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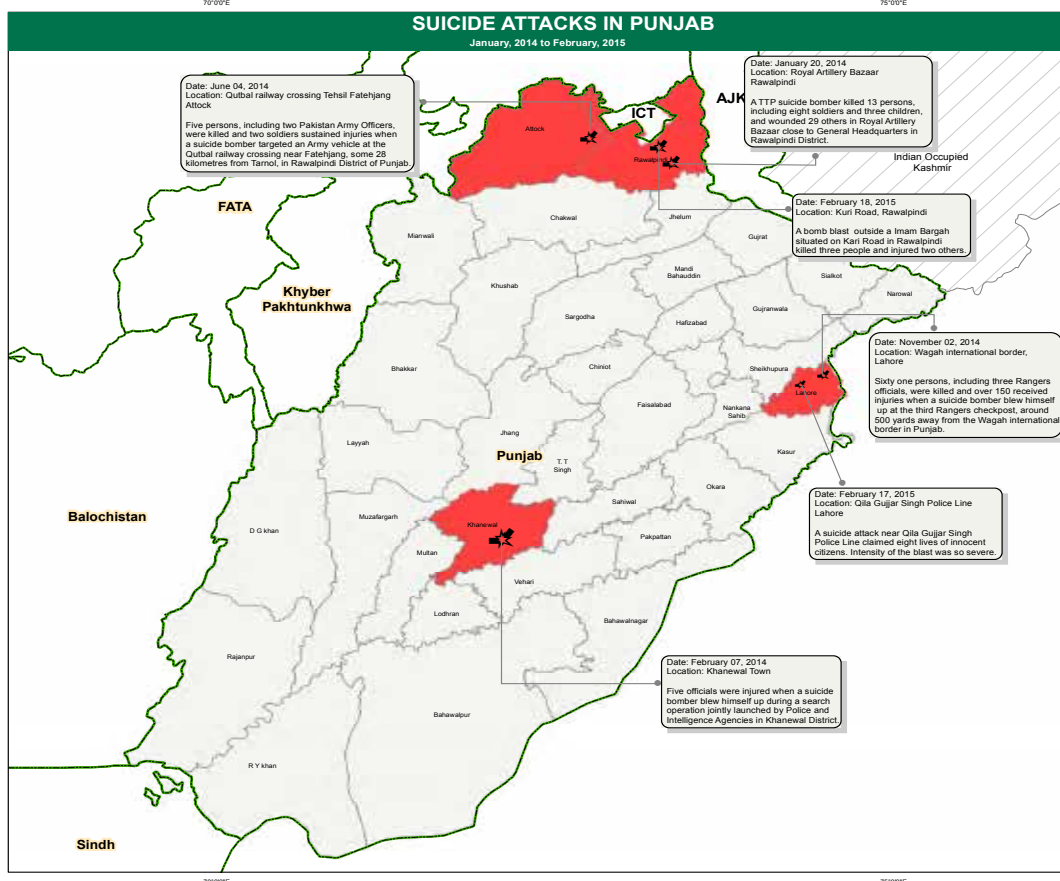
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NATURAL CALAMITIES

NEWS HEADLINES

Japan's Cumulative Assistance at 976b Yen

Express Tribune, February 22, 2015

Target of 15.49 Million Bales Set For 2015-16 Season

Business Recorder, February 22, 2015

DETAILS

TOKYO: Japan's cumulative Official Development Assistance (ODA) disbursement to Pakistan for different projects stood at 975.99 billion yen under the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) with an objective to build a stable and sustainable society through economic growth. While briefing about the Japanese assistance to Pakistan at JICA headquarters, Planning Division South Asian Department Deputy Director South Asia Division 2 (Pakistan) Ehara Keiji said that JICA had arranged a two-week training programme for media representatives from 16 different countries including Pakistan on disaster management and utilising Japanese experience in building disaster-resilient societies in developing nations. "Through JICA, the government of Japan has initiated a number of development projects with focus on expanding and improving power supply, transmission lines, infrastructure, along with ensuring human security and balanced development for stability in the region near Afghanistan (Fata and Balochistan)," he said. Keiji said that in 2014, five billion yen were disbursed. Speaking about JICA's ongoing projects, he said a number of projects have been launched in health, education, agriculture, energy, transport, water, disaster risk management, sanitation and industrial sectors.

- Projects in Punjab include upgrading the mechanical system for sewerage and drainage service, a detailed design for energy savings and water supply and improvement of traffic management.
- In Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, the focus would be on strengthening the routine immunisation, rural road rehabilitation, rehabilitation of Pakistan Medium Wave Radio Broadcasting Network and capacity development of agriculture extension service.
- For Balochistan, the projects include in-country training and provision of equipment for Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences, east-west road improvement, the Indus Highway construction (third phase) and the Dadu-Khuzdar transmission system.

The government has set 15.49 million bales cotton target for the next season (2015-16) against the revised target of 13.48 million bales for the outgoing season (2014-15), it is learnt. The government had set initial target of 15.1 million bales for the current season (2014-15), however later the target was revised three times to finally set at 13.48 million bales due to multiple issues including water shortage, rains/floods, and shortage of certified seed. Official sources told Business Recorder that the 4th meeting of Federal Committee on Cotton (FCC) was held in the textile ministry with Amir Marwat, Secretary Ministry of Textile Industry in the chair to fix the targets for cotton area and production for the cotton crop season 2015-16. The committee agreed to fix the following overall cotton production targets and area under cultivation for the year 2015-16: 15.49 million bales from 3.12 million hectares. Punjab would produce 10.5 million bales from 2.43 million hectares, Sindh 4.4 million bales from 0.65 million hectares, Balochistan 0.59 million bales from 0.043 million hectares and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 0.00152 million bales from 0.0005 million hectares.

The Secretary Ministry of Textile Industry apprised the committee about the recent approval of Textile Policy (2014-19) which emphasises provision of higher quantity and quality of basic raw materials for producing high value products. He added that the new Textile Policy stresses achieving goals through sectoral development and cotton is the first step of the strategy. He also assured the farming community that all efforts would be made for provision of better prices to the cotton producers. Cotton Commissioner Dr Khalid Abdullah presented the previous targets and achievements of cotton crop. He reviewed the previous cotton situation and stated that series of meetings were held with officials from federal, provincial and private sector seed agencies for provision of certified seed having higher germination percentage which led to availability of around 45 percent certified seed last year.

The representative from National Meteorological Department reported that the forthcoming cotton season would receive normal rainfall. However, low spell of rains are expected in April in the Punjab province which may result in soil crust problem and farmers must be educated for delaying of cotton sowing in consultation with Meteorological Department to avoid seed loss. He further stated that 10-15 percent more water will be available due to rapid melting of snow and glaciers due to rise in temperature. Moreover, the representative from Indus River System Authority (IRSA) also reported no shortage of canal irrigation water during the season. The representative of fertiliser industry reported that there would be no shortage of urea fertiliser during the season. He also hoped that due to provision of LNG to power plants, fertiliser industry would get additional gas which would produce more fertiliser. The representative from Zarai Taraqqiati Bank Limited (ZTBL) stated that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has set a target of Rs 500 billion for agriculture credit and out of this ZTBL would disburse Rs 90 billion loans for agriculture sector including Rs 15 billion for cotton sector.

Dr Muhammad Ali Talpur Director Marketing & Economic Research, PCCC stated that as per projections by International Cotton Advisory Committee, the world area and production may decrease due to lower prices last year and consumption may increase during coming cotton season. Therefore, the planning for intervention price may be done in time. Dr Shakeel Ahmad Khan Director General Federal Seed Certification & Registration Department assured that higher quantity of certified seed would be available during coming cotton crop season and seed companies selling fake seed would be de-registered. The meeting was attended by Director General Federal Seed Certification & Registration Department, Member (Crop Sciences),

PPA For Clear Policy To End Root Causes of Malnutrition In Tharparkar

The Nation, February 21, 2015

Pakistan Agricultural Research Council; Director General Agriculture Punjab; representative of Crop Reporting Department, Sindh, Punjab Seed Council, Agricultural Research Institute, DI Khan, Director Research, Director Marketing & Economic Research from Pakistan Central Cotton Committee, Director Central Cotton Research Institute Sakrand, representative from fertiliser industry, Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP); Meteorological Department and farmers.

LAHORE: Pakistan Poultry Association Northern Zone chairman Dr. Mustafa Kamal has shown his severe concern over the rising fatality ratio due to malnutrition in drought-hit Tharparkar. He requested the federal government as well as the Sindh government to immediately draft a policy to address the root causes of malnutrition through additional investment on food supply to drought-hit areas.

In a press statement, the PPA urged the Sindh government to improve the funding for nutrition programmes in Tharparkar and other districts from its budget of Annual Development Programme (ADP). Quoting the Nutrition Information System data, PPA (NZ) chairman Dr. Mustafa Kamal said that majority of the children were acutely malnourished in areas adjacent to Tharparkar, mainly Umerkot and Sanghar. He said that National Nutrition Survey highlighted a rising number of malnutrition-related clinical admissions of pregnant women and child mortality in the Tharparkar district. The main issue of women of this area is loss of muscles owing to lack of good quality protein in their food. It is very difficult for the government to provide them animal protein due to high cost, transportation and storage issues. However, the authorities can easily include eggs and milk in their nutrition programme, as it is low cost, easily transportable, having high shelf life and protein of 6.5 gram. Under the Benazir Income Support Programme, the Sindh government should provide food coupon to the inhabitants of calamity-hit areas to improve their nutrition standard, as WHO suggests 27 gram of animal protein per day for healthy person, he suggested. He urged the Sindh government to scale up nutrition and other support initiatives for over 1.3 million people for a year in Tharparkar and surrounding districts. The government should arrange funds to provide special consignment of milk and eggs for Tharparkar people as Pakistan's poultry industry has sufficient capacity in this regard.

Alkhidmat Distributes 250 Food Packages Among FATA TDPs

AKF News, February 21, 2015

PESHAWAR: Alkhidmat Foundation arranged a distribution ceremony for Barra, Khyber agency affectees. The ceremony was presided over by Mr. Awal Gul Afridi (President Alkhidmat Foundation FATA). 250 affectees received food packages from Alkhidmat Foundation. Mr. Awal Gul Afridi stated that Alkhidmat Foundation arranged make-shift camps for the IDPs which is providing them with all the basic necessities of life.

Alkhidmat Foundation Arranges Free Medical Camps At Lodhran

AKF News, February 21, 2015

LODHRAN: Alkhidmat Foundation arranged a free medical camp at Gareeb Abad, Lodhran. According to the details 3 doctors (including 1 lady doctor) attended the camp. 2 dispensers, 2 technicians, and 8 volunteers were deployed at the camp. 370 OPD cases were checked while 50 patients were tested for hepatitis. Diabetes test was conducted for 120 patients while 30 patients took the urine test.

Sustainable Development: Investment in Social Sectors Would Address Extremist Recruitment, Help Economy

Express Tribune, February 21, 2015

ISLAMABAD: At a time when Pakistan is at a crossroads due to the tumultuous political and security situation, a UN official has emphasised the need to invest in social sectors, especially education and health and nutrition, as well as the service sector to move the country forward and achieve sustainable economic development. United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan Timo Pakala, who is leaving the country on Monday after completing his four year assignment, said in an interview with The Express Tribune that a growing number of young people in Pakistan and out-of-school children were becoming major challenges for the country's security and economic development. He said that young people and out-of-school children who do not contribute to the economy due to their sheer lack of skills and education, are being seen as a security threat for the country and the region. "If young people do not have anything to look forward to, they can be recruited by extremism groups, a phenomenon that Pakistan continues to suffer from," he said. "Alternatives for the young people will reduce the risks of security incidents. People who are easily brainwashed by extremists can only be dealt with using a strong education system and provision of services. Otherwise, the gap will be filled by these groups," Pakala said.

The UN official said that while the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) cover a broader array of issues and are coming to an end, it was unfortunate to see that Pakistan was not on track to achieve them. "The sluggish effort only picked up momentum last year or so....to accelerate the process and to ensure enrolment in primary schools," he said. While appreciating the efforts of the federal and provincial governments to come together to work on education under the MDGs, he said that the governments were now making efforts to overcome bottlenecks to send about six million children to school. "While the focus is just on one goal (education), this is also good" he said, adding that Vision 2025 must be pursued with political will. "Moving on to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) does not mean that challenges aren't there," he said. "You cannot have sustainable economic development unless you have well educated, well nourished, and healthy population. There is no shortcut to development," he said. Pakala arrived in Pakistan in 2010, a year when the country was struck by one of the worst floods in its history. "It was an extremely difficult and traumatic time for Pakistan and we were gearing up to provide humanitarian assistance to millions of people" he said.

Over the years, Pakala said that while natural disasters kept reoccurring with magnitude that affected thousands of households, Pakistan has managed to confront them with resilience. The 2014 floods that affected two million people saw an appreciable response from the Punjab government, he said. "If I look at the trends from 2010, disasters have taught the country a lot. There is a positive trajectory in the capacity of the country's response. There are very few countries that could even fathom a situation such as this," he said. Pakala said that the safe return of the displaced population remains a major challenge for Pakistan and the UN was working with the government of Pakistan to find a sustainable solution to the

Ministry Awaits Provinces Response on Implementation

The Nation, February 20, 2015

displacement issue.

With 1.6 million dislocated people, we hope that half of them will go home this year, he said. "The UN is also working on strengthening the civilian justice system and civil institutions in the medium term to help address some of the problems of rule of law." "My four years in Pakistan left a lasting impression. People have always been hospitable. The diverse culture is the richness of Pakistan. It has a bright future, it just needs to focus on a few things," said Pakala.

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Climate Change had written a letter to the chief secretaries of all provinces at least a month ago for implantation of the National Climate Change Policy 2012 but it seemed as the climate change was not a priority for the province because the ministry did not get the positive response so far, showed the document available with The Nation. The documents revealed that on the direction of Minister of Climate Change Mashahidullah Khan, the secretary wrote a letter to all chief secretaries, including AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan last month and requested the provinces for quick response. The letter termed Pakistan as one of the most vulnerable countries in the world regarding frequency of disasters. This is important to note that Pakistan is among the worst effected countries to the climate change as environmental degradation is responsible for 6 per cent loss of GDP annually. According to Global Climate Risk Index 2014 report, Pakistan was among the countries most affected by climate change in 2012 and accordingly placed it at third position.

Latter addressed to the chief secretaries reads, "As you are aware the approved National Climate Change Policy provided a framework for addressing the issue that Pakistan faces or would face in the future due to changing climate." "In view of Pakistan's high vulnerability to the adverse impact of climate change, in particular extreme events, adaption efforts are the focus of this policy document. The vulnerabilities of various sectors to climate change have been highlighted and appropriate adaption measures spelled out. These cover policy measures to address issues in various sectors such as water, agriculture, forestry, coastal areas, biodiversity, and other vulnerable ecosystem. Notwithstanding the fact that Pakistan's contribution to global greenhouse gas emission is very small, its role as a responsible contribution to global community in combating climate change has been highlighted by giving due importance to mitigation efforts in sectors such as water, energy, forestry, agriculture and livestock," it added. It was mentioned in letter that in regard to the policy measures in the Climate Change Policy, NSDS and Climate Change implantation framework, a National Action Plan had summarised for review and implementation. The federal secretary also said in the letter that a meeting would be arranged soon to determine a comprehensive way forward and monitor implantation status. But, so far not even a single province had shown interest in such a meeting.

APP adds: The Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, Arif Ahmed Khan has reaffirmed that Pakistan stands firm in its commitments made under all international obligations and agreements. He said that all out measures in collaboration with the governmental and non-governmental sectors concerned will be taken to reduce Pakistan's vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change.

More Rains Predicted in the Country During Next Week

Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), February 20, 2015

Met Office predicted widespread rains with snowfall over the hills in the country during next week from Sunday to Wednesday. Met Office informed that a strong weather system is likely to enter Pakistan (through Balochistan) on Sunday (Evening) 22nd Feb, 2015 and expected to grip the upper parts of the country on Monday. This weather system may persist in upper Punjab and Kashmir till Thursday. Under the influence of this Weather System widespread thunderstorm rain (with snowfall over the hills) in upper parts of the country, scattered thunderstorm rain in Balochistan and South Punjab while isolated rain in Upper Sindh is expected during the period.

- **Balochistan:** Widespread thunderstorm-rain with isolated heavy falls is expected in north Balochistan (Quetta, Zhob and Kalat divisions) while at scattered places in Makran, Sibbi and Nasirabad divisions during Sunday (Evening) to Tuesday.
- **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:** Widespread thunderstorm-rain (with snowfall over the hills) is expected in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Peshawar, Kohat, Malakand, Mardan and Hazara divisions) while at scattered places in lower KP (D.I. Khan, Bannu and Lakkimarwat divisions) during Sunday (night) to Wednesday.
- **Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA):** Widespread thunderstorm-rain (with snowfall over the hills) is expected in upper parts of FATA (Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Orakzai and Kurram agencies) while at scattered places in Lower FATA (north and south Waziristan agencies) during Sunday (night) to Wednesday.
- **Punjab/Islamabad:** Widespread thunderstorm-rain (with snowfall over the hills) is expected in Islamabad, upper & central Punjab (Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Faisalabad, Sahiwal, Gujranwala and Lahore divisions) while at scattered places in South Punjab (D.G. Khan, Multan and Bahawalpur divisions) during Monday to Wednesday.
- **Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir:** Widespread thunderstorm-rain (with snowfall over the hills) is expected in Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir from Sunday (night) to Thursday.
- **Sindh:** Thunderstorm Rain is also expected at isolated places in upper Sindh (Sukkar and Larkana divisions) on Monday/Tuesday.

Spokesman of PMD further informed that the system may produce isolated heavy to very heavy falls accompanied with hailstorms at few places in Peshawar, Kohat, Malakand, Hazara, Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Lahore and Gujranwala divisions, Islamabad, Kashmir and GB on Tuesday and Wednesday. The rain fed areas of wheat crop are also expected to receive good rains during the period.

Japan Donates USD 31.5 Million to 2015 IOM Humanitarian Operations

IOM, February 20, 2015

JAPAN: The Japanese Government has committed additional funds to support IOM's operations in the face of increasingly complex humanitarian crises. From its "supplementary budget FY2014," the Japanese Government will avail a total of USD 31.5 million to support IOM activities for vulnerable migrants, internally displaced persons, returnees and affected communities. The funds will support life-saving and recovery activities as well as contribute to increasing the capacity of various governments to manage complex migration flows and to cope with displacement resulting from natural disasters and conflicts.

In Afghanistan funding will be used to provide assistance to vulnerable Afghan returnees from Iran and Pakistan and to build local capacities of communities of return through return of skilled nationals. A significant amount (USD 22,360,000) has been allocated towards IOM programmes in African countries including Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Chad, Niger, Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Djibouti. IOM's programmes in these countries aim to increase the resilience and human security of vulnerable displaced populations and host communities, as well as build the capacity of government officials in integrated and coordinated border management.

In support of IOM's continuous efforts in the Ebola response, the Japanese funds will look to improve Ebola prevention among migrants and border communities in Guinea and neighbouring countries. In Ghana the assistance will increase migrant, mobile population and border community preparedness and response to Ebola. In Cote d'Ivoire, the funds will build the capacity for health and border management officials who are managing the Ebola outbreak. The funding will provide much needed support to the regional response to the Syrian crisis, in addition to aiding vulnerable communities in conflict-affected areas in Yemen.

In Ukraine, Japanese funding will help IOM to improve access to basic services and livelihoods in selected communities of the Donbass region. Funding will also go towards repair and reconstruction of centres for disabled children in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Japanese government in the past has supported IOM's humanitarian and recovery activities including the delivery of immediate live saving relief, community stabilization and early recovery activities, as well as emergency return and reintegration assistance for migrants caught in crises.

1,000 Flood Affectees Treated in Medical Camp Sialkot

AKF News, February 18, 2015

SIALKOT: Alkhidmat Foundation with the collaboration of FOF organized free medical camp for the flood affectees of Bajwat, Sialkot. More than 1,000 flood affected patients were checked-up and were given free prescribed medicines. Moreover, patients of gyne, diabetes and Hepatitis B,C were also tested. In medical camp 3 gynaecologist, 1 child specialist, 1 surgeon and 1 general medicines doctor provide their valuable services. Mian Muhammad Asif (Additional IG KPK Police) also visited the medical camp and praised the services of Alkhidmat Foundation for the suffering and ailing humanity

Modern Radar System Soon To Forecast Rain, Flood

DAWN News, February 18, 2015

PESHAWAR: After jolted by unpredicted devastating rains and floods in the country's history about four years ago, the meteorological (Met) department is finally gearing up for installing modern radar systems to be more exact in predicting weather so that it could warn the government bodies concerned in time if there is any disaster in the making. The need for modern radar system was realised when the unprecedented rains and floods brought huge devastation in July 2010. According to a National Disaster Management Authority report, 20 million people in an area of over 100,000 square kilometres were affected by the rains and floods and there was widespread damage to property and infrastructure. After the floods in July 2010, the radar system at strategic locations were proposed to better monitor weather systems and forewarn about the disaster. The July 2010 floods woke up the authorities from deep slumber to improve the technical capacity of the Met department. The radar system, a part of the Met department's disaster-preparedness strategy, would improve the department's ability to monitor and get almost exact data about weather systems and to better forecast weather. Mushtaq Ali Shah, the director of Met department in Peshawar, told Dawn. The Met department has got funds and is going to start work on installing a new radar system at Kalpani in Mardan district from the next month to better monitor as well as collect data about the weather systems. "In the first week of March work is going to start on radar system at Kalpani in Mardan", said Mr Shah. It is pertinent to mention here that bridge at Kalpani, a hung nullah in Mardan, collapsed due to flash floods in July 2006, killing about 50 people. The entire Mardan city was flooded.

Initially, the department wanted to install an automatic warning system at that troubled spot to alert the local people as well as administration in case of expected flooding but the radar would give more accurate data about the situation, the official said. He said that the department had proposed installation of four radars in the province to monitor and collect data at different locations. The radar system of Kalpani is the first one of the newly proposed radars. A radar system at Dera Ismail Khan, which was out of order, is being fixed and soon it would start functioning. About Rs300 million were allocated for the four radar systems in the province. Those radars were planned for Chitral, Cherat, Kalpani (Mardan) and DI Khan, official said.

"Recently about Rs2 million have been released for construction of radar facility at Kalpani and land has been acquired for it. We hope to get the radars installed in Chitral and Cherat too," said the official. He is hopeful that with a clear picture of stages of weather and exact data they would also be able to know about rainfalls in the neighbouring Afghanistan once the radar in Chitral is installed. "This radar system in Chitral would cover 300 kilometres area which would also give us data about rainfall in the neighbouring Afghanistan and weather there," said Mr Shah, who feels this would help them to forecast better. Currently, the Met department has data only about Chitral when it rains but they rely on their own considerations instead of exact figures about how much rainfall and water they should expect from Afghanistan. The official said that radar system in Chitral would also inform them about weather in Afghanistan and if both countries had some bilateral understanding they could even share the data with the neighbouring country.

Climate Change Agreements: 'Pakistan Fully Committed to Fulfil Int'l Obligations'

Daily Times, February 20, 2015

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ministry of Climate Change Secretary Arif Ahmed Khan on Thursday reaffirmed that Pakistan stands firm in its commitments made under all international obligations and agreements and will take all-out measures in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental sectors concerned to reduce Pakistan's vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change. To present Pakistan's case of vulnerability to these negative impacts of climate change in the upcoming 21st global Conference of Parties (COP21) being held in Paris in December this year, Pakistan has started to hammer out a country position. Addressing a high-level meeting here at the Committee Room of the Ministry of Climate Change on Thursday, the secretary told the participants from government and non-governmental sectors that underscored the need to approach this important event nationally with intense preparation of the "Country Position" documents on the various issues and topics that will be under discussion at the COP21 that will be organised by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The COP21 will be attended by over 198 countries including Pakistan. The secretary, however, expects that the upcoming 21st Conference of Parties COP 21 will bring a positive and balanced way forward for the globe as a whole. Arif Ahmad Khan directed the ministry officials concerned to get into details and work out a clear understanding of intended and pledged cooperation from the participants. For, this Conference will be a defining event for the entire globe and the commitments and decisions of this event will have global implications for every country including Pakistan, he added.

The COP21 (UN climate talks) in Paris in December 2015 is supposed to produce a global decision in a legal form to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and way forward on other elements like adaptation, technology development and provisions of finance etc. The implementation of decision will start in 2020, and last until at least 2030 or probably until 2035. Keeping in view the importance the Conference, Pakistan should start preparations on the stance of GHG emission cuts through intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) and on other elements and means of implementation. The ministry at the meeting hosted various relevant embassies, foreign and local donors and UN implementing agencies and for the first time included members of the private sector and civil society. The meeting was arranged to bring all these organisations at one platform to request support in their areas of expertise. The help was solicited in areas such as technical, scientific, logistical arrangements and other human resource inputs to add value in this national level effort. This timely holding of such a meeting by the Ministry of Climate Change was very well received by the participants and many organisations including the private sector pledged specific institutional level and expert level support.

Polio This Week in Pakistan

Global Polio Eradication Initiative, February 18, 2015

No new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases were reported in the past week. The total number of WPV1 cases in 2014 remains 306, and 7 for 2015. The most recent onset of paralysis was on 17 January in Peshawar. No new type 2 circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV2) cases were been reported in the past week. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 13 December. The number of cVDPV cases reported in 2014 remains 21. A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) consultation on polio eradication in Pakistan took place on 14 – 15 February to review the current epidemiological situation and the status of the low transmission season plan implementation. The panel commended the heightened commitment of the Government of Pakistan, the establishment of Emergency Operations Centres at federal and provincial levels to ensure accountability for the quality of polio eradication operations, and underscored the importance of accessing every single child with polio vaccines in order to end transmission.

CM Khattak Asks People To Protect Forests For Future Generations

DAWN News, February 17, 2015

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Perviz Khattak has emphasised that people should use steel, aluminum and other alternative materials in constructions to save the precious forest wealth for coming generations and ensuring clean and pleasant environment. He was talking to 45-member delegation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Waziristan Timber and Steel Traders Association after taking oath of its cabinet at the Jirga Hall of CM Secretariat here on Monday, according to a handout. The delegation was led by the association's provincial president Haji Saif-ur-Rehman Mehsud. Mr Khattak said that imposing ban on forest cutting and launch of action against timber mafia spoke about his government's sincerity to protect the forests and provide clean environment to people. The chief minister said that a comprehensive environment policy had been announced for increase in forest covered area and scientific cutting of trees in the province. He said under the policy scientific management plan for eight forest divisions of Malakand and nine for Hazara had been given final shape. He said that a number of benefits were in the pipeline for forest owners and timber merchants. Mr Khattak said that he was fully aware of the problems of forest owners and timber merchants due to the ban as it was the only source of their income. However, he said forests were most important part of natural environment, and their look after and protection from massive cutting was the national obligation.

The chief minister said that during the last decade the devastations caused by floods were because of deforestation. He said that destruction of environment for sake of financial gains and inviting natural disasters was no wisdom. He said that after the ban imposed under the 'Red Plus and Carbon-Plus World Plan' the provincial government had been assured of being provided Rs3 billion per annum, which would not only benefit the provincially kitty and royalty holders, it would also protect forests from destruction. The chief minister said that an amount of Rs1 billion had been allocated in the current financial for carrying out the 'billion tree plantation plan'. He said that people from all sections of life, including students, teachers and journalists, were being practically involved in the mass plantation campaign. Mr Khattak said that the harvesting and marketing of dried wood was allowed under Dry Windfall Policy 2003, but it inflicted negative impact as merciless cutting of forests was started.

Analysis: Suicide Trend In Thar's Poverty-Hit People Takes An Alarming Turn

DAWN News, February 16, 2015

HYDERABAD: A 45-year-old poverty-stricken man, along with his 10-year-old daughter jumped into a well in the coal-rich town of Islamkot in Tharparkar district to end his life on Friday evening, in the latest incident of many reported in recent months. Over the past few years, suicide by poverty-hit men and women, sometimes along with their children, has registered an upward trend in this desert region, which faces drought for a third consecutive year now.

Ameer Ali Saand was said to be under debt and was unable to clear it easily. "He perhaps decided to commit suicide along with his daughter, Hajra, due to that reason," his cousin, Shakkar Deen Saand, was quoted as telling other residents of Mataro Saand village of Islamkot, home to huge coal reserves. Hajra was a second grade student in a government primary school of the area. "Her mother had been ill for three years before she died and Ameer Saand used to borrow money from various sources to make ends meet," according to Shakkar Deen Saand. The deceased man served in a hotel and earned hardly Rs 200-300 per day. His debt continued to rise and it became gradually more and more difficult for him to afford essentials of life for his family. The couple had two sons and three daughters, one of them school going. Tharparkar district is mainly dependent on rains for cultivation of different crops like millet and guar, sesame, pulses, beans which need three cycles of rains, each one must be accounting for 150 mm or more rainfall. If there are no rains, the marginalised groups among Thar's population start migrating to the barrage areas to find work on farms or some odd jobs. In such seasonal migration, only men normally leave their villages in search of jobs but in a famine situation, the entire families have to leave for urban areas in search of drinking water. Over the last five months, migration of families at an accelerated pace has been witnessed and their cattle reported perished. Locals say that generally men alone commit suicide for different reasons, mainly joblessness and poor economic conditions but a disturbing trend emerging now as women, besides men, kill themselves in some case they kill their children in the same manner. "Look, everything in Thar revolves around rains. If we have rains we will have food in shape of crops to meet financial requirements. With no rains as is the case today, we suffer," says Ali Akbar Rahimoo, who heads an NGO in Chhachhro taluka of Tharparkar. "When there are no rains, the poor starts seeking loans from all possible channels there while others sell their gold ornaments and livestock to keep their economic cycle going. But those facing ailments and need money for medicines, which are usually not available in government hospitals, remain worst sufferers," he says.

Citing a famous local saying in Thar that "one single drought pushes Tharis five years back", Mr Rahimoo said currently we were in a third straight drought. So you can assess scale of economic destruction, distress, misery and mental depression among people," he adds. According to the data his NGO has collected, 10 men and 14 women committed suicide in the district in 2011, 18 men and 17 women in 2012 and 12 men and 17 women ended their lives in 2013. The data pertaining to the first seven months of 2014 available with the NGO put the number of such cases at 31. "In 2014, a woman ended her life with her one child and another with her two children in Rohiraro Bheel village of Chhachhro," says Mr Rahimoo. The reasons behind suicides mostly appeared to be family issues, domestic violence, diseases, poverty and mental disorder but they should not be seen in isolation from famine, which has a direct bearing on domestic issues, according to Mr Rahimoo. "For instance, a wife insists on money or milk for children and her spouse finds it hard to arrange it as he has no crops or livestock. It leads to domestic violence and often one of them resorts to extreme measure [suicide]", he says.

