iBtex. TEXTILE INTELLIGENCE CENTRE
INFORMATION BUREAU TEXPROCIL
TEXPROCIL NEWS CLIPPINGS
The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council [TEXPROCIL]
Engineering Centre, 5th Floor, 9, Mathew Road, Mumbai - 400 004. Maharashtra State. INDIA
W. www.texprocil.org E. enews@texprocil.org T. +91-22-2363 2910 to 12 F. +91-22-2363 2914

# IBTEX No. 82 of 2017 Apr 25, 2017

USD 64.27 | EUR 70.21 | GBP 82.48 | JPY 0.59

## Cotton Market

**Spot Price ( Ex. Gin), 28.50-29 mm**

| Rs./Bale | Rs./Candy | USD Cent/lb |
|---|---|---|
| 20127 | 42100 | **83.50** |

**Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Gin), May**

| Rs./Bale | Rs./Candy | USD Cent/lb |
|---|---|---|
| 21090 | 44115 | **87.50** |

**International Futures Price**

| | |
|---|---|
| NY ICE USD Cents/lb ( May 2017) | 80.09 |
| ZCE Cotton: Yuan/MT ( July 2017) | 16, 000 |
| ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb | **85.68** |
| **Cotlook A Index – Physical** | **88.75** |

**Cotton guide:**

The most active July future at ICE corrected downside on Monday's trading session to end at 78.79 cents per pound while it had made a low of 77.78 cents. This morning the same counter is being quoted at 78.65 cents. We are seeing profit booking on the recent rise amid the open interest continues to hold onto the higher trajectory. As of latest report the OI is a 0.132 million contracts. The entire movement in this week or near term should be determined by the funds movement.

The rollover of position has been done from May to July and subsequent contracts and no fresh triggers running in the market.

We believe profit booking could only pull the price down. From the technical perspective 50-day moving average is at 77.96 cents unless that is breached market may either remain sideways or swiftly trade down. For the day we expect July future to trade in the range of 79.20 to 78 cents per pound and recommend selling from higher levels.

The latest crop progress report reflected slow planting with just 11 percent of the US crop in the ground as of April 23, up just 3 percentage points from 8 percent the previous week. Rain and cooler weather across the cotton belt continues to slow planting progress. Texas planting increased to 12 percent, behind a 14 percent five-year. California planting increased to 50 percent and Arizona growers has sown 53 percent of their crop through Sunday.

From the domestic front, spot price of Shankar-6 variety declined by Rs. 100 to trade at Rs. 43,750 per candy ex-gin. At the prevailing exchange rate the equivalent price was 86.55 cents per pound. Likewise, Punjab-34 variety traded higher to Rs. 4770 per maund 89.90 cents per pound.

From the supply side across the country daily seed cotton arrivals are estimated at roughly 71,000 lint equivalent bales, including 19,000 in Gujarat and 30,000 in Maharashtra. The effect was seen on the futures price. The April contract ended the session lower at Rs. 20,880 down by Rs. 230 from the previous close.

We believe on today's trading session cotton price may remain weak and recommend selling from higher levels. The trading range for the day would be Rs. 20700 to Rs. 21050 per bale.

**Compiled By Kotak Commodities Research Desk , contact us : mailto:research@kotakcommodities.com,**
**Source: Reuters, MCX, Market source**

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

| | INTERNATIONAL NEWS |
|---|---|
| No | Topics |
| 1 | Australia to pursue FTA with China's Hong Kong: Trade minister |
| 2 | CAFTA-DR Short Supply Determination on Printed Woven Fabric |
| 3 | Philippines eyes more FTA deals |
| 4 | Australia: Pacific trade and development agreement concluded |
| 5 | Pakistan: Textile, clothing exports rise 6pc to $1.064bn |
| 6 | Bangladesh: Why cheap fashion remains deadly |
| 7 | Indonesia's Textile Export Reaches $2 Bln in Early 2017 |
| 8 | Kenya offers textile firms tax incentives to create job opportunities for the youth |
| 9 | UK: Greater Manchester is high on its textiles industry |
| 10 | Bangladesh: Foreign buyers paying less for green factory apparel |
| 11 | Brandix is Sri Lanka's most valuable export brand |
| 12 | COTTON USA Hosts Trade Mission from Bangladesh |
| | NATIONAL NEWS |
| 1 | GST reflects 'One nation, One aspiration' spirit: Modi |
| 2 | High power Indian delegation to visit Maldives |
| 3 | Kochi port to offer special facilities to handle cotton export trade |
| 4 | Garment institute wants local industry to train students |
| 5 | Fairtrade cotton has less environmental, social cost |
| 6 | Arvind launches ready-to-wear apparel for men |
| 7 | Kapas prices fall 1 pc to Rs 1,020 per 20 kgs |
| 8 | 'No e-comm plans now' for Future Lifestyle Fashions |

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Australia to pursue FTA with China's Hong Kong: Trade minister

The Australian government has announced it will pursue a free trade agreement (FTA) with China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in an attempt to secure further service export opportunities for Australian businesses.

