorsing this view, the garment-textile hubs in Ho Chi Minh City disclosed that their firms have been booked with orders till the end of the year and some even to the initial months of 2019. According to Chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City Association of Garment, Textile, Embroidery and Knitting Pham Xuan Hong, there are numerous prospects for the garment-textile sector this year thanks to a certain number of orders. However, there remain challenges facing local businesses ahead, including fiercer competition from regional countries such as China, Myanmar and Cambodia.



Zimbabwean cotton output at 5 year high of 130,000 tonnes

The cotton output in the southern African country of Zimbabwe has risen by 76% year-on-year to 130,000 tons in the 2018 marketing season. The output is the highest in nearly five years and has been achieved due to the government support under the Presidential Inputs Scheme. Owing to the steep increase in production, cotton exports are expected to jump.



Under the Presidential Inputs Scheme, the government gave various free support initiatives to farmers to help them increase their cotton cultivation.

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe is expecting that the country would get around \$85 million in foreign exchange through cotton exports this year.

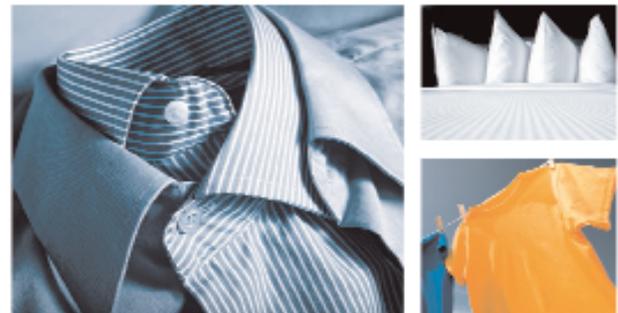
In 2011, Zimbabwe produced 268,000 tonnes of cotton which decreased to 135,000 tonnes in 2013-14 and further to 100,000 tonnes in the year 2014-15. In 2016, cotton yield was just 28,000 tonnes, the lowest since 1992. Due to the government's efforts, production increased to 70,000 tonnes last year. ♦

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