

Our Correspondent

PTEA hails 33pc drop in trade deficit

FAISALABAD: The Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) has appreciated 33pc significant drop in trade deficit.

In a statement issued here on Friday, PTEA chairman Sohail Pasha lauded the sharp fall in trade deficit during July-November to \$9.496 billion from \$14.47 billion in the same period during last fiscal year.

However, he pointed out that this decline in trade deficit was mainly contributed by import side not from exports as growth in exports remained tepid.

Quoting the official figures, he said that exports had fallen by 0.67pc in November over the preceding month while average rise in exports in first five months was less than five per cent, indicating that achieving the export target would again be toughest this year.

For the first time in last 15 years, imports were decreasing but low export volumes were still the issue for the country's economic growth, he added.

Lack of diversification of export destinations and products and high cost of doing business were among the key factors behind low exports, he maintained.

He said that despite extreme crisis, textile industry remained the most export-oriented sector of the economy in last decade with its 60pc share in country's export revenues; however, stagnating textiles exports had been a consistent source of concern for the economy.