Australia's Trade Minister Steve Ciobo said securing an FTA with the Hong Kong economy would "strengthen the trading partnership" with one of Australia's "most significant" trading partners.

Australia already has a zero tariff agreement with Hong Kong, however, the FTA would be aimed at securing easier access for "services exports" and ensure Hong Kong would remain open for Australian business.

Under the proposed deal, Australian businesses would be allowed to operate within the mega economy without establishing 'on-the-ground' operations within Hong Kong.

"With Asia's emerging middle class projected to grow from 600 million today to 3 billion by 2035, the potential for services exports is significant," Ciobo said Monday.

"Hong Kong is an important trade and investment partner for Australia, in its own right and as a global hub for the movement of capital and goods between the mainland and the rest of the world."

"An FTA with Hong Kong would complement our FTA with China and further integrate the Australian economy with Asia."

The trade minister said that Hong Kong has already been one of Australia's largest trading partners, and securing an FTA would ensure that Australia's relationship with the mega economy would remain strong.

"Hong Kong is Australia's leading business base in East Asia. More than 600 Australian businesses have a major presence there," Ciobo said.

"(The Hong Kong economy) was Australia's eighth largest export market, worth $8.31 billion last financial year. Overall it was Australia's 12th largest trading partner, with total two-way trade in goods and services worth $11.56 billion."

"The (Australian government will continue to pursue) an ambitious trade agenda and more trade agreements to create more export opportunities for Australian businesses. More exports will create more Australian jobs."

Ciobo said the government will this week ask businesses and members of the public to put forward submissions in relation to a free trade agreement proposal.

Source: chinadaily.com.cn- Apr 21, 2017

HOME

*****************

## CAFTA-DR Short Supply Determination on Printed Woven Fabric

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined to add woven modal-polyester print fabric, classified under HTSUS 5516.14 and 5516.24, to the CAFTA-DR short supply list in unrestricted quantities.

As a result, apparel made in CAFTA-DR countries with this fabric, regardless of its origin, may be imported duty-free as of April 25.

Source: strtrade.com- Apr 25, 2017

HOME

*****************

# Philippines eyes more FTA deals

The Philippines is widening its web of preferential trade agreements both bilaterally and regionally.

Ramon Lopez, secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said Asean where the Philippines is part mulls free trade agreements with Canada, the United Kingdom, Russia, the European Union (EU) as well as the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

On its own, Lopez said, the Philippines is strengthening ties with Vietnam and with Russia through the Joint Economic Cooperation mechanism.

Ceferino Rodolfo, DTI undersecretary, said the JEC with the two countries is the most immediate as meetings are set next week

Rodolfo said a good partnership exists between Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines as they account for half to a two-third of market of Asean.

He said Vietnam is of particular interest to the Philippines since it has pending FTAs with the EU and the countries covering the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP)

" Vietnam increased its capacity in critical products in anticipation of the FTA and the TPP. Now how do we cooperate with them? Let's say in textile, Vietnam ramped up production in anticipation of zero tariffs under TPP and FTA, what could we do? The Philippines can do the labor and export (finished products) to the United States and the EU," Rodolfo said.

He said with Russia, Philippine interests cover infrastructure, energy, high technology industries such as satellites and battery capture technologies; aerospace and high technology electronics.

Following Russia's commitment to buy $2.5 billion worth of fruits from the Philippines, Rodolfo said there are specific products that Vladivosok buys from South America which it could buy from Mindanao instead.

"In all these, our objective is towards diversfying our export base and consolidating ( markets on) those near us, like Asean and Russia," Rodolfo said.

The planned FTAs with Canada, UK and the EAEU are still subject to feasibility studies.

EAEU groups together Armenia. Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation.

At the recent Asean economic ministers meetings with the EU trade minister, a work program has so far been established for an Asean-EU FTA.

"We want the Philippine hosting of the Asean as meaningful not just a series of events. We want to elevate what we are doing domestically to the regional and international (level). For example, inclusive business should be able to link Asean MSMEs micro, small and medium enterprioses to multinationals in the region. ," Rodolfo said.

The Philippines has a bilateral FTA with Japan. As a member of Asean, it has FTAs with dialogue partners China, Japan, India, Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

Source: malaya.com.ph - Apr 23, 2017

HOME

*****************

## Australia: Pacific trade and development agreement concluded

Australia has successfully concluded negotiations with New Zealand and 12 Pacific Island countries in Brisbane today to implement PACER Plus - the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus. This agreement will drive economic growth and raise living standards in our region.

PACER Plus is unique in that it is both a trade and a development agreement. It has the potential to reshape the economic fundamentals of the Pacific region by creating new opportunities for trade and investment in our neighbourhood.

Closer economic integration of the region with larger economies such as Australia and New Zealand is essential for sustainable economic growth in the Pacific.

In line with Australia's *Aid for Trade Strategy*, Australia will support the implementation of the PACER Plus Agreement and continue to work to increase Pacific-wide trade, tourism and investment.

PACER Plus is a landmark agreement covering goods, services and investment. It will remove barriers to trade, including tariffs, increasing the flow of goods and investment in the region, generating growth, jobs and raising living standards.

