

requirements of Peru's textile and garment chain, and the rest 60 percent is met by imported cotton, mainly US cotton. Jose Ignacio Llosa, president of the Committee of Textiles of the National Society of Industries (SNI), said the Peruvian cotton production is limited by several structural problems that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MINAGRI) is trying to resolve, but has failed so far, Peruvian news agency andina reported.

In this regard Mr. Llosa requested the Institute of National Defense of Competition and Intellectual Property Protection (INDECOPI) to prepare a careful analysis on the possibility of applying countervailing duties on the imports of cotton from the US.

The countervailing duties would raise the local spinners' cotton price which would affect the entire textile and clothing chain.

INDECOPI investigation on the subsidies provided on Peruvian cotton by the US in 2012 was initiated by the demand of the local cotton farmers.

In a preliminary report, INDECOPI suggested that the subsidies granted by the Government of US on the cotton produced in the country are the reasons for the decline in the cultivation of cotton in Peru.

Mr. Llosa said the local industry believes there are other relevant factors also affecting the decline in the production. Small farms, low production per hectare, the abandonment of genetic development, lack of funding, and the informality present in the sector are among the factors contributing to low cotton production in Peru.

The low domestic cotton production drastically affects the Peruvian spinning industry and endangers the entire textile chain that employs 450,000 workers directly and 1.5 million workers indirectly, he added.

## Textile and clothing exports from South-East Asia declined sharply in 2012

Textile and clothing exports from member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) declined sharply in 2012, according to a report in Issue No 162 of Textile Outlook International from the global business information company Textiles Intelligence.

The main causes were declines in exports to the USA and the EU, although the overall trends masked significant variations in export performances between Asean member countries.

The worst performing country was the Philippines, where

clothing exports declined by 17.0%. Malaysian textile and clothing exports were down by 12.4%, Thai textile and clothing exports by 12.2% and Indonesian textile and clothing exports by 6.3%.

There were some bright spots, however, with Cambodian textile and clothing exports up by 8.7% and Vietnamese textile and clothing exports up by a similar 8.5%.

The declines in textile and clothing exports from Malaysia and Thailand reflected sharp declines in exports to the EU and the USA. However, both countries are less dependent on these two markets than are most of their Asean counterparts, and their exports to other markets were, for the most part, buoyant.

Indonesian textile and clothing exports to the USA and the EU also declined but sales were buoyed by domestic demand, which continued to surge.

In the Philippines, the decline in clothing exports was due to lower demand in the USA and most other foreign markets. Sales in the EU market, by contrast, increased.

Sales of Cambodian textiles and clothing in the EU market surged by 32.4% following the EU's decision to relax the rules of origin of its Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) scheme. Sales in the US market, however, fell by 2.0%.

Vietnamese textile and clothing exports, meanwhile, seemed to be unaffected as the industry posted growth in sales in the EU, the USA and Japan, as well as several other countries, including China, Russia and South Korea.

## Techtextil heads to Dubai

Messe Frankfurt is expanding its Techtextil brand, with the launch of the Techtextil Middle East Symposium and the associated Techtextil Pavilion held concurrently with Intersec 2014. The 16th edition of the trade fair for safety and security is expected to attract approximately 1,000 exhibitors and more than 22,000 visitors to Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre from January 19-21, 2014. "In this region, we see a great sales potential for manufacturers, especially those from the Protech and Medtech areas of application. Moreover, a good 25 percent of trade visitors to Intersec 2013 were interested in the safety and health fields", says Michael Jänecke, director of brand management for technical textiles/Techtextil at Messe Frankfurt. "With the Techtextil Middle East Symposium and the Techtextil Pavilion, we offer a stepping stone into this region and the chance to find out more about this generally neglected market."





# World Textile News

## Ethylene from corn may be new sustainable feedstock

Ethanol processed from corn and other plants could serve as the new sustainable raw material for a huge variety of products, including textiles, which are currently made from petrochemical products.

