

**Active buying on cotton market**

MULTAN: The trading activity on cotton market slightly improved on Tuesday as textile mills replenish their stocks actively to meet immediate needs. The Karachi Cotton Association kept its spot rate unchanged at Rs9,000.

Cotton analyst Naseem Usman said the decreasing trend in rupee value against the dollar is a matter of concern for mill owners as the cost of imports will increase. "However, the situation in the local market will remain dull," he added.

Cotton expert Syed Mudabbir Shah said that previously only the small mills were in the market but today medium-sized groups were also active and it is being expected that in coming days the activities will further boost.

He said that the closure of border with Afghanistan and decrease in dollar are two major reasons behind the decision of the mills to become active. A ship carrying many containers of imported cotton from the US is being delayed due to unknown reasons is also a matter of concern for mill owners, Shah said.

"The entire scenario has now been changed and mills have no other option but purchase to cotton from the local market," he added.

The following deals were reported to have changed hands on ready counter: 200 bales, Dera Ghazi Khan, at Rs9,200; 400 bales, Khanpur, at Rs9,050; 2,600 bales, Rahim Yar Khan, at Rs8,800; 800 bales, Sadiqabad, at Rs8,800; and 200 bales, Vehari, at Rs8,300.