No country has achieved high and lasting growth without participating in international trade.

Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island countries have a close and important relationship. As part of the Turnbull Government's ambitious trade agenda, PACER Plus will provide an important avenue to achieve Australia's objective to foster a secure, stable and prosperous region.

The Agreement will be signed in Tonga in June.

Source: trademinister.gov.au - Apr 22, 2017

HOME

*****************

## Pakistan: Textile, clothing exports rise 6pc to $1.064bn

Textile and clothing exports rose 6.2 per cent year-on-year to $1.064 billion in March, mainly driven by value-added products such as garments, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics said on Monday.

The increase in export proceeds was also evident in rupee terms.

The data for the month shows that exports of value-added products grew during the month, both in terms of value and quantity.

Product-wise details show that exports of readymade garments rose 19.5pc while that of knitwear grew 5.4pc in March.

Exports of bedwear edged up by 5.4pc while those of towels 15.8pc during the month.

In primary commodities, exports of cotton yarn witnessed a year-on-year increase of 5pc while those of cotton cloth and yarn (other than cotton's) dropped 5.5pc and 26.9pc, respectively.

Exports of made-up articles, excluding towels, increased 16pc, and that of tents, canvas and tarpaulin grew 71.8pc. Proceeds from art, silk and synthetic textile increased by 2.7pc while those from raw cotton dropped 2.9pc year-on-year.

One reason why textile exports are in decline is that the preferential access to the European Union under the GSP+ scheme hasn't helped boost proceeds due to slump in demand.

In the nine months through March, the value of exported textile and clothing products fell 0.89pc year-on-year to $9.278bn. Overall export proceeds in July-March were down 3pc to $15.118bn.

Last year, the government announced a textile policy involving 4pc rebate on the exports of readymade garments on a 10pc incremental increase over the preceding year, 2pc on home textiles and 1pc on fabric. However, no support was announced on raw material or yarn exports.

Under this policy, the government paid out Rs2.5bn to exporters in the preceding fiscal year. This shows the policy worked to some extent and promoted exports of value-added textile products.

From Jan 15 onwards, the government has not only increased the rebate to 7pc for readymade garments, but it has also allowed cash support of 4pc on yarn and grey cloth under a Rs180bn package announced by the prime minister.

One reason for the textile package — announced for January 2017 to June 2018 — was the need to counter the rising cost of production.

Source: dawn.com - Apr 25, 2017

HOME

*****************

## Bangladesh: Why cheap fashion remains deadly

*The collapse of the Rana Plaza garment factory in Bangladesh that killed more than 1,100 workers was a wake-up call to the industry. Four years after the disaster, has anything changed in the fashion world?*

There is nothing as human as the act of dressing up. However, there is little that is humane about the industries that surround the act.

The collapse of the Rana Plaza building in Bangladesh on April 24, 2013, which killed 1,129 garment factory workers, has been perhaps the strongest manifestation of the moral decadence of the system that spits out cheap, low-quality clothes produced under very few regulations in third-world countries. Has anything changed in the past four years?

### Whose responsibility?

Despite newly implemented sustainability and social responsibility programs by "fast fashion" brands such as the Swedish clothing giant H&M, which recognizes Germany as its biggest European market, the industry looks very much the same it did four years ago.

According to a recent study by Sarah Labowitz and Dorothée Baumann-Pauly published by New York University's Stern Center for Business and Human Rights, 3,425 inspections have taken place since October 2015 in Bangladesh, for example - but only eight factories passed them.

"There are two reasons why so few factories are successfully being fixed. First, the most essential upgrades to make factories safer, such as electrical improvements and moving to purpose-built facilities, are expensive," says the research, estimating the average cost of remediation to $250,000 - $350,000 (230,000 - 322,000 euros) per factory.

The second reason, according to the research, is that brands see it as the suppliers' responsibility to pay for these expensive factory repairs.

### Similar trends in the EU

Low wages, hazardous conditions, poor legislation, a lack of transparency in production lines and the brands' denied responsibility are not only characteristic for the industry in Bangladesh, however.

Jost Franko's photo series "Cotton Black, Cotton Blue" (picture gallery above) shows how the failures of the garment industry are systematic. In 2015 and 2016, Franko visited Bangladesh and Burkina Faso but also Romania, and his experience was similar in all countries. "Employees in the garment sector are one of the lowest paid workers in the European Union. Their wages are often lower than in factories in China," he told DW.

Chains such as Primark, Zara, or H&M are not the only ones to outsource their production. According to the "Wall Street Journal," about 20 percent of all goods by Prada, the leading Italian luxury brand, are made in China, and several lines by Burberry, Louis Vuitton, and other expensive names are produced in Cambodia and Romania, among others.

**Democracy embroidered with slavery**

The phenomenon of low-cost and instantly available clothes, which has cynically been named "the democratization of fashion," is both a social and ecological disaster.

Although it has given people in developed countries the possibility to wear watered-down runway fashions for a fraction of the designer price tag, the overproduction required to constantly satisfy consumers has also severely impacted tens of millions of people in the rest of the world.

