

Textile Briefs

National

- ❖ Pakistan occupied first position in export of woven fabrics of synthetic staple to Malaysia with 30.53% share amongst the top five exporters valuing at around RM12.91 million. In bed linen sector, Pakistan occupied 4th position with total share of 14.96% valuing around RM17.01 million.
- ❖ The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) notified the concession of duty free import of cotton yarn to ensure yarn availability for the textile chain of the country. The FBR has made it mandatory that yarn imported would not be allowed for retail sale and imports would be limited to textile units which are using it as raw material at their mills.
- ❖ Value Added Textile Sector has welcomed the federal Cabinet Committee's decision to cap export of cotton yarn and termed it a right decision towards a right direction and partial solution of the prevailing crisis. Vice Chairman PTEA, Rana Mushtaq Khan said the Cabinet decision will help increase the immediate availability of yarn by 20%.
- ❖ Pakistan textile sector can benefit greatly through interaction with German organizations with specialized expertise and state-of-the-art know-how of the textile industry, said Dr Christian Brecht, Consul General of Germany in Karachi. Germany had a lot to offer through its technology and experience in the textile sector and his country is exploring ways and means as to how it could help Pakistan textile industry.
- ❖ Leaders of value-added textile sector while criticizing government's indifferent attitude towards issues confronting the industry demanded immediate amendment in the Ministry of Commerce SRO 26(i)/2010 of January 14, 2010. With globally short cotton crop the availability of yarn has also declined resulting in high demand by big players like China.
- ❖ Chairman Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) Khurram Mukhtar said that recent Trade Policy had targeted 6% growth in exports while the last six months trading trend has shown 3% fall in exports.
- ❖ The government is trying to negotiate with the European Union to get Generalized System of Preferences-plus status for Pakistan which will help exporters to compete in European markets. In this regard, a booklet and a documentary have been prepared so Pakistan's case can be well presented in the European Union.
- ❖ APTMA Chairman Anwar Ahmed Tata said that during last three-four months production of yarn has increased to 245,000 tonnes per month, out of which requirement for downstream industry is 110,000 tonne per month as weaving sector consumes 60,000 tonnes per month, hence there is an additional quantity of 25,000 tonnes per month available after imposition of quota.
- ❖ Kenyan High Commissioner in Pakistan Mishi Masika Mwatsahu has said a lot of potential existed for export of textile made-ups and machinery to Kenya and Pakistani businessmen should avail of this opportunity. He said Kenya and Pakistan needed to concentrate on available opportunities as the Kenyan government had very recently made special arrangements with regional countries for free movement of goods.
- ❖ The Ministry of Textile has disbursed Rs 1 billion among 200 registered units, which had submitted research and development (R&D) claims. The government had earmarked Rs 5.6 billion for R&D claims. Around 10,000 exporters' R&D claims are pending, but only 298, registered with the R&D Cell of the Ministry of Textile, have been assured reimbursement.
- ❖ The increasing cotton prices hit a historic level when the physical business took place at Rs 5,050 per maund. Due to shortfall of around 2.5 million bales, the textile and spinning sectors are eager to consolidate their long positions in order to minimise the export price, which is rising on increasing dollar, said an expert on cotton Fazal Ahmad Khilji.
- ❖ Petroleum Minister Naveed Qamar has directed Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited to give priority to the textile industry in gas supply so that the industry could plan and manage its production process. The Minister issued the directive after All Pakistan Textile Mills Association's Punjab Chairman Gohar Ejaz briefed him about concerns of the textile industry. The Minister gave assurance to the industry that equitable distribution of gas between Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan and Sheikhpura would be ensured.
- ❖ Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers Association (PHMA), an organisation of Knitwear manufacturers, is planning to set up show room and warehouses in UK with the purpose of facilitating the UK based importers, said Junaid Makda, Deputy Chief Co-ordinator, PHMA.
- ❖ The exports of carpet from Pakistan would exceed \$200 million mark during the current fiscal as compared to last year's \$145 million exports, despite some drawbacks, said Chairman Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) Pervaiz Hanif. He said the increase in exports would be mainly due to the orders which Pakistani carpet exporters obtained during Domotex carpet fair which is the largest such event in the world.
- ❖ APTMA Chairman Anwar Ahmed Tata said because of the restriction on export of cotton yarn the spinners would be reluctant to import cotton and it is feared that there will be shortage of raw cotton and yarn from April onwards. He further said downstream industry of China and India are competing in the international market even though they are getting much costlier yarn after payment of duty on its import, while our industry is getting yarn at cheaper rate. ◆