An elderly doctor in government hospital of Mithi with interest in social dynamic of the area, however, believes that suicide cases are mostly reported in the community that is directly dependent on agriculture or livestock sector. "Those opting for daily wages jobs or are in government jobs survive easily but those staying for their land or livestock face harsh conditions so much so that suicides are reported in them," he says, and adds that suicides used to take place previously as well but remained largely unreported and thanks to cellular phone and media these are properly reported. Deaths of malnourished newborns are increasing frequently in Tharparkar on account of repeated pregnancies, inadequate intake of nutritious food on the part of expecting mothers, who not only raise children but work in the fields or fetch water, trudging the desert. In Tharparkar, drought is declared after August 15 if there are no rains in monsoon season that usually begins in June and continues till August. According to a local journalist, so far 15 droughts have been declared by government in the desert. Water is either not available in wells or its surface level has dropped drastically. Even otherwise subsoil water in most parts of Thar is brackish. Government has distributed wheat free of cost, for the first time since the current drought was highlighted in the media. It is also establishing reverse osmosis plants, powered by solar energy, to ensure that people get treated drinking water easily.

DROUGHT UPDATES as of 21st Feb, 2015

DAILY HEALTH REPORT OF DISTRICT THARPARKAR REPORTED BY DHO-THARPARKAR

Health Facilities	Total Admissions			No. of cases attended OPD			No. of cases referred			Total No. of malnourish ed cases under 5 years Attended OPD	No. of children admitted in Nutrition stabilizing center.	Total No of Deaths			No. of Patients treated			Stock position of vaccines	
	> 5 years	< 5 years	Total	> 5 years	< 5 years	Total	> 5 years	< 5 years	Total			> 5 years	< 5 years	Total	Fixed	Mobile	ASV	ARV	
CH Mithi	12	31	43	148	566	714	1	0	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
THQ Diplo	0	3	3	55	227	282	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	190	100
THQ Nagerparkar	3	4	7	54	198	252	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	82	20
THQ Chachro	8	14	22	87	207	294	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	373	8
RHC Islamkot	1	5	6	51	143	194	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	9
TOTAL	24	57	81	395	1,341	1,736	1	0	1	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	673	137

Source: Daily Health Report/District Health Officer, District Tharparkar/distributed on 22-2-2015

PRCS-TDPS RESPONSE UPDATES as of Feb 20, 2015

PRCS Initial Response

a. PRCS relief operation commenced on 22nd June with initial response as under;

- Cooked rice to approx. 23000 TDPs
- Health care to 1,690 TDPs through deployment of 4 Mobile Health Units
- Deployment of 5 Ambulances
- Provision of 22,000 liters of clean Drinking Water

b. PRCS case load to assist the TDPs are as under;

- Non Food Items: 8,000 families (One time distribution)
- Food Items: Initially to 10,000 Families (Through WFP for three months) which has been enhanced to 22,000 families from Nov-2014 to Feb-2015.

PRCS Sectoral Interventions

a. Distribution of Food Items (FI):

- The distribution of 1900 Food Packs (25 kg each approx) provided by PRCS Punjab Branch.
- Completion of 1st 2nd and 3rd round of food distribution, with support of WFP to 10,000 families/month from 10th Aug to October, 2014.
- Completion of 4th, 5th and 6th round of food distribution, with support of WFP, for enhanced caseload of 22,000 families/month for the months of Nov, Dec, 2014 and Jan 2015. In Jan, other than 22,000 caseload, some 711 extra families were also provided food by PRCS Teams. The distribution was carried out through 2 distribution hubs (Bannu -3 & 4). The food distribution to 22,000 families will continue till February, 2015. The details of Food Distribution during the month of Jan, 2015 is as under;

Month	FDP	Beneficiaries	Total Individuals	Male	Female	Distributed MTS
August	Bannu-4	9,077	98,032	49,996	48,035	885.482
September		10,000	108,000	55,080	52,920	978.007
October		10,000	108,000	55,080	52,290	972.878
November	Bannu-4	11,000	118,800	60,588	58,212	1193.50
	Bannu-3	11,000	118,800	60,588	58,212	108.125
December	Bannu-4	11,000	118,800	60,588	58,212	10,41.15
	Bannu-3	11,000	118,800	60,588	58,212	10,83.374
January	Bannu-4	11,000	118,800	60,588	58,212	9,99.030
	Bannu-3	11,711	126,479	64,504	61,975	10,65.337
		95,788	1,034,510	527,600	506,910	83,26.883

b. Distribution of Non Food Items (NFI):

- Distribution of 8,000 Non-food items has been completed in District Bannu and FR Bannu.
- The distribution of 13,000 blankets, amongst the 5,930 families TDPs (2 per family) at Jalozi camp and 8 blankets /HH at Khyber Kalay has been completed on 9th January, 2015. The distribution was carried out by PRCS KP Branch with support of DRC.
- Distribution of PRCS winterized package in Bannu has been completed amongst 11,000 TDP families including, 10,000 blankets received from TIKA. The details are as under;

Items	Quantity	Families
Quilt/Blanket	1	5,000
Large Size Jacket	1	
Small Size jacket	1	
Shawls (male)	2	
Shawls (female)	2	
Baby Blanket	1	

Items	Quantity	Families
Quilt/Blanket	1	6,000
Large Size Jacket	2	
Small Size jacket	1	
Shawls (male)	2	
Shawls (female)	2	

- Distribution of winterized package (2 ladies woolen shawls, 3 quilts, 3 mattresses, 2 male shawls, 4 jerseys and 7 pairs socks) has been completed on 10th Feb, 2015 amongst 483 TDPs families with support of German Red Cross and Danish Red Cross.

c. Health Care and Ambulance Services: Total 186,926 patients have been treated through deployment of 8 Mobile Health Units.

d. Water & Sanitation Services.

- **Phase I – ICRC Supported).** WatSan assessment was completed in 12 UCs, targeting 35 villages and some 8,313 individuals. Following activities were planned and have been completed;

Installation of Storage Tanks & Taps	Construction of Pit Latrines	Construction of WC Latrines	Repair of Latrines
21 Completed	101 Completed	20 Completed	14 Completed

- **Phase II – Telenor Pakistan Supported.** To Provide Permanent Water source, increase storage capacity and to enhance sanitation facilities for the Host as well as the TDPs, need assessment was carried out. 7 UCs, targeting 604,77 individuals (Host and TDP beneficiaries) were selected for provision of following activities and their present progress is as under;

Installation of Hand Pumps	Installation of Water Tanks	Construction of Pour Flush Latrines with septic tanks
100 (55 Completed)	70	30

e. Psychosocial Support Program (PSP): PRCS provided the Psychological services to TDPs of NWA through their MHUs. The main services provided were as under;

- Catharsis sessions (Individual/group)
- Psycho education-increase awareness about Psychological reactions
- Identification of EVI (Extremely vulnerable individuals) and EVF (Extremely vulnerable families)
- Sports activities (Cricket Teams established 73, Football Teams established 65)
- Referral

f. Restoring Family Links (RFL): The newly identified 25 cases of Restoring Family Links are in process (identified by PRCS District Branch Bannu), out of these, 2 cases were positively closed and 9 RCM were also delivered among the beneficiary families. Remaining 23 cases are in process.

g. MRE: The details of activities under Mine Risk Education Program are as under;

- 601 EMRE sessions were conducted by PRCS KP & FATA EMRE teams for 18,716 NWA TDPs in Bannu.
- 11000 MRE leaflets distributed among NWA TDPs by PRCS KPK and FATA EMRE Teams.

Source: PRCS TDPS Operation Situation Report No.22/ Published on 20th Feb, 2015

SAFETY AND SECURITY

NEWS HEADLINES

National Action Plan: 53 million SIMs verified via biometric system

The Express Tribune, February 22, 2015

Countering militancy: Separate police stations, jail to be set up

The Express Tribune, February 22, 2015

Police station attack case: ATC issues warrants for Sufi Muhammad's accomplices

The Express Tribune, February 22, 2015

DETAILS

ISLAMABAD: More than 53 million mobile phone SIMs have been verified through the biometric verification system during the last 38 days, said Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Chairman Syed Ismail Shah. Speaking to the Sustainable Development Policy Institute's study group on IT and telecom, he informed them that the remaining 49 million SIMs will be verified within 91 days. Deliberating on the regulatory aspects of the re-verification initiative taken under the National Action Plan, he said the regulator has to maintain a fine balance between the increasing demands of law enforcement agencies in the wake of the law and order situation and protecting the investment made by cellular mobile operators. "Still a lot of progress remains to be made as the turnout of subscribers having three or more SIMs on their CNICs is very low," said the PTA chairman. Telenor Corporate Affairs Vice President Aslam Hayat said the sale of verifiable SIMs had remained a challenge in Pakistan. "SIM is not a primary source of crime but a useful tool for investigation."

Highlighting the importance of putting in place the required infrastructure for coordinated efforts, Pakistan Institute of ICT for Development Chief Executive and former additional DG FIA Ammar Jaffri stressed the need for maintaining a balance between the vital need of registration of SIMs and the comfort level of people, especially in rural areas. "There is a need for establishing telecentres in semi-urban and rural areas under public-private partnerships." He said keeping in view the fact that criminals in every society take advantage of technological advancements, registration and regular documentation of SIMs has become a priority for good governance in all countries. Only a few countries could not put in place the required infrastructure in this regard and these include Pakistan, he said. As many as 70,000 biometric machines have been installed at sale points of cellular mobile operators. SIMs are now being sold and activated only after online verification of the purchaser's biometrics (thumb/finger impressions) by the National Database and Registration Authority.

KARACHI: The Sindh government has decided to establish separate police stations and a jail to deal with terrorism in the province. This decision was made during a high-level meeting held at the provincial home department on Saturday, which was attended by officials from the police, intelligence agencies and home department. Home secretary Abdul Qazi Kabeer told the media that two police stations had already been set up in Karachi to handle cases of terrorism and one police station each will be established in Hyderabad and Sukkur for the same purpose. "There will also be a separate jail for terrorists in Karachi," he said. "We have received approval from the higher authorities and will arrange the land for it soon."

Kabeer, who also heads the provincial execution committee for the National Action Plan, said that the committee had already referred 64 cases to the military courts and shortlisted 21 more cases to send to them. He added that the government will soon make laws for the establishment of mosques and seminaries in the province. "No one can establish mosques or madrassas without government approval." Responding to a question about political influence within the police department, the home secretary said, "Transfers and posting are being done purely on merit and there is no influence being exerted by the Pakistan Peoples Party government to appoint police officers of its choice." However, he added that interference in governance by influential people was a problem in the entire country, not just Sindh. He further said that a DNA testing laboratory will start working in Sindh in a week.

Afghan refugees

"We have decided to keep Afghan refugees in segregated camps that will be established outside the city," said Kabeer, adding that there were around 2.7 million unregistered Afghanis in Sindh, while the number of registered Afghan refugees stood at 68,000. "We have received reports that Afghanis are involved in terrorism and criminal activities in the city," he claimed. "We, therefore, want to house them in one specific place and monitor their movements." According to him, the government will provide Rs 0.7 million to Afghanis who wanted to return to their home country. "We have arrested around 1,200 Afghanis who are living illegally and will repatriate the 2.7 million unregistered Afghanis to their country by December 31 this year."

Counter-terrorism forces

Sindh IG Ghulam Hyder Jamali also told the media that a female counter-terrorism force will also be launched in Sindh. "We discussed the mechanisms of the new counter-terrorism forces in the province during the meeting," he revealed. "Initially, 1,000 cops will be inducted. Personnel from the Special Security Unit will be nominated to deal with terrorism until we complete the process for the appointments in these forces." Jamali further said that the police had inked an agreement with the National Database and Registration Authority for a 'crime tracking system'. "After the arrest of any criminal, we will be in the position to track their entire family," he explained.

PESHAWAR: After an application seeking the acquittal of Tehreek-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Mohammadi (TNSM) chief Maulana Sufi Muhammad was dismissed two months ago, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) has issued arrest warrants for his three accomplices in a police station attack case. A hearing pertaining to the attack which took place on June 18, 1995 was held inside Central Prison Peshawar on Saturday. ATC judge Abdur Rauf Khan was informed that the co-accused had earlier obtained bail in the case. "Three other accomplices have obtained bails from the court in the police station attack case and today the ATC issued their arrest warrants," Adil Majeed, Sufi Muhammad's attorney, told The Express Tribune. Without confirming their names, Majeed said the three men and Sufi Muhammad will record their statements in court on March 14.

Explosives seized: Police arrest suspected terrorist at check post

The Express Tribune, February 21, 2015

Pakistan to send six more death row prisoners to gallows

The Express Tribune, February 20, 2015

Afghan president welcomes Pakistan's peace efforts

The Express Tribune, February 20, 2015

Countering extremism: Nisar unveils five-point plan at US summit

The Express Tribune, February 20, 2015

Case history

On December 18, 2014, Judge Rauf Khan dismissed an application for the TSNM chief's acquittal in the case. The application was submitted under Section 265-K of the Code of Criminal Procedure which empowers the court to acquit the accused in a case before the conclusion of trial if there is lack of evidence against him. According to the case details, on June 18, 1995, Sufi Muhammad and his accomplices held a demonstration outside Kabal police station in Swat and then allegedly attacked it. No human loss was reported in the incident. Kabal police then registered a case against the TSNM chief and around 800 unidentified people.

KOHAT: Cantonment police claim to have arrested a notorious militant at a check post in Kohat district on Friday, recovering explosives and grenades from his possession. According to a police official, they were checking vehicles passing through Shaheen check post in Cantonment and signalled a van to stop. He added during the search, the militant lobbed a grenade at them and fled. There were no casualties because the grenade failed to explode. Policeman further said they chased the man and managed to apprehend him. Two grenades and other explosive material were seized from the suspect. He is a resident of Darra Adam Khel and has links with a banned militant outfit, said the police. The suspected militant has been shifted to an undisclosed location, they added.

ISLAMABAD: President Mamnoon Hussain on Friday rejected appeals for clemency from six death row prisoners from Sindh. Following the decision, the Sindh Home Department ordered the IG Prisons to take measures to execute the convicts. The prisoners whose pleas have been rejected include Achar alias Bhai Khan, Abdul Aziz, Bashir Ahmed, Muhammad Faisal, Muhammad Afzal and Munwar Ali. Pakistan decided to send convicted terrorists to the gallows after a deadly militant attack on an army run school in Peshawar that killed over 150 people most of them children December last year. Islamabad put an end to moratorium on capital punishment following the Peshawar attack, drawing strong criticism from human rights organizations. Following the Peshawar attack the country's civil and military leadership unanimously decided to set up special courts run by army officers to expedite anti-terrorist campaign.

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani on Friday welcomed Pakistan's initiative to help in the reconciliation process amid reports that the Taliban have signaled their willingness to hold dialogue. Ghani's office; however, warned that opponents to the peace efforts could mislead the people through disinformation. "The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan respects Pakistan's recent efforts to pave the way for peace and reconciliation," the Presidential Palace said in a statement. The statement released by the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad, also welcomed COAS Raheel Sharif's remarks that Pakistan considers "Afghanistan's enemy as its own enemy" during his recent meeting with President Ghani and Chief Executive Dr Abdullah Abdullah.

"Pakistani and Afghanistan leaders have reached a conclusion to begin joint efforts in view of threats and difficulties. The shocking attacks on the army school in Peshawar and Paktika's Yahya Khel area have strengthened determination and commitment in both countries to jointly fight against terrorism and extremism." Nearly 45 people were killed in the deadly suicide attack in a volleyball match in Paktika in November 2014. The statement added that Afghanistan, Pakistan, and international allies are committed to sincerely cooperate with each other to achieve peace. Like Pakistan, Afghan government also believes that certain elements could try to derail the peace process. "No doubt there would be people to oppose the peace process. They would also try to mislead the people through spreading disinformation. The National Unity Government is determined to carry the peace process forward in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Afghanistan."

As the peace move is likely to pick up in the coming weeks, the Afghan president has stepped up consultations with stakeholders in the country to evolve consensus. On Friday, President Ghani took members of the High Peace Council, which is assigned the reconciliation process with the armed opponents, and discussed with them ways for the possible peace process, presidential palace said. Ghani told council members that establishment of peace in Afghanistan is his priority and that there is a consensus on the issue, which shall surely be achieved. The peace council members threw their weight behind Ghani's reconciliation move, the Pashto-language statement added. "Establishment of peace in our country is very difficult after a long war and mistrust. However, being a nation we must bring peace to our country and not to permit repetition of the history of hostilities," Ghani was quoted as saying. "The peace route is not a short route. But I am confident to prove all international experiences wrong and bring peace to our country as soon as possible," added Ghani.

WASHINGTON: Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan unveiled a five-point strategy to counter violent extremism as part of a global action plan during a three-day summit in the US capital. While representing Pakistan at the Summit Meeting on Countering Violent Extremism, the minister highlighted the initiatives taken by Pakistan to combat terrorism in the country, said an official statement. The five-point strategy is built on strengthening local communities, winning the trust of mainstream peace-loving majority, building resilience in local communities against radicalisation, addressing the push factors driving people to extremism and lastly focusing on education to promote tolerance. According to Chaudhry Nisar, violent extremism is an affront to core human values and threatened all societies. There were no accused or judges in this debate.

Chaudhry Nisar informed the audience of world leaders that the people of Pakistan remained steadfast in their resolve to defeat the menace of terrorism. While sharing Pakistan's recent actions in this regard, he said Operation Zarb-e-Azb and the National Action Plan (NAP) were tangible and concrete demonstration of comprehensive and determined law enforcement actions being taken by the country. The interior minister appreciated the US administration for taking the summit initiative that could lay the basis for forging the common ground against the common enemy of violent extremism.

234 madrassas in Balochistan receive foreign cash: official

The Express Tribune, February 20, 2015

ISLAMABAD: At least 234 madrassas in Balochistan are being funded by 'brotherly' Muslim countries, home department officials tasked with investigating religious seminaries in the province said on Thursday. "We have collected enough evidence against 234 madrassas accused of receiving financial assistance from foreign countries," a senior official told The Express Tribune on condition of anonymity. "The list [of these seminaries] has been shared with relevant agencies and departments [the Federal Investigation Agency and State Bank of Pakistan] so that their accounts can be scrutinised and the sources of their funding traced," he said.

"But the list will go on," the official added. The revelation comes barely days after authorities in Punjab admitted that around a thousand madrassas in the province were receiving funds from overseas. When contacted, Balochistan Home Secretary Akbar Khan Durrani confirmed that various cases have been forwarded to agencies concerned for further investigation, but did not specify the number of madrassas against whom evidence of foreign funding had been collected. However, he revealed that more than 3,000 of the province's 5,441 madrassas are not registered. "Some 5,330 of the 129,997 students that study in seminaries in Balochistan are foreigners, mostly of Afghan descent," Durrani said.

The home secretary added that the surveillance of madrassas suspected of being funded by other countries was still an ongoing process. A member of the team conducting the surveillance of madrassas in Balochistan revealed the names of seminaries in Quetta and Nushki which were receiving financial assistance from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Iran. These, he said, include Mataul Uloom, Arbia Maftaul Uloom, Anwar-e-Sahaba, Gol Masjid, Dunya Arbia Jamia Uloom, Jamia Akbar Darul Uloom, Faiz Darul Uloom, Darul Uloom Haqqania, Jamia Arabia Noorul, Madrassa Fareedia, Arabia Islami Ainul Uloom, Jamia Saeedul Madaris, Taleemul Quran Ghaffaria, Tehzebul Noorul Madaris, Darul Hufaz, Darul Uloom Ahrafia, Darul Uloom Hanafia, Madrassa Obaidia, Darul Uloom Imam Tirmizi, Darul Uloom Ghausia Rizvia Anwarul Uloom, Jamia Maftaul Uloom Nawqbandia, Madrassa Noorani, Jamia Salafia Dawatul Haq, Arabia Darul Uloom, Ashatul Toheed Sunnat, Toheed Ahl-e-Hadis, Hakimul Nabeen, Hazrat Zainab, Imam Sadiq, Imambargah Waliul Asar, Imambargah Irania, Jamia Dawarul Haq, Arabic Darul Islamia Uloom Toheed Sunnah, Jamatul Islamia, Masjid al Toheed, Ahle Toheed and Madrassa Ansaria Ahle Hadees. He added that these madrassas did not reveal how much money they received and who gave it to them.

In addition to the madrassas listed above, Jamia Ahle Hadith Balochistan is receiving Rs. 16,000 annually from Bahrain, the official said. He added that Iran is also funding Madrassa Fatima Zahra Syeda, Madrassa Imam Hussain and Madrassa Khatmul Nabeen in Balochistan, but the home department has yet to investigate the amount the country has provided.

PM, COAS attend passing-out parade of ATF in Quetta

Daily Dawn, February 19, 2015

QUETTA: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Raheel Sharif on Thursday attended the passing-out parade of the first batch of the Anti-Terrorism Force (ATF) in Quetta. Governor Balochistan Muhammad Khan Achakzai, Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch and Commander of Southern Command Lt General Nasir Khan Janjua were also among the attendees of the ceremony. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif distributed awards and certificated to the best trainees of the batch. "I am honoured to attend the passing-out parade of the anti-terrorism force," the premier said. He advised the passing out personnel of the ATF to perform their duties diligently and said, "Your presence should provide a sense of security to the citizens. No miscreant should escape your hands."

According to sources, the personnel of the force were given a one-month long training by personnel of the Pakistan Army. The passing-out corporals also carried out mock exercises displaying their capabilities against militants. The graduating force also comprised 18 lady constables — a number of whom exhibited their proficiency in combating with militants and carrying out offensives. The female cohort demonstrated that they are able to contribute shoulder-to-shoulder with men in the country's fight against militancy. A number of corporals also put up a show of their martial arts skills by aiming at specified targets. The passing-out force demonstrated commando action which is often implemented in extricating a compound under siege by militants. Sharpshooters of the force also displayed their skills in successfully rescuing a large number of hostages held by militants.

The prime minister and army chief observed with interest the brawn and dexterity exhibited by ATF personnel in their mock exercises. "We will take our offence against terrorism, which has been launched fully-fledged across the country, to its logical conclusion," the prime minister said in his speech. "All national institutions, provincial and federal governments are committed under the National Action Plan (NAP) to eliminating the menace of terrorism from our country." PM Nawaz also thanked Gen Raheel and Lt Gen Janjua for 'taking personal interest in the training of the ATF personnel'. CM Balochistan presented PM Nawaz with a souvenir while Inspector General (IG) Balochistan police presented a souvenir to Gen Raheel.

Internally displaced Bugtis to be re-settled: PM Nawaz

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday said that internally displaced Bugti tribesmen would be re-settled in their area. The premier visited Bugti House Quetta after attending the passing-out parade of the ATF in Quetta and expressed condolences to Nawabzada Talal Bugti over the demise of his mother. Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch and federal and provincial ministers also accompanied the premier. "We will rehabilitate the displaced Bugti tribesmen," the prime minister told reporters after offering fateha. He assured to remove the prevailing sense of deprivation among the people of Balochistan. "We want an end to lawlessness," he said. The premier stated that all out efforts were being made to ensure durable peace in the province. He assured that the grievances of people of Balochistan would be addressed and that they would be brought into the mainstream so that they could play an important role for the development and prosperity of the country. Nawabzada Talal Akbar Bugti on the occasion thanked PM Nawaz and assured cooperation in terms of improvement of the law and order situation in the province.

Peshawar attack brought a sea of change in Pakistani mindset on terrorism: Nisar

The Express Tribune, February 19, 2015

WASHINGTON: Just like the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Centre for the United States, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar said on Wednesday that the December 16 attack on the army-run school in Peshawar acted as a catalyst in bringing a sea-change in the mind-set of Pakistanis in their fight against terrorism. "One single incident...has managed to nudge the people of Pakistan, civil society, media, and civil-military leadership to come out on one platform and workout the agenda to eliminate these criminals," said Nisar while speaking at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington on Thursday. The Peshawar incident, Nisar said, changed the outlook of even those groups and individuals who earlier looked at the military option with a lot of suspicion.

"...Especially the parties who have a religious background were more inclined towards the need of dialogue...but a consensus was evolved that we must avenge [the killings of] those little angels." The interior minister argued that never in its history has Pakistan been as focused as it is now on the job at hand, which is to eliminate terrorism. "Unity has emerged across the length and breadth of this country," he said. "There has never been this kind of unity [in Pakistan] in the last 13 years." However, voicing his apprehension, Nisar said that this will be no easy task. He said since the launch of the military offensive against the Taliban in North Waziristan in June 2014, there was pressure on the terrorists, which is why they were attacking schools, places of worship and even marketplaces. "Their headquarters have been destroyed, and now they're going for the worst option..." he said. "Options for us are difficult...we have to keep our normal life flowing."

Responding to a question on sectarian attacks, particularly about banned organisations allegedly involved in targeting minorities, Nisar said the problem had existed for the last 30 years at least, and that it will take the government time to tackle it. "We will have to work over time to address the sectarian problem. It is a very difficult process." He laid emphasis on better communication between the different religious groups, as well as reforming seminaries. "...We convened a meeting of all the religious segments, and were able to workout an agreement on madrassa reforms," said Nisar. "This includes auditing of funds, registration, transparency of curriculum, and a whole lot of other things." He said the sectarian problem has to be addressed within the country, and that "there is no outside factor or force which could resolve (it)". However, he termed the recent upsurge in attacks a blowback from the ongoing military offensive. "These acts are terror-related. Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) is unofficially a part of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan," he added. "Their activity has been limited, and they are exploiting the sectarian divide, and hitting soft targets."

No exact data on banned outfits

The interior minister admitted that they did not have complete data on banned or proscribed organisations such as Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), which often operate under new names, adding that this had made action against such groups difficult. "I am embarrassed to give you feedback on this...there have been very vague polices on these and other issues," he said, adding that there was no tangible record on the exact number of proscribed organisations operating in the country. "...It is a difficult area...we are now treating every banned outfit...Anybody picking up arms must be disciplined, brought to [the] book..." "The commitment is to treat everybody alike, and there will be improvement in this area, sooner rather than later."

No presence of Islamic State in Pakistan

About the Islamic State (IS) group, the interior minister argued that currently it has no presence in South Asia, particularly Pakistan, and is primarily an organisation based in the Middle East. "As of now, I can say with confidence that the ISIS only exists in the Middle East," he said. "It absolutely has no presence in Afghanistan and Pakistan." He said that the terrorist space in South Asia was totally occupied; however, if the issues were not addressed, a grand alliance between different groups could not be ruled out in the future. Nisar added that 13 years of sacrifice and efforts against terrorism should not be in vain – a mistake previously committed by the US after ending the Soviet war in the 1990s. "It is important for us to learn from our mistakes and from our history." He also spoke on the relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan, saying relations between both the countries have never been better historically.

NAP vs NISP

Responding to a question that why a National Action Plan (NAP) was implemented against extremism and terrorism in the country when the National Internal Security Policy (NISP) was already in place, the interior minister said the NISP is the organisational, strategic policy paper announced a year ago to counter terrorism, whereas NAP is a more proactive part of the state's fight against militancy. Speaking about the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) and its role in Pakistan's anti-terrorism efforts, Nisar said the Ministry of Interior was preparing a framework to make it work as an independent body, which required time.

KARACHI: The Sindh chief minister announced on Thursday that the government would issue weapon licenses to all seminaries, imambargahs and mosques belonging to the Shia sect – one of the 25 demands put forth by families of the victims of the Shikarpur blast. The protesting families ended their sit-in on Thursday after the Sindh government agreed to accept their charter of demands. At least 61 people were killed when an imambargah was attacked in Shikarpur during Friday prayers on January 30, 2015. Addressing a joint press conference with Shikarpur Shuhda Committee head Allama Maqsood Domki, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah announced that the provincial government would refer the case to a military court, adding that a joint investigation team (JIT) would be formed to probe into the incident.

"An operation under the supervision of the apex committee will be conducted by police and Rangers against banned organisations, and other extremist elements who are inciting terrorism in Shikarpur, and others districts," said Shah. The press conference was held after a meeting between the Committee and the Sindh government at the Chief Minister House. Flanked by Sindh

Weapon licenses to be issued to Shia mosques, imambargahs: Sindh CM

The Express Tribune, February 19, 2015

Govt making efforts to rehabilitate internally displaced Bugti tribesmen: PM

The Express Tribune, February 19, 2015

Military courts to hear Shikarpur imambargah blast case: Sharjeel Memon

Daily Dawn, February 19, 2015

Terror in Islamabad: Gun and suicide attack leaves 3 dead

The Express Tribune, February 18, 2015

Information Minister Sharjeel Memon, the chief minister said the names of the suspects revealed by the committee would also be added to the FIR, and an inquiry update of the JIT would be shared with them. During the press conference, Allama Domki diverted the chief minister's attention towards encroachment by some extremists groups on government properties, who, he said, are creating anarchy in the name of religious activities. Shah announced that the government would initiate a crackdown against these elements and reclaim the illegal occupation.

"Some banned outfits have also started activities in Sindh. They are involved in targeted killings and other criminal activities," Shah said. "The Sindh government has decided to begin a crackdown against them, along with removing their banners, posters, flags, as well as wall chalking." The meeting also decided to name one of the roundabouts in Shikarpur as "Shuhda-e-Karbala." Another demand put forth to the government was to the Visal TV channel, which they claimed was lobbying against the Shia community. The chief minister assured them that the provincial government would write to Pemra to lodge a complaint against the TV channel. "We have demanded to enhance the compensation to those who lost their family members in terrorist incidents," Domki said. The meeting also decided to take action against foreigners, including Chechen, Uzbek, Afghani and Tajik nationals, who are found to be involved in terrorist activities in the province. "We have also decided to give government jobs to the victims' families and those victims who have now become disabled would be accommodated in 5% quota for disabled persons," said Shah.

QUETTA: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif announced on Thursday that the government is making efforts to rehabilitate the internally displaced Bugti tribesmen in Dera Bugti. The premier made the announcement while speaking to the media outside Bugti house in Quetta. PM Nawaz offered Fateha prayers for wife of Nawab Akbar Bugti. The son of the deceased, Talal Bugti, thanked him for his visit. "We have always had good relations with the Bugti family and would like to further strengthen our relationship with them" the premier said. He added that Talal has expressed confidence in the government and armed forces. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Bugti's family would be consulted by the government to seek guidance in relation to the rehabilitation of Bugti tribesmen. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif approved a sum of Rs. 5 billion in the first phase for the development of roads and sewage facilities in Quetta.

Further, he approved the construction of Sibbi-Hernai Railway track and directed that funding should be arranged for LPG terminals in renaming 22 districts of Balochistan. The premier also directed that a study should be conducted within 90 days for building water reservoirs and for improving canal distribution system so the province can make optimum use of available water resources. Talal, while addressing the media, said the prime minister has assured him that the government would address the issues of Balochistan. Thousands of Bugti families were displaced during a military operation carried out in Dera Bugti in 2005, ordered by former military ruler Pervez Musharraf. Nawab Bugti was assassinated during the operation. The exact numbers of IDPs are disputed as some say there are 200,000 while other claim there are 150,000. Government officials, on the other hand, have quoted a much lesser number. The IDPs have been living in different parts of Pakistan since 2005 and no measures have been properly taken to rehabilitate the suffering families.

