

RECORDER REPORT

**APCAA for declaring Saturdays, Sundays as working days**

KARACHI: All Pakistan Customs Agents Association (APCAA) has requested the ministry of ports and shipping and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to declare all Saturdays and Sundays as working days till Aug 31 to dispose of containers backlog at ports, which was created due to torrential rains and Eid holidays.

In a letter sent to ministry and FBR, FPCCI vice president and AOCAA patron-in-chief Arshad Jamal said the trade of Pakistan has suffered serious financial losses, due to torrential rains in Karachi which badly affected port activities and created huge backlog of consignments.

He said if no appropriate arrangements to be made to mitigate the impact of suspended port activities that extended to over a week due to rains and five Eid holidays, it would not only create problems for terminals to deal with myriad volume of pending consignments but also put excessive financial burdens on trade in terms of unnecessary port charges, heavy container rents in foreign currency & excessive transportation cost.

He said the port authorities and terminals handled 10000 containers on daily basis in yellow and red channels and during last 15 days, port activities were badly affected that caused substantial increase in container cost up to Rs 18000, adding that it was a responsibility of concerned authorities to facilitate the trade in this hard time.