

LCCI opposes 'two' weekly-holiday proposal

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry has urged the government to drop the idea of two weekly holidays as it would not be doing any service to the economy rather would be creating disorder in working schedules and curtail production. In a Press Statement issued here on Wednesday, the LCCI President Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry, Senior Vice President Ijaz A. Mumtaz and Vice President Faisal Iqbal Sheikh said that country was presently facing a number of internal and external challenges including terrorism, acute shortage of electricity and gas and high input cost that have caused a total halt to all types of industrial and economical activities. And, instead of pondering over these issues, the policy makers have now invented an illogical and baseless issue of two weekly holidays that would have a very negative impact on the economy. They said that two holidays in the wake of acute electricity shortage would hit the exports hard as the industry would not be able to meet the export orders. They said that two holidays would also multiply the sufferings of the wage earners would also multiply. The LCCI office-bearers said that if the government takes all the economy related decisions after taking the stakeholders into confidence, the country would progress by leaps and bounds and the trickle down affect of the government policies would also have a far reaching impact. They said that ongoing economic situation calls for an increased interaction with major trading partners around the globe and by announcing two weekly holidays, the government is doing no service but further squeezing the interaction time with trading partners in other countries. The LCCI office-bearers appealed to the Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani to maintain Sunday as weekly holiday instead of two weekly holidays in order to accelerate the economic wheel and achieve the set export target.