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon announced Thursday that the Shikarpur imambargah blast case would be tried in military courts, prompting Shuhada Committee to call off its protests after drawn out negotiations. Addressing a joint press conference with Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah and Shikarpur Shuhada Committee leader Allama Maqsood Ali Domki, the provincial information minister said that a joint interrogation team (JIT) will be formed to probe the attack on the imambargah which had claimed the lives of more than 60 people. He further said that a joint operation would be conducted under the supervision of the provincial apex committee across Sindh, especially in Shikarpur. Sharjeel Memon added that strict action would be taken against the activities of banned religious organisations and those inciting religious hatred.

Families affected by the Jan 30 carnage at the Shikarpur imambargah had began a long march from Shikarpur to Karachi on Feb 15. Allama Maqsood Ali Domki announced that the Shikarpur Shuhada Committee had decided to call off protests. He thanked the people of Sindh for welcoming the heirs and relatives of the Shikarpur blast victims. He said that the provincial government had made sincere efforts for the negotiations especially the provincial chief executive who had played an important role in this regard. He hope that strict action would be taken against terrorists. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah said that even though the loss of human lives could not be compensated for, yet the provincial government stood by the victims and their heirs to redress their grievances. He said that problems cannot be resolved through violence and the government had hoped that the imambargah blast issue was resolved in Shikarpur only.

ISLAMABAD: A day after a deadly suicide bombing outside the Police Lines in Lahore, a lone bomber killed three persons at an Imambargah in the federal capital but failed to enter the main prayer hall or detonate his explosive vest. The outlawed Jundullah extremist group claimed responsibility for the attack on Qasar-e-Sakina Imambargah located on Kuri Road during Maghribain prayers. Witnesses said the bomber, who was also armed with an AK-47 assault rifle, ran towards the Imambargah and fired at the main entrance, killing two guards and a worshipper and injuring two others. The bomber also hurled a hand grenade which was deflected as the worshippers inside locked the door. Some media reports claimed that one of the guards had prevented the bomber from entering the compound. However, these reports could not be substantiated. "I heard gunshots and rushed out of my house. I saw a man who hurled a grenade and then ran into the Imambargah," said local resident Ahmed Nisar.

"The suicide bomber had opened fire before trying to enter the Imambargah which caused the casualties," a police spokesman said. A Punjab police officer present at the site added that the bomber's vest did not explode or else there would have been many casualties. However, IG

Whirlwind trip: Afghan forces closing in on TTP chief

The Express Tribune, February 18, 2015

PM vows to provide Balochistan govt assistance in implementing NAP

The Express Tribune, February 18, 2015

Islamabad Tahir Alam Khan said the suicide vest partially exploded, killing only the bomber. "Half of the vest remained intact which was subsequently defused by an army team," he added. The bomber appeared to be in his twenties, IG Khan said, adding that they have collected his fingerprints for identification. Soon after the blast, police and army troops threw a security cordon around the area as Rescue 1122 and locals shifted the casualties to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences. The police identified the dead as Ghulam Hussain, 60, Abdul Shakoor, 56, and Sakhawat Hussain, 60. Only two persons – Muhammad Altaf Hussain, 56, and Sajjad Hussain Shah, 72 – were injured in the attack, according to the police. Locals, however, said some injured were also driven to a hospital in nearby Rawalpindi.

Fahad Marwat, a spokesman for the banned Jundullah extremist group, claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was revenge for the ongoing Operation Zarb-e-Azb in North Waziristan Agency. The attack is the latest in a wave of deadly sectarian attacks. On January 30, over 60 people were killed in a bombing at Karbala Moalla Imambargah in Shikarpur. Similarly, at least 23 people were killed in a gun and suicide attack on Imamia Masjid in Peshawar's Hayatabad neighbourhood on February 15.

Ensuing protest

The attack triggered a protest by angry residents who blocked the Expressway for traffic and chanted slogans against the government for its 'failure' to provide security in the federal capital. Shia Ulema Council Secretary General Allama Arif Hussain Wahidi said the blast was a result of the non-implementation of the National Action Plan against terrorism. If the government cannot ensure security in the federal capital, how it could maintain law and order in the rest of the country, he said. "Enemies want to see an end of the Shia-Sunni unity but that will not happen," he said, adding that the attackers were enemies of the state.

ISLAMABAD: Afghan security forces are said to be closing in on Pakistan's most wanted terrorist Mullah Fazlullah in a move which suggests growing security cooperation between the two neighbours. Army chief General Raheel Sharif, who travelled to Kabul on Tuesday along with ISI chief Lt Gen Rizwan Akhtar, was informed by Afghan authorities that "they are tightening the noose around Fazlullah", a source told The Express Tribune. This was Gen Raheel's second visit to Kabul in two months and appears to indicate that a significant development may be expected about the fugitive chief of the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Islamabad has presented compelling evidence of Fazlullah's involvement in the December 16, 2014 massacre at the Army Public School (APS) in Peshawar. Pakistan has since been pushing the Afghan authorities to eliminate terrorist sanctuaries as well as kill or capture Fazlullah.

Afghan security forces recently launched an operation against TTP hideouts close to their country's border with Pakistan. They have also arrested at least six suspected terrorists who were believed to be behind the APS attack. Tuesday's talks at the presidential palace in Kabul between army chief Gen Raheel Sharif and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani could be an indication of a 'breakthrough' on Fazlullah. A source disclosed that the army chief reiterated Pakistan's demand for action against the TTP chief. "They [Afghanistan] are after him [Fazlullah] and may be quite close," the source claimed. ISPR's Director General Maj Gen Asim Salim Bajwa said in tweets on micro-blogging site Twitter that the army chief and the Afghan president appreciated improvement in relations between the two countries. Both sides pledged to continue operations on their respective sides of the Durand Line and vowed not to allow use of their soils against each other, he added.

"The enemies of Afghanistan are the enemies of Pakistan. We stand shoulder to shoulder with Afghanistan in the fight against terrorism," Gen Raheel told the Afghan leader. He assured Kabul that Pakistan would not allow its territory to be used against the neighbouring country. The army chief also met Afghan Chief Executive Dr Abdullah Abdullah, according to Bajwa. Dr Abdullah acknowledged the "overall positive trajectory in bilateral relations, concrete progress in operations, border management and intelligence sharing." A statement issued by the presidential palace stated that Gen Raheel assured the Afghan president of Pakistan's commitment to help in the peace process. "The army chief also apprised the Afghan president of Pakistan's efforts to push the peace process forward," it added. "The messages from the Pakistani delegation were positive and their commitments have raised hopes that results will be clear within weeks," according to the statement. "The Afghan government hopes the Pakistani pledges and steps will yield positive results," the statement said.

Some sources said the army chief raised the issue of the handover of six suspects of the APS attack. Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have seen a significant improvement ever since the national unity government, led by President Ghani and CEO Dr Abdullah, was formed in Kabul. The development is attributed to the policy shift Pakistan has undertaken with regard to the Afghan insurgents, including the Haqqani network. Pakistan is thought to have secured the crucial support of Afghanistan against the TTP hideouts after it launched Operation Zarb-e-Azb in North Waziristan Agency, which was considered a stronghold of the Haqqani network. The Pakistan military publicly announced that it was targeting all militant groups, including the Haqqanis, who were once seen as a 'strategic asset' by the security establishment.

QUETTA: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif assured on Wednesday that the federal government would assist the Balochistan government in effectively implementing the National Action Plan (NAP). Chairing a provincial apex committee meeting at Balochistan Governor House, the premier said NAP is a product of the consensus of all political parties. "The passing of 21st Constitutional Amendment Bill 2015 and Pakistan Army Act 1952 (Amendment) Bill 2015 was a result of this consensus," PM Nawaz added. PM Nawaz, addressing the top political and military brass later during the day, asserted terrorism will ultimately be eliminated from the country. "We want to steer Pakistan out of the current crisis," he said.

"The military and political leadership of the nation are on the same page and the solution to our

Afghans ordered out of Pakistan as 'diversion' in militant fight

The Express Tribune, February 18, 2015

Suicide bomber hits police office in Lahore; five killed

Daily Times, February 18, 2015

problems lies in unity," the premier said. The premier also said the provinces should work at the same pace in implementing NAP, unlike a few provinces that are working at a different pace at the moment. "Balochistan is as dear to me as Punjab, Sindh and K-P," he added. PM Nawaz was briefed about the security situation in the province during the meeting. General Raheel, Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch, Governor Muhammad Khan Achakzai, former prime minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali, Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Asif and Railways Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique were in attendance. Earlier today, both the premier and the army chief arrived in Quetta to review the implementation of the National Action Plan. Both received a guard of honour on their arrival at the Governor House. The premier is also expected to hold a meeting with office bearers of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Balochistan chapter later during the day. Just a day ago, PM Nawaz also held a meeting with General Raheel at the Corps headquarters in Karachi.

TORKHAM: Afghan immigrants ordered out of Pakistan in what officials say is a bid to root out militants are, some analysts say, scapegoats being used to distract attention from the authorities' failure to end violence. Thousands of Afghans unnerved by threats of arrest and growing hostility towards them have flocked out of Pakistan back home, leaving behind boarded-up shops, houses and restaurants. Within hours of a December 16 attack on a school in the city of Peshawar in which more than 150 people were killed, officials pointed the finger at Afghanistan and vowed to crack down on illegal immigrants whom they say furnish a cover for militants. Thousands of Afghans have since left, with long queues of cars loaded with belongings snaking through the Khyber Pass up to the border. Many more are packing their bags in Peshawar and preparing to leave. Shahkhirullah Sabawoon, an Afghan clothes merchant in Peshawar, described a grim atmosphere as he prepared to leave.

"Pakistan is our second home and we have invested billions of rupees in different businesses but police ... are asking us to shut our businesses and leave the country," he said. He said many in the community were too afraid to visit the market and check their shops for fear of being arrested.

"We have made up our minds to leave Pakistan and move our businesses to Afghanistan but it's not an easy task," he said. Samina Ahmed, South Asia project director at the International Crisis Group, said the authorities were using Afghan refugees as a scapegoat, even though it is possible that some Taliban might surreptitiously mingle in Afghan refugee communities. "It is so easy to exploit them. They have no legal framework to protect them," she said. "Targeting Afghan refugees is a diversion."

Afghans going home

There are more than three million Afghans living in Pakistan, many of whom migrated in the 1970-80s during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Later, thousands followed after the hardline Taliban came to power. Although some have proper registration papers, many are undocumented, making them vulnerable to police intimidation. After decades in Pakistan, many have lost contact with relatives in Afghanistan, making their return even more worrying as Taliban militants step up their campaign following the withdrawal of most US-led troops in December. The International Organisation for Migration said more than 22,000 undocumented Afghans flocked across the border at Torkham in January, more than twice the figure for the whole of 2014.

Almost 1,500 others were deported in the same month, double the number of deportees in December. Pakistani officials say they only target those who have no proper papers or are involved in crime. During the crackdown, police have even recovered illegal weapons from unregistered Afghans," said Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani, a provincial government minister. "Some of them were involved in crime and terrorism." Ajmal Khan, 38, was seven years old when his parents moved to Pakistan to flee Soviet invaders. He is now a father of six and owns a restaurant in Peshawar which he sees as home. He is anxious about what awaits him when he gets back to his home town in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province. Half his family have already gone. "I love Peshawar ... It has given us shelter for these long years," he said, adding that a court had ordered his deportation even though he had valid paperwork. "As soon as I sell the restaurant, I will leave Pakistan with the rest of my family."

LAHORE: A Taliban suicide bomber on Tuesday killed five people and himself in a brazen attack on police headquarters, in what militants called a revenge bid for the recent hangings of colleagues. It was the third in a series of high-profile attacks in the last month triggered by a government decision in December to begin hanging those convicted of terror attacks, reversing an informal six-year moratorium on the death penalty. "We claim the attack in Lahore because the government is killing our men in prison," said Ehsanullah Ehsan, a spokesman for powerful Taliban splinter group Jamaat-ul-Ahrar. "We will get revenge for every man and our struggle will continue until sharia is instituted in the country," he said, referring to Islamic law. Punjab Police chief Mushtaq Sukhera said a policeman and four civilians were among the dead. Jam Hussain, a spokesman for the emergency services, said six bodies had been recovered along with the attacker's. At least 23 people were injured, said Khawaja Salman Rafique, health adviser to the chief minister of Punjab. Casualties would have been much greater if the police had not been alert and kept out the bomber, Lahore police chief Amin Wains told reporters at the attack site. "It was a suicide blast, the bomber blew up prematurely outside the police offices," he added. "That he could not enter the offices shows our security was successful."

Ali Raza, the owner of a shop nearby, said the blast had been powerful enough to knock over one of his employees, and left body parts strewn in the street. The blast took place near the main gate of Police Lines Qilla Gujjar Singh Empress Road on Tuesday. The death toll could increase as several injured are still under treatment in critical condition in different hospitals of the city. The incident occurred on that time when DIG operations and other police officers were present inside the police lines. The police officers were busy conducting interviews of grade four scale candidates on that time. Sources in Police department has said that the prime target of suicide bomber could be the police high-rank officials when they had planned to left the police lines,

Afghanistan's enemy is Pakistan's enemy, says army chief

The Express Tribune, February 17, 2015

Over 100 people arrested from Afghan camps operation in Kohat

The Express Tribune, February 17, 2015

according to their schedule set. A breakaway faction of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Jamaatul Ahrar, claimed responsibility for the attack. Sources in city mortuary, confirmed of receiving five dead bodies, they added along with dead bodies' reached to mortuary, body parts including two legs of unknown person also received. Police officers and government officials initially claimed that it was time device blast or remote control, which was planted in a car, motorcycle or cycle later, DCO Lahore Usman Anwar and other police officers strongly claimed that the incident was a suicide blast. A senior police officer said that the terrorist was coming straight toward the main gate of police headquarter but some officials pointed about the terrorist, on which the police officials on duty outside the police line tried to stop him as well as police officials also opened aerial firing as the terrorist ran back and blew himself in front of Empress house building next to City Police Headquarter.

The incident took place at around 12:34pm peak hour of public moving, more than 15 cars, dozens motorcycles and cycles completely damaged, while the window pans of surrounding buildings, plazas and passing vehicles broken into pieces which parked surroundings areas. The sound of the blast had heard more than half kilometer in surrounding area where the incident happened, which also created panic among the citizens. The incident also left several question marks about security concern as several important places also very near to the incident.

ISLAMABAD: While meeting Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Tuesday, Chief Of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif said that Afghanistan's enemy is also Pakistan's enemy, ISPR said. He said this during his visit to Kabul on Tuesday where the army chief held important meetings with Afghan president as well as CEO Dr Abdullah Abdullah. During his meeting with Ghani, both the leaders pledged support to each other in their fight against terrorism and vowed to restrict the use of their soil against each other, said the ISPR statement. Both countries also agreed to continue the ongoing operation against militants in their respective countries, the statement added.

General Raheel also met with Afghan CEO Dr Abdullah Abdullah who acknowledged the overall positive trajectory in bilateral relations. Abdullah also talked about progress in border management and intelligence sharing. Earlier, General Raheel along with Director General Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lt Gen Rizwan Akhtar arrived in Kabul for a one-day official visit. During their stay in Kabul, the army chief and DG ISI met the Afghan civil and political leadership, a statement issued by ISPR said. Sources had said issues relating to security at the Pak-Afghan border would be discussed in the meetings between the Pakistani and Afghan military leadership. Coordinated operations along the Pak-Afghan border would also be reviewed in the talks.

The senior military leadership of both countries would also discuss ongoing cooperation in counter-terrorism, particularly action taken against Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) hideouts on Afghan territory. According to sources, the Pakistani military leadership would also reiterate the demand for early capture of TTP chief Mullah Fazlullah, who is currently hiding in Afghanistan near the border. In December last year, Gen Raheel visited Kabul in the wake of the deadly Peshawar school attack and sought handover of Mullah Fazlullah who is wanted for terrorism cases in Pakistan. The army chief had shared classified intelligence details with the Afghan officials and revealed to them that the mastermind behind the Peshawar attack, who was from Afghanistan, was giving directives to terrorists. Gen Raheel had also met International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) commander General Joseph Dunford. Dunford had condemned the attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar and had assured Pakistan of complete cooperation in countering terrorism and in security-related matters.

KOHAT: More than 100 people were arrested after search operations were carried out in Kohat after police found three Afghan dominated areas on February 16, BBC Urdu reported Tuesday. Following the December 16 attack on Peshawar's Army Public School, the search operations have commenced in K-P. Following the fresh search operation in Kohat, police said they had found Afghan dominated areas and dozens of refugees had been taken into custody. An official of the Kohat Police told the BBC that the search operation continued on Tuesday even though 252 suspects were taken into custody on Monday. The search operation was being conducted in surrounding areas as well, he added.

The spokesperson added that in Monday's operation, 140 of those taken into custody were previously involved in several crimes. He further added that 99 out of 112 refugees displayed documents which enabled them to reside in Pakistan, due to which they were freed. However, 13 of them were not in possession of any documents and cases were lodged against them as per the Foreign Act. Following the APS attack at the end of last year, the K-P government have been told to implement measures to send Afghan refugees back to their country. Permanent measures have not yet been taken to send the refugees back to their country. Refugees had been given permission to reside within Pakistan until December 2014. In Pakistan's Kurram Agency, refugees without documents have also been told to return to Afghanistan.

PUBLIC SERVICES

NEWS HEADLINES

Lahore: Smoke from generator engulfs school event, 35 kids faint KBD

Dunya News., February 22, 2015

Traders for national debate on KBD

The Nation, February 22, 2015

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Pakistan Observer, February 22, 2015

Will overcome electricity loadshedding by 2017: Asif

Geo Tv, February 21, 2015

CDGR opens facilitation centre

Daily Dawn, February 21, 2015

DETAILS

LAHORE: Smoke from generator engulfed a school event on Saturday which caused 35 kids to faint. A private school in Mughalpura area of Lahore had arranged a farewell function in honor of its students of class 10th. An electrical power outage halted the event momentarily. The school's administration turned on a generator for power without even thinking that the event was being held in a basement hall. Gas and smoke engulfed the basement hall which caused the students to suffocate. The students fell unconscious one by one. They were then taken out of the hall immediately.

According to the details, 35 of the student's condition worsened. Rescue teams immediately shifted the unconscious kids to Shalamar and Services hospital where their treatment has been started. 7 kids were brought to Shalamar while 28 kids were brought to Services hospital. District Coordination Officer (DCO) Lahore has taken notice of this event. DCO has demanded a report regarding the incident from the Assistant Commissioner and from officials of the Education Department. Police has taken 2 people from the school's administration into custody.

LAHORE: Progressive Group, a representative platform of traders and businessmen, on Saturday urged the government to initiate a larger national debate on importance of Kalabagh Dam for creating consensus on its construction keeping in view the hardships being faced by all because of lower availability of water and shortage of power as well as its high prices. Progressive Group President Khalid Usman, Vice President Abdul Wadood Alvi and Secretary Information Muhammad Ejaz Tanveer said here that immediate construction of Kalabagh Dam would not only serve as a huge water reservoir but also produce cheaper energy which was the major issue being faced by the households, agriculture and industrial sectors of Pakistan. They called upon Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaaf, the ruling party in KPK, to struggle to create awareness among the masses.

The Progressive Group office-bearers claimed that reputed engineers and technocrats had for decades been recommending that survival of the country lies in the construction of Kalabagh dam. They suggested that there should be a national debate by politicians, engineers, qualified people and all stakeholders from all the provinces to take a decision about the Kalabagh dam. There should also be an interprovincial exchange of delegations, seminars on national and regional levels to convince the quarters opposing to this dam. They said the KBD would have a storage capacity of 6.1 million acre feet minimum and a life span of 450 years, according to an estimate. In 1960 per capita availability for every Pakistani was 5100 cubic meter water which had receded to 975 cubic meter by now, which is a great threat to agriculture, industry, economy and country. They said KBD would save province of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa from floods and irrigate a millions of acres of arid lands, which would revolutionize economy of the KPK and subsequently of Pakistan. Similarly production of cheaper electricity that was estimated at Rs 3 per unit, would make the country's manufacturing industries compatible in the international market and also enhance business activities thus leading to more revenue for the government and creation of job opportunities, they maintained.

LAHORE: Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) participated in the "Pakistan Energy Forum 2015". The event was organized by Shamrock Conferences International. It was a 7th consecutive annual assembly of energy sector stakeholders particularly from the areas of oil & gas, renewable, power and investments. The theme of the conference was "streamlining energy priorities for development and economic growth". Ms. Lubna Pathan, Director General, PBIT, being one of the guest speakers delivered a comprehensive presentation on the topic of "When and how we are going to leverage from investment opportunities in energy sector". She highlighted Pakistan's investment requirements in the power sector, which is estimated to be \$8.8 billion, in comparison with the global investment requirements (\$40 trillion) in the same sector.

She explained the building blocks of power sector development, ways of channelizing investment in power sector and public/private financing mechanisms. She stressed on the need to stop inefficient power transmission and distribution as country loses 25-30% of energy because of the poor infrastructure, mismanagement and theft. She also said that lack of standardization of project agreement leads to project delay so there is a dire need to improve the logistics, infrastructure, technology and regulatory framework.

SIALKOT: Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Asif Saturday said the problem of power loadshedding will be overcome by 2017. "We had to depend on power generators during the previous elections but we will have government-supplied electricity when we go into the next elections," Khawaja Asif asserted while addressing the workers of TMA here at Sialkot Fort. Delving into the topic of local bodies elections, Khawaja Asif supported the concept of local government polls. "Strong and autonomous local bodies are imperative for resolving the public issues," he added. The Minister said overheads and underpasses will be constructed in Sialkot with an aim to smoothen the traffic flow in the city.

RAWALPINDI: The City District Government Rawalpindi (CDGR) on Friday formally opened Citizen Facilitation Centre. The centre will provide domicile, birth and death certificates, and licences to people under one roof. After the instructions of the Punjab government, the CDGR opened the facilitation centre at the building constructed for district assembly hall and complex. Punjab information technology department established the centre in Lahore and Rawalpindi in the first phase. Other districts of the province will soon get the facility. Punjab information technology department Project Director Waseem Bhatti said National Database

Centre non-committal on Sindh's objections to gas tariff rise

Daily Dawn, February 21, 2015

Registration Authority (Nadra) and all the departments of CDGR had established their counters for verification of the record.

KARACHI: The Sindh government has not yet received any response to several of its communications to the federal government asking it to withdraw unilateral decisions taken by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on upward tariff adjustment of natural gas, according to sources. In addition, the federal government has not even shared relevant information with the provincial government in a clear violation of Article 19-A of the Constitution which guaranteed access to information, said the sources on Friday.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah, according to sources close to the Sindh government, complained in one of his letters to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that the federal government had not consulted the Sindh government at any stage on the critical issue of upward tariff adjustment of natural gas which would have a negative impact on gas development surcharge (GDS) receipts causing a huge loss to the province. It had been pointed out in the letters that the ECC issued policy guidelines to the Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) for upward price adjustment of natural gas for allegedly securing profitability of SSGCL & SNGPL from cost plus formula to crude oil based formula, said the sources.

Similarly, the ECC had also unilaterally dismantled gas price agreement with the Mari Petroleum Company Ltd and changed it from cost plus formula to crude oil based formula, said the sources quoting from the letters. The Sindh government expressed serious reservations over the gas infrastructure development cess (GIDC) ordinance which was imposed without consultation with the provinces and said these matters squarely fell within the ambit of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) but were never placed before the council's meeting.

As a result, Sindh, the largest producer of natural gas in the country, would lose in excess of 65 per cent of GDS share in short and long term, said the sources. The Sindh government has, therefore, requested the federal government to withdraw the arbitrary ECC decisions of Nov 20, 2014, about issuance of policy guidelines to OGRA for readjustment of gas tariff and dismantling of gas price agreement with Mari Petroleum Co, provide relevant information to provincial governments, repeal GIDC Ordinance with retrospective effect, stop levy and collection of GIDC and transfer all amounts collected to date to the provinces in proportion to the production of natural gas from each province and present all oil and gas matters before the CCI for discussion, decision and agreement, according to the sources.

CDA initiates fire safety audit of high rise buildings in Capital

The Statesman, February 21, 2015

ISLAMABAD: The Directorate of Emergency and Disaster Management (ED&M) of Capital Development Authority (CDA), has initiated fire safety audit of the high rise buildings constructed in the vicinity of the Capital. During the drive against the violations of building laws authority has submitted 25 challans to CDA magistrate so far.

Talking to APP, Member Environment CDA Mustafain Kazmi said that after the visit of buildings, authority issues three time warning to the owners and then send challans to CDA magistrate for imposing fine. He said that CDA is the only municipality of the country, which has approved and implemented the "CDA Building Standard for Fire Prevention and Life Safety, 2010", adding that this helped in decreasing the incidents of fire. He said Emergency and Disasters Management Directorate was upgraded on modern lines in the aftermath of deadly earth quake of 2005, adding that the rescue workers and the entire staff have been equipped with latest professional techniques after their training in Pakistan and abroad. He added that besides Islamabad, the Emergency and Disasters Management Directorate is now capable of carrying out rescue operations in surrounding areas and Rawalpindi for cooperation activities in case of any untoward incident or natural calamity.

Member said that presently, Emergency and Disasters Management Directorate has nine (09) fire tenders of 12000 liters water capacity and nine (09) fire tenders of 10000 liters water capacity respectively. There are 10 fire tenders of 7200 liters water capacity and five (05) fire tenders of 1350 liters water capacity, he said. Besides, Emergency and Disasters Management Directorate also has four (04) Bronto with 68 meter skylifts and one (01) 46 metre long Aerial Ladder for multi-storey buildings, he added. He said that rescue and logistic vehicles for rescue operation and logistic support are also available with Emergency and Disasters Management Directorate. He said that due to increase in population, Islamabad is expanding rapidly, adding that the Authority should chalk out a comprehensive plan for establishment of five (05) more fire stations in the city.

— APP

Cry of water shortage in Sindh Assembly

The Statesman, February 21, 2015

KARACHI: The members belonging to opposition complained in the Sindh Assembly here Friday that their constituencies were facing acute water shortage. Amir Haider Shah Sheerazi of PML-N said his area Dhabeji has been braving stoppage of water supply and electricity for last 10 days. He asked what the crime of his voters was. He said in districts of Thatta and Sujawal corruption is rampant in local government department and the problems of people were not being solved. Minister for local government Sharjeel Inam Memon said not only Dhabeji but many other areas of Sindh were facing water shortage. He said he would resolve the issue on priority. He said his department is launching a cleanliness drive in the province and he would personally sweep streets.

Sorath Thebo of PML-N said Dadu area has also been braving water shortage but the local government department was not taking steps to solve this problem. She advised minister for local government Sharjeel Inam Memon that before sweeping streets he should also sweep corruption from his department. The Assembly unanimously passed the Sindh Consumer Protection Bill 2014. This government bill was tabled by Sindh minister for parliamentary affairs Sikandar Mandhro and passed unanimously. This is the bill to provide and protect the rights and interests of consumers in the province of Sindh, and whereas, it is expedient to provide for protection and promotion of the rights and interests of the consumers, speedy redress of consumers complaints. Sindh Board of Technical Education Bill: The Sindh Board of Technical Education

Seven coal miners die in Balochistan's Dukki

The Statesman, February 21, 2015

(Amendment) Bill was introduced in the House. The government bill No1/ 2015 Sindh Board of Technical Education (Amendment) Bill 2015 was introduced by Sindh minister for parliamentary affairs Dr Sikandar Mandhro. – PPI

QUETTA: Seven coal miners died of gas suffocation inside a coal mine in Balochistan's Dukki area on Friday morning. "A poisonous gas penetrated inside the coal mine causing the death of seven miners," Rasheed Abro, the inspector of mines, told. Coal miners were trapped inside the mine on Thursday afternoon. Over a dozen miners were rescued by colleagues and then shifted to a poorly equipped basic health unit for treatment. One of the miners died on Thursday evening, however, seven remained trapped inside the coal mine for more than 24 hours. Abro said that a rescue team was rushed from Quetta to rescue the miners. However, the team was extremely late in doing so.

Wali Khan Nasar, a local journalist, told that the rescue team arrived in Dukki after a delay of twenty hours. Had the rescue team arrived on time, the lives of the ill-fated miners would have been saved, he said. Coal miners working nearby rushed towards the affected mine and launched a rescue operation on their own to help their colleagues. They succeeded in rescuing 13 coal miners, Levies official Muhammad Qasim said. Such untoward incidents are common in coal mines of Balochistan in general and in Dukki in particular. The lack of safety arrangements always lead to deaths of poverty-hit miners. Most of the miners working in Dukki are Afghan nationals. Dukki has rich coal reservoirs and supplies coal to different cities in Punjab to industries and factories.

Rs45m released for the treatment of injured students of APS: Tarakai

The Statesman, February 21, 2015

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government has released an amount of Rs45 million for the treatment of thirty injured students of Army Public School Peshawar at Agha Khan Hospital Karachi. The amount has been transferred to the accounts of their parents @ 1.5 million per student and majority of the students have reached Karachi as well. This was disclosed by senior minister for health Shahram Khan Tarakai here on Friday. In a statement issued to media he has said that a Special Medical Board set up by the provincial government to this effect had referred 30 injured students of APS incident to Agha Khan Hospital Karachi on which the provincial government after proper estimation of the expenditures has released an amount of Rs45 million, 1.5 million for each injured student which includes boarding, lodging and travel expenditures.

Shahram has said that out of the thirty students nineteen have already reached Karachi while the rest will reach Karachi in a couple of days. Around 35 students and teachers belonging to Army Public School (APS), Peshawar, will be reaching Karachi in 10 days time for treatment at Agha Khan University Hospital.

Sindh's Special Secretary for Public Health, Dr Khalid Shaikh talking to APP on Friday said 16 students and three teachers injured during the unfortunate incident on December 16 had already arrived here during past two days. Dr Khalid, assigned responsibility by the Sindh government to facilitate the guests from Peshawar and the relatives accompanying them, said the children who have already reached Karachi were taken straight away to AKU and admitted to its paediatric department. Some were also placed in private wards in accordance to their specific needs, he said that the provincial government, immediately after the incident, had offered needed medical support to the injured students and teachers of the children. The injured brought to Karachi include those with head and back injuries besides those with multiple fractures and those at risk of amputation due to severe injuries caused to their fingers. Relatives accompanying the children expressing their gratitude to the Sindh government for their gesture, however, mentioned that parents and relatives of APS students along with their teachers had constituted a fund to help the victims with best possible treatment.

Govts asked to increase investment to tackle diseases

The Statesman, February 21, 2015

PESHAWAR: WHO on Friday urged affected countries to scale up their investment in tackling 17 neglected tropical diseases in order to improve the health and well-being of more than 1.5 billion people. This investment would represent as little as 0.1% of current domestic expenditure on health in affected low- and middle-income countries for the period 2015-2030. According to a WHO report issued on Friday, progress has been made in recent years, largely attributed to a scale-up of control interventions in reaching the poorest. For example, in 2012 alone, more than 800 million people were treated for at least one neglected tropical disease. In 2014, there were just 126 cases reported of Dracunculiasis (guinea-worm disease), compared to almost 1800 in 2010 and 3.5 million in the mid-1980s. Eradication of this disease is achievable with continued effort and investment.