On April 1, for example, a factory in Karachi, Pakistan, caught fire, and just two weeks later, an explosion in an unregistered sweatshop killed two in Cambodia, as reported by the local paper "Phnom Penh Post."

Most consumers prefer to ignore the human cost of "amazing fashion at amazing prices"

**Disposable clothing, disposable lives**

When asked whether they were aware of the conditions under which their freshly purchased clothes had been made, shoppers on Berlin's main shopping boulevard, Kurfürstendamm, - both Germans and tourists alike - typically answered, "But I thought they've already resolved that!"

The truth is that very little has been done in spite of various promises made after Rana Plaza. The numbers and incidents do not seem to have a strong impact on customers.

"The problem is the ever-increasing demand for fast fashion. Fast fashion will never be sustainable as its business model is based on producing huge volumes, incredibly quickly, very cheaply so that we can buy more clothes," said Livia Firth, founder and creative director of Eco Age, in a "Business of Fashion" survey about fast fashion.

Amy Hall, director of social consciousness at Eileen Fisher, added that "very little has substantively changed for the factory workers. Wages are still obscenely low, hours obscenely high, and overall transparency unbearably murky."

Fashion has played a fundamental role in the social, cultural, and biological identity of our civilization. In the last decades, clothing has been reduced to mere rags. The lives the industry employs have become just as disposable as the collections it churns out.

As the popular saying goes, fashion is indeed the mirror of our times.

Source: dw.com- Apr 24, 2017

HOME

*****************

## Indonesia's Textile Export Reaches $2 Bln in Early 2017

In the two months of early 2017, Indonesia's textile and textile product (TTP) export have touched United States (US)$2 billion, or up by 3% compared to the same period in the previous year.

"The TTP industry, which is also an export-oriented labor-intensive sector, can be a social safety net because it employs a lot of workforce, up to now, estimated at three million workers," said Airlangga Hartarto, Minister of Industry on Monday (4/24).

The Ministry of Industry noted that TTP industry's investment value in 2016 reached IDR7.54 trillion, with a significant foreign exchange gain from the export value of $11.87 billion, as well as employing as much as 17.03% of the total workforce in the manufacturing industry.

According to Airlangga, the national textile industry industry during the last three years has experienced a contraction in growth, one of which is driven by new investments and factory expansion in order to increase production capacity, one of which is Sritex.

"For that, we express our appreciation to Sritex for increasing its investment by IDR2.6 trillion to bolster production capacity in spinning mills and finishing, which will absorb the new workforce of 3,500 workers," he explained. This certainly has a positive impact on tax revenues for the state and at the same time can meet some of the needs of domestic raw materials that are still imported.

Iwan Setiawan Lukminto, President Director of Sritex, revealed that the expansion of the factory provided a rise in the company's production capacity.

"With the expansion, Sritex Group currently has 24 spinning mills, seven weaving plants, 5 finishing plants and 11 garments, with a total employee of over 50,000 people," he said. Therefore, the development and improvement of human capitals becomes the company's priority.

"Human capitals are the company's leading assets formed by structured training. In addition, we apply the corporate culture with an integrated and innovative so as to get a tough human resources, skilled, competent and character, "he explained.

In order for the national textile industry to improve its competitiveness, which required not only the capital and technology aspects, but also competent human capitals are absolutely necessary.

Therefore, the Ministry of Industry is making efforts to facilitate the improvement of human resources through a program of cooperation that links and match between industrial companies with vocational high schools (SMK).

The Ministry is able to invite 117 companies to sign a cooperation agreement with 389 vocational high schools in an effort to run industrial vocational education programs in the region of Central Java and Yogyakarta.

This program is a continuation of which has been launched in Mojokerto, on 28 February 2017 involving as many as 50 companies and 234 vocational high schools in East Java.

Source: en.netralnews.com - Apr 24, 2017

HOME

*****************

## Kenya offers textile firms tax incentives to create job opportunities for the youth

Kenya has started offering tax incentives to clothing companies, a key part of its under-performing manufacturing sector, to create jobs and provide affordable new clothes for shoppers.

Executives in the textiles industry said the changes included allowing them to sell 20 per cent of their annual production locally without sales taxes and without paying import duties on the materials and equipment used to produce the garments.

The advent of cheap, second-hand clothes imports from the US and Europe, locally known as mitumba, in the 1980s, put local apparel firms out of business and killed production of raw materials like cotton.

“The manufacturing sector is still facing some challenges in regards to cheap imports and the counterfeit goods,” Devolution and Planning CS Mwangi Kiunjuri said.

He said they were dealing with the difficulties by implementing new policies to encourage firms to boost production and hire more people.

The government has been paying more attention to the sector in recent years, offering cheaper electricity to textile firms in export processing zones.

The removal of sales taxes at a recent local sale resulted in thousands of consumers standing patiently in long lines for a chance to buy garments, which are normally exclusively exported to European and American retail chains.

Kenya has the highest rate of youth joblessness in East Africa, the World Bank said, with 17 per cent of all young people eligible for work lacking jobs. Neighbouring Tanzania and Uganda have comparable rates of 5.5 and 6.8 per cent, respectively.

