

### **Sindh govt urged to reopen textile sector**

KARACHI: Textile manufacturers on Thursday asked Sindh government to allow the entire textile value chain to restart production without any delay.

All Pakistan Textile Manufacturers Association (Aptma) Sindh-Balochistan Region Chairman Zahid Mazhar said that further delays would lead to total closure and massive unemployment.

He said the textile units that have been allowed to resume operations have adopted all precautionary measures prescribed in the standard operating procedures to contain coronavirus at workplaces.

The Aptma chairman added that so far the Sindh government has only allowed those units to resume production that have pending export orders to fulfill their commitments and those with residential colonies within the factory premises.

However, it would have no positive impact on the economy of the province until the downstream textile industry including sub-sectors of weaving, knitting, stitching, processing and garmenting — that provide intermediary materials — are also allowed to resume operations.

He said the industry is facing severe liquidity crunch and is unable to pay utility bills and the wages to its employees.

The only solution to tackle this disastrous situation is to allow the entire business cycle of the textile industry to function across the entire value chain including the downstream industry.