The report sets specific investment targets for many of the 17 diseases. It stresses that countries must make firm and sustainable budgetary commitments if they are to meet WHO targets and accelerate progress. An annual investment of US\$ 2.9 billion until 2020 (including vector control), is required to reach targets set in 2012 in the WHO Roadmap for 2015-2020. For the following 10 years (2021-2030), investment requirements will drop to US\$ 1.6 billion per year. Annual investments will continue to decrease as diseases are reduced or eliminated. This adds up to a total investment of US\$ 34 billion (over 16 years) and excludes cost of donated medicines and other in-kind contributions.

By 2017, the number of people receiving preventive treatment for at least one of the diseases should reach 1.5 billion. As diseases are reduced or eliminated, the number of people needing and receiving treatment will obviously fall. Early detection of some neglected tropical diseases will allow more children to continue school and adults to work while reducing the costs associated with treating more advanced forms of these diseases. Moving towards universal health coverage will ensure that all people have access to preventive and curative health services for neglected tropical diseases without the risk of financial hardship when paying for them.

In the face of climate change, countries need to strengthen their ability to anticipate and meet new challenges in terms of vector ecology and management. Diseases spread by insects are on the move because of rapid and unplanned urbanization, population movement and environmental

KP govt comes under fire for ineffective security steps in KP

The Statesman, February 21, 2015

change. Dengue is one of them: it is now present in more than 150 countries. "Some of the neglected tropical diseases are no longer strictly tropical," says Dr Dirk Engels, Director of the WHO Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases Department. Neglected tropical diseases cause blindness, disfigurement, permanent disability and death, particularly among the poor. "Increased investments by national governments can alleviate human misery, distribute economic gains more evenly and free masses of people long trapped in poverty," says WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan. – PPI

PESHAWAR: Opposition in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Friday bitterly criticised the provincial government for not taking fool-proof security measures in the backdrop of the Army Public School (APS) tragedy that was followed by terrorist attack on an imambargah in Hayatabad. Taking the floor on a point of order, Leader of Opposition, Maulana Lutf-ur-Rehman said that the provincial government through the passage of the Security of Sensitive Installation Act has put the responsibility of the security directly on the people. He said that though it is very crucial issue, the provincial government like the Frontier Crime Regulations (FCR) of tribal area is putting it on the collective responsibility of the people. He said that under the law the management of private schools are themselves responsible for their security. He said that terrorist incidents are continued in the country, but the senior officials of the government are not taking any concrete steps for their prevention and searching solution through the apex committees. He said that the provincial government is doing nothing to protect the lives of the citizens.

In response to the opposition leader, the Senior Minister/Minister for Local Government, Inayatullah Khan said that attack on the imambargah was sorrowful act and the government has condemned it. He said that Chief Minister and members of his cabinet as well as Inspector General of Police (IGP) and Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) had visited the affected imambargah. However, he said the whole country is war-ridden, saying lawlessness is not a new phenomenon and linked to the whole region. For the resolution of the issue, he said federal government had held All Parties Conference (APC) and evolved a 20-point Action Plan against it while an apex committee comprising of Governor, Chief Minister, Corps Commander, IG FC and Inspector General of Police has been constituted which regularly reviews the situation. He said that similar incidents have also occurred in Rawalpindi and Lahore and asked the opposition to acknowledge the situation.

Nighat Yasmin Orakzai of PPP said that despite security threats and persistent demands from the management of imambargah concerned, a vacant plot was not handed over to them. She urged the government for taking security measures for provision of protection to the people against terrorists. The PPP legislator was also critical of the allegations made by PTI chief Imran Khan and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) chief Siraj-ul-Haq for alleged selling of votes by MPAs in the Senate elections. Sardar Aurangzeb Nalotah of PML-N said that terrorists attack and killing of over 150 children in Army Public School (APS) and worshippers in the imambargah are a matter of high concern. He alleged the government had not taken prior steps for the prevention of such incidents.

He also shared the feelings of Nighat Orakzai regarding the allegations of PTI and JI chiefs regarding the trading of votes in Senate polls. In response to the speeches of the opposition, the JI chief Siraj-ul-Haq expressed gratitude that members of the house have become aware that some people are chasing legislators to elect themselves to the upper house of parliament on the basis of their capital. However, he said the legislators have replied them in unequivocal terms. – APP

Cry of water shortage echoes in Assembly

Pakistan Today, February 20, 2015

The members belonging to opposition complained in the Sindh Assembly Friday that their constituencies were facing acute water shortage. Amir Haider Shah Sheerazi of the PML-N said his area Dhabaji had been braving stoppage of water supply and electricity for last 10 days. He said in districts of Thatta and Sujawal corruption was rampant in local government departments and the problems of people were not being solved. Minister for Local Government Sharjeel Inam Memon said not only Dhabaji but many other areas of Sindh were facing water shortage. He said he would resolve the issue on priority. He said his department was launching a cleanliness drive in the province and he would personally sweep streets.

Sorath Thebo of the PML-N said Dadu area had also been braving water shortage but the local government department was not taking steps to solve this problem. She advised Minister for Local Government Sharjeel Inam Memon that before sweeping streets he should also sweep corruption from his department.

FBI seeks access to cybercrime suspects

Daily Dawn, February 20, 2015

RAWALPINDI: The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has asked the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for access to the two Pakistanis arrested in Karachi on Saturday for their suspected involvement in cybercrimes. The two men were wanted by Interpol and FBI for allegedly defrauding companies and individuals of over \$50 million. A senior official of the FIA's Cybercrime Wing told Dawn that Nooruddin Aziz was on the FBI's list of 10 most wanted cyber criminals. The American agency had announced a \$50,000 reward on his arrest. He identified the other suspect in custody as Farhan Arshad. The official said the FBI had contacted the FIA investigators and sought access to the two suspects.

Names of 'MQM men' blamed in Baldia fire JIT report placed on ECL

Daily Dawn, February 20, 2015

KARACHI: The interior ministry has placed six names, including those of five Baldia factory fire suspects described as senior Muttahida Qaumi Movement activists in a joint investigation team (JIT) report, on the Exit Control List, said an official on Thursday. While the home department claimed that all the six names had been recommended by the police on the basis of the JIT report, the sixth name was not mentioned in the recently publicised JIT report.

The Sindh home department official said the provincial authorities received confirmation from Islamabad that the names of all the six people, which had been recommended by the police investigators for further investigation, were placed on the ECL and all the institutions concerned were informed about it. "The names included Syed Javed Shakil, Mohammad Rizwan Qureshi, Hammad Siddiqui, Abdul Rahman alias Bhola, Asghar Baig and Majid Baig," he said. "Suggested

Health dept keen on having Mayo's nephrology dept

Daily Dawn, February 20, 2015

Private schools refuse measles vaccine

Daily Dawn, February 20, 2015

Young doctors observe strike

Daily Dawn, February 20, 2015

by the Sindh government on Karachi police recommendations, these names have been endorsed by the interior ministry. "The list has been released immediately," he added. Among them, Rizwan Qureshi is the one whose statement in the JIT report gave a dramatic turn to the 2012 Baldia Town factory fire case. Though the JIT report marked him as an MQM activist, the party denies any association with him. Hammad Siddiqui was a former incharge of the MQM Karachi Tanzeemi Committee (KTC), Abdul Rahman alias Bhola was in charge of the Baldia Town sector at the time of the fire incident, according to the JIT report. The two others were MQM's former in charge of the Baldia sector Asghar Baig and his brother Majid Baig.

However, there has been no word from the home department official and the police on Syed Javed Shakil and reasons behind placing his name on the ECL that has been prepared on the Sindh government request in the light of the JIT report which does not carry his name. Meanwhile, the city police chief confirmed to Dawn that the investigators had requested their high-ups for placing the five names on the ECL. Subsequently, the proposal was sent to the Sindh government and it finally received a nod from Islamabad. "The matter is in court, as we all know," said additional Sindh police IG Ghulam Qadir Thebo. "Now the situation is that the police are investigating the case and at the same time meeting every requirement in line with court orders. So in this context, it's necessary to make sure the availability of all those persons named in the JIT report in case of any assistance. That was the spirit of this proposal." The JIT report was submitted to the Sindh High Court earlier this month by an additional attorney general, along with a statement of the deputy assistant judge advocate general of the Pakistan Rangers, Sindh, Major Ashfaq Ahmed.

According to the JIT report, MQM worker Rizwan Qureshi revealed that a 'well-known party high official' had demanded Rs200 million as Bhatta (protection money) through his frontman from the owners of the garment factory, Ali Enterprises, in Aug 2012 and their denial led to the arson attack that claimed the lives of its 258 workers. However, the SHC last week ruled that the veracity and relevance of the JIT report was to be determined by the competent forum before which it be placed, and told the trial court to decide the Baldia Town factory inferno case within a year.

LAHORE: The health department has issued instructions to the Mayo Hospital administration to dedicate the upper portion of the Quaid-i-Azam Musafirkhana for the establishment of a nephrology unit offered to be built by a charity organisation. It also appreciated efforts of Bilquees Sarwar Foundation for rendering services for the poor patients. Adviser to Chief Minister on Health Khwaja Salman Rafique called an emergent meeting at the Civil Secretariat on Thursday to discuss the proposal of the BSF for the provision of state-of-the-art nephrology unit at Mayo Hospital. Health Secretary Jawad Rafique Malik, Health Director General Dr Zahid Pervez and Mayo Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Amjad Shahzad also attended the meeting.

A spokesman for the health department told Dawn that the participants in the meeting discussed the issue and chided the Mayo Hospital MS for not facilitating the charity organisation which had expressed its willingness to establish fully-fledged nephrology unit at a cost of Rs50 million. He said Mr Rafique informed the meeting that the Punjab government had been encouraging the donors and philanthropists to share their services for the provision of treatment facilities to the patients all over the province. The adviser regretted that the BSF representatives faced embarrassment for a month for not finding space at the Mayo Hospital for materialising the patient-friendly scheme. The health secretary and DG shared similar views and stressed that the charity organisation's services should be acknowledged by facilitating them to a maximum level. The spokesman further said the meeting discussed various options to allocate space on the premises of the Mayo Hospital and finally decided to allocate upper floor of the Musafirkhana for the establishment of nephrology department. "The meeting directed Mayo Hospital MS Dr Amjad Shahzad to promptly get upper portion of the Musafirkhana vacated from attendants and hand it over to the BSF to start its scheme," said the spokesman. The attendants of the patients would be shifted to the basement of the Musafirkhana, he added.

ISLAMABAD: As many as ten leading private schools in the capital have refused to allow their students to be vaccinated, following a scare regarding the measles vaccine that is being administered to children as part of a new government inoculation drive. The Capital Development Authority's (CDA) health directorate has been trying to convince parents and the schools' management that vaccination is in their children's best interests, but so far no one has budged.

The refusals stem from apprehensions about the measles vaccine. On Feb 12, five children who were vaccinated at a CDA clinic in Sector F-11 were brought to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) with symptoms that were thought to be reactions to the vaccine. All the children were from the same family and were residents of Sri Saral in Sector D-12. An inquiry was ordered immediately after the incident, and samples were obtained from the children to verify the underlying cause of their conditions. According to an official statement, signed by Professor Tabish Hazir, head of Pediatrics at the Pims Children's Hospital, the inquiry found that the children did not suffer a reaction to the measles vaccine and that their condition was unrelated to their inoculation. The inquiry committee was headed by Dr Maqbool Hussain, Associate Professor and head of the hospital's Infectious Disease Unit, and had four other members.

RAWALPINDI: Patients are suffering at the government hospitals as young doctors observed a three-hour strike to press the government to provide them security. Due to the strike, patients were treated in the outdoor patient departments (OPDs) from 8am to 11am only. The young doctors observed strike at Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH) and the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital but could not stop work at the Holy Family Hospital. "I visited the DHQ hospital with the complaints of high fever and cough but the OPD was closed at 11am," said Mohammad Babar, a resident of Akaalgarh. Sohail Ahmed, of Gowalmandi, said he took his father to the hospital after his blood pressure shot up but no doctor was available there. Mohammad Khan, a resident of Khana Road, said he visited the BBH for the treatment of his 10-year-old son who was suffering from fever but

No gynaecologist in Karak hospitals

Daily Dawn, February 20, 2015

Bajaur polio drive a big success, claims official

Daily Dawn, February 20, 2015

Mushahid underlines need for cyber security strategy for Pakistan

The Statesman, February 20, 2015

Three-day anti-polio drive to vaccinate around 280,000 children concludes

The Statesman, February 20, 2015

doctors were not on duty.

Dr Haider Akhter, YDA BBH chapter president, told Dawn that they did not want to create problems for the patients but the government was not listening to their request for the provision of security to the doctors. He said emergency services were not disturbed and doctors in the intensive care units remained on duty. "We are observing a token strike." He said the poor security arrangements were exposed two days ago when two groups of people resorted to firing after a brawl at the DHQ Hospital, leaving six people injured. When contacted, BBH medical superintendent Dr Asif Qadir Mir said the administration had asked senior doctors and medical specialists to look after the patients at the OPD. He said the administration was making arrangements to provide treatment to the patients.

KARAK: People especially those living in remote areas of Karak district have been facing difficulties in getting health facilities as several basic health units (BHUs) are functioning without doctors. This was stated by social activists, including Ahmad Jan, Noor Wali Khan and others, at a press conference here the other day. They said that the worst sufferers were the women as it was difficult to find a lady doctor in these hospitals though the posts existed. They said that there was shortage of lady doctors even in the major health centres of the district. They pointed out that there were 64 medical officers in the district and tehsil headquarters hospitals, while people, chiefly those of rural areas, were forced to visit private clinics of doctors for treatment. They said that there were total 107 sanctioned posts of medical officers in small and big hospitals of the district of which 43 posts were vacant. About the availability of specialist doctors in Karak district, they said that all five sanctioned posts of gynaecologists and three of the four posts of paediatricians had been vacant since long. Other vacant posts include two of anaesthetist and one each of pathologist, blood bank officer, physician, psychiatrist, skin specialist, cardiologist and physiotherapist.

KHAR: The local health department on Thursday declared the latest anti-polio campaign in Bajaur Agency a huge success, saying around 223,676 local children were vaccinated without facing resistance. "The three-day campaign, which began on Monday, turned out to be a huge success as anti-polio drops were administered to more than 96 percent of the targeted children under the age of five years," agency surgeon Dr Zakir Hussain told reporters here on Thursday. Dr Zakir said no untoward happened during the campaign due to the foolproof security measures for health workers and the cooperation and support of local people. He said the health department had set the target of 223,676 children under the age of five years for the campaign and over 96 per cent of them were vaccinated. "This is the highest number ever reported during an anti-polio drive in the agency. This is a huge success," he said

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Senate Defence Committee, Senator Mushahid Hussain has underlined the need for a cyber security strategy for Pakistan, since cyber warfare is an emerging security threat. He was giving a keynote speech at the launch of a book on Cyber Security by Dr Tughrul Yamin at National University of Science and Technology (NUST). Appreciating the book, a rare endeavour on such a specialised subject in Pakistan, he referred to the role of the Senate Defence Committee which had recognised cyber warfare as an emerging security threat way back in 2012, organised a Cyber Security Task Force, promoted awareness through a Media Manual for press reporters, prepared legislation and presented contours of the first-ever Cyber Security Strategy for Pakistan, all initiatives which were unprecedented.

Among the key components of a Cyber Security Strategy for Pakistan, Sen Mushahid listed the need for legislation, establishing a Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT), a Joint Inter-Services Cyber Defence Command, and Cyber 'rules of the game' within SAARC framework between Pakistan and India to ensure that neither side engages in cyber warfare against the other or does hacking of each other's websites.

In this regard, Senator Mushahid said that Pakistan currently lacked both an awareness and a comprehensive cyber security strategy, and there was no focal point or a lead institution in this regard. He said the need of the hour was to have a troika of partnership amongst the government, private sector and academia, so that the best brains can collectively contribute to building a cyber secure Pakistan. He said Pakistan's importance was evident from the revelations of Edward Snowden who had exposed the U.S. National Security Agency spying on various countries in which the top three victims were Pakistan, Iran and China. He praised NUST as one of the premier, quality academic institutions of Pakistan, where some of the brightest and most creative women and men, were studying and such talented youth could provide the expertise and backbone for Pakistan's cyber security strategy, he concluded. NUST Rector, Dr Muhammad Asghar, praised the role of Senate Defence Committee in leading the efforts for cyber security in Pakistan. - APP

DI KHAN: The three-day anti-polio campaign concluded here Wednesday to administer oral polio vaccine to around 280,000 children aged up to five years, across the district. "Yes, the three days have concluded, but the campaign will continue till next day as well which is called as catch up day to pursue follow up activities and vaccinate those children who are left in the specified three days, anyhow we are sure the target would be achieved, conveniently," says district health officer Umar Shah. He said so far no inconvenience had been witnessed over the three days and each day's progress or activities were regularly shared and discussed with the concerned officials in meetings. He said elaborate arrangements had been made to prevent children from the crippling disease of polio through administration of anti polio drops and added a focus was being given to administer the drops to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of South and North Waziristan.

He said over 600 teams had been constituted including mobile and fixed teams to give polio drops to children at houses or other places including bus terminals, exit and entry points and markets. He said the district was divided in union councils to be visited by trained teams to vaccinate the targeted population of children in those areas.

SHC extends stay against buying foreign vaccine at exorbitant rate

The Statesman, February 20, 2015

Eating seafood increases risk of autoimmune disorder

The Statesman, February 20, 2015

Petrol prices expected to rise by Rs. 3.97 per litre from 1st March

The Statesman, February 20, 2015

PM allocates Rs. 100m for Dr Shahid's treatment

The Statesman, February 20, 2015

Without govt aid: Shimshalis build irrigation channel on self-help basis

The Express Tribune, February 20, 2015

As part of efforts to reach out to maximum children, the official said, the door-to-door campaign was widely publicized to create awareness among the parents regarding the polio vaccination. However, he was of the view it was not a job of a single individual but all of us should shoulder responsibility to make the campaign successful by ensuring that no single child missed the vaccination," the official observed. He said the government and its partners in the campaign were struggling hard to make all cities including Dera Ismail Khan polio-free, however, he was of the view that general public and local communities' support was a must to achieve the objective. – APP

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Thursday extended till Feb 23 its injunction, precluding the provincial authorities from procuring hepatitis vaccine from the multinational companies at exorbitant rates. The local pharmaceutical companies had approached the court against the authorities for rejecting their medicines and purchasing the same from multinational company at inflated prices. In the petition, they submitted that their medicines used for treatment of Hepatitis-B and C are purchased and used by the various leading health institutions without any complaint of them being injurious to human health. They said government has also licenced them to manufacture and sell the vaccine within and outside the country. They said Sindh government mala fide rejected their vaccines despite the fact the one of the vaccines, which the authorities have rejected on quality grounds, is the largest selling vaccine in the country. Moreover, he said, this vaccine is also produced by the only company in Pakistan having WHO recognition for its laboratory. A single bench, comprising Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui, heard arguments from both sides and adjourned the hearing till February 23 for want of time. The court extended the stay against purchase of the vaccine till further orders. – PP

PESHAWAR: Exposure to mercury through seafood could increase the risk of autoimmune disorders, especially among women of childbearing age, a study says. Autoimmune disorders, which cause the body's immune system to attack healthy cells by mistake, predominately affect women. Autoimmune disease - which can include such conditions as inflammatory bowel disease, lupus, Sjogren's syndrome, rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis- is among the 10 leading causes of death among women, said the study appeared in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives. – APP

ISLAMABAD: Prices of petroleum products are expected to rise by Rs3.97 per litre from the 1st of March. The reason behind the rise in increase of petroleum prices in the international market along with increase in General Sales Tax (GST) on petroleum products. The ascent in prices of petroleum will halt the process of persistent cutbacks in petroleum prices being carried out for the past 7 months.

According to the sources, except for high speed diesel, all petroleum prices are expected to increase. Petrol cost will rise from Rs. 70.29 per litre to Rs. 74.26 per litre. The cost for hi octane has been suggested to be increased by Rs. 4.5 per litre. The price will then elevate from Rs. 80.31 to Rs. 84.81 per litre. Kerosene cost will increase by Rs. 2.67 after which the price will increase from Rs. 61.44 to Rs. 64.11. Light diesel's price will climb from Rs. 57.94 to Rs. 60.55. The cost has been suggested to be increased by Rs. 2.61 per litre.

Apart from the price hike in all petroleum products, high speed diesel's price is expected to go down by Rs. 3 per litre. Its cost will decrease from Rs. 80.61 to Rs. 77.61. During the past 2 months, GST on petroleum products has been increased from 17% to 27%. According to the statistics, the incidence of cutbacks in petroleum prices had been going on from August 2014 which is expected to come to a stop after 7 months. – NNI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Shahif has approved Rs100 million for the treatment of Dr Shahid Nawaz out of country. Dr Shahid, the head of Pims' cardiology department, was coming out of the hospital at around 3:30pm when two motorbike riders shot him. On Sunday night he was shifted to CMH on the request of his family. Moreover arrangements have been started to shift Dr Shahid to the United Kingdom for treatment. Media coordinator of Pakistan Institute of medical Sciences (Pims) Dr Waseem Khawaja while talking to Dawn said funds have been allocated and preparations have been started to send Dr Shahid abroad.

GILGIT: Bereft of government development schemes in the region, the people of Shimshal Valley, the last village near Pakistan's border with China, have begun digging a water channel on self-help basis to irrigate their fields. The canal was deemed necessary because as spring approaches, time is running out for ploughing. Government help is hard to come by in this remote valley located 300 kilometres from Gilgit, and if the channel is not built, locals might lose the season's yield.

The building of the Korbant channel began earlier this month and is being undertaken by scouts and volunteers led by Sifat Khan and Abdul Hassan, respectively. A group of men flatten the land, smash rocks and cut through the mountains without any protective measures to pave way for the four-kilometre Korbant channel in the valley which is inhabited by nearly 2,000 people. However, this is not the first project that has been initiated and completed entirely by the locals, according to Abdul Joshi, a resident of Shimshal. "Dozens of other schemes have been completed by communities on their own," Joshi told The Express Tribune.

Since the Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) government has failed to address issues like load-shedding and law and order in the regional capital, Gilgit, it is least expected to do wonders for Shimshal. For this reason, the locals don't often look to the government for help. "Our elected representatives have failed us. We wanted our leaders to do what former chief minister Mehdi Shah did for his hometown Skardu," said another resident. The 55-km-long road that connects Shimshal Valley with the rest of the country tells the story of locals' resolve; it was constructed in 2003—56 years after independence—with overwhelming support from the locals. The road, unpaved and narrow, twists through high mountains and over wooden bridges, and has reduced the duration of the

SC summons secretaries over KE-KWSB row

Dawn, February 20, 2015

Pakistan trains school students in counter-terrorism

Zee News, February 20, 2015

Ahead in time: Govt to implement \$51m plan for Tarbela project

The Express Tribune, February 20, 2015

journey to the valley from three days to three hours by jeep.

In Shimshal, there is no running tap water in homes and electricity is available only through solar panels the locals buy from neighbouring China. However, despite its remoteness and lack of government aid, literacy rate in the valley is 98%—almost double the national average. Though Shimshal is one of the most remote regions of G-B, its residents are serving across the country in various fields including government service and the media. The people of Shimshal depend on tourism for income and the village has produced one mountaineer on average from every household. Renowned mountaineer Samina Baig, the first Pakistani woman to scale Mount Everest, also belongs to the valley.

According to former speaker of the G-B Legislative Assembly, Wazir Baig, the people of Shimshal are resilient and know how to meet their needs on their own. "We did try to provide relief to them during our government," said Baig, referring to a 200-kilowatt power project which is under construction in the valley. The first settlement in Shimshal is estimated to have arrived some 400-500 years ago when the valley was under the rule of the Mir of Hunza who sent criminals and society outcasts to Shimshal for punishment.

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court summoned on Thursday federal secretaries of finance and water and power along with Attorney General Salman Aslam Butt over a dispute on the payment of Rs28.7 billion dues to K-Electric by the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB). They are required to appear before the court on Feb 25 to shed light whether it is the responsibility of the federal government to clear the arrears of an institution which functions under the Sindh government. K-Electric – formerly Karachi Electric Supply Company – is a privatised public utility principally engaged in the business of generation, transmission and distribution of electricity in Karachi and some adjoining areas of Sindh and Balochistan.

The company supplies electricity to 2.4 million domestic, commercial and industrial consumers spreading over approximately 6,500 square kilometres of service territory. The KWSB supplies water and provides sewerage services to the people in Karachi. The controversy arose when K-Electric filed in the Supreme Court an appeal against a Sindh High Court's verdict of April 14, 2014, restraining the power utility from interrupting supply to the KWSB. The appeal was taken up by a three-judge Supreme Court bench headed by Justice Saqib Nisar on Thursday. The court observed that the payment of dues for an electricity distribution company was like oxygen and if the K-Electric system broke the entire city would plunge into darkness. The power utility through its counsel Abid S. Zuberi urged the bench to set aside the high court's order and direct the federal government to pay the company KWSB's outstanding dues of Rs28.7bn as of April 30, 2014, excluding mark-up.

The appeal claimed that the federal government also owed Rs36.24bn and the Sindh government about Rs9bn to the company on different heads. K-Electric also asked the court to order the KWSB and the federal government to pay the current monthly bill ranging between Rs600 million and Rs700m. The power utility asked whether it was under any obligation to supply electricity to a defaulting strategic customer like the KWSB under the implementation agreement (IA) signed between them on Nov 14, 2005, despite the fact that the latter had failed to clear charges of Rs28.7bn and its consistent default on the current monthly bills which, after recent increases in tariff by Nepra, rose to Rs600m-700m. According to the appeal, the high court cannot interpret the IA to provide the KWSB with blanket immunity from paying its electricity charges, especially when the K-Electric had consistently pursued the organisation for the payment.

KARACHI: Pakistani students are being trained by authorities in counter-terrorism which include how to defuse bombs and hide from terrorists, in the wake of the horrific Peshawar school attack that killed 150 people, mostly students, last year. Staff and students from different schools were yesterday provided 'emergency training' to tackle any crisis as the threat of attacks on 'soft targets' looms. Rescue officials, civil defence force, bomb disposal squad (BDS) and security agencies practised emergency drills at Public School Multan and held security training sessions with students and teaching staff over the directives of the Punjab government. As part of the drill, BDS officials wearing special suits demonstrated how to locate and defuse a bomb. It also included giving assistance to injured people.

"We have received training and now we will utilise this if the need arises," one of the students at the Multan school was quoted as saying by Dawn.Com. Students were also trained on giving medical assistance to injured people in case of any terror attack. In Sindh, the provincial police today approached teachers and students of the Mama Parsi school at the Razzaqabad Training Centre in Karachi to demonstrate self defence and weapons training. "We were already training university students and staff before the Peshawar attack, but since then, scores of schools have approached us," Spokesperson of the Special Security Unit Tahira Tariqshe said, adding that the next step is to train field journalists who, she feels, are at great risk of exposure to violence. "If a student suddenly sees or encounters a terrorist during an attack, they will not know what to do... After this training, the confidence level of the student will be built," she said. As the Taliban intensifies its campaign against the government and military as a reaction to the ongoing military operation in North Waziristan, the fear of a backlash has generated panic and alarm in schools across the country.

ISLAMABAD: In order to fulfil Prime Minister's plan to add 1,410 megawatts (MW) of electricity in the system before the next elections, the government has decided to implement a \$51-million plan for executing the Tarbela fourth extension project seven months ahead of its planned completion. The \$51-million is over and above the existing estimated cost of the project—a spending that the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) claims would help generate \$300 million worth electricity by speeding up the plan of completion. Under the new schedule, the project should be completed by June 2017, ahead of the high water flow season, said Wapda official. The additional funds will be either given by the federal government or arranged by Wapda. During the ground

Denmark to assist govt to set up wind power plants

Pakistan Today, February 19, 2015

breaking ceremony of Tarbela fourth extension project, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif desired an accelerated completion of the project. According to the original plan, three machines of the project were to be commissioned till February 2018, said the officials.

Wapda – which is executing the project – had asked the contractor to finish the project seven months ahead of schedule. The contractor sought roughly an additional \$80 million; the World Bank's panel of experts recommended \$51 million as the reasonable price. The WB board had approved a mix of concessionary and expensive loan of \$840 million to add 1,410MW to the existing generation capacity of the Tarbela hydropower project. After completion, Tarbela's generation capacity will increase to 4,888MW. The government is desperate to take measures that could bring an end to the energy crisis ahead of February 2018 general elections. The inability to control power outages was also one of the reasons behind the humiliating defeat of the Pakistan Peoples' Party during the last general elections.

The incumbent government had also planned to implement an additional \$68-million plan to finish work on the Neelum Jhelum hydro power project with a generation capacity of 969MW. However, the plan was shelved after the government did not provide the requisite resources. As the main financier of the project, the WB has also given a waiver for incurring additional cost of \$51 million on the Tarbela project. The original total cost of the project was estimated at \$914 million. Out of the \$840 million loan, the WB has so far provided roughly \$143 million, which is 17% of the original cost. However, Wapda said its project was on track, as the cost of the civil contract was \$651 million, out of which, \$312 million were on account of provision of equipments and machinery. Against the \$312 million, Wapda has so far paid \$27.3 million and the remaining amount will be spent once the equipment is handed over.

One of the biggest Germany's economic champions; Voith Hydro Company is providing machinery and equipment for the project through its Chinese partners. The Voith is a family owned company since 1867 and its annual sales last year amounted to €5.7 billion. The Tarbela fourth project showed a saving of \$150 million that the WB has indicated to divert for the Tarbela fifth extension project that the government is planning to start from February next year. The initial estimated cost of Tarbela fifth extension is \$700 million and may generate up to 1,400MW electricity.

New funding

The Austrian ambassador to Pakistan has offered \$400 million loan for Tarbela fifth extension, according to the Ministry of Finance. However, the Austrian government wanted the contract for providing machinery and equipments to be awarded to an Austrian firm, Andritz Hydro, according to a Wapda official. He said Austria wanted that the contract should be awarded on a government-to-government basis without international competitive bidding despite the fact the Andritz was a private firm. It will be difficult for the government to waive the competitive bidding condition, said the official.

Denmark is a great friend of Pakistan and has helped the local authorities in pointing out areas of the province where wind power projects could be set up, said Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif in the agreement signing ceremony regarding wind technology projects between the Punjab government and an international company of Denmark on Thursday. On behalf of the Punjab government, Energy Department Additional Secretary Khalid Awais Raja signed the agreement, while VESTAS Vice President Gerard Carew signed on behalf of Denmark. Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Ambassador of Denmark Jespar Moller Sorensen were present on the occasion.

The ambassador pointed out that a great deal of potential exists for generating over 1000 megawatts of electricity from wind in the north and south of the province. He also stated that wind technology potential in Punjab is greater than in Sindh area of Jampir. According to the agreement, four pilot projects pertaining to wind power would be developed by the Danish company for which the government would provide all possible facilities. Every pilot project has the potential of generating up to 250 megawatt electricity. Development work at four potential locations for wind technology would expeditiously be completed on war-footing.