Ethanol which is further processed into ethylene is mostly extracted from petroleum, and scientists have been seeking for alternatives to petroleum for making ethylene which is used in a variety of products, according to an article in the latest issue of the ACS journal, 'Industrial and Engineering Chemistry Research'.

Minhua Zhang and Yingzhe Yu, from the Key Laboratory for Green Chemical Technology of the Ministry of Education, Tianjin University Research and Development Center for Petrochemical Technology, have reviewed progress in the field and found a particular device which has the potential to make a highly pure ethylene product from ethanol with high efficiency and low cost.

The device, called a fluidized bed reactor, works by suspending the chemicals needed to make ethylene inside the walls of a chamber.

The ethylene which is produced in the chamber will exit through a pipe while the rest of the material remains to continue production.

Yingzhe Yu and his team explained that the progress towards the commercial use of the device would help in the manufacturing of various products which require ethylene as feedstock.

Ethylene is typically used as an intermediary for many organic syntheses and is commonly used in producing

polyester fibers for textile and clothing industry.

## Maxime Knitting Mills bags funds from Canadian Government

The Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Infrastructure, Communities and Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec, announced that the firm Maxime Knitting Mills Inc. has been granted financial assistance for the acquisition of modern production equipment.

"By supporting Maxime Knitting Mills in the acquisition of state-of-the-art technology, the Government of Canada is showing proof once again of its commitment to invest in projects that can help grow the economy," said Minister Lebel.

Founded in the 1980s, Maxime Knitting Mills Inc. is a thriving family-run textile business. It is the only company in Canada that crafts knitted mattress covers for mattress manufacturers across North America.

The funding from Canada Economic Development will enable the firm to acquire the equipment it needs to improve its production and thus increase its productivity and competitiveness as well as its ability to diversity its markets.

## Low cotton production affects Peruvian textile chain

The Peruvian cotton only meets 40 percent of the

## Iran plans benzene plant at Tabriz facility

Looking to boost its benzene output, the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) of Iran is preparing to set up a new petrochemical unit at its Tabriz facility, located in the fourth largest city of Iran.

NPC Director for Planning and Development Ramezan Olwadi said the benzene plant would probably be set up at Tabriz Oil Refinery, Iranian Press TV reported. Also, recently speaking at a press meeting, NPC Managing Director Abdolhossein Bayat said that the corporation would soon officially inaugurate the Ilam, Damavand, Noori and Fajr petrochemical complexes, which are nearing completion or are already complete.

The four projects form a part of 31 Mehre Mandegar (Lasting Kindness) projects in the petrochemical sector. 21 of these 31 projects have already gone or ready to go operational over the next one month, he added.

He said that the 8th phase of the West Ethylene Pipeline is close to completion and other phases would also be completed by September 22, 2013.

The Lorestan and Mahabad petrochemical plants are also slated to go operational by end of March 21, 2014. However, as these plants require ethylene as feedstock to start production of butane-1, they are awaiting launch of West Ethylene Pipeline, he added.

Earlier this year, Iran commissioned its biggest gasoline production hub near the central city of Shazand. The Shazand Oil Refinery houses an average production capacity of around one million litres of propylene per day.

Propylene, ethylene, benzene—are some of the petrochemical that find utility in the textile industry.

Since past few years, as Iran has significantly widened the range and volume of its petrochemical output, NPC has grown to become the second biggest petrochemical producer and exporter in the Middle East.

## Tehran mounts exhibition on Iranian nomadic life

The life and traditions of a number of Iranian tribes have been represented during an exhibition mounted in the capital city of Tehran early in August 2013.

Qashqaei, Azeri and Torkman representative groups took part in the exhibition to display their different lifestyles.

The exhibition provides an opportunity for visitors to become acquainted with the Iranian ethnic groups and nomadic lifestyle.

Many handicrafts, nomads' clothes, art pieces, food and

souvenirs have been showcased at the festival.

As the festival has been mainly sponsored by Qashqaei tribesmen, Qashqaei rugs and carpets, saddlebags adorned with colorful geometric designs were also presented at the exhibit. Nomad's materials for weaving carpets and rugs are natural and provided by their own animals.

