

## 7 Duty-free access is not granted by the US to Bangladeshi RMG importers

Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud recently told the Jatiya Sangsad that the United States had never provided duty-free and quota-free facilities for the import of garments from Bangladesh. The Minister came up with the disclosure at the question and answer session at the parliament's ongoing budget session.

Responding to a question from Jatiya Party Chief whip Mujibul Haque Chhunu, the Minister said that the import duty imposed by the US on garment products is uniform for Bangladesh like other competing countries in light of the World Trade Organisation's Most Favoured Nation policy.



"Even while Bangladesh was under the US GSP facility, garment products were excluded from the MFN policy. Without this advantage, the United States has become the single largest market for Bangladesh's garment exports through open competition" he said.

The US has not yet reintroduced its GSP facility for Bangladesh after it expired in December 2020, the minister said, adding that diplomatic efforts of the government is going on to include Bangladesh under the GSP facility and bring garment products under the GSP.

He said Bangladesh regularly raises this demand in the Bangladesh-United States Annual Trade Dialogue. In addition, the Bangladesh government has also raised the demand for duty-free access to the US market for garments and textile products made with cotton purchased from the United States, he said ■

## 7 ITMF and IAF Conference highlights global textile and apparel industry trends

As frequent visitors of the ITMF and IAF annual conferences have come to expect, industry experts will share the cutting edge of the developments that currently define the textile-apparel industrial complex. The unique collaboration of the textile industry federation ITMF and the apparel industry federation IAF allows the organizers to give a full supply chain picture. At a time when collaboration across the entire chain is indispensable to meet the many challenges, this is a great asset.

Collaboration is also a central theme of a session featuring Inditex, Epic Group and

International Finance Corporation (IFC, part of the World Bank Group). The speakers will focus on decarbonization and show how a collaborative approach across the supply chain can achieve the real progress that our industry needs. The apparel and textile industries are rapidly becoming more regulated, heightening the pressure to create real and significant environmental and social improvements. In a unique, global regulation session, representatives of the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA), the China National Textile & Apparel Council (CNTAC), the European Textile & Apparel

Industry Federation (EURATEX), and the Japan Textile Federation (JTF), will explain the shape that regulation will take in their countries and regions in the coming years. These topics and several more about fibers, digitalization, AI, etc. will be discussed in the ancient city of Samarkand, Uzbekistan, a country with a rapidly growing textile and apparel industry, attracting interests from across the world. This convention will be a unique industrial gathering of leaders from across the entire textile and apparel supply chain, from all parts of the world ■

## 7 Bangladesh and China discuss textile collaboration opportunities

A Chinese business delegation comprising representatives from leading garment and textile companies visited Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and discussed opportunities for business collaboration.

The BGMEA side was headed by its President S. M. Mannan (Kochi) while the Chinese delegation was represented by Xu Jinshan, President of Fujian Qunfeng Machinery Co., Ltd. BGMEA Vice President (Finance) Md. Nasir Uddin, Directors Rajiv Chowdhury and Md. Jakir Hossain, were also present at the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Solaiman, Director, M & H Corporation (Pvt) Ltd.

From Chinese delegation, Xu Jinshan, Chen Qi Ping and Yang Ming Ming spoke at the meeting. The discussions centered on exploring trade and investment opportunities between Bangladesh and China, particularly focusing on enhancing cooperation in the textile and apparel sectors.

Both sides highlighted the potential for expanding business ventures, with a specific emphasis on Bangladesh's capabilities in producing high-value, man-made fiber-based garments and its ongoing efforts to upgrade technological infrastructure.

The BGMEA leaders highlighted Bangladesh's growing emphasis on producing high-value products, particularly



man-made fiber-based garments and upgrading technology and machinery to enhance the capabilities in manufacturing more high-value garments. They also emphasized on the prospect of Chinese investment in high-end textile and backward linkage industry in Bangladesh, saying it would benefit both sides ■