Talking on the occasion, Punjab Chief Minister said that Denmark is a global leader in wind energy and meets a great percentage of energy needs of its own country through wind power. He said that Punjab would vigorously benefit from the expertise and cooperation of Denmark in wind technology to deal with its energy crisis. He further said that the Danish ambassador took personal interest in promotion of wind energy in Punjab and thanked him for his deep interest in mapping locations in Punjab suitable for generating electricity through wind technology. He said these projects would be completed expeditiously and in a transparent manner with the cooperation of Denmark which will prove to be a milestone in overcoming the energy crisis in the province. The chief minister directed formulation of the Punjab Wind Power Company and said that a Quaid-e-Azam Wind Power Park would be established on the pattern of Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park.

Addressing on the occasion, the Danish ambassador said that Denmark would provide all possible cooperation to Pakistan to deal with its energy crisis. He said installation of wind technology in Punjab would help a great deal in overcoming energy crisis. He further said that the process of locating appropriate places for wind technology had been completed in various areas of north and south of Punjab with the help of latest technology. Gerard Carew, Vice President of VESTAS, pointed out that Denmark has great expertise in renewable energy and 40 percent of energy needs of Denmark are being met through wind technology. He congratulated the chief minister on this important step. Chief minister's special assistant Azmul Haq, chief secretary, Planning and Development secretary, Punjab Power Development Company chairman, Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park CEO and officials of VESTAS were also present on the occasion.

Naudero to face worst-power load shedding

Pakistan Today, February 19, 2015

NAUDERO : Unprecedented electricity load-shedding schedule of 16 hours out of 24 has been made effective on Thursday which has virtually crippled life. After every four hours of power outage, it will be only restored for two hours due to which small industries, traders, mill owners, shopkeepers and the citizens will suffer worst. The students will not be able to study.

According to Naudero grid station incharge, Waryal Shah, power supply to Naudero feeder-I and II will be disconnected during 6am to 10am, 12pm to 4pm, 6pm to 10pm and 12am to 4am. SDO Ghaffar Abbasi told media here that Federal Minister Abid Sher Ali during his recent visit to Sukkur directed that load-shedding should be increased in those areas where recovery was low. He said supply to many areas had been totally stopped by disconnecting as many as eight pole-mounted transformers in Naudero Town while feeder-3 has been completely shut down due to which many adjoining villages were in total darkness including Hassan Wahan, Agani, Kehar and others which will remain shut till 100 per cent recovery is made.

On the other hand, citizens have termed the increased load-shedding schedule as political victimization on the part of PML-N federal minister. They demanded of the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to remove him immediately. PPP-SB Larkana district president Ghulam Hyder Narejo, PPP Naudero president Khalid Memon, Shehri Action Committee members Manzoor Mangi, Mumtaz Sethar, Sahab Khan Shaikh, Sindh Graduates Association's Lateef Kertio and others said that the federal minister was creating hatred among the people of various provinces by resorting to frequent increase in load-shedding timings.

Wasa asked to complete Leh Nullah desilting

Daily Dawn, February 19, 2015

RAWALPINDI: The provincial government on Wednesday asked the Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) to complete the desilting of Leh Nullah before monsoon. The orders were issued by the Punjab Secretary Housing, Urban Development and Public Health Engineering Department Asadur Rahman Gillani during his visit to the Wasa offices. He also inspected the ongoing work of desilting at Leh Nullah. The Wasa Managing Director Raja Shaukat Mahmood briefed the secretary about the work done by the civic agency so far. Secretary housing asked the Wasa management to accelerate the desilting and restore the Leh Nullah to its original design with a view to increasing its water carrying capacity. "Anyway, all the hurdles in flow of nullah should be cleared well before monsoon," he told the Wasa authorities. He asked them to prepare all the data of rainfall and flow of Leh Nullah during monsoon for future planning.

The secretary warned against slackness in desilting of the nullah. Wasa Managing Director Raja Shaukat Mahmood said that the agency had completed 60 per cent work of desilting of Leh Nullah and remaining work would be completed within the stipulated time. He said the desilting project of Leh Nullah was approved by the Punjab government in 2011-12 with a total cost of Rs92 million which was to be completed in three phases.

APS students reach Karachi for further treatment

Daily Dawn, February 19, 2015

KARACHI: Ten children and a teacher injured in the Army Public School attack in Peshawar landed in Karachi on Wednesday to seek further treatment at a private hospital. The decision was taken by the Shuhada-o-Ghazi Forum, a representative body of the parents of those who lost their lives in the school attack, to send 35 children to the Aga Khan University Hospital in Karachi. On Wednesday, ten students from Peshawar reported at the hospital, confirmed the AKUH's media spokesperson. He said the students were all male and in stable condition but they still needed treatment for their injuries.

PTCL exchange catches fire again

Daily Dawn, February 19 2015

LAHORE: A portion of the Egerton Road exchange of Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) which was gutted some four months ago, again caught fire on Wednesday. The fire this time destroyed some gas cylinders placed at the fourth floor of the under-construction portion of the building that was gutted on Sept 28 last year. Rescue 1122 extinguished the fire in an hour or so. Last year the blaze had damaged PTCL equipment and machinery, disrupting telephone and internet services in Lahore, Faisalabad and Multan for several days. A PTCL official told Dawn that the flames did not cause any harm to the equipment at the exchange which had temporarily been installed at the parking lot. A rescuer said no firefighting equipment was found on any floor of the exchange. "I was a member of the team that had controlled last year's blaze at the same place. Our seniors had recommended to the PTCL authorities to get firefighting gadgets installed at every floor of the exchange. It seems no lesson was learnt from the last fire," regretted the official who wished not to be named. Complaints about disruption in telephone and internet services started pouring in different exchanges of the PTCL late in the night.

Three siblings burnt alive in van fire

Daily Dawn, February 19, 2015

JHANG: Three siblings -- two brother and their sister-- were burnt alive, while their parents and four other passengers suffered serious burns when a van caught fire on Jhang-Layyah Road near Rashidpur on Tuesday night. The family was returning from Jhang to Layyah after attending a marriage ceremony by the van that suddenly caught fire. As a result, the 13-year-old girl and her two minor brothers aged five and three, respectively, were burnt alive.

National water policy urged for meeting rising water demand

The Statesman, February 19, 2015

ISLAMABAD: Formulation of national water policy was urged during the second meeting of Board of Governors (BoG) of Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) held here on Wednesday for meeting the rising demand of water consumption in the country. Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Rana Tanveer Hussain said that meeting of BoG should be held after every six months. He said that more reservoirs are needed for water storage in the country, adding that water management proposals should be formulated for the next five years. Chairman PCRWR, Dr. M. Ashraf while briefing meeting on the projects, research and role of the organization said that there was a need of water conservation and management in agriculture sector. He said that shortfall of water was 11% in 2004 and it will increase to 31% in 2025. He said that water related problems could be resolved with commercialization of research, human resource development and management in the area.

Senator Rehman Malik said that a task force should be constituted for management of waste, flood and rain water storage in Balochistan for increasing productivity of the province. He said that international donors and local participation is of utmost importance for water management in the

Artificial water in Badin giving birth to Thar-like situation

The Statesman, February 19, 2015

Two more polio cases surface in KP, Fata

The Statesman, February 19, 2015

First drugs pricing policy announced

The Statesman, February 19, 2015

country. Member National Assembly, Awais Laghari said that there was a need to replicate technology of the advanced countries for water resources management. He urged the provincial governments to implement the recommendations of the PCRWR for handling the most crucial issue of water scarcity in the country. He said that government should regulate water pumps and tube wells boring in the country. The meeting was attended by the board of governors including Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Secretary MoST, Kamran Ali Qureshi, Senator A. Rehman Malik, MNA, Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Laghari, Mian Tanvir Ahmad Sheikh, Chairman PCRWR, Dr. M. Ashraf, Ahsan Khan, Syed Abdul Ahad Agha, Dr. Nadeem Qamar, Director General Agriculture (MW) Panjab, Chaudhary M. Ashraf, M. Waseem Asghar, Engr. Riaz Ahmad, Aslam Ansari, Chairman Federal Flood Commission, Asjad Imtiaz and Representative from Finance Department. - APP

KARACHI: The growers of the tail-end area of district Badin, fed by various branches of Akram Canal, have expressed deep concern over non-provision of water to their landlords and alleged that a nexus of corrupt irrigation officials and big landlords is behind the continuous shortage of water in the tail-end area. Speaking to journalists at Karachi Press Club here on Tuesday, the president of Badin alliance of tail-end farmers, Siddique Panhwar demanded to Chief Minister Sindh and officials of irrigation department to immediately intervene and ensure supply of water to tail-end farmers of the province. He also warned the authority that further negligence could create a Thar-like human tragedy in different parts of the province.

The alliance leaders alleged that thousands of acres of land had been rendered barren in the area due to water scarcity. They demanded that irrigation secretary and SIDA chairman should take notice of matter and ensure supply of water in all distributaries of Akram Canal. They alleged that irrigation officials were responsible for this artificial water shortage. Haji Abuzar said that it had been long time since any de-silting was carried out on Ali Wah distributory of Akram Canal. He said influential landlords in connivance with irrigation officials had installed pipes and suction machines to steal their water. Mohammad Bachal said it had been many months that small farmers of union councils had seen water in their watercourses. He accused the officials of selling their share of water to landlords and depriving tail-end growers of their due share. - PPI

PESHAWAR: Two more polio cases were registered from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Fata on Wednesday, taking the total number of reported polio cases in 2015 to nine. According to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister polio monitoring cell, 14-month-old baby girl Habiba from the Sher Jangi area of Peshawar and 13-month-old Shahzad from Jamrud town in Khyber Agency were diagnosed with polio virus. So far this year, five polio cases have been registered in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, three have been registered in Fata while one case was reported from Sindh. 2014 shaped up to be the darkest year for the Pakistan polio programme, with the number of confirmed cases reaching 296 — the highest number of cases reported in the country since 1998.

Pakistan is one of only three countries in the world where polio remains endemic but efforts to eradicate the disease have been severely hindered in recent years as militants continue to attack immunisation teams and polio workers. Polio cases in Pakistan reached a low of 28 in 2005 but rose to 198 in 2011. In 2012, Pakistan had 58 cases, while 93 were recorded in 2013, as reported by End Polio Pakistan. Militant groups often attack polio teams as they see vaccination campaigns as a cover for espionage. There are also long running rumours about polio drops causing infertility. Balochistan had been polio free for almost more than two years. However, the first polio case was reported from Balochistan's Killa Abdullah district last year in July 2014. Refusal on the part of parents remained the underlying factor behind increasing cases of polio in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar on Wednesday announced the first drugs pricing policy based on a transparent mechanism for fixation and price adjustment. Addressing a press conference here, the minister said the policy would help increase availability of drugs at rational prices and discourage hoarding. It would reduce the discretion of functionaries and facilitate the industry in business planning, she added. The minister said drugs prices would remain frozen till June 30, 2016, at current approved level. Thereafter, annual increase in prices of scheduled drugs would be restricted to 50% of Consumer Price Index (CPI) with a cap of 4% and of non-schedule drugs to 70% of CPI with a cap of 6%, she added. Saira Tarar said drugs for human use would be divided in two categories in terms of pricing in the country. Drugs on essential medicines list, top 50 of most common use and drugs for treatment of Cancer, TB, Hepatitis, HIV, Thalassamia and Organ Transplant, biologicals and new chemical entities would be categorized as scheduled drugs and the rest as non-scheduled. She said for the first time a concept of price reduction upto 30% on originator brands had been introduced with staggered annual reduction upto 10% every year if the drugs were costlier than India and Bangladesh. This would help reduce prices of many drugs of common use for patients in the country, she added. She said the prices of new drugs would be fixed on the basis of average prices in India and Bangladesh and if new drug was not available in these countries the price would be fixed at lowest level in the developing countries which regulated drugs prices or wholesale prices in the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand.

Prices of generics would be fixed 30% less than the originator brand of new drug which would be economically viable for patients in Pakistan, she added. She said the prices of originator brands of new drugs would be reduced after four years or when minimum three generics were available in the market, whichever was later. She said that total reduction would be 10% every year over a period of three consecutive years. Prices of generics of these drugs would be reduced correspondingly and minimum price difference between prices of originator brands and generic would be maintained at 15%. She said that production of lower priced drugs would be encouraged and annual increase in their prices would be automatic subject to the condition that it does not exceed Consumer Price Index. She said that production of orphan drugs would be encouraged while export of high quality drugs to developed world would also be encouraged. She said that a transparent mechanism had been devised to decide justified hardship cases of the industry to

Pakistan about to secure deal with Qatar over LNG supply

The Statesman, February 19, 2015

keep the drugs available in the market. She said that a monitoring mechanism would be devised with the coordination of the provincial health authorities to ensure that drugs were not sold in market on prices higher than fixed prices. She said that first time ever, reduction in prices was accepted by the pharma industry. Predictability would help companies in business planning, she added. She said that transparency in new policy would reduce interaction between regulators and industry, and encourage production of low priced drugs. She said that this policy would encourage exports of quality drugs to developed world. The pharma industry had appreciated the policy which was based on transparency, clear formula, uniformity, automatic price indexing and open hardship option, she added. - APP

ISLAMABAD: A top Pakistani energy official has revealed that Islamabad is expected to soon secure an extensive deal with Qatar for the import of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to help alleviate the country's energy crisis by fuelling its currently dormant power stations, a report published in The Wall Street Journal said. Pakistani officials said an agreement regarding the deal, which is estimated to be worth a whopping US \$22.5 billion, is anticipated by early March. "We are negotiating with Qatar and a few other sources," Petroleum Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi told The Wall Street Journal. "The deal will be very competitive and very beneficial for Pakistan."

The current government has failed to overcome the issue of power shortage although it has repeatedly pledged to end load-shedding before the end of its tenure in 2018. Pakistan is aiming to import up to three million tonnes of LNG per year, most of which is expected to come from Qatar once the deal is finalised. The deal with Qatar will supply LNG to Pakistan's energy sector for 15 years, according to officials. Pakistan will purchase the three million tonnes of LNG by paying about \$1.5bn annually, or \$22.5bn over 15 years although the fluctuation in global oil prices will also have an effect on the cost. The construction of a terminal by Engro corporation to import LNG at Karachi's Port Qasim is a strong indicator of the deal being finalised. Another terminal is expected to be built at Port Qasim as well for which bidding is underway.

Pakistan relies on its import of furnace oil and diesel to fuel its power stations although both fuels are relatively expensive and their usage does no significant good in the face of Pakistan's power scarcity problem. LNG is seen as a cheaper and more efficient alternative by Pakistani officials. "LNG is more efficient and cleaner for the environment than the alternatives," Abbasi said. "This is a major shift in our energy mix." The import of LNG will enable Pakistan to produce between seven and nine per cent more power, while the import is expected to yield cost savings worth an annual \$300mn.

The agreement will be Pakistan's biggest financial deal to date, analysts say. It will also mark the first time Pakistan will import natural gas as it relied on its own reserves in the past before they started depleting. Long-term plans to lay pipelines for importing gas from Iran and Turkmenistan are also being executed. "This would be a positive development for Pakistan's energy security. Qatar is a reliable and credible supplier," said Anthony Livanos, head of oil and gas consultancy Energy Stream CMG. "For Qatar, this will help it diversify its customer base. So it's a win-win situation for both countries." If the LNG import plans work out in Pakistan's favour, it would be able to generate 3,600 megawatts of electricity which is about a quarter of its current yield. Nicholas Browne, a senior manager at Wood Mackenzie, an oil and gas consultancy, commented that Qatar may have underlying strategic interests in securing this deal with Pakistan. As for buyer Pakistan, his analysis says it is a favourable time to be in the market for LNG, with regards to both price and availability.

25-bed Malir hospital vacated from works & services officials

The Statesman, February 19, 2015

KARACHI: The health authorities in Malir town have finally got a 25-bed hospital — the only large facility in the town — vacated from the works and services officials who had occupied it months ago, it emerged on Tuesday. "We have got possession of the hospital where we have started a vaccination centre before making all other hospital facilities available to the people of the neighbourhood," said Malir town health officer Dr Masood Solangi while speaking to Dawn. The hospital is located in the Malir Shade area, which had been planned to provide the town its first complete hospital to save them travelling long distance to approach other hospitals in the city. The hospital construction had started a few years ago and completed by the end of 2012, the officials said.

A senior Sindh health official said the authorities concerned after the building construction approved the sanctioned new expenditure (SNE), which included sanction of its staff, allocation of funds for their salaries and procurement of equipment, in January 2013. The officials did not disclose the exact number of staffers who were deputed at the hospital some two years ago but never showed up. An equivocal response was received from various authorities when they were asked if the doctors and paramedics had been paid salaries since their appointment.

In the same SNE, sources said, expensive equipment had been procured for the hospital. They had been placed in the building for some time before it being shifted to other running health facilities, the sources said. "As it happened in many projects," claimed an official, "in which expensive equipment had rusted and grown mouldy, some equipment decayed after which the authorities decided to provide it to other facilities to keep it running." However, officials were hesitant to explain as to why the building remained vacant and the facility failed to kick off that long. A few months ago the vacant hospital attracted some officials of the works and services department who occupied it to use it as their regional office.

The development finally drew the attention of some health officials who pursued the matter at all levels and the departments concerned to reclaim the building. The health officials said setting up of a vaccination centre in the building was a precautionary measure to stave off any possible encroachment in future, which would run solo until the 'missing staff' turned up and funds for the required equipment were got sanctioned again. The money, which had already been spent on the manpower and equipment, was expected to remain unaccounted for as it happened in many past projects, according to a source

Privatization process of GEPCO kicks off

Pakistan Today, February 19, 2015

GUJRANWALA : The government has kicked off the process of privatization of power distribution companies in the country following failed experience of privatization of the Karachi Electric Supply Company. The process of privatization of Gujranwala Electricity Power Company (GEPCO) has started in the first phase while the Privatization Commission (PC) has solicited technical and financial proposals from the private companies till March 9 in connection with privatization of GEPCO.

GEPCO is supplying electricity to 28,69,000 consumers presently in the areas of Gujranwala, Hafiz Abad, Sialkot, Narowal, Gujrat and Mandi Baha-ud-Din. The government and the ministry of water and power had assured the employees that no privatization process would be started without taking them into confidence but this process has been launched in haste against the will of employees as no steps had been taken by the government for allaying the concerns of the employees on the issue of massive retrenchment.

Giving his stance on privatization of GEPCO, Zafaryab, the spokesman of ministry of water and power told Online that the PC had started privatization process and the ministry of water and power had nothing to do with it. However, the ministry would initiate steps for removing the apprehensions of the employees, he added. When asked as to why the government was privatizing other companies after its failure in the experiment of privatization of K Electricity Supply Company, he said this was the federal government's decision and he had no comments to offer in this regard.

Nandipur power plant to be made fully functional by June 30

Pakistan Today, February 19, 2015

The senate standing committee on water and power was informed on Thursday that 425 MW Nandipur power project would be made fully operational before June 30. The committee which met here with Zahid Khan in the chair reviewed progress on Nandipur power plant, coal energy, Neelum Jehlum and Golan Gol transmission line projects. Nandipur Power Project Managing Director Muhammad Mehmood informed the committee that three units of the plant had already been commissioned and the plant was being run on test basis. Currently, the plant was generating 300 MW, he added.

The MD said that fourth unit of combine circle would be ready before June 30 and the plant would supply 425 MW electricity to the national grid system. He said earlier fuel treatment plant was not working but now it was fully functional. He said the Nandipur power plant was second most efficient thermal power plant after Guddu 747 MW. Secretary Water and Power Muhammad Younas Dagha told the senate panel that the government was working simultaneously on various projects including hydel, coal and wind. He informed that China was a sole country which finances coal-based power generation projects.

All projects would be completed in phases including Gaddani power projects and currently, the government has focused on short-term projects having 10,500 MW which would be completed in next 3-4 years. He said all the coal-based power projects were being set up by the private sector. To a query, the secretary told that 1320 MW Sahiwal power plant would be run on imported coal and would be ready by 2017. He said three coal-based power plants would be set up during the first phase in the country, adding that these would be run on local coal. One plant of 300 MW would be set up in Salt Range (Punjab) while two plants of 1,320 MW and 660 MW would be established in Thar Block-1 and Thar Block-2 respectively.

Younas Dagha said Thar Block-2 power project was on advance stage and would attain financial close by April-May while the 1320 MW Thar Block-1 power project would achieve financial close by end of this year. Chief Executive Officer of 969 MW Neelum Jehlum power project, Gen (R) Zubair, apprised the committee that overall 69.5 per cent work had already been completed and the project would be completed during its scheduled timing subject to availability of required funds.

Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Chairman Zafar Mehmood informed that Neelum Jehlum project was launched without the financial close. However, he said work on the project never remain halted despite various problems. He said the Chinese Exim Bank and Kuwait Fund indicated \$ 300 million and \$ 30 million respectively for the project. The committee expressed displeasure on awarding contract of Golan Gol transmission line to a sole bidder by violating PPRA rules and directed to cancel the contract and recover amount paid to the contractor.

Seven Labours In Muzaffargarh Died Due To Powerful Electric Shock

Pakistan Tribe, February 19, 2015

MUZAFFAR GARH – Seven labours, working in a well died on Thursday morning due to strong electric shock in 'Rohilanwali' area, village Mari Pur of Muzaffargarh, PakistanTribe received televised media reports. Labours were working in a well when during the fitting of water pipe, by mistake of one, the pipe touched with wire of electricity having current potential of 11 KV. Seven labours died on the spot whereas four sustained serious electric shock. The dead bodies of seven labors and serious were shifted to nearest hospital. Death of seven labors have created a sad scene in the area.

Gas supply to Punjab textile sector restored partially

Dawn, February 19, 2015

LAHORE: After more than a week, gas supply to the textile sector in Punjab was partially restored on Wednesday. "The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Ltd (SNGPL) has informed us that the Punjab textile industry will be getting gas supply from 6pm to 10pm from today," All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (Aptma) chairman SM Tanveer told newsmen at a press conference. "Gas supply to the entire textile industry was suspended on Feb 9 without any reason. The move came right after approval of the Textile Policy 2015 by the Economic Coordination Committee of the cabinet. We are demanding round-the-clock gas supply for the viability and affordability of the sector," said Tanveer. He added that the Punjab chapter of Aptma has called an emergency meeting to finalise future course of action. "The provision of gas is not only for Aptma members alone, every stakeholder in the whole textile chain of the province gets gas when it is supplied," said Tanveer. The textile sector has been getting 24 hours electricity supply but its per unit cost difference has been more than double, compared to regional rates, he commented. "The captive power plants generate electricity through gas at Rs8 per unit, whereas per unit cost of electricity in off peak

Malpractice, negligence influence irrigation water administration in Sindh: conference told

Business Recorder, February 19, 2015

hours is Rs12 and during peak hours up to Rs18.5 per unit. We want to operate our mills on gas during peak hours," said Tanveer. The Aptma chairman said that due to energy crisis, imported yarn, huge percentage of which was coming from India, was making inroads to Pakistan and is ruining the local industry.

Water experts, agriculturists, academia, media persons, civil society representatives and farmers have expressed that malpractice and negligence influence the governance of water in Sindh, causing a major crisis in agriculture output. Government officials, however, have dispelled this realisation while admitting there is ample room for improving water governance. While addressing a provincial water conference here on Wednesday, the experts emphasised upon the provincial government to come up with an inclusive provincial water policy so as to cope with upcoming water-related challenges. The conference was organised by Indus Consortium in collaboration with Oxfam Pakistan and Laar Humanitarian and Development Programme (LHDP) for presenting policy draft on Sindh irrigation water prepared through consultations with local communities, water experts, line departments and broader civil society. The event was attended by a large number of academicians, water experts, government officials, media persons, representatives of civil society and farmers' communities from Sindh and Punjab.

The conference enabled all stakeholders to give their inputs to design a set of recommendations for policymakers. The Policy brief presented in the conference recommends to the provincial government of Sindh that the public task of policy framing should be accomplished through the integration of actors' representation approach and adoption of actual policy frames. An actor representation approach emphasises the changing positions and distribution of actors in policy deliberation and decision-making. The second approach aims at the changing distribution of frames that actors attach to a policy and practice. Syed Zaheer Hyder Shah, provincial irrigation secretary, said that as far as the problems of tail-end farmer communities are concerned, which have been mentioned in many a speeches today, I assure you all that Sindh irrigation department is working day-in day-out to solve these problems under the visionary guidance of Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Qaim Ali Shah.

"We are fully aware that water challenges being faced by Sindh province are not ordinary. But our efforts to meet these challenges are equally concerted. We are relentlessly working to mitigate the water-related issues of tail-end farmer communities across Sindh," irrigation secretary added. He informed the audience that during last financial year, as many as 219 different development schemes were completed by Irrigation department at a total cost of Rs 57.6 billion. World renowned water expert Dr Shahid Ahmad said that Indus basin irrigation system is the largest irrigation system of the world currently having complex problems. "Reforms in departments of irrigation are only possible when there is ownership. The Institutional reforms promulgated with the enforcement of the provincial acts of Irrigation and Drainage Authorities could not be implemented fully as the pilot for the testing of institutional reforms were designed for failure as there was no ownership. How the Department of Irrigation will implement the reforms, when these are going to affect their bureaucracy and opportunities for rent seeking," Dr Shahid inquired.

Siddique Panhwar, president of an alliance district Badin's tail-end farmers, informed the participants that the tail-end areas of Akram canal suffer severely due to upstream theft of water by the influential landowners. "Landowners in head reaches are enjoying water duty of 20 cusecs for 1000 acres against allocated water duty of 14 cusecs," Panhwar complained. Similarly, Manzoor Hussain, president of tail-end farmers of Rangpur canal (district Muzaffargarh) said that the farmers at tail-end outlets are not aware of official warabandi. "In addition to that, farmers in our area were also not aware about their water rights. Indus Consortium's project 'improving water governance at local level', however, it has created a lot of awareness among the farmers," Manzoor acknowledged.

Khalid Saif, Oxfam Novib's programme manager water governance, said that the stakeholders should sit together to identify and solve the issues of water users, especially at tail ends. Small farmers should be empowered and taken onboard while developing any policies related to water and agriculture. Dr Fateh Marri, who heads the World Bank-funded Water Sector Improvement Project (WSIP), said Sindh used to get 90 percent agriculture products through irrigated agriculture, while only 10 percent of the products come from rain-fed, desert and mountainous areas. "Growers want to cultivate entire pieces of land and need more water. Similarly, urbanisation is increasing side by side with increase in population. This has caused decrease in the cultivable land and is affecting water quality and soil fertility, Marri added.

Abdul Majeed Nizamani, president Sindh Abadgar Board, said that Pakistan's agriculture and in turn economy has tremendous potential to grow, adding that self-sufficiency in the agriculture sector could only be achieved by framing farmer-friendly policies. "Goal of national development and prosperity can only be achieved by taking concrete steps for the uplift of agriculture sector and facilitating farmers, especially the poor ones," Nizamani said.

Indus Consortium's executive director Iqbal Hyder urged the Sindh government to give more consideration to the environment and conservation, and to safeguard of individuals' and tail end farmers' water rights. Otherwise, Iqbal suggested, by 2030 the situation may become irreversibly critical, and cause mass hunger and malnutrition. Mushtaq Gaadi, water expert and academician, said the empirical evidence suggests that water productivity of Punjab in comparison to other similar cases is very much low. "The way forward to cope with this crisis and get prepared for future risks, it is imperative adopting dialogic and democratic approach so that the representatives of all old and new actors should be able to participate, confronts and forge consensus," Gaadi suggested. Mustafa Ujjan, director Nara Canal Area Water Board, informed the participants that the government institutions have not appreciated and acknowledge public participation in policy framing and decision-making processes. "Alongside the irrigation, provincial water policies should also address other water-related aspects like water for ecology, drainage and environment," Ujjan emphasised.

Petrol prices expected to rise by Rs. 3.97 per liter from 1st March

Dunya News, February 19, 2015

LDA seals school with students inside

Geo Tv, February 19, 2015

CITY DIARY : New water supply paradigm for two localities

Daily Dawn, February 18, 2015

Many city areas without gas

Daily Dawn, February 18, 2015

Dr Bakhshal Lashari, head of Water Department in Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, said there is potential and expertise in educational institutions such as universities, and that expertise could be utilised. This could be an effective way to sensitise policymakers, he added.

ISLAMABAD – Price of petroleum on Thursday is expected to rise by Rs. 3.97 per liter from the 1st of March. The reason behind the rise is increase of petroleum prices in the international market along with increase in General Sales Tax (GST) on petroleum products. The ascent in prices of petroleum will halt the process of persistent cutbacks in petroleum prices being carried out for the past 7 months. According to the sources, except for high speed diesel, all petroleum prices are expected to increase. Petrol costs will rise from Rs. 70.29 per liter to Rs. 74.26 per liter. The cost for hi octane has been suggested to be increased by Rs. 4.5 per liter. The price will then elevate from Rs. 80.31 to Rs. 84.81 per liter. Kerosene cost will increase by Rs. 2.67 after which the price will increase from Rs. 61.44 to Rs. 64.11. Light diesel's price will climb from Rs. 57.94 to Rs. 60.55. The cost has been suggested to be increased by Rs. 2.61 per liter.

Apart from the price hike in all petroleum products, high speed diesel's price is expected to go down by Rs. 3 per litre. Its cost will decrease from Rs. 80.61 to Rs. 77.61. During the past 2 months, GST on petroleum products has been increased from 17% to 27%. According to the statistics, the incidence of cutbacks in petroleum prices had been going on from August 2014 which is expected to come to a stop after 7 months.

LAHORE: A private school located in the Iqbal Town area of the city was sealed by the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) over the non-payment of commercialisation fees. The LDA sealed the main and other gates of the private school on Thursday morning while students and teachers were still present inside. A large number of parents gathered at the school and by the afternoon the school's management broke the seals to let the students and teachers out. LDA officials said the school's management was sent three notices but failed to pay the commercialisation fees.

Lahore's two major residential areas — Johar Town in the south and Tajpura in the north — are set to be handed over to the Lahore Water and Sanitation Company (LWSC), a subsidiary of the Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa), in coming days. The LWSC is likely to be operational after completion of the ongoing staff recruitment process. Johar Town and Tajpura have initially been marked as to be given to the company. The firm under the assistance of Wasa engineering experts will launch four pilot projects worth Rs1.6 billion. Under the approved PC-1 of Rs1.6 billion, Wasa and LWSC will install water filtration plants, bottled water plants, metering of the entire water connections and construction of overhead reservoirs/tanks at various spots for ensuring uninterrupted water supply. Residents can avail themselves of bottled water service.

According to officials, the entire paperwork before launching these pilot projects has been completed. "The legal formalities required prior to launching of such projects have been completed. These include advertising and bidding of the required civil/mechanical works, pre-qualification and selection of the contractors etc," said Aftab Dhiloon, Wasa's deputy managing director. He said a couple of days back, he sent these pilot projects' brief, including PC-1 to Nespak (a leading consultancy firm) in order to have its expert opinion. The brief was sent to the consultant after the Lahore Development Authority director general sought to do so in order to execute these as per consultant's recommendations. "Except metering of water connections, other projects are new ones for Wasa. That's why we have sought opinion from the consultant," Mr Dhiloon explained.