Formal manufacturing accounted for nine per cent of Kenya's $70 billion (Sh7.24 trillion) economic output last year, but it employed just 0.3 million people out of 45 million, official data showed this week.

Source: the-star.co.ke - Apr 24, 2017

HOME

*****************

## Greater Manchester is high on its textiles industry

Greater Manchester is witnessing a boom in textiles industry with 77 manufacturing businesses investing £32 million in the Textiles Growth Programme over four years.

This has unlocked more than £6.4 million in grants through the Government's Regional Growth Fund, created nearly 1,000 new jobs, safeguarded over 150 jobs and created 79 apprenticeships.

According to a report in the Manchester Evening News, the programme focused on five local enterprise partnerships (LEP) areas, which had previously had a history of textiles manufacturing, and where there were no growth opportunities. These included Greater Manchester, Lancashire, West Yorkshire, Leicestershire, Nottingham and Derbyshire.

Through renewed confidence, the industry now has the potential to add 10,000 new jobs and £500 million more to the UK's economy each year by 2020. It is the most significant initiative ever to be undertaken in the UK to support its textiles industry, the report said.

Andy Ogden from English Fine Cottons, based in Dukinfield said: "The Textile Growth Programme has brought confidence back to the industry. The textile industry needs to support itself and bring quality back to the market."

“We’ve invested £6 million in bringing cotton spinning back to support weavers, knitters and dyers. We want to ensure high quality cottons produced here in Manchester are back on the high street, giving British consumers the products they deserve,” Ogden said.

A total Regional Growth Fund of £27 million, awarded to the programme in 2012 has leveraged a further £123 million nationally from the private sector through the support of 340 British manufacturers.

Carol Kane, CEO at Manchester-based Boohoo.com said: “At Boohoo we are proud to source over 50 per cent of our products from the UK. Not only are we delighted to support the British textile manufacturing industry and the creation of employment opportunities for workers in the UK, having our suppliers nearby is also a crucial part of our business model.

We are a fast-fashion business with a focus on speed to market, so being able to manufacture our products in the UK allows us to lead the way in offering the very latest trends and styles.”

The UK has now got a textiles workforce of 127,000 people across all skill levels from packing and warehouse staff through to board directors.

Lorna Fitzsimons, founder and director of the Textiles Growth Programme, based in Manchester, added: “Five years ago, Lord Alliance challenged Sir Vince Cable, the then Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, to recognise the opportunity for increasing UK fashion and textiles manufacturing.

This started us on a journey which led to the most extensive study on supply and demand for UK fashion and textiles manufacturing in decades. There is still more to do but this is a success story no one saw coming.”

Source: fibre2fashion.com - Apr 25, 2017

HOME

*****************

# Bangladesh: Foreign buyers paying less for green factory apparel

International buyers are not paying enough for apparel and garments manufactured in eco-friendly factories in Bangladesh, according to Tofail Ahmed, commerce minister of the country.

Investments have been made to make the factories eco-friendly, however, buyers have not increased the prices. On the contrary, they have been cutting prices.

The minister said this during a meeting with the delegation of Germany's Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, which was led by its vice-chairman Michael Sommer.

Factories were turned green after the Rana Plaza collapse in 2013 that claimed the lives of 1,130 people, with a view to improve workplace safety and environment. Multiple steps were taken to ensure workers' safety after this incident.

National Initiative, Accord and Alliance inspected over 3,780 factories and ended up renovating 47 factories and closing 39 of them. The initiative also resulted in 7 factories in the country receiving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certificates from the Green Building Council of the US.

Less than 2 per cent factories in Bangladesh are non-compliant, which is an internationally recognised standard, said Bangladeshi media reports quoting Tofail.

Labour laws of the country were also amended and Workers' Welfare Association were allowed to be formed in export processing zones.
Germany is the second largest market for Bangladesh.

Source: fibre2fashion.com - Apr 25, 2017

HOME

*****************

# Brandix is Sri Lanka's most valuable export brand

Brandix, rated Sri Lanka's top exporter across all sectors, has emerged as the country's most valuable export brand for the third consecutive year, according to the 2017 Brand Finance rankings of the country's leading brands.

Brandix leads a group of highly respected export brands in apparel, IT, tea, manufacturing, processed foods, services and printing.

According to Brand Finance, the attributes taken into account for the rankings included a brand's corporate vision, reputation and image, leadership and people, degree of innovation, and quality consciousness.

"The scale or size of the exporter plays a key role in being included in our listing, as it is based on the perceptions of survey respondents who are middle to senior managers in business," Brand Finance said in its segment titled 'Strongest Export Brands'.

Last year, Brandix was declared the country's largest exporter overall by the Export Development Board for 2014 and 2015, confirming the group as Sri Lanka's top exporter across all industries for the past four years.

In all, the group has won 25 Presidential export awards.

The pioneer of the concept of 'total solutions' in Sri Lanka's apparel sector and a preferred supplier to some of the top retail brands in the US and Europe, Brandix is also a benchmark and international award winner for eco-friendly manufacture and commitment to environmental best practices.