The most attractive part of the festival, offered during its evening programs, is the show of local wedding ceremony.

Iran has one of the largest nomadic populations in the world and their lifestyle has become an inseparable part of the country's culture.

There are about one and a half million nomads in modern Iran, each with its own dialect, picturesque dress, dwelling-place, customs and language.

Iran is also home to one of the world's oldest civilizations as well as having its first dynasty established in 2800 BCE.

## Iran, Turkmenistan trade transactions to rise to \$10 billion

The Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan seek to increase their trade exchanges to \$10 billion in the near future as the two countries' businessmen and merchants are considering a 100-percent growth in the value of trade exchanges.

The current value of annual trade transactions between Tehran and Ashgabat is \$5 billion, while the figure stood at \$1.3 billion in 2006. A recent report by the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran on Iran- Turkmenistan trade relations shows that the two countries held six mutual cooperation meetings between 2001 and 2012. The most important documents exchanged between the two countries were trade agreements on encouraging and supporting investment, agreements on avoidance of double taxation, and memoranda of understanding on business cooperation.

Iran is reportedly Turkmenistan's second largest trade partner after Russia. The Islamic Republic exports machinery, construction materials, sedans, buses, food stuff, agricultural and petrochemical products, electrical products and home appliances to Turkmenistan, and imports natural gas, electricity, textiles and agricultural products from its northern neighbor. In July 2012, the foreign ministers of Iran and Turkmenistan signed a memorandum of understanding to increase trade volume and economic relations between the two countries.

"We will make our utmost effort to fulfill the wishes of the two countries' presidents to improve the volume of trade and economic ties to \$10 billion within the next years," Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi told reporters at the time.



exporters are already using the system.

In an initiative by the Union Ministry of Textiles, a delegation visited Iran in January-February this year, and a trade show was organised in Iran in May. The response to the trade show was encouraging and India's textile exports to Iran are all set to increase. Nearly 60 textile and clothing exporters participated and are expected to realise business worth \$22.5 million. "The impact of deeper engagement with Iran can translate into more than \$100 million Indian textile exports to Iran," says an official of the Ministry. The demand is more for cotton and manmade fibres and textile machinery.

Last financial year, India's textile and clothing exports to Iran were nearly \$108 million. However, Iran should reduce the import duty so that Indian products are competitive, Mr. Nair says.

Iran's total annual exports to India are \$11.5 billion, and India's exports to Iran are worth about \$3.3 billion. The official said that the adverse trade balance between India and Iran was one of the reasons for the special focus on Indian textiles exports to Iran.

Manickam Ramaswamy, Chairman, Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, says Iran can become an important market for Indian textile exporters. The exporter negotiates the order with the Iranian buyer in dollars, and also seeks the buyer's consent to make the payment in rupee under the rupee payment mechanism.

According to Anil Rajvanshi, Vice-Chairman, Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, "It looks like Iran will be a big market for exporters of acrylic yarn and fibre, synthetic and manmade fibre and jute." Since the rupee payment mechanism is a new mode of payment, there are initial hassles. But, "we need to look at the potential of the market." For the Indian exporters, it will be risky to depend on the U.S and European markets, and they need to look at alternatives.

## Iran plans 300 petrochem projects over next 4 years

Stirred by improving financial condition of developed countries, as global demand for petrochemical products is rising, Iran has launched or is working to launch several new projects to boost its petrochemical strength to cash in on the opportunity to boost exports.

Nearly 300 petrochemical complexes would be set up over the next four years, National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Director for Planning and Development Ramezan Olwadi told Press TV.

According to Mr. Olwadi, plans for establishment and

commissioning 12 new petrochemical parks in 12 different provinces of the country, have already been finalized, and the projects in southern Iranian province of Bushehr and Khuzestan have been assigned top priority.

Also, some of the petrochemical refineries, mainly in Tehran, Bandar Abbas, Arak and Abadan are being revamped at a cost of US\$ 8 billion, he said.

