

Commerce Reporter

Country's export earnings totaled US\$ 2,982.74 million in the first month (July) of the current fiscal (2014-15) showing a fall of 1.37 percent due to shaky performance of the key woven garment, home textile, leather, jute and jute-made goods.

The figure is also 2.03 percent lower than the strategic target of \$ 3,044.44 million, according to the latest figures released by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

The export target for the current fiscal (FY15) was set at \$ 33,200 million. Total exports during the last fiscal (FY14) reached \$ 30,186.62 million.

According to the EPB statistics, knitwear fetched the bulk of the earnings with \$ 1,307.90 million, representing a 4.32 percent growth over the same month last year while woven garments earned \$ 1,210.08 million, a fall of 4.14 percent.

Export of home textiles totaled \$ 59.19 million with a fall of 13.15 percent; leather footwear exports earned \$ 48.85 million; primary commodities \$ 114.61 million; frozen foods including frozen fish, shrimps and others \$ 65.19 million; and agricultural products \$ 49.42 million.

The export trend for leather and leather products and plastic products maintained their upward trend in July.

Leather exports totaled \$ 37.36 million; leather products \$ 22.93 million; cotton and cotton products together earned \$ 8.88 million; plastic products \$ 7.97 million; while rubber exports came in the positive trend to total only 1.18 million. The country also earned \$ 3.60 million from export of ceramic products.

During the one-month period, export of tea notched a whopping 1700 percent growth with \$ 0.18 million, followed by export of cosmetics with 1100 percent growth (\$ 0.24 million); and golf shaft with 154.79 percent growth (\$ 1.86 million).

Exports of jute and jute goods in July totaled \$ 60.98 million, registering a 23.92 percent fall. Raw jute exports fetched \$ 6.91 million with 11.41 percent decline; jute yarn and twine \$ 39.66 million; jute sacks and bags \$ 9.36 million; and other items brought in some \$ 5.05 million.

Engineering products including iron and steel, bicycle and electronic products fetched almost \$ 28.93 million.

Export of man-made filaments and staple fibers totaled \$ 6.76 million while other manufactured products earned \$ 11.51 million.

Export growth of ships, boats and floating structures remained stagnant in July bagging only \$ 0.01 million.

Export of handicrafts totaled \$ 0.58 million; paper and paper products \$ 2.65 million; furniture \$ 2.14 million; chemical products \$ 8.93 million; pharmaceuticals \$ 7.27 million; and ores, slag and ash \$ 1.12 million - a 39.13 percent fall in July.

Specialized textiles including terry towel, special woven fabric and knitted fabrics marked a negative growth of 39.11 percent earning \$ 7.63 million in July while export of petroleum byproducts showed positive trend fetching \$ 6.63 million.