Source: fibre2fashion.com - Apr 25, 2017

HOME

*****************

# COTTON USA Hosts Trade Mission from Bangladesh

Textile executives from 12 Bangladeshi companies will travel across the U.S. Cotton Belt to get a closer look at COTTON USA and learn more about why U.S. cotton is the world's preferred fiber.

During the tour – set for April 30-May 6 – the group will participate in multiple meetings with U.S. cotton exporters to help facilitate the export of U.S. cotton to these manufacturers. Cotton Council International (CCI), the National Cotton Council's export promotions arm, is conducting this special trade mission.

Bangladesh stands as U.S. cotton's ninth largest market, with U.S. export commitments there at more than 500,000 bales to date in the 2016-17 marketing year ending July 31. The individual companies participating in this trade mission are expected to consume about 705,000 bales in 2016-17 – about 11% percent of Bangladesh's total cotton consumption.

CCI President Eduardo L. (Eddy) Esteve, a Dallas, TX merchant, said, "Bangladesh imports more cotton than any other country, and only three other countries' textile mills use more cotton. We want to reinforce the fact to these trade mission participants that U.S. cotton is of superior quality and is the world's preferred fiber.

We also want to remind these important U.S. cotton customers that we are committed to delivering our fiber to them in a very timely manner." The Bangladeshi delegation will begin its tour in New York with a CCI briefing and an ICE Futures seminar. During their tour, they will also see cotton research in North Carolina, tour the USDA cotton classing office in Bartlett, TN, and visit a cotton farm and gin in West Texas.

The group also will meet with exporters in the Cotton Belt's four major regions and with these key industry organizations – AMCOT, American Cotton Producers, American Cotton Shippers Association, Cotton Incorporated, Lubbock Cotton Exchange, National Cotton Council, Plains Cotton Growers, Southern Cotton Growers Association, Texas Cotton Association, Western Cotton Shippers Association and Supima.

Source: cottongrower.com - Apr 24, 2017

HOME

*****************

# NATIONAL NEWS

## GST reflects 'One nation, One aspiration' spirit: Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) shows the strength and resolve of the federal structure. Consensus on GST will go down in history as a great illustration of cooperative federalism and the tax reform reflects the spirit of 'One nation, One aspiration, One determination', added the Prime Minister.

PM Modi said this while delivering the opening remarks at the third meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog. He also gave credit to all Chief Ministers for coming on one platform for this cause, keeping aside ideological and political differences.

The Prime Minister also reiterated that the legislative arrangements at the state-level for GST should be put in place without delay.

Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia made a presentation on GST at the meeting, explaining the benefits of the system and the way forward.

He urged the Chief Ministers to expedite the enactment of State GST Acts.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Apr 24, 2017

HOME

*****************

## High power Indian delegation to visit Maldives

A high power Indian business delegation will visit Maldives this week seeking to increase the country's trade with the island nation.

The three-day visit beginning April 27 is organised as a follow-up to the direction from office of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who had one to one meeting with Maldives President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom at New Delhi in April last year, Kerala chapter of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations said here.

The visit assumes significance in wake of Male's import from India is stagnated at 11 per cent since last six years while import from countries like China increased from 2.9 per cent to 8.1 per cent, Sri Lanka from 5.8 to 6.9 per cent and Thailand from 5.2 to 6.8 per cent during the period.

The FIEO, set up by Union Ministry of Commerce, said that during their meeting Prime Minister Modi and President Gayoom had discussed the biateral trade issues and the need for having more people to people contact for increasing trade between the two countries.

"Trade between India and Maldives was USD 183.38 million during the year 2015-16 and USD 159.13 million in 2016-17 (April to January)," FIEO said in a statement here.

The delegation, headed by A Sakthivel, Regional Chairman, FIEO, comprises exporters, importers and investors in various sectors including building and construction, processed food, textiles and garments, home appliances, fashion accessories, home furnishing and healthcare services.

"Apart from participating in the Happy Ramadan 2017-B2B and B2C Exhibition to be held at Male, the delegation members will be meeting leading industries and trade representatives to explore possibilities of investment, joint ventures and trade opportunities," the statement said.

The agenda of the delegation also includes finding out ways and means to improve trade and investment opportunities in the filed of infrastructure, textiles, agro, food, electronics and other key sectors, Sakthivel said.

He said India is the third larest supplier of goods to Maldives after UAE and Singapore and unless urgent measures have been taken to boost trade, "our share in this market will diminish".

Hence FIEO planned the business delegation comprising 55 delegates from 30 companies with the aim to familiarize the Male population on innovative, quality and competitive pricing of Indian products, Sakthivel said. "India also focusing Maldives for investments especially for infrastructure and tourism," he said.

Source: business-standard.com- Apr 24, 2017

HOME

*****************

## Kochi port to offer special facilities to handle cotton export trade

The Cochin Port Trust proposes to offer special facilities to handle cotton in a bid to attract a part of this exim cargo now being handled at the neighbouring Colombo port.

The idea is to make Kochi as the hub for cotton trade, said P Raveendran, who took over as the Chairman of the port recently.

