

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Textile, leather sectors continue to face shortage of material

KARACHI: The two prime textile and leather industries are facing shortage of dyes, chemical and yarn due to zero economic activities at the two of the ports in the city due to the strike of goods transport carriers. The members of textile, leather and other industrial sectors said on Monday due to stoppage of transportation of basic raw material from coal to cement, edible oil, imported lintels, food stuff, industrial and trading material besides shifting of food stuff and sugar to main markets in the country had worsened the situation. The ongoing strike by goods transport union entered into its ninth straight day and causing immense problems to manufacturing units in Sindh and Punjab stations while importers were forced to pay port detention charges in lieu of non-clearance of ports space. The export consignments of marble, textile products and other Pakistan exports had stopped due to non-transportation of goods to ports. Shippers also stopped economic activities due to non-reaching of export goods at the ports. Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Haroon Agar said the chamber sent SOS to the Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik to resolve the crisis with immediate effect otherwise exporters and importers would face colossal financial losses. DIG Highways Waliullah said, "The goods transporters want to carry more than 50-55 tonnes of goods on a single truck or carrier, which is sheer violation of International Highway Code of Standards." "If we allow them to carry more than this weight as they usually carry more than 100 tonnes of truckload, we would not get any foreign financial assistance from international donors for the rehabilitation work of highways," he added. He said the wear and tear of national highways at several routes and sections had destroyed the roads infrastructure causing immense problems to commuters. Flourmills in Punjab and Sindh stations were also on the verge of closure as wheat transportation had also been affected. A spokesman of All Pakistan Vanaspati Manufacturers Association said due to transporters wheel jam, the manufacturing units in the country were short of raw edible oil of around 2,000 tonnes daily, which was transported from Karachi. The suspension of Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) and urea supply to the upper parts of country's agricultural lands will likely hamper the sowing of wheat and other crops, farmers said. Fauji Fertilizer Bin Qasim Limited, the only urea and DAP production plant in outskirts of Karachi was unable to transport its DAP and urea for the farmers across Pakistan, which had created shortage of DAP in upper parts of the country. The representatives of transporters said they had submitted a 13-point agenda to the concerned department in order to resolve their problems of harassment by the highway police, restricted truckload and long hours of detention by highway police. **STAFF REPORT**