He said the consultant had a mandate to even alter projects. He said since the consultant was likely to submit his input within the next seven days, the Wasa was likely to launch the project by March 15. "A final meeting to the effect has also be scheduled for Feb 21," he said, adding that the same schemes could also be executed in other parts of the city if the pilot projects proved successful. The Lahore administration has advised the departments concerned to avoid giving permission to parties, groups or individuals for holding political, social or religious gatherings/rallies at the parks, which are considered to be face of the city because of their historic identity and beautiful landscape.

Officials say the direction has been passed verbally — not in writing — after the Parks and Horticulture Authority raised concerns over holding of gatherings in its maintained parks — mainly the Minar-i-Pakistan. "Now you will see that there will be no permission for anyone to hold any activity there because the previous gatherings not only damaged the park but also wasted the energy, time and money spent by the PHA," an official said. He said the administration would now advise the parties to organise such gatherings at Nasser Bagh or other open places as shortlisted for such events.

Officials concerned of the town planning and other respective directorates have completed the paperwork required for the computerisation of the Johar Town scheme. According to officials, the town planning officials have prepared and handed over the entire data related to existing residential and commercial buildings, open places, roads/streets, building plans/drawings and completion certificates to the LDA's IT department. Similarly the directorates dealing with the property ownership, transfer and other affairs have almost completed the work and are set to hand over the data to the IT wing.

LAHORE: The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) faced a shortage of 21MMCFD of gas in the system after terrorists blew up a main pipeline of 24-inch diameter in Dera Bugti (Balochistan) on Tuesday, disrupting the supply to Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. There was little or no gas in Valencia Town, Wapda Town, Township, Green Town and some parts of Johar Town on Tuesday. According to the SNGPL managing director, the low gas pressure in Lahore was not due to pipeline blast but it was a result of replacement/maintenance of a 16-inch gas pipeline at a newly-constructed road. "Although the system is facing 21MMCFD gas shortage due to pipeline blast by terrorists in Dera Bugti on Tuesday, it has left no impact on gas supply to

Prohibiting teachers from duties can halt anti-polio campaign

The Statesman, February 18, 2015

Energy drinks trigger hyperactivity in school children

The Statesman, February 18, 2015

Texting frequently with thumbs may cause tendinitis

The Statesman, February 18, 2015

Sindh rejects Centre's move to levy tax on gas consumers

Daily Dawn, February 18, 2015

Non-availability of life-saving drug costs life of patients

Daily Dawn, February 18, 2015

domestic consumers," MD Arif Hameed told Dawn. He said the situation would be normal in the next two days.

ISLAMABAD: Ban imposed by the district administration on government teachers from serving the anti-polio campaign has brought the campaign to a standstill. It is feared that anti-polio campaign in Rawalpindi can be halted due to the shortage of staff. Government has called for volunteers in many areas to meet the requirement of campaign in terms of staff. According to the details, the staff shortage occurred when the district administration forbidden government teachers to pay duties in anti-polio campaign. Now to run the campaign, provincial government has to seek the help of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The campaign in the areas of Glass Factory, Sadiqabad, Shakrial, Bangash Colony, Ratta Amral, Fauji Colony, Dhoke Furman Ali and Naseerabad faced severe shortage of staff which pushed the government to call for more than 200 volunteers. – DNA

PESHAWAR: Middle-school children who consume heavily sweetened energy drinks are 66 percent more likely to be at risk for hyperactivity and inattention symptoms. A recent study pointed out it has implications for school success and lends support to existing recommendations to limit the amount of sweetened beverages school children drink. Khaleej Times reported on Wednesday. The authors also recommend that children avoid energy drinks, which in addition to high levels of sugar also often contain caffeine. "Our results support the American Academy of Paediatrics recommendation that parents should limit consumption of sweetened beverages and that children should not consume any energy drinks," said lead researcher Jeannette Ickovics from the Yale School of Public Health. The researchers found that boys were more likely to consume energy drinks than girls. – APP

PESHAWAR: Tendons in the hand can thicken abnormally and develop tendinitis in people who text frequently using their thumbs, says a study published online in the American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation. Even when texting with two thumbs, most people tend to put greater stress on the thumb of their dominant hand, it said. Repetitive joint movements are a common cause of chronic tendon injuries in large joints, such as the shoulder, but overuse injuries of the small tendons have received little attention, it said, Fox news reported. Researchers in Turkey recruited 149 people, ranging from 18 to 40 years old, for the study. About half the participants were ranked as frequent texters and they used a texting style that involved repeatedly flexing the joint closest to the tip of the thumb, called the interphalangeal joint. – APP

KARACHI: The Sindh Assembly through a unanimously passed resolution rejected the federal government's move to recover gas levy under the title of 'gas infrastructure development cess' from gas consumers in the country. Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) lawmaker Khairun Nisa Mughal, who tabled the resolution during the proceedings of the house on Monday, strongly criticised levy of the cess on consumers through an ordinance and opposed a 120-day extension in its validity arguing that it was negation of Article 172 of the Constitution. She demanded immediate withdrawal of the ordinance.

Speaking on her resolution before it was tabled, Ms Mughal said the federal government must not take such steps that were bound to undermine provinces' economy and overburden the masses. She observed that the federal government had neither succeeded in breaking the begging bowl nor did it manage to bring an end to power loadshedding in the country. It had even failed to disburse provinces' due share in the divisible pool, she added. The lawmaker reminded the Centre that under the 18th constitutional amendment, recovery of cess was the responsibility of provinces, and argued that by issuing the ordinance, the federal government had violated the constitution.

LAHORE: An elderly poor patient, who was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital a few weeks back for the treatment of life-threatening fungal infection, died late on Sunday night shortly after he developed complications due to 'non-availability' of a drug in the facility's stock. He was diagnosed with mucormycosis, a rare infection which, according to the medics, can spread throughout the body if not treated timely.

The life-saving injection, amphotericin B, was said to be the only remedy to stop the infection from spreading to other parts of the body of patients. It was not the only case of the alleged medical neglect in public sector hospitals of the provincial capital, many similar complaints are going unchecked due to the absence of clinical audit system and accountability mechanism. Since a majority of poor patients are admitted to government hospitals, most of them do not pursue medical negligence cases due to technicalities involved in probing the matter and for lack of knowledge.

The amphotericin drug was prescribed more than six times in the treatment notes by doctors during his one-month stay at the hospital, but the management failed to ensure its provision timely. Consequently, the oral fungus, which was treatable in the early stage, progressed to some other critical body organs of the patient and ultimately proved fatal, a doctor who requested not to be named told this reporter. He said the infection might have spread throughout the body of the patient due to delay in applying anti-fungus therapy taking the disease to non-reversible position. He, however, said the provision of medicines was not the job of doctors treating patients.

Mohammad Sharif, 65, was under treatment at the Medical Unit-I of the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, which was headed by Fatima Jinnah Medical College Principal Prof Dr Fakhra Imam. Patient's son Shahzad held the doctors responsible for the death of his father, alleging that they did not take the disease serious in early stages. He further alleged that under-training doctors had been treating his father ever since he was hospitalised on Jan 15. The treatment notes pertaining to the elderly patient categorically mentioned three times that 'the amphotericin B injection is not available'. After completing work up, including diagnostic investigations, a medical officer had strongly recommended anti-fungal drug to stop its spread from mouth to other body organs. The MO had also written twice (first time on Jan 17 and then on 23) on the treatment notes opinion from ENT

Turkey to establish Imam Hatip School in Pakistan

Daily Times, February 18, 2015

Sindh irrigated agriculture project being launched with World Bank assistance

Business Recorder, February 18, 2015

consultants for the elderly patient, but the request was rejected for some unknown reasons.

The doctor later shared in the notes that the ENT department had refused to evaluate the patient but did not mention the reason. The documents further revealed difference of opinion of doctors of the same department about the patient's state of health. A doctor visited the patient on Feb 2 and wrote on the file 'the patient is stable and considered to be discharged tomorrow'. Earlier, another doctor examined the patient (on Feb 1) and mentioned his health condition 'static' recommending MRI test. However, the documents showed no reason as to why his condition deteriorated all of a sudden. Finding the infection progressing and getting out of control some two weeks before patient's death, the doctors extensively recommended the drug and also shared status of its non-availability.

The doctors wrote on the treatment notes on Feb 4 (start anti-fungal), on Feb 6 (arrange amphotericin), on Feb 7 (amphotericin not available), on Feb 8 (uncontrolled BSL, injection amphotericin is not available), on Feb 9 (amphotericin not available, BSL is still uncontrolled), and the same day it was again mentioned on the notes that the Zakat form has been given to the patient's attendant for arranging the drug. The very next day (on Feb 10), an on-duty doctor categorically wrote that the patient's condition was deteriorating and also shared that 'the injection amphotericin will be arranged in four days. (The patient died after four days of this prescription). Shahzad lamented that during a month-long treatment process of his father, he found the doctors inhuman towards patients and their attendants. "I am witness to the death of three more patients at the same unit and I am sure these patients had also died due to negligence of doctors," he claimed demanding a probe into the deaths to bring facts to the public.

AIMC Prof Fakhar Imam did not respond to calls and text messages. Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Waqar Nabi Bajwa said though it was very difficult to manage all kinds of medicines at state-run hospitals, his teaching institute was at the top among other health facilities in providing life-saving drugs to every patient. He said there was a laid-down system to provide 'not available' (NA) drugs to patients at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. "If a drug was not available then it was the responsibility of doctors treating patients to convey to the duty staff nurse to mention it on the Local Purchase (LP) register," Dr Waqar said adding that hospital also provided alternate or substitute for the NA drugs. He said it was not easy to establish the cause of death of a patient without investigation. He, however, said the hospital management was ready to conduct an internal inquiry into the death if relatives of the deceased patient approached for the purpose.

ISLAMABAD – Pakistan and Turkey on Wednesday agreed to establish International Imam-Hatip School in Islamabad for imparting religious, worldly education on modern lines. A three-member Turkish delegation on Wednesday met with Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf and agreed to establish Hatip schools replicating Imam-Hatim Schools System, Turkey as a pilot project. More Schools would be established across Pakistan after the success of the project. Efforts have already been started for hiring building for the establishing first Imam-Hatip school in the federal capital. The delegation also included Turkish Ambassador Sadik Babur Girgin and head of Religious Affairs, Ministry of National Education Nazim Zinnaz. The delegation briefed the minister about the workings of Imam-Hatip Schools System in Turkey.

The minister was informed that the schools were playing a major role in improving education ratio in rural areas of Turkey. As many as 16.5 million students were being imparted education in Hatip schools. The schools were imparting sixty per cent worldly and 40 per cent religious education. The schools were perfect balance or blend among the Islamic teachings and other subjects as well like biology, chemistry, physics, technology, politics, journalism. The 22 Pakistani students are getting education in Hatim Schools System in Turkey. Schools are headed by the university graduate. Hatim schools are working in Denmark, Belgium and Austria. Preparations have completed to establish Hatip Schools in Kyrgyzstan. The minister said that as many as, three religious schools are working in Pakistan under the Madaris Education Board, adding that Pakistan wants to further improve the schools by replicating the model of Imam-Hatip Schools System. The minister said that Turkey extended all possible help in Pakistan in health and education sector. He said that in Pakistan children were being imparted education under various curricula.

Sindh Irrigated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Project (SIAPEP) at an estimated cost of Rs 31.32 billion would be launched with the assistance of World Bank (WB) to improve agricultural productivity among small and medium size farmers. According to documents available with Business Recorder, out of total cost, 62 percent (Rs 20.45 billion) will be contributed by World Bank (International Development Association) while 19 percent (Rs 12.55 billion) would be borne by the government of Sindh and 19 percent by beneficiaries. The project would be in all districts of Sindh.

The project's objective would be achieved by: (i) lining of watercourses up to 30 percent of the total length, (ii) Provision of flood shelters to farming community having a capacity to provide shelter to 121,000 and 129,000 farm animals, (iii) introduction/expansion of the High Efficiency Irrigation System (HEIS) for growing high value crops, around 2600 households will be provided with HEISs, 5,000 female headed households and 5,000 landless farmers will benefit from HEIS kits for kitchen gardening, (iv) Training of farmers in improved agricultural practices including integrated pest management, irrigation and agronomy and (v) Provision of laser land levelling and deep ripping equipment.

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) has approved the project and referred it to Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) for final approval. Agriculture has traditionally been a source of economic growth in Pakistan. It accounts for approximately 22 percent to the country's GDP and provides employment to 65 percent population and offers over 70 percent of export earnings. It also contributes to industrial base of the country and produces 90

Solar to power thousands of off-grid homes in north Pakistan: Report

The Economic Times, February 18, 2015

Gas load management: PML-N government plan compares favourably with PPP govt's

Business Recorder, February 18, 2015

percent of Pakistan's food and fiber requirements.

The project is aimed at reduction of water demand through three types of intervention i.e. watercourse improvement, improved field irrigation technologies coupled with precision land levelling and adoption of HEIS and furrow irrigation. The project will improve infrastructure i.e. lining of about 5,000 watercourses, water storage tanks for areas located at the tail end of canal, Farmers Flood Shelter/Community Center buildings. It would also install High Efficiency Irrigation System-HEIS, such as Drip, Bubbler and sprinklers etc. The project would improve agricultural practices and will cover precision land levelling, deep ripping, demonstration assistance in improved and modern technologies and methods, establishment/expansion of farmer's information kiosks, training of trainers and farmer's input application and crop diversification, pest management policy, regulations, gap analysis, residual testing and capacity building of department. Project management, technical assistance, studies, monitoring & evaluation will support the project management, construction supervision and training of staff. The project is related to the issue of water scarcity, seepage losses in irrigation system, lack of private sector participation, deteriorating institutional capacities of key water sector institutions and increased poverty in backward irrigated areas.

PESHAWAR: Pakistan's northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province plans to supply solar power to 5,800 off-grid households in 200 villages, promoting clean energy amid conventional electricity shortages. The provincial government has earmarked 400 million rupees (\$3.94 million) for the nine-month solar project, which will equip up to 29 households in each village. The scheme is part of the Green Growth Initiative launched a year ago in Peshawar by former international cricket star Imran Khan, who is chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, which governs the province. The initiative aims to boost economic development in a way that uses natural resources sustainably, by increasing uptake of clean energy and forest cover, for example.

The provincial government plans to hook up at least 10 percent of the 40 percent of the province that is off-grid in the next three years with solar power and small-scale hydroelectric plants, said Atif Khan, provincial minister for education, energy and power. It is already setting up micro-hydro plants - which harness running water and do not require dams - in the mountainous north of the province, while off-grid households in the south will be provided with solar energy. The government will pay 90 percent of the cost of the solar equipment, with the rest shouldered by households. Families will receive a 200-watt solar panel, two batteries and other accessories to run a ceiling fan, a pedestal fan, three LED lights, and two mobile phone charging slots.

NO MORE "BEGGING"

In total, the project will generate 1.2 megawatts (MW), in the first stage of a wider plan to provide all off-grid households in southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with solar energy. Across the province, total demand for electricity in grid-connected areas is 2,500 MW, but they receive only 1,600 MW from the national grid run from Islamabad, the country's political centre. "We will exploit renewable energy resources and produce our own electricity, after which we will not need to beg from the centre," said Imran Khan. He told a workers' convention in Islamabad last month he would pay full attention to resolving Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's energy crisis, besides bringing significant improvements in education and health. According to the World Bank, some 44 percent of households in Pakistan are not connected to the grid. More than 80 percent are in rural areas, where a World Bank survey found that 30 to 45 percent of households use kerosene as a primary or secondary source of lighting. Some use candles, due to the high cost of kerosene. Pakistan faces a year-round electricity shortfall which rises to around 8,000 MW in the summer. The country's rural areas suffer blackouts of more than 14 hours a day while urban areas experience up to 10 hours of daily power cuts.

The present government's gas load management plan compares favourably with Pakistan People's Party (PPP)-led government's as during the ongoing winter gas is being supplied to all the important segments of the economy, excluding CNG outlets. After getting the European Union's GSP plus status, continuing supply of gas to the textile industry was necessary to achieve export targets, while to attain food self sufficiency (in wheat and other important crops) gas supply to fertilizer plants was also assured. "Keeping in view the significance of these sectors the government managed to continue gas supply to these sectors to keep economic growth of the country on track," a senior official of the Petroleum Ministry said. According to officials of the Commerce Ministry, as a result of GSP-Plus status, Pakistan's exports to the EU have increased by \$1.08 billion during January-October 2014 as compared to the same period of 2013. Exports to the EU in January-October 2014 touched \$ 6.38 billion, up by over 20% from \$ 5.3 billion in the corresponding period in 2013, they added.

"If we are comparing the implementation of gas load management plan of the current government with the former's, we can say present government has more effectively dealt with the shortage. During the PPP era industrialists as well as factory workers in Punjab protested against prolonged gas load shedding, which forced thousands of industries to shut down or move to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, but now situation has improved," Chairman All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA), S M Tanveer said. However, he said that the government from February 9, 2015 has cut the gas supply to industry, which will compromise the export targets of the country. He said that Pakistan's exports of readymade garments during the past one year registered a significant increase, while cloth exports have reduced by almost 50 percent. The official of Petroleum Ministry revealed that from December 2011 to February 2013 gas supply to most of the fertilizer plants (excluding the network of Mari Petroleum Company) remained suspended and as a result the country was forced to import huge quantity of the commodity. In March 2013, the ministry allocated 130 Million Cubic Feet per Day (MMCFD) to fertilizer plants.

Current gas load management plans were formulated by the PPP government on January 28, 2013, according to which, it was decided that first priority will be given to the domestic and commercial sectors, while power and general industries sectors will be accorded second and third

Substandard OLTC tap changers: suppliers receive drubbing from NTDC

Business Recorder, February 18, 2015

priority, respectively. The cement sector is placed fourth on the priority list and CNG was accorded the last priority. After coming into power, the current set-up reduced the price of Liquefied Natural Gas (LPG), a massive reduction in international petrol prices during the past eight months enabled the government to keep supplying gas to industries by diverting it from some of the power plants and operating the power plants on furnace oil. In addition, the lower cost of petrol internationally also allowed the government to close down CNG stations in Punjab.

National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) Tuesday drubbed the suppliers of substandard OLTC tap changers and sought help from Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) and Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) to formulate a comprehensive equipment procurement policy. This is the crux of first-ever public hearing held by the Competition Commission of Pakistan aimed at having the viewpoints of different stakeholders for drafting criteria/policy for public procurement of power sector equipment.

The NTDC officials gave a detailed response to the queries of the participants in the public hearing on procurement of power equipment held at the CCP here. The matter was heard by the entire Commission comprising Vadiya Khalil, Chairperson, Dr Joseph Wilson, Member Competition Policy and Research, Mueen Batlay, Member Mergers and Acquisitions, Dr Shahzad Ansar, Member OFT and Advocacy, and Ikram ul Haque Qureshi, Member Legal and Cartels & Trade Abuses. Sohail Bajwa of NTDC informed the public hearing that the NTDC is in favour of open competition, but it cannot totally ignore the quality of the equipment. "As far as new entrants are concerned, should we put in place zero-experience clause just to entertain new entrants," he questioned. He said that NTDC honours the efforts of the CCP and stood shoulder to shoulder with it for free and transparent competition in public procurement, but at the same time NTDC can't sacrifice quality.

"The future of Pakistan does not depend on the savings of few dollars. It's obligation of every loyal citizen to put his/her effort to ensure a sustainable and robust system including power sector infrastructure. A company which itself states in every catalogue of its products that these are not suitable for environment having ambient temperature of more than 40 degree centigrade then how can loyal Pakistani buy that product for power sector, which is already in quagmire.

He was of the view that NTDC has to safeguard the future of our coming generation. The issue of OLTC is totally technical and it is neither a commercial nor a legal issue. Unfortunately a few selfish and self cantered people have deliberately made the issue commercial and an anti-competitive problem just to fulfil their own motives. At present the qualification criteria of public sector is the most weakest and lowest in the region, even Afghanistan is buying more quality products as compared to Pakistan. We have to take things into consideration in international perspective. He strongly favoured procurement procedures adopted by US Aid projects in Pakistan. The NTDC needs to ensure quality and stability of the public procurement system in the country.

He said that the matter of tap changers is in the court. A technical committee constituted on the directions of the court has submitted its report on equalisation. Public hearing was focused only on procurement of OLTC tap changers as a Chinese company is striving hard to get contract for unqualified OLTC. Local agents and lawyers of Chinese company pleaded their case. However, they were confronted by various participants on the plea that the company is black listed by Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda), National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) and Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (Fesco). Interveners also provided relevant documents to the CCP for consideration prior to take final decision. The CCP was also apprised that the matter is sub judice in Lahore high court (LHC).

Interveners informed the public hearing panel that on the instructions of LHC a detailed report was prepared after discussion with Huaming and it was maintained that Chinese OLTC is not equivalent to German and European OLTC. Interveners argued that unqualified equipment should not be treated as per qualified tap changers. The CCP was requested to facilitate in formulation of qualification criteria as 'tap changers' are key part of the transformers.

An official of Ministry of Water and Power strongly rejected allegations that State Minister for Water and Power has issued any letter to the DISCOs for procurement of equipment from any specific company. All DISCOS are working independently in procurement of products. The issue is related to an individual, who is suspended and inquiry is underway whereas his removal from services is also expected. Advocate Badar Uddin Chaudhry was of the view that the blacklisted companies should be barred from participating in public hearing at the CCP. On the conclusion of the hearing, Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) Chairperson Vadiya Khalil will issue an order in the next few days to give recommendations to promote competition in public procurement of power sector equipment taking into account viewpoint of all stakeholders. Vadiya Khalil stated that the commission has heard the viewpoint of all participants and will issue an order in next few days.

CCP Member Mueen Batlay said that the focus of the Commission is to provide level playing field for the procurement of power sector equipment. It is very a difficult task to change the current procurement procedures in any country. Some good practices needs to be continued whereas some requires modifications. However, the CCP will try its level best to recommend best policy on public procurement. Dr Shahzad Ansar, Member OFT and Advocacy said that when Pakistan signed as member of World Trade Organisation (WTO) one of the major clauses was related to standards and equalisation. There is a need to implement the globally accepted standards.

To increase its efficacy of detecting and prosecuting collusive bidding, the CCP is committed to building its internal capacity by training its officers to develop the requisite skill-set needed to address competition concerns in public procurement. Some other proposed steps include: developing a partnership with PPRA, public sector organisations, and other law enforcement agencies to collectively tackle collusive bidding; training stakeholders in better detection and

Artificial water shortage in Badin giving birth to Thar-like situation

Pakistan Today, February 17, 2015

prevention practices; and establishing an online procurement database with PPRA and public procurement agencies to curb bid rigging, he added.

Ikram ul Haque Qureshi, Member, Legal and Cartels & Trade Abuses stated that the commission is working on war footing to expedite disposal of pending cases at the level of courts. CCP has not sought even a single adjournment in cases at the level of High Courts. The CCP is filing early hearing of applications in courts and pursuing the cases through appeals and renewals. When CCP Member, Legal asked the authorities whether there is any relation between the WAPDA and DISCOs on the issue of bidding for procurement of power equipment, the concerned officials said that WAPDA and DISCOs are different and independent entities.

BADIN: The growers of the tail-end area of district Badin, fed by various branches of AkramCanal, have expressed deep concern over non-provision of water to their landlords and alleged that a nexus of corrupt irrigation officials and big landlords is behind the continuous shortage of water in the tail-end area. Speaking to journalists at the Karachi Press Club Tuesday, the president of Badin alliance of tail-end farmers, Siddique Panhwar demanded of the Sindh chief minister and officials of irrigation department to immediately intervene and ensure supply of water to tail-end farmers of the province. He also warned the authority that further negligence could create a Thar-like human tragedy in different parts of the province.

The alliance leaders alleged that thousands of acres of land had been rendered barren in the area due to water scarcity. They demanded that the irrigation secretary and the SIDA chairman should take notice of matter and ensure supply of water in all distributaries of AkramCanal. They alleged that irrigation officials were responsible for this artificial water shortage. Haji Abuzar said it had been long time since any de-silting was carried out on Ali Wah distributory of AkramCanal. He said influential landlords in connivance with irrigation officials had installed pipes and suction machines to steal their water.

Mohammad Bachal said it had been many months that small farmers of union councils had seen water in their watercourses. He accused the officials of selling their share of water to landlords and depriving tail-end growers of their due share. Mai Bhagee, woman representatives of the alliance, regretted that even drinking water was not available in different villages of the area, causing unimaginable problems for women and children in particular. The alliance appealed to provincial government of Sindh to ensure proper supply of water to the channels. They said tail-end growers of Sindh and Punjab are main contributors to the national food basket and they should be saved from huge losses.

Sialkot small industries suffer due to gas, power load shedding

Customs Today, February 17, 2015

SIALKOT: The prolonged gas and power loadshedding has crippled the small industries in Sialkot, Wazirabad, Gujrat and Daska, as the government has allegedly failed to heal the wounds of the small traders and industrialists. Expressing grave concern over this nasty and critical situation, Chairman All Pakistan Cutlery Association Muhamamd Bilal Bhutta said that the small industries were crippling and we were giving the SOS calls to the government to save these industries from collapsing. He said that the unending energy crisis, wrong and ineffective policies of the government were the main cause behind this collapse.

He said that the government's permission of direct imports of the ready products of all the kinds was also leaving bad impacts on the small industries in Sialkot, Wazirabad, Daska and Gujrat as the cost of production of the products of the light engineering sector has also increased. The situation was also resulting into the termination of the thousands of the daily waged labourers and industrial workers. All Pakistan Cutlery Association has urged the government to ensure the early end of the load shedding of electricity and gas to save these small industries from collapsing. The industries can be saved by providing the interest-free soft business loans, skills development training, early provision of raw material on cheaper rates, special subsidy on export and up to 40 percent increase on import duties.

NEPRA announces reduction in electricity price by Rs. 3.24 per unit

Dunya News, February 17, 2015

ISLAMABAD— The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday announced reduction in electricity price by Rs. 3.24. The price reduction was announced in view of fuel adjustment charges of December 2014. The price reduction will give relief to users by Rs. 21 billion for bills generated in March. According to the details, the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) had submitted an application in the previous month for reduction in electricity prices after petroleum prices were cut down. NEPRA officials approved the price reduction of electricity after an elongated period of consultation. This relief given on monthly basis in view of fuel adjustment has been the biggest from the past 1 year.

Education Sector Plan 2014-18 for Islamabad launched

Pakistan Today, February 17, 2015

Capital Administration and Development Division (CA&DD) has launched the Education Sector Plan (ESP) for Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). The ICT ESP is the result of a two-year long analytical process and concerted efforts of the CA&DD with the technical assistance of National Basic Education Policy Programme (NBEPP), funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development (BMZ) and being implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

The plan has been developed in consultations with all the relevant stakeholders including both external and internal partners from the education community such as Federal Directorate of Education, private sector, National Education Assessment System, etc. It is founded on the policy principles enshrined in the National Education Policy 2009 and the obligations stipulated in the 18th Constitutional Amendment as well as the then prime minister's directive to make Islamabad a model education city. The ESP focuses on the provision of basic education to children of age 5-16 in Islamabad and proposes some interventions for the institutionalization of early childhood education in ICT. Areas such as non-formal education, special education and dealing with education in emergencies are also explained briefly. Launching ceremony for the ESP was held on Monday, where a large number of people from different walks of life participated. Minister of State for CA&DD, Barrister Usman Ibrahim, while launching the ICTESP, lauded the German development support for developing the ESP. He stressed that the work has just begun and the

Pak ranked second with most out-of school children

Pakistan Today, February 17, 2015

ESP will lay the platform which is needed to plan and implement things strategically. He invited everyone to join hands to implement the ESP in its true spirit to make ICT a role model for the rest of the country.

CA&DD Secretary Khalid Hanif, in his opening remarks, stressed the need for improvement in imparting quality education. He cited that the ESP is focused for widened and equitable access to education for all school age children and youth in ICT, irrespective of their gender, cast, religion, race, social status, physical and mental ability. It also envisages for Improved quality of education to cater to the total range of social and economic needs of the individual and society as a whole and Former CA&DD Deputy Educational Adviser Dr Syed Tajammal Hussain Shah gave a detailed presentation on the ESP with a focus on key strategic interventions outlined in the ESP around access, quality and governance. Budget requirements to implement the ESP along with other challenges were also identified in-depth.

Pakistan spends around two per cent of its GDP on education and is trailing behind rest of the South Asian countries. Pakistan's ranking on various education indicators does not present a very encouraging scenario and about one in every ten children who are out of primary school worldwide lives in Pakistan, placing the country second in the global ranking of out-of school children. In absolute numbers, nearly 19.2 million children are out-of-school. The issue of access becomes even more acute as the level of education rises. The National Education Policy 2009, identifying major deficiencies and gaps in current system and outlining an ambitious and holistic strategy, envisages a dedication of 7 percent of GDP to education till 2015. However, in 2015, the on ground situation contradicts the envisage allocation target.

Concurrently, another important challenge in this regard is inadequate resources allocations under different budget lines, said the experts on a launch of report by "Institute of Social and Policy Science" regarding Public Financing of Education in Pakistan. The report further explored that after the incorporation of Article 25-A under the 18th Amendment Act 2010, the state (federal and provincial governments) has to ensure of free and compulsory education to all children of the age five to 16 years. Nonetheless after the passage of more than four years of the constitutional amendment, the financial resources allocated at the federal and provincial level are scant and insufficient to address issues like bringing out-of-school children into the education system and then more importantly retaining them by providing a facilitated education environment.

Alif Ailaan Campaign Director Mosharaf Zaidi said although fundamental, the challenge face by Pakistan is not only limited to the lack of budget for education sector but is significantly hooked up with the way public financing is planned, managed and monitored. However, he said that an analysis of previous federal and provincial education budgets reveals some encouraging facts. It's heartening to see a visible increase in education budgets for all the provinces in 2014-15, with Baluchistan registering an increase of 17 percent, followed by Punjab with 12 percent, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 11 percent and Sindh with an increased allocation of 10 percent compared with previous year's budgets. He further said that, despite the improvements in allocations and expenditures in the education budgets, there is a need for improved utilization of the allocated budgets. Because the areas like access and quality of education, showing a sharp disconnect between the two

Some of the considerable issues in this context include inadequate engagement of the legislature in the budget making process, insufficient allocations compared with the actual needs, untimely fiscal flow, corruption, huge administrative expenditure, lack of transparency etc. State Minister for Education Baleegh Rehman said at the occasion that federal government with collaboration of provincial governments is doing its utmost efforts to establish a dedicated and informed link between education data, policy provisions and timely budgetary allocations to educational institutions. He stressed that it was a positive sign the educational system of Pakistan was moving toward improvement and today more 70 per cent child age between 5 to 9 were enrolled in schools as well as the all of provincial and federal governments were doing well to provide basic facilities to all school like drinking water and toilets. He said that we will very soon be able to elevate the status of Pakistan in education sectors with the help of NGOs and International donor's agencies.