Mr. Owladi said that besides enhancing petrochemical exports, the new projects even aim at boosting the production capacity of local downstream petrochemical and polymer industries, many of whose produce are used as raw material in textile and apparel industry.

As the second biggest petrochemical producer of the Middle East, Iran contributes around one-fourth of the region's petrochemical output, and has significantly expanded its volume as well as product range over the past few years.

Earlier, NPC Managing Director Abdolhossein Bayat said over the past eight years, Iran's petrochemical production has grown by 38 million tons, and is likely to cross 75 million tons by end of current Iranian calendar year on March 20, 2014.

## Iran's carpet exports gross \$427mn last calendar year

The exports of handwoven carpets fetched US\$ 427 million for Iran during the last Iranian calendar year that ended on March 29, 2013, according to the National Carpet Centre.

From March 20, 2012 to March 20, 2013, the global trade in handwoven carpets reached US\$ 1.35 billion, out of which Iran's share was US\$ 427 million, Mohammad Baqer Alikhani, head of the carpet centre, said, FARS News Agency reported.

Mr. Alikhani said Iran's competitors in global handwoven carpet market are India, Afghanistan, Pakistan and China.

He said Iran can further increase its exports to international markets by extending promotional activities and sending trade delegations to identify and explore new markets.

Identified as one of the most illustrious expressions of the Persian culture, Persian carpets are known for their intricate design and skilful making.

Over 1.2 million weavers in Iran engage in carpet weaving and produce around five million square meters of carpets each year, 80 percent of which are exported.

Last calendar year, Iran exported around US\$ 560 million worth of hand-woven carpets to 50 countries, including Japan, Italy and Germany.

Traditionally the US, China, Germany, Italy, Brazil, Central and South Africa and several neighbouring countries are the major export destinations for Iran-made Persian carpets.

# Iran Textile News

## Iran Produces Self-Cleaning Coatings for Textile Industries

### Iran Produces Self-Cleaning Coatings for Textile Industries

The coating has been made by synthesizing titanium dioxide nanoparticles doped with silver and zirconium on polyacrylonitrile fibers, and it has photocatalytic self-cleaning properties. The aim of this research was to synthesize titanium dioxide nanoparticles doped with silver and zirconium, and also to synthesize a joint doped sample by using silver and zirconium (Ag-Zr-TiO<sub>2</sub>) on polyacrylonitrile fibers to investigate their photocatalytic self-cleaning properties.

Recent studies on the modification of photocatalytic properties of TiO<sub>2</sub> through co-doping process show that the photocatalytic properties of TiO<sub>2</sub> improve due to the strengthening of the doping ions. In this research, too, the strengthening and interaction between silver and zirconium in Ag-Zr-TiO<sub>2</sub> nanocomposite improves the photocatalytic properties of TiO<sub>2</sub> in its photocatalytic self-cleaning behavior. Taking into consideration the fact that this project can be used in textile industries and in the production of self-cleaning surfaces, the researchers will synthesize in their future projects the nanocomposites of titanium dioxide and other semiconductors on various surfaces to study their photocatalytic properties. Results of the research have been published in details in *Journal of Applied Polymer Science*, vol. 125, issue 7, pp. 3778-3789.

## Textile exports earn USD221m

Iran exported \$221.1 million worth of textile products in the

first four months of the current Iranian year (started March 21).

According to the reports, machine-made floorings, fiber, garments, fabric and thread were the main export items. It said about \$379.7 million worth of textile products were imported during the period, which shows a 6.65-percent decrease compared with the figure for the same period of last year.

Various types of fiber and thread, which are the main raw materials required by the industry, comprised 77 percent of total textile imports. About \$37.2 million worth of textile machineries were also imported during the period.

The report noted that \$38 million worth of cotton fibers, weighting 15,581 tons and \$937,000 worth of garments weighting 106.7 tons were also imported during the period.