“We have approached the Southern India Mills Association, Coimbatore, offering dedicated facilities to import, store and re-export cotton at the ICTT at Vallarpadam,” he said.

### Petro tank farms

Preliminary talks with shippers are encouraging. The Customs bonded area and SEZ status of Vallarpadam terminal offer advantage to the cotton trade, he said in a conversation with *BusinessLine*. Matters regarding customs procedures and other issues will be discussed later.

Right now, SIMA is bringing cotton in containers using the Colombo port as a hub. Kochi offers facilities that match international standards for import, warehousing and re-export of the commodity at comparable cost. If everything goes as per plan, the port expects to handle 30,000 TEUs of cotton in the current year, he said.

As part of its strategy to boost traffic, the port is also reaching out to companies in the petroleum sector to set up tank farms so as to expand the bunkering service. “We are in the process of floating EOI offering facilities to set up tanks farms in the 24 acre land at Puthuvypeen,” Raveendran said.

### Locational advantage

The availability of bunkering fuels at competitive rates in Kerala coupled with Kochi’s locational advantage enabled the port to achieve a 22 per cent growth in bunkering services last year.

The port expects the volume of steel and cement cargo to go up in coming months.

JSW Steel which is bringing steel to southern States via coastal shipping has started using Kochi port. The volume is expected to be about one lakh tonnes in the current fiscal.

**Cement hub**

Kochi is also fast emerging as a cement hub with Ambuja Cements, Ultra Tech Cements and Zuari Cements all having handling terminals with minimum guaranteed throughput of 0.3MTPA each. The construction of Penna Cements facility is nearing completion and the port is also in talks with other cement firms, including Saurasthra Cement.

The Multi User Liquid Terminal (MULT), which is being jointly developed with IOC, is also expected to increase the port's traffic. The port has also plans to set up a foodgrain import terminal under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode for which EOI has been invited.

**Exceeds target**

Raveendran, who is bullish on Kochi port's future, said that the turbulent times are over and the port is expected to come out of the red this fiscal. CPT has been making losses in the last four years.

Kochi is one of the few ports that surpassed the Shipping Ministry's traffic target by handling 25.01 million tonnes in the just concluded fiscal year.

The record assumes significance as the port had been witnessing negative growth since 2009, he added.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com- Apr 25, 2017

HOME

*****************

# Garment institute wants local industry to train students

The Government Institute of Garment Technology (GIGT) is looking for support from the local industry to impart sophisticated training in the field to students to make them employment worthy.

Faced with global competition, the textile industry has undergone tremendous technological change and its operators are crying hoarse over the inability of skilled employees.

GIGT principal Jatinder Singh says the modern machines in the garment and textile sector were being imported and a unit costs in nearly Rs 2 crore.

At present, the construction work of the GIGT at Hall Gate is under progress and it is expected to be finished by the middle of this year. Once the construction is over, he will ask local industries to donate their used machine to allow students to train, Jatinder states.

The GIGT, which comes under state government's Department of Education and Industrial Training, is at present training 136 students in certificate courses, ranging from sewing technology, surface ornamentation techniques and information and communication technology system maintenance.

Textile manufacturer PL Seth says the city-based textile industry is facing a severe shortage of technically-skilled hands as technological educational institutes in the state are churning out students taught from obsolete courses and machineries.

He opines that a large number of units in the small and medium category have shifted to computerised rapier shuttle-less looms over the last decade.

"These units now grapple with shortage of technical hands and engineers to operate and mend these looms.

These computer-operated looms can weave yarn like cotton, polyester, silk, span, nylon and produce international standard clothes. Large industries in the state have turned to state-of-the-art dobby and shuttle-less looms".

Seth observes that post 2001, local manufacturers have upgraded technology regularly. However, the state government has not upgraded the curriculum in its relevant educational institutes. Outdated courses are being taught in these institutions while private institutes have not evinced interest in the field, he adds.

As per rough estimates, there are about 300 computerised shuttle looms for shawls, 500 looms for suitings, shirtings, blankets and tweeds, besides 5,000 embroidery machines in Amritsar only.

Source: tribuneindia.com - Apr 25, 2017

HOME

*****************

## Fairtrade cotton has less environmental, social cost

The combined social and environmental costs of Fairtrade cotton farming are five times lower than that of conventional farming, according to a study in India, one of the world's largest producers of cotton.

Data showed that the impacts of Fairtrade farming were 97 per cent lower for social elements and 31 per cent lower for environmental components studied.

The new research by Fairtrade aimed to provide fashion brands with a useful new tool to enhance visibility of their cotton sourcing and deepen understanding of their social and environmental responsibilities.

Fairtrade said that apparel brands that rely on cotton now have a real opportunity to make informed strategic decisions that will help create a more resilient business and be more accountable for their environmental and social impacts.

The study measured the environmental and social impacts on rural households in India.

The most significant social advantage for Fairtrade farmers was more income.

The research compared community benefits from Fairtrade premiums, wages, income for farmers, engagement of unacceptable labour practices, such as child labour and social cost of overtime.