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UN Envoy Brown proposes security plan for Pakistani schools: report

Pakistan Today, February 17, 2015

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Gordon Brown, the United Nations Envoy for Global Education, has proposed a security plan for Pakistani schools that includes improved safety measures, reported BBC. Brown, a former British premier, held talks with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and discussed measures that could be adopted to make schools safer following the December 16 Peshawar school massacre where Taliban gunmen killed more than 150 students and teachers. Brown, who said that he wants to help schools 'stand up to terrorist violence, made the proposal following an agreement with PM Nawaz. The proposal includes safety measures such as armed guards, security fences, emergency communication, and metal detectors. The plan proposed by Brown has been designed by the education charity World at School which is focusing on the best safety practices being used in parts of Pakistan or conflict zones in other countries. The plan calls for forming peace zones around schools in negotiation with the local community and religious leaders and a systematic approach to safety such as security checkpoints, boundary walls and razor wire.

The plan also called for strategic placement of armed guards on vantage points like rooftops and suggests school buses to be checked daily for explosive devices. If schools are attacked, there must be a way of quickly calling for assistance and alerting other schools, it adds. The proposed measures include bringing smaller schools in isolated areas closer or being moved to areas where better security can be provided. Brown also called upon the international community to contribute to the security plan for schools to "reassure parents and pupils that everything is being done to counter extremist threats". PM Nawaz's spokesperson has "reiterated his personal commitment" to working with Brown to improve the security of children in school.

OPDs shut to protest attack on doctor

Daily Dawn, February 17, 2015

LAHORE: Young doctors observed a complete strike at the outpatient departments (OPD) of government hospitals all over the province to condemn the murder assault on their senior colleague in Islamabad. They showed solidarity with the family of doctor Prof Shahid Nawaz by denying treatment to thousands of patients who returned disappointed from the state-run hospitals where no alternate arrangements were made by their management. The Young Doctors Association, Punjab, had announced a strike at OPDs of all government hospitals in Punjab, including tertiary care and district headquarters hospitals (DHQs), in the wake of murder attacks on their senior colleagues. The OPDs of all teaching hospitals of the provincial capital were closed down in the morning. Many patients tried to get treatment at the accident and emergency units of hospitals, but the doctors attended only serious cases.

The armed attacks on medics in Islamabad and other parts of Punjab have sent a wave of anger among the medical community. In response to the YDA's call, the young doctors withdrew their services from OPDs on Monday demanding immediate arrests of culprits behind the attacks on their senior colleagues. The General Cadre Doctors Association (GCDA) also showed its strong concern in a meeting held on Monday and demanded of the government to increase security for doctors in all cadres to counter such life-threatening assaults. "The insecurity can result in deterioration of doctors' commitment to the patients", the GCDA warned in a statement issued to the media.

Man opens fire on polio workers in Swat

Daily Dawn, February 17, 2015

MINGORA: A man opened fire when polio workers came to his house in Qambar town of Swat valley on Monday to vaccinate his child. However, the polio workers remained unhurt. The four-day anti-polio drive under the Sehat Ka Ittehad programme kicked off on Monday across the province. Swat deputy commissioner Mahmood Aslam Wazir confirmed the firing incident, saying the suspect identified as Bacha Zada of Qambar village refused to get his child vaccinated and opened fire on polio workers. However, the polio workers were safe and that the man had been arrested and was under interrogation. He said the polio workers were performing their duties under strict security cover. Mr Wazir said that the elements refusing to administer polio drops to their children would be arrested and dealt with sternly. He said the district administration would not spare any effort to make the ongoing anti-polio drive a success. Meanwhile, police said that the suspect after exchange of hot words with the polio workers opened fire in the air to force them to flee the area.

On the other hand, sources said that the deputy commissioner had been informed that so far ten people in the district had refused to administer polio vaccine to their children. Talking to mediapersons, Dr Rahamt Elahi, in-charge of vaccination drive, said that over 0.4 million children under five years of age in 65 union councils of the district would be vaccinated during the drive. He said that 1,229 teams, including 43 transit and 90 fixed, had been tasked with reaching every

No check on sale of unhygienic meat

The Statesman, February 17, 2015

nook and corner of the district to vaccinate the targeted children at homes, bus stands and checkpoints. Meanwhile, several alleged outlaws, including Afghans, have been arrested in the ongoing search operation in Malakand division. According to a statement issued from the DIG office, 124 suspected persons, including six illegally staying Afghan nationals, were arrested during search operation in several districts of Malakand division during the past week. The police claimed that a big cache of explosives, weapons and drugs were also recovered from them.

ISLAMABAD: The authorities concerned have yet to take firm action against butchers who are selling uncovered and unhygienic meat in the city as the practice is going on unchecked. Though local administration has fixed prices of different commodities in the markets, but there exists no solid mechanism to check quality of meat and its retail prices at the shops, the consumers said this while talking to APP. They alleged that most of the butchers injected water into the veins of the slaughtered animals to increase their weight. The butchers are selling unhygienic meat in almost all the congested particularly low income group areas of the town while people are suffering from several fatal diseases, especially blood pressure and hepatitis. According to reports most of the butchers slaughtered unhealthy animals and sold wet mutton and beef to increase the weight of the meat.

Medical experts said the unabated sale and use of the wet meat was spreading hepatitis and other fatal diseases among the people. The local residents further said the butchers were often found slaughtering the animals in their houses or around their shops instead of slaughtering them in the slaughterhouses which is an illegal practice and must be stopped. The hygiene conditions at the butcher shops are very poor but the authorities concerned seem least interested to take action against the violators in accordance with the law", said Amjad, a government servant. A resident of Peoples Colony in Rawalpindi Cantonment Area said that the butchers' shops were mostly located at the main roads and the meat remained hanging outside the shops throughout the day and got contaminated with numerous germs and became a health hazard for the citizens.

The citizens said that a number of butchers do not go to the slaughter house because influential ones slaughtered the animals in their houses without fulfilling the legal and hygienic requirements. It is important to mention here that just a few butchers are fined, challaned and booked under campaigns launched to check quality of meat. The citizens called upon the administration and health authorities to take strict action against the violators of the rules. There are around 2,000 meat shops in the city and almost all butchers do not have proper arrangements for covering meat making it unfit for human consumption. - APP

Pilgrims to go through medical check-up before departure

The Statesman, February 17, 2015

LAHORE: People suffering from any contagious disease and pregnant women will not be eligible for Haj travelling. According to a statement issued by the Pakistan Haj and Umrah service on Sunday, in the application form of intended Haj pilgrim medicines under permanent use of the pilgrim would be mentioned whereas blood group and medicine which could cause allergy will also be mentioned according to Haj policy. Medical certificate in the application form should have to be certified by a doctor of the government, semi-government, army, independent government institutions or cooperation. A medical certificate certified by private doctor would not be acceptable. Pilgrims would also go through medical check up in Haji camps before departure. - APP

Anti-polio drive to vaccinate around 280,000 children begins

The Statesman, February 17, 2015

DI KHAN: The three-day anti-polio campaign was kicked off here Monday to administering oral polio vaccine to around 280,000 children aged upto five years, across the district. "Elaborate arrangements have been made to prevent children from the crippling disease of polio through administration of anti polio drops," District Health Officer(DHO) Dr Umar Shah told media. He said over 760 teams had been constituted including 668 mobile and 54 fixed and 38 transit teams to give polio drops to children at houses or other places including bus terminals, exit and entry points and markets.

He said the district was divided in union councils, to be visited by trained teams to vaccinate the targeted population of children in those areas. As part of efforts to reach out to maximum children, the official said, the door-to-door campaign was widely publicized to create awareness among the parents regarding the polio vaccination. However, he was of the view it was not a job of a single individual but all of us should shoulder responsibility to make the campaign successful by ensuring that no single child missed the vaccination," the official observed. He said the government and its partners in the campaign were struggling hard to make all cities including Dera Ismail Khan polio-free and during the last eight years no polio case had been found, speaking high volumes of sincere efforts being put up by the administration.

However, he was of the view that general public and local communities' support was a must to achieve the objective. He informed that follow up activities were also carried out to provide the polio drops to the left out children and create awareness among parents regarding polio drops. He also said special arrangements had been made with a focus to administer anti-polio drops to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of South and North Waziristan. The official said strategy had been adopted including advocacy to convince parents who denied polio drops to their children and these cases were gradually being addressed in a successful manner, he added. He said all concerned departments were extending their services to make the drive successful with a wider coverage and the police personnel were playing their effective part to guard polio teams especially while visiting remote areas. - APP

Three-day polio drive kicks off in Charsadda

The Statesman, February 17, 2015

CHARSADDA: A three-day polio campaign kicked off amid tight security arrangements on Monday in Charsadda district. According to a source, the drive is aimed at vaccinating 255,000 children across the district. A total of 675 teams of Lady Health Workers (LHWs) have been designated for the campaign while 146 supervisors will be monitoring the district-wide drive which is to end Wednesday. As part of the security measures taken up for a smooth execution of the drive, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Charsadda has imposed under Section 144 of the criminal procedure code a ban on the display of weapons and pillion-riding of motorbikes throughout the

Anti-polio campaign under Sehat ka Ittehad

programme launched: EPI

The Statesman, February 17, 2015

Children more vulnerable to rheumatic heart disease

Daily Dawn, February 16, 2015

SIMs' biometric verification blues

Daily Dawn, February 16, 2015

Special medical board formed to treat injured cardiologist

Daily Dawn, February 16, 2015

district. According to sources, a total of 1,300 police personnel have also been employed to provide security to the polio teams as they carry out the drive.

As per a source, a four-day polio drive was also kicked off in Kohat district on Monday. A total of 640 policemen have been assigned the security of the polio teams. Militant groups often attack polio teams as they see vaccination campaigns as a cover for espionage. There are also long running rumours about polio drops causing infertility. Earlier on Saturday, unknown gunmen opened fire at a vehicle carrying a team of polio workers in Khyber Agency, killing the driver and leaving one polio volunteer injured.

Pakistan is one of only three countries in the world where polio remains endemic, along with Afghanistan and Nigeria. Efforts to eradicate it have been seriously hampered by the deadly targeting of vaccination teams in recent years. The World Health Organisation (WHO) had declared that Pakistan is responsible for nearly 80 per cent of polio cases reported globally and had imposed strict travel restrictions on Pakistan last year to prevent the possible spread of the polio virus to other countries.

PESHAWAR: The first anti-polio campaign under Sehat ka Ittehad (Unite for Health), a joint venture of Federal and Provincial governments against eradication of fatal diseases, was launched in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA on Monday. Officials of Extended Immunization Programme (EPI) KP told APP that Sehat ka Ittehad programme was formally launched in KP and Fata where children under five years of age would be vaccinated against fatal diseases including polio. A target of vaccinating 5.37 million has been set for KP for whom 16,823 teams including 14,000 mobiles were constituted to vaccinate children in all 25 districts of the province, the official added.

In Fata, about 695,000 children under five-year of age would be administered anti polio drops during the campaign for whom 2897 teams constituted. Sehat ka Ittehad programme is the joint venture of Federal and Provincial Government that was formally launched by Pakistan Tahrir e Insaf Chairman, Imran Khan on Friday here at Peshawar. The officials of health department and national volunteers would administer vaccine to kids in hospitals and basic health units in all the agencies headquarters of Fata.

Focus on vaccination would also be given to children accommodated in relief camps. The police, Khasadar Force and official of district and political administration have made foolproof security arrangements for protection of polio workers. According to EPI officials, four polio cases were reported from KP this year including one each from Peshawar, Lakki Marwat, Tank and Nowshera. The official requested the parents and children to bring the children to nearest hospitals and basic health units in case of non appearance of teams in their houses for vaccination. The government has planned to begin the first round of the Sehat Ka Ittehad (alliance for health) programme in selected districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Federally Administered Tribal Areas on February 13.

KARACHI: "I am feeling the difference and that is great. For the first time in two years, I am able to have a sound sleep. Earlier, the severe pain in my joints and back didn't let me sleep," said Khalid, a teenager who was recently discharged from the Aga Khan University Hospital, where he underwent a heart surgery. A normal life has eluded Khalid, 17, the only brother of his four sisters, for seven years. Son of a wage earner in a remote village of Tando Mohammad Khan, Khalid continued to suffer from an unknown illness till a doctor in Hyderabad told him that he had a heart disease and needed to travel to Karachi for treatment. "Initially, I got fever at the age of 10 while I was in eighth grade. My parents took me to different doctors that helped cure my fever but I later developed pain in the joints. At times, the pain used to get worse and I had difficulty in walking," he explained, adding that that he had to leave school because of the illness.

LAHORE: Biometric verification of SIMs has become a daunting task for many as they are told by the staff at cellular companies' outlets that they should go to the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) because their identification is not verified through their thumb impression. A good number of subscribers have to face the ordeal every day as they are advised by the cellular companies to visit Nadra for removal of discrepancy. "I have spent a couple of hours at the outlet of a telecom operator for biometric verification of SIMs issued in my name. On my turn, I was told to visit a Nadra office as my thumb impression was not matching. I rushed to a Nadra office on College Road, Township, where I found a long queue. When I reached the counter after a considerable time, the official manning it told me that as my thumb impression was not matching, I should better apply for a new computerised national identity card (CNIC) to be rid of the problem once for all," Navid Ahmed told Dawn.

Nadra is already charging Rs10 for each biometric SIM verification from the cellular companies. The companies, on the other hand, are charging the same (Rs10) from each subscriber for the purpose. According to an official, Nadra centres are witnessing at least 30 to 40 percent more rush because of the people turning up for their thumb impression matching. "We only ask those to apply for new CNIC whose cards are about to expire. In other cases in which people are approaching Nadra for matching their thumb impression for SIM verifications we don't charge," the official said. The government has set April 13 deadline for the telecom operators to check some 103 million pre-paid SIMs through Biometric Verification System (BVS). The operators have asked the subscribers to have their pre-paid SIMs verified till Feb 26. Since the companies have so far verified around 40 million SIMs through BVS, it is likely to extend the date.

ISLAMABAD: After the Saturday attack on senior cardiologist Prof Dr Shahid Nawaz Malik at Pims, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif directed the Ministry of Interior to beef up security of sensitive places, especially hospitals and schools, in the federal capital. The prime minister also ordered setting up of a special medical board for the treatment of Prof Malik. The medical board comprises Prof Khaleeq Zaman, Brigadier Ghaffar, Prof Arif Malik and Prof Nadeem Shahzad. Prof Malik, the head of the cardiology department at Pims, was coming out of the hospital at around 3:30pm

Hospitals to set up dengue counters to tackle threat of virus

The Statesman, February 16, 2015

3-day polio campaign from today

The Statesman, February 16, 2015

Exploration of oil, gas to herald prosperity in DI Khan

The Statesman, February 16, 2015

8,000 new cases of cancer in children annually in Pakistan

The Statesman, February 16, 2015

on Saturday when two motorbike riders shot him in the parking area and fled. He received a bullet injury to the head and was shifted to the hospital's operation theatre and put on ventilator. On Sunday, the management of Pims held a meeting of the academic council and demanded the government arrest the attackers. Through a resolution, the council said security should be provided in the hospital and police should investigate the case and find out the reason behind the incident.

ISLAMABAD: Even after all the precautionary measurements and cold weather, Punjab Government has advised the hospitals of the district to set up dengue counters and dengue wards so that any untoward situation regarding the virus can be tackled in time. Following the advice of the government, 3 hospitals of Rawalpindi have established dengue wards and counters whereas others have started preparations and arrangements to restore the wards and counters. Instructions by the Punjab Government have been given to the health ministry to initiate sound plans in case the district has to deal with the dengue in summers. The ministry in response vowed to minimize the threat of dengue this year and started the work on most vulnerable areas of district to restrain the reproduction of the dengue. According to the sources in the ministry, it has targeted those areas where dengue reproduces in summers and has started work on the containment of its reproduction. The government officials said that the government is very concerned regarding the issue of dengue virus and working to minimize its threat to the least. They urged people to maintain cleanliness in their atmospheres and take every possible safety measure against dengue. - DNA

ISLAMABAD: A 3-day National Immunization (Anti-Polio) campaign will be launched in Punjab from Monday. Health Department has arranged 40 thousand mobile and fixed vaccination team to administer polio drops for more than 18 million children up to age of 5 years. Spokesman of Health Department told that special team being appointed on permanent and transactional points like bus terminals, Railway Stations, motorways and airport their travelling children would be provided polio drops. Similarly, in all the government hospitals and health centres arrangement has been ensured to extend facility of polio drops to the children, spokesman added. - DNA

DI KHAN: Appreciating the district as rich in oil and gas resources, the public sector company-Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) will venture into exploring oil and gas resources in the Tehsil Kulachi, around 40 KM off here. According to an official source, the government has awarded a license to the OGDCL for carrying out exploration activities in Kulachi Tehsil, which would lead to socio-economic development of area, besides helping to meet the country's energy needs. The block is stretching over area of District D.I. Khan of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Layyah, DG Khan and Bhakkar districts of Punjab.

The source added the total area of the Kulachi block was 2495 sq.kms and minimum firm work commitment is US \$ 10.10 Million. Moreover, the company shall spend a minimum of US \$ 30,000 per year in this block on social welfare schemes to raise living standard of common man of the area which has been long awaiting development-oriented measures. Earlier, the source revealed this block was offered in bidding round held in March, 2013 which was won by OPL and now it is awarded to OGDCL with OPL's commitment of 1010 work units.

OGDCL is a Public Limited Company engaged in exploration and production activities in the country for the last five decades. OGDCL holds the largest share of Oil (57%) and Gas (42%) of the total reserves in the country. Its percentage share of total oil and gas production in Pakistan is 44.67% and 28.47%, respectively. In addition, OGDCL is the operator in sixty three exploration licences and working interest owner in eight other exploration blocks operated by various E&P companies. OGDCL is currently producing 44,236 barrels of Oil, 1195 MMCF of gas, 83 M.Tonnes of LPG and 77 M.Tonnes of Sulphur per day. To date OGDCL has drilled 694 wells out of which 296 Exploratory, 37 Appraisal and 361 Development wells and made 102 discoveries with a success Ratio of 1:2.75. In the fiscal year 2014-15 OGDCL has planned to drill 35 wells, out of which twenty nine (29) wells have been marked on ground and eleven (11) wells have been spudded. - APP

PESHAWAR: Pediatric Oncologist and Chief Executive Officer Children Cancer Foundation Karachi Dr Muhammad Shamvil Ashraf has revealed that an estimated 8,000 new cases cancer occur in children annually in Pakistan, out of them 2,000 to 2500 cancer cases are reported in the Sindh province every year.

Talking to PPI news agency on the eve of 15th February 2015, International Childhood Cancer Day, Dr Shamvil Ashraf said the aim of observing the children cancer day is to raise awareness about cancer, as this disease is not discriminated by age. He said out of total cases emerges every year in the country only 50 percent of them are brought for treatment, while rest of the children with cancer remains untreated.

He said most common cancers in children in our country are blood cancer, lymphoma, brain, bone, kidney and eye tumors. He informed that around 500 children with various kinds of cancer have been successfully treated in their hospital free of cost. He said 45 percent of cancer cases were reported from Karachi while 55 percent were brought different parts of country for treatment last year. He informed that cancer develops in children due to genetic disorders.

President, Child Aid Association (CAA), National Institute of Child Health (NICH), Karachi Prof Nizam-ul-Hasan said cancer cases are rising day by day in children but there is acute shortage of cancer care centers and trained medical staff to cater the needs of cancer patients in Pakistan. He said 600 children with various kinds of cancer ailment received treatment in Oncology Unit of NICH last year. He said majority of the patients come from Sindh, Balochistan and other remote parts of country. He said industrial chemicals, betel nuts, betel leaf, Shisha smoking and other tobacco products are the major factor behind the rising cases of cancer in the society.

He said there is acute shortage of trained doctors, nurses and paramedical staff in the country to

Qatar to help Pakistan overcome energy crisis

The News, February 16, 2015

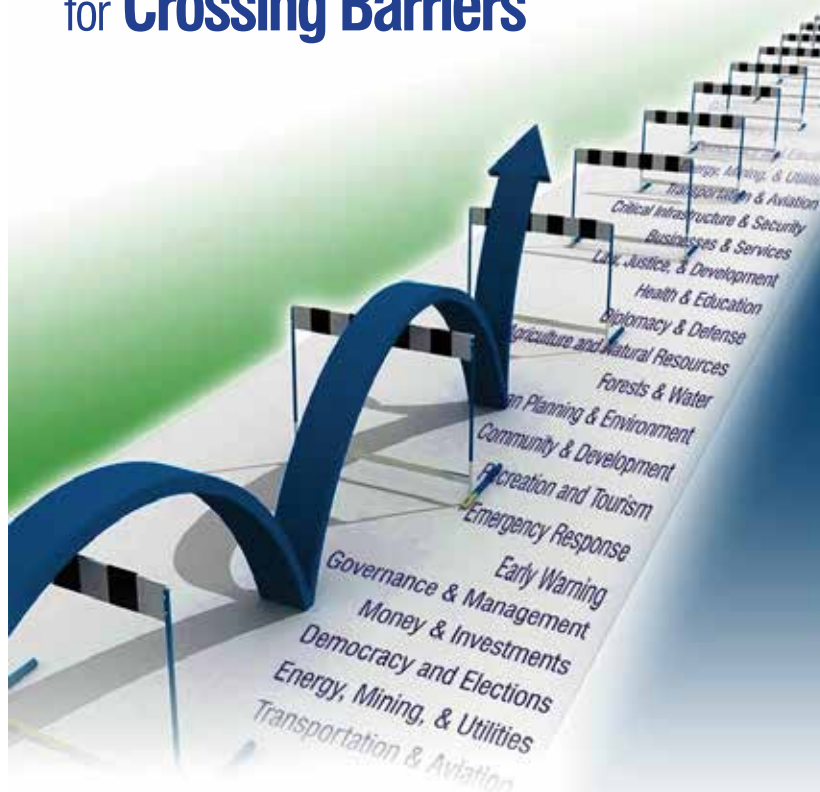
attend patients with cancer disease. He said currently there are five cancer-care centers in the country and all established in big cities like Karachi, Lahore, Multan and Islamabad. He said two percent children are suffering from various kinds of cancers in the country. He said 70 percent of all children with cancer can be cured if the disease is diagnosed at early stages. He said a cancer center should be established in Balochistan and such centers also be set up at regional level in order to cater cases at local level. He also stressed the need of training of doctors, paramedics and nurses to deal the children with cancer disease at local level. - PPI

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif on Sunday met the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in Doha and agreed to promote Pak-Qatar relations and cooperation in the economic and trade sectors. Sheikh Hamad assured the Punjab CM that Qatar would invest in various sectors of national development in Pakistan and extend all-out cooperation to cope with the energy crisis. "Pakistan is a friendly country and its development and prosperity is very dear to Qatar. Qatar fully realizes the problems of Pakistan and will extend full support in overcoming these problems," he promised.

The Emir said besides meeting the gas requirements of Pakistan, Qatar will also continue its cooperation in the agriculture, power generation and manpower sector. He said Qatar fully appreciated the recent efforts of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for the strengthening of Pak-Qatar friendship and a positive impact of cooperation on economic and trade sectors due to these sincere efforts was being witnessed. He said trade and economic relations between the two countries will further strengthen in future. He said Qatar was fully aware of Pakistan's importance and role in the region and the government, the leadership and the people of Qatar want to see Pakistan a developed and prosperous country as its stability was the stability of Qatar.

Shahbaz Sharif said Qatar was extending invaluable cooperation to Pakistan to overcome the energy crisis and expressed the hope that Pakistan would be able to get rid of loadshedding with the cooperation of friendly countries. He said there were vast opportunities for investment in Pakistan, especially the Punjab. He said the government was providing maximum facilities to foreign investors on a priority basis and investors of Qatar could benefit from the investment opportunities in various sectors in the Punjab. Federal Minister for Petroleum Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and spokesman for the PM Mussadiq Malik were also present on the occasion.

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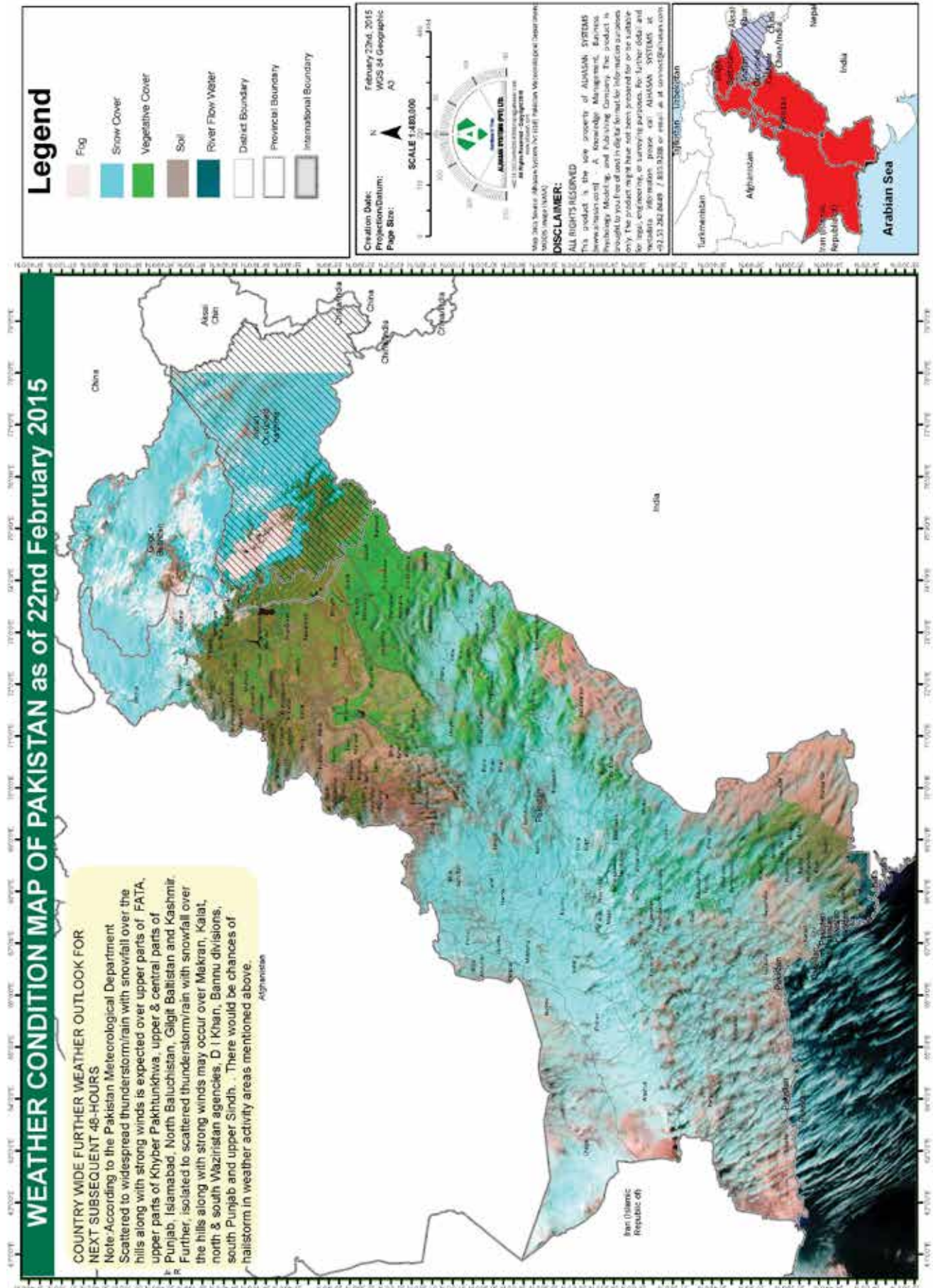
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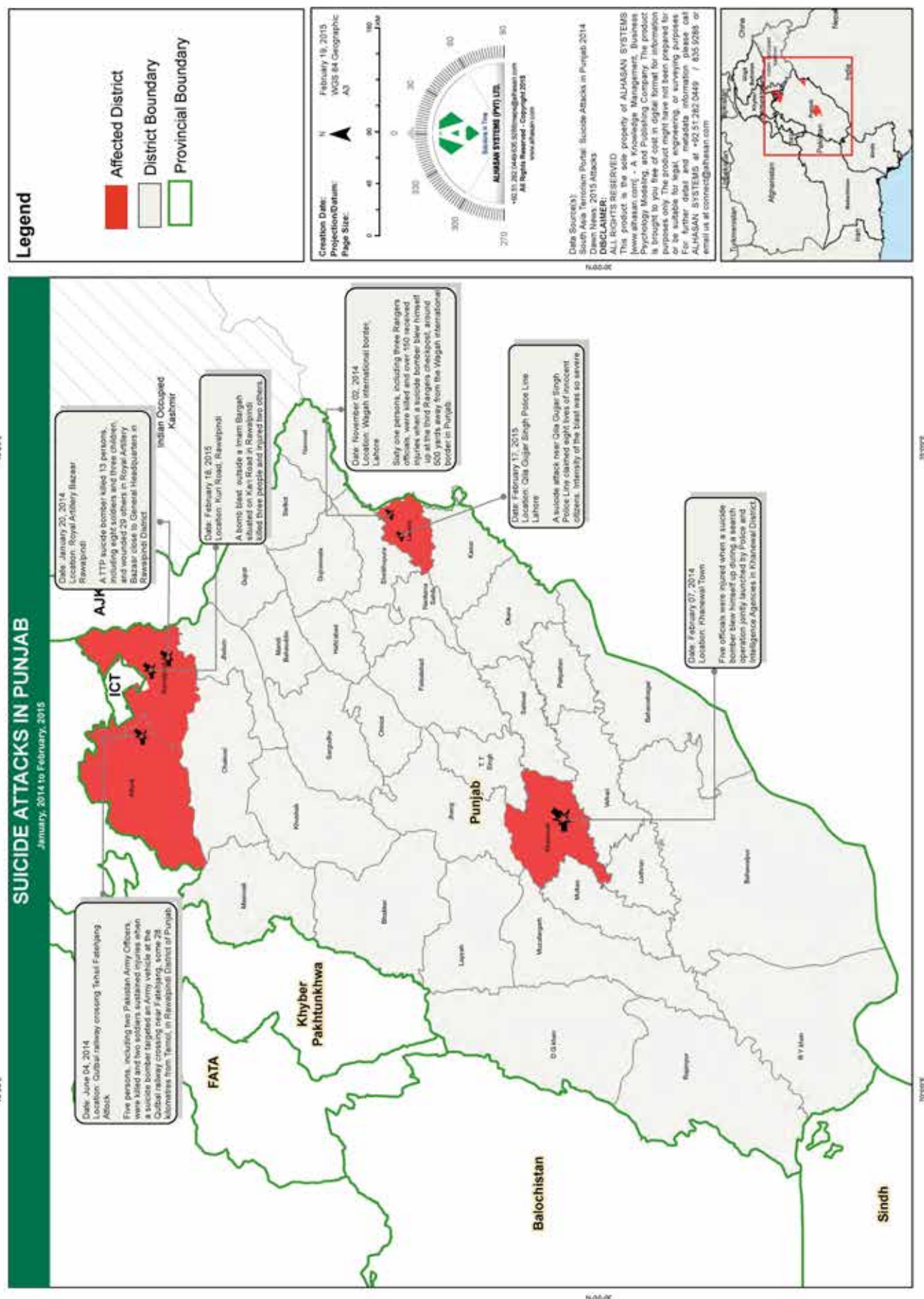