## Textile exports to Iran set for a rupee push

Textile exporters have spotted an opportunity in the crisis in India-Iran trade caused by sanctions on the latter by the West. The textile industry is eyeing the rupee settlement mechanism between the two countries to push textile exports to Iran. D. K. Nair, Secretary General of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, says India's payments to Iran for oil imports are kept in India in the rupee fund administered through UCO Bank (45 per cent of the payments for oil are made to the rupee account). Textile and clothing buyers in Iran can open Letters of Credit against this fund after obtaining the required clearances from their government. Indian exporters will get the payment in Indian rupees from the bank account. And, there is no dearth of funds in this account, he says. In fact, rice





## **DOMOTEX MIDDLE EAST RECEIVES MAJOR BOOST** **FROM TURKEY'S BURGEONING** **construction sector**

**Istanbul/Hannover.** DOMOTEX Middle East doesn't open its gates for another four months, but the fair's organizers are already recording solid bookings for exhibition space from Turkish and international companies. Turkey's buoyant economy no doubt has a part to play in prompting registrations from key players in the global floor coverings market, including Peli Parquet, Tuğra Hali, Neuhofer Holz and M. A. Trading. From 7 to 10 November 2013, DOMOTEX Middle East will be showcasing a vast range of carpets and floor coverings from around the world at the Istanbul Expo Center.

"With a projected economic development of nearly 4% next year, Turkey remains on a growth course and reasserts its position as one of the world's 20 most dynamic places to do business," explained Martin Folkerts, Director Global Fairs at Deutsche Messe in Hannover. "Istanbul is easy to reach for Turkish buyers as well as business people from the Middle East. DOMOTEX Middle East offers the best business chances to domestic and foreign companies and we are pleased with the industry's vibrant interest."

### **Turkish construction sector back on growth trajectory**

The period of consolidation which followed the 2010 and 2011 boom years in Turkey's construction sector has ended, with the local industry now bracing for a new growth spurt. The Turkish government's plans to foster environmentally-friendly and energy efficient building solutions have sparked fresh interest from construction companies and finance providers, including from Germany. According to the "European Real Estate Assets Investment Trend 2013" report by consulting firm Ernst & Young, Turkey ranks among Europe's most attractive markets for real estate investment. The Turkish Association of Real Estate Investment Companies (GYODER) is expecting Turkey's construction sector to grow by around five percent in 2013. Underpinning this growth is the country's strong demand for apartments, which is outstripping the rest of Europe by a significant margin and which will benefit both local companies and international suppliers.

The Turkish government's plans for an "Urban Transformation Program" will provide an added boost to the local construction industry. The program calls for 400 billion US dollars-worth of investment into private apartments and numerous large housing complexes over the next 20 years. Apart from meeting residential housing demand, its objectives are to lift building safety standards in Turkey's cities and reduce the potential damage caused by natural disasters, such as earthquakes.

The Turkish government also plans to increase the capacity of its domestic hotel industry, especially the number of hotel newbuilds by international luxury hotel chains. Other major construction measures in the planning pipeline include a third international airport, a finance center, the Istanbul Seaport project and the expansion and upgrade of the country's network of hospitals.

### **Product portfolio and visitor profile**

The product portfolio on show at this year's DOMOTEX Middle East will reflect the sheer scale and specific needs of Turkey's burgeoning construction sector. It will comprise hand- and machine-made carpets, hallway runners and mats, textile and resilient floor coverings, laminates and timber and parquet flooring. It will also feature state-of-the art textile production machinery and materials, such as fibers and yarns; artificial grass and sports surfaces; laying, cleaning and application technologies; and natural stone, marble and ceramic tiles. DOMOTEX Middle East is the only trade fair in Turkey to feature such a comprehensive offering of floor coverings and associated products and technologies.

DOMOTEX Middle East is frequented exclusively by industry professionals, such as floor covering wholesalers and retailers, exporters, importers, architects, interior designers, industrial and product designers, real estate developers and floor layers. The fair also attracts purchasing executives and senior managers from public authorities, hospitals, educational institutions, sports centers, manufacturing companies, construction firms, hotels, shopping and business centers and the ship and yacht building industry.