It revealed that Fairtrade cotton farmers tend to have lower social costs and higher social benefits such as fairer wages and investment in local schools.

Fairtrade cotton performed significantly better than conventional cotton for all environmental KPIs.

Areas surveyed included land use, water pollutants, water use, green house gas emissions and soil pollutants. It was only for land use where Fairtrade cotton's cost was a little high as the yield for organic practices for cotton per acre is lower than conventional.

Subindu Garkhel, cotton manager at the Fairtrade Foundation said: "Cotton is an integral part of our lives, from the sheets on our beds to the identity we project through the clothes we wear. Not only that, but cotton also provides livelihoods for millions across the globe.

"But there is a strong cost for people and planet with cultivating the cotton that goes into our clothes, and our study shows that is markedly higher for conventional cotton farming. This research illustrates how Fairtrade empowers farmers to decide their own future, is better for their communities and has a substantially lower footprint than conventional cotton."

The research revealed that benefits such as the Fairtrade minimum price and the Fairtrade premium are unique to Fairtrade certification, and conventional cotton farming was found to only provide income for farmers based on the local market prices for cotton.

The study was released to coincide with the fourth anniversary of the Rana Plaza garment factory collapse, a tragedy which killed 1,134 people and woke up the world to the problems in our fashion supply chains.

Source: fibre2fashion.com - Apr 22, 2017

HOME

*****************

## Arvind launches ready-to-wear apparel for men

The Arvind Store, part of the Arvind Group, on Monday, announced the launch of a new vertical, "Arvind", offering ready-to-wear fashion apparel for men.

Announcing the launch, Kulin Lalbhai, Executive Director, Arvind Ltd, said these garments will be priced upwards of Rs. 1,299.

These will include blazers, bundis, kurtas, polos shirts, shorts, suits and bandhgalas. These will be available at all The Arvind Stores in Gujarat, Karnataka and flagship stores in other states, he added.

Arvind Ltd, one of India's largest integrated textile and apparel companies with a presence in branded garments, is one of the largest manufacturers and exporters of textiles products.

It had a turnover of nearly US$ 1.3 billion in FY 2015-16.

Arvind has a portfolio of owned and licensed brands. Its own brands include Flying Machine, among others, while its licensed product brands include big global names, such as Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Arrow, Gant, Nautica, IZOD, US Polo Assn, Hanes, Sephora, The Children's Place and Gap, and Aeropostale.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com - Apr 24, 2017

HOME

*****************

## Kapas prices fall 1 pc to Rs 1,020 per 20 kgs

Kapas prices fell by over 1 per cent to Rs 1,020 per 20 kgs in futures trading today, dragged down by offloading of positions by participants, tracking a weak trend at the physical markets.

Marketmen said, cutting down of exposure by participants amid a subdued trend at the spot markets due to fading demand form textile and fibre industries, mainly led to fall in kapas prices at futures trade here.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, kapas for delivery in April next year slided by Rs 10.50, or 1.02 per cent, to Rs 1,020 per 20 kg, with an open interest of 1,277 lots.

The kapas for delivery this month also fell by Rs 5, or 0.50 per cent, to Rs 1,004 per 20 kg, in an open interest of 1,789 lots.

Source: business-standard.com- Apr 24, 2017

HOME

*****************

## 'No e-comm plans now' for Future Lifestyle Fashions

At a time when offline retailers are setting up their own e-commerce portals to drive sales from the 60 million-plus online shoppers in the country, Rachna Aggarwal, CEO - Brands Division, Future Lifestyle Fashions, told *BusinessLine* that the company has no plans to set up e-commerce portals for the 17 brands in its portfolio.

"At present, 10 per cent of our business is from online — through Amazon, Myntra, Jabong, Flipkart and Snapdeal; most of the business is from Amazon, followed by Myntra. We see online as another channel for sales, and while online is an important channel for us, we don't want to compete with online players; but will partner with them instead, to drive sales," she said.

The brands division contributes 30 per cent to the revenues of the ₹3,500-crore Future Lifestyle Fashions Ltd (FLF) which has two divisions — the retail division including Central and Brand Factory and the brands division with its four power brands — Scullers, Indigo Nation, John Miller and Jealous 21.

The company has established its presence on popular social-media sites such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, through which it drives online sales for its 17 brands.

For instance, to rekindle brand-connect with chino (a kind of trousers) wearers, the company initiated a #ScullersChinosForIndia campaign on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram last week, inviting customers to donate their old chinos and get a new pair of Cuban chinos in exchange for ₹999.

The company tied up with Goonj, an NGO that distributes re-usable materials and clothes to families that need them across the country, for the campaign.

“With the ChinosForIndia initiative, we have brought offline and online together,” said Aggarwal. Late last month, FLF Brands had resorted to engaging customers through an omni-channel marketing strategy with its FreeJeansDay, a trial drive by its brand Jealous 21, where participants had to register on the Jealous 21’s website and social-media page to get an exclusive invite to visit the store.

“The girls had to take a selfie wearing any garment and upload it on Instagram or Facebook to get a free pair of jeans,” Aggarwal said.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com- Apr 25, 2017

HOME

*****************