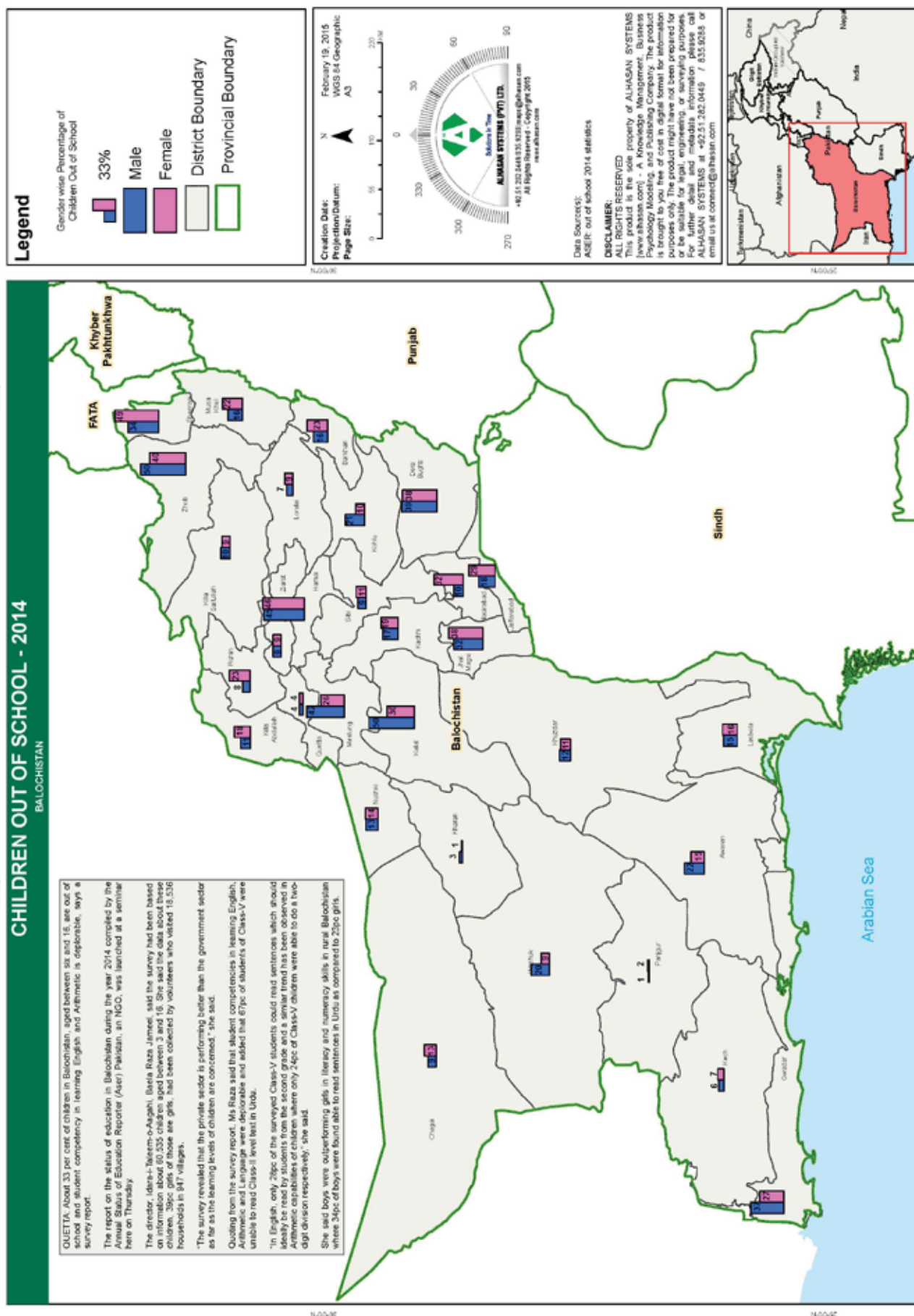


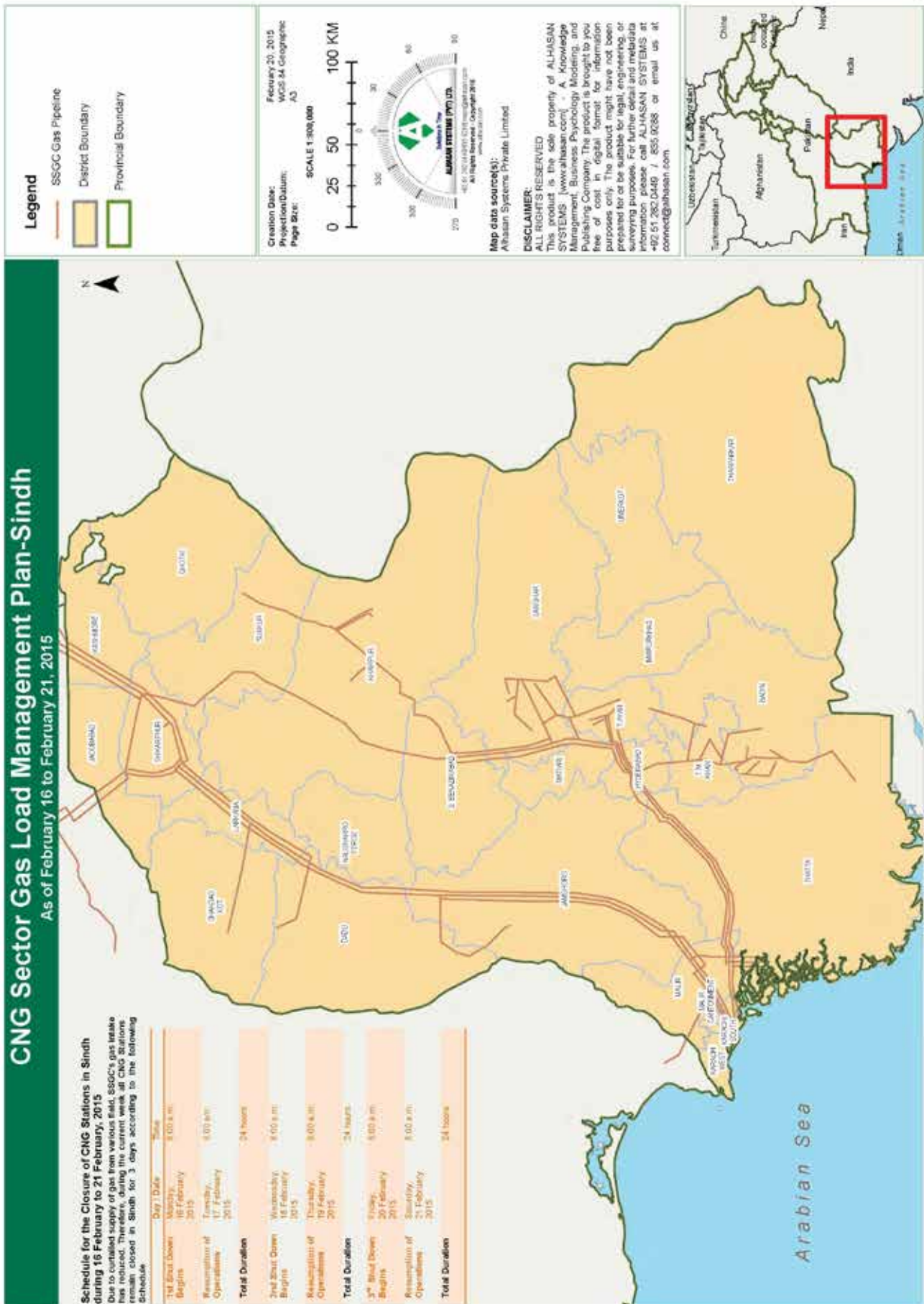
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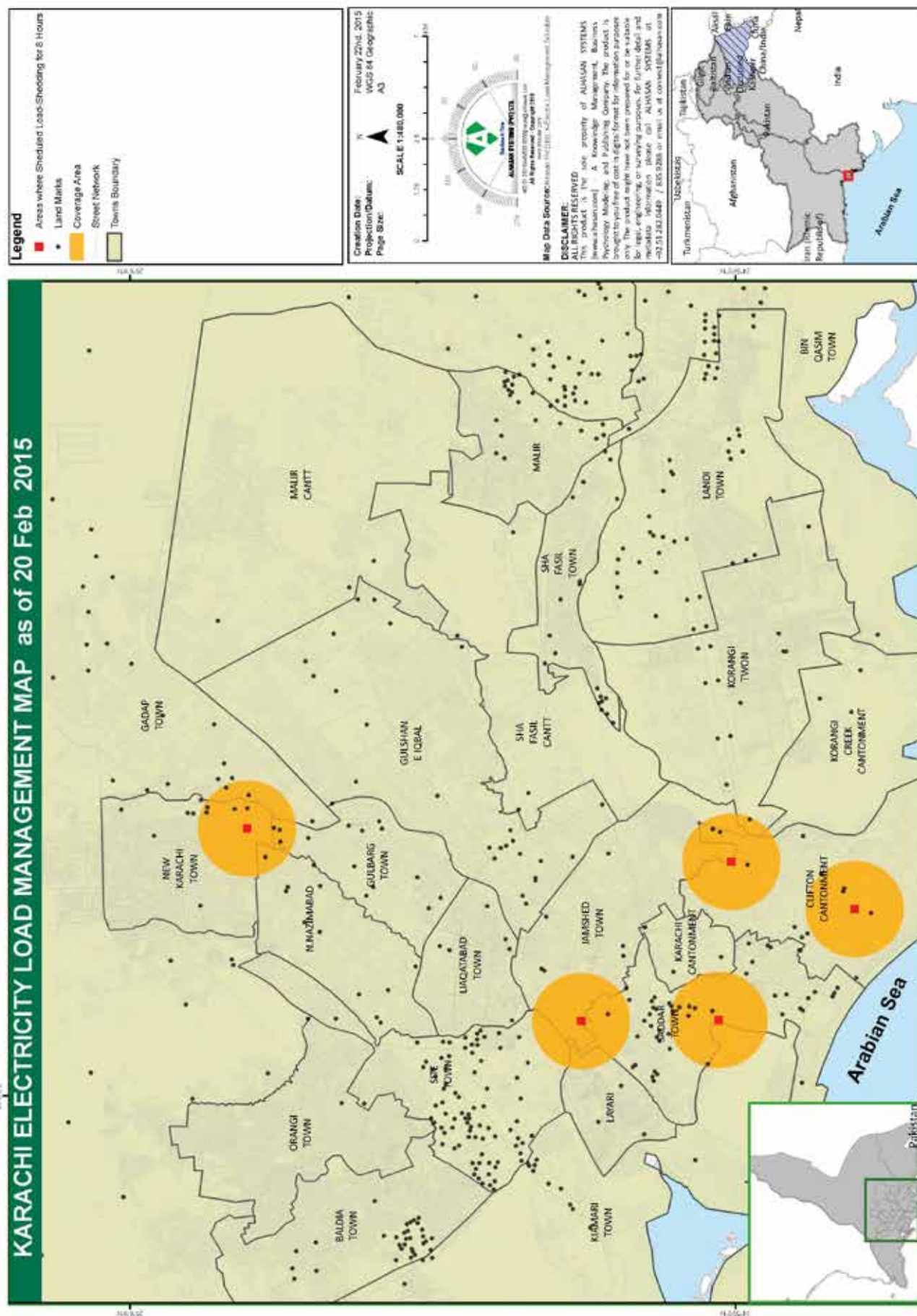


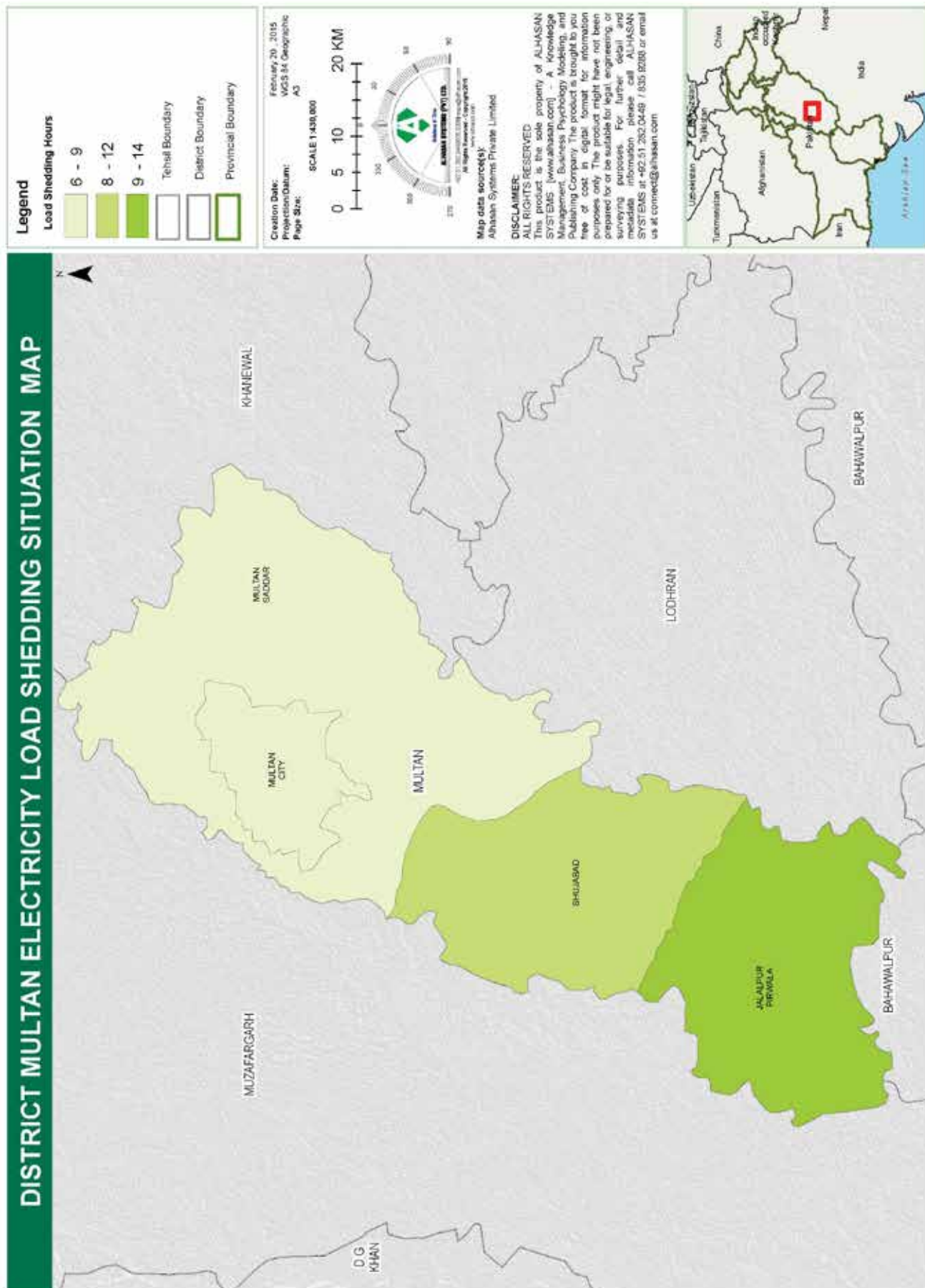












امداد سہتو، غلام حسین چانگ، لونگ خان حطار کی قیادت میں احتجاجی ریلی نکالی اور پریس کلب کے سامنے قومی شاہراہ پر دھرنایا، مظاہرین نے شوگر ملز مالکان کیخلاف نعرے بازی کی، انہوں نے کہا کہ سندھ حکومت نے گئے کارٹ 182 روپے مقرر کیا ہے لیکن رانی پور اور خیر پور شوگر ملز مالکان ان احکامات کو ماننے کیلئے تیار نہیں، جس کی وجہ سے گئے کے کاشتکاروں کو کروڑوں روپے کا نقصان ہونے کا خدشہ ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ 182 روپے ریٹ نہ دیا گیا تو شوگر ملز کیخلاف احتجاجی تحریک کو مزید تیز کیا جائیگا۔

اسلام آباد (آن لائن) تاجکستان نے کہا ہے کہ وہ آئندہ دو سالوں میں پاکستان کو ایک ہزار میگا واٹ بجلی کی فراہمی شروع کرے گا۔ یہ بات تاجکستان کے سفیر جو نو علی شر نے ہفتے کے روزیالکھٹ کے ایوان صنعت و تجارت کے ارکان سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ان کا ملک ایک معاہدے کے تحت پاکستان کو بجلی کا مسئلہ حل کرنے میں مدد دے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ تاجکستان پاکستان کے ساتھ تجارتی تعلقات کے فروغ میں دلچسپی رکھتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی تاجر برادری تجارتی نمائندوں کے انعقاد میں چین اور ایران جیسے ملکوں کے تجارتی مواقع کو استعمال کر سکتی ہے۔

دنیا میں تعلیم کے لیے اقوام متحدہ کے ایچی گورڈن براؤن کے سکیورٹی پلان میں سکولوں کی سکیورٹی کو بہتر بنانے کے لیے کئی تجاویز دی گئی ہیں، جن میں پاکستانی سکولوں کی حفاظت کے لیے ان کے گرد دیواریں زون کا قیام، مسلح محافظوں کی تعیناتی، دھاتوں کی شناخت کرنے والے آلات اور ہنگامی حالت میں کام کرنے والے مواصلاتی نظام کی تنصیب کی تجاویز شامل ہیں، برطانوی خبر رساں ادارے کے مطابق سابق برطانوی وزیر اعظم گورڈن براؤن نے پشاور میں آرمی پبلک سکول میں ہونے والے قتل عام کے تناظر میں پاکستانی وزیر اعظم نواز شریف سے بات چیت کی ہے۔ برطانوی خبر ایجنسی کی رپورٹ میں بتایا گیا ہے کہ ان تجاویز کے بعد گورڈن براؤن اور نواز شریف کے درمیان پاکستان میں سکولوں کے تحفظ کا معاہدہ ہوا ہے۔ گورڈن براؤن نے کہا ہے کہ وہ 'دہشت گردوں کے حملوں کا مقابلہ کرنے کے لیے سکولوں کو تیار کرنے' کی راہ میں تعاون کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ برطانوی سابق وزیر اعظم گورڈن براؤن تعلیم کے شعبے میں کام کرنے والے ایک عالمی ادارے ورلڈ ایٹ سکول کے تحفظاتی منصوبے کی تشہیر کر رہے ہیں، جو پاکستان اور دیگر ممالک کے جنگ زدہ علاقوں کے سکولوں کو تحفظ فراہم کرنے کے لیے بنایا گیا ہے۔

سہون شریف (نامہ نگار) یونین کونسل ٹلٹی کے 12 سے زائد دیہات کے کمیونوں نے 22 گھنٹے بجلی کی غیر اعلانیہ لوڈ شیڈنگ پر سیکو سکھر کے خلاف دھرنا انڈس ہائی وے بلاک۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق یونین کونسل ٹلٹی کے سیکڑوں کمیونوں نے بجلی کی 22 گھنٹے غیر اعلانیہ لوڈ شیڈنگ پر وڈیر و شجاع احمد راہپوٹو کے قیادت میں احتجاجی مظاہرہ کر کے انڈس ہائی وے پر دھرنادے کر سہون شریف، حیدر آباد، دادو، سہون شریف انڈس ہائی وے کو بند کر کے سیکو دادو کے ایگزیکٹو انجینئر اور ایس ڈی او کے خلاف سخت نعرے بازی کی اس موقع پر شجاع احمد راہپوٹو، عبدالعزیز راہپوٹو، شفیع محمد لاشاری، دین محمد پنخور، جابر سولنگی نے خطاب کیا۔

تاجکستان آئندہ دو برسوں میں پاکستان کو ہزار میگا واٹ بجلی فراہم کریگا

روزنامہ جنگ

17 فروری 2015

اقوام متحدہ کے ایچی گورڈن براؤن نے پاکستانی سکولوں کی حفاظت کے لیے ایک منصوبہ پیش کیا

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

17 فروری 2015

سہون: بجلی کی 22 گھنٹے لوڈ شیڈنگ کیخلاف 12 دیہات کے کمیونوں کا احتجاجی دھرنا

روزنامہ جنگ

16 فروری 2015

ناغہ سسٹم نافذ ہے تاکہ شہر کے ہر علاقہ میں پانی فراہم ہو سکے لیکن حب ڈیم سے پانی کی زیر و سپلائی اور بجلی کے بریک ڈاؤن سے پانی کی قلت میں اضافہ ہو رہا ہے، اگر یہ سلسلہ جاری رہا تو موسم گرما میں شدید مشکلات کا امکان ہے، یہ بھی حقیقت ہے کہ واٹر بورڈ کے 22 ہیوی کمپیس کو جنرل سے چلانا ممکن نہیں۔

نصرپور (نامہ نگار) اڈیرولال اسٹیشن میں ٹنڈو آدم کے قریب تیل اور گیس کمپنی کے خلاف پیپلز پارٹی شہید بھٹو کے رہنما علی محمد ڈاہری کی قیادت میں سیکڑوں افراد نے حیدر آباد، ساگھڑ اور ٹنڈو آدم روڈ بلاک کر کے احتجاج کیا جس کے باعث گاڑیوں کی آمد و رفت معطل ہو گئی اس موقع پر علی محمد ڈاہری، یار محمد، صادق کوریجو اور دیگر نے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ تیل اور گیس کمپنی کی بڑی گاڑیوں نے روڈ تباہ کر دیئے ہیں۔ انہوں نے ذمہ دار حکام سے کمپنی کے خلاف نوٹس لے کر کارروائی کا مطالبہ کیا ہے۔

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) جامعہ کراچی کے سینئر برائے پلانٹ کنزرویشن کے تحت فلاور شو بروز بدھ 18 فروری کو شام 4 بجے یونیٹل گارڈن جامعہ کراچی میں منعقد ہو رہا ہے جس میں مختلف اقسام کے نایاب پھول رکھے جائیں گے۔ صدارت شیخ الجامعہ پروفیسر ڈاکٹر محمد قیصر کریگے جبکہ سردار یاسین ملک بطور مہمان خصوصی شریک ہوں گے۔ اس موقع پر ڈائریکٹر سینٹر فار پلانٹ کنزرویشن پروفیسر ڈاکٹر انجم پروین نایاب پھولوں کے اقسام کے بارے میں شرکاء کو بریفنگ بھی دیں گی۔ ☆ جامعہ کراچی کے اعلامیہ کے مطابق ممتاز سلسلہ لیکچر جمعرات 19 فروری کو صبح گیارہ بجے ساعت گاہ کلیہ سماجی علوم میں منعقد ہو گا جس میں ڈین اور ڈائریکٹر آئی بی اے انسٹیٹیوٹ آف بزنس ایڈمنسٹریشن پروفیسر ڈاکٹر عشرت حسین کلیدی لیکچر دیں گے۔ ☆ جامعہ کراچی کے اعلامیہ کے مطابق شعبہ امتحانات جامعہ کراچی سے تصدیق کے بعد شعبہ زولوجی داخلہ برائے سال 2015، ماسٹر زمارنگ پروگرام کی ایم ایس سی کی طالبہ مائرہ جبار بنت عبد الجبار فارم نمبر 33100 رول نمبر 7653 کی مارکس شیٹ جعلی ثابت ہوئی جس کی بناء پر ان کا داخلہ فوری طور پر منسوخ کر دیا گیا ہے۔

گھارو (نامہ نگار) تعلقہ انتظامیہ میرپور ساکرو کی غفلت اور عدم دلچسپی کے باعث دھابئی میں واٹر سپلائی کا معاملہ حل نہ ہو سکا 7 روز سے پانی کی فراہمی بند ہونے سے شہری پانی کے حصول کے لیے سخت پریشان تفصیلات کے مطابق واٹر بورڈ دھابئی پمپنگ اسٹیشن کی انتظامیہ نے بجلی کے واجبات کی عدم ادائیگی پر تعلقہ میونسپل کالج کالکشن منقطع کر دیا تھا جس کے باعث دھابئی ٹاؤن سمیت نواحی علاقوں غریب آباد، شیخ عبدالحمید کالونی، بلال نگر، ماڈل ٹاؤن اور دیگر مقامات پر پانی کی سپلائی معطل ہے اور شہری پانی کے حصول کے لیے در بدر ہیں بتایا جاتا ہے کہ واٹر بورڈ انتظامیہ کی جانب سے بارہا بجلی کی مد میں واجبات کی ادائیگی کی درخواست کی گئی تھی مگر تعلقہ انتظامیہ نے اس جانب توجہ نہیں دی اسسٹنٹ کمشنر وائیڈ منسٹر ٹی ایم اے میرپور ساکرو نے اس مد میں دھابئی پمپنگ اسٹیشن کی انتظامیہ سے معاملے کو حل کرانے کے لیے ملاقات کی۔ انہیں بتایا گیا کہ متعلقہ انتظامیہ سے این او سی کے بغیر بجلی کالکشن بحال نہیں ہو سکتا۔ شہریوں نے وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ اور گورنر سندھ سے مطالبہ کیا کہ اس معاملے کو فوری حل کر کے دھابئی میں پانی کی سپلائی بحال کرائی جائے۔

خیبر پور + ہنگورجہ (ہیورورپورٹ / نامہ نگار) فیض گنج میں نہری پانی کی قلت کے خلاف آباد گاروں کا ایس ڈی او آپاشی کے دفتر کے سامنے پانچ گھنٹے تک احتجاجی دھرنا۔ ٹنڈو مستی میں گئے کے کاشت کاروں نے سرکاری نرخ نہ ملنے کے خلاف قومی شاہراہ بند کر دی تفصیلات کے مطابق خیبر پور تحصیل فیض گنج میں نہری پانی کی کمی کے خلاف آباد گاروں نے ایس ڈی او آپاشی کے دفتر کے سامنے پانچ گھنٹے تک احتجاجی دھرنا دیا۔ آباد گار مختلف علاقوں سے جلوسوں کی صورت میں فیض گنج پہنچے جہاں وہ ایس ڈی او آپاشی کے دفتر کے سامنے دھرنا دیکر بیٹھ گئے۔ دھرنے کی قیادت مشتاق راجہ، حسین بخش، محمد صدیق بھٹی، مغل مصطفیٰ اور محمد بخش گسی کر رہے تھے۔ دھرنے میں شریک آباد گار نہری پانی دو، گندم اور دیگر فصلوں کو تباہ ہونے سے بچاؤ اور دیگر نعرے لگا رہے تھے۔ آباد گاروں کا کہنا تھا کہ فیض گنج نہری علی نواز واہ، پندرہ واہ اور وہیو واہ کی ٹیل میں پانی نہیں جس کی وجہ سے گندم اور دیگر فصلیں سوکھ رہی ہیں۔ آباد گاروں نے دھمکی دی کہ تین روز کے اندر نہروں کی ٹیل میں پانی نہیں آیا تو مجھے آپاشی کے افسران کا گھیراؤ کیا جائے گا جبکہ گئے کے کاشت کاروں نے گئے کا مقرر کردہ سرکاری نرخ نہ ملنے کے خلاف ٹنڈو مستی میں قومی شاہراہ بند کر دی جس کی وجہ سے پنجاب اور کراچی جانے والا ٹریفک معطل ہو گیا۔ دھرنے کی قیادت سندھ آباد گار بورڈ کے مرکزی صدر عبدالحمید نظامانی، سندھ یونائیٹڈ پارٹی کے مرکزی جنرل سیکرٹری سید زین شاہ جتیم ضلع خیبر پور کے صدرا یوب لاشاری اور مقامی آباد گار رہنما لال بخش سیال، سید حسام الدین شاہ، حفیظ اجن، چوہدری اصغر، علی گوہر منگرو، عزیز اللہ چانڈیو اور دیگر کر رہے تھے۔ مظاہرین گئے کے سرکاری نرخ دو، شوگر ملز مالکان کی من مانی بند کر دو اور دیگر نعرے لگا رہے تھے۔ عبدالحمید نظامانی، سید زین شاہ اور دیگر نے اس موقع پر کہا کہ شوگر ملز مالکان حکومت کی کمزوری کا فائدہ اٹھا رہے ہیں حکومت کی پالیسیاں غلط ہیں انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومت نے گئے کا جو نرخ مقرر کیا ہے اس پر عمل درآمد کرایا جائے۔ ہنگورجہ رانی پور اور خیبر پور شوگر ملز مالکان کی جانب سے گئے کا مقرر کردہ ریٹ 182 روپے نہ دینے کیخلاف گئے کے کاشتکاروں نے سابقہ یوسی ناظم ہنگورجہ سید عباس علی شاہ، نظر حسین لاڈک،

نصرپور: تیل اور گیس کمپنی کیخلاف پی پی شہید بھٹو کا احتجاج

روزنامہ جنگ

18 فروری 2015

تعلیمی اعلانات

روزنامہ جنگ

18 فروری 2015

دھابئی، تعلقہ انتظامیہ کی غفلت، 7

روز سے پانی کی فراہمی بند

روزنامہ جنگ

18 فروری 2015

فیض گنج، نہری پانی کی قلت،

آباد گاروں کا ایس ڈی او آفس پر

احتجاجی دھرنہ

روزنامہ جنگ

18 فروری 2015

بارش کے باعث موسم سہانا ہو گیا لیکن شہر کے چالیس سے زائد فیڈر ٹرپ کر گئے جس کی وجہ سے علامہ اقبال ٹاؤن، سہزادہ زار، جمویری ٹاؤن، گڑھی شاہو، لنک شالیما روڈ، مال روڈ اور ایبٹ روڈ سمیت متعدد علاقوں میں بجلی بند ہو گئی اس حوالے سے لیبکو حکام کا کہنا تھا کہ بارش کے باعث فیڈر ٹرپ کر گئے، جلد از جلد متاثرہ علاقوں کی بجلی بحال کی رنے کو ششیں کاری ہیں

اسلام آباد (خمسدہ نوائے وقت) سپریم کورٹ کے جسٹس ثاقب نثار نے کہا ہے کہ مستقبل میں پانی کی کمی کا مسئلہ سنگین صورتحال اختیار کر جائیگا جس سے ہم جز سمیت ملک کا ہر شہری متاثر ہو گا، اس سنگین خطرے کی نشاندہی ملک کے معروف صحافی مجید نظامی نے اپنے ”واٹریم“ نامی کالم میں بھی کی تھی انہیں مستقبل کے اس خطرے کی سنگینی کا پوری طرح احساس تھا، دیگر ممالک مستقبل میں پانی کی کمی کو پورا کرنے کیلئے پانی کے ذیم بنارہے ہیں پانی کو محفوظ کرنے کے جدید طریقے استعمال کئے جارہے ہیں واٹر ٹریٹمنٹ پلانٹ لگائے جارہے ہیں جبکہ ہمارے ملک میں پانی کی کمی کے باعث اراضی بنجر ہو رہی ہے، کالا باغ ذیم کا تنازعہ حل نہیں ہو رہا، یہ سب کا مسئلہ ہے اس پر سب کو توجہ دینا ہوگی مستقبل میں قوم کے پانی کی کمیابی سے متاثر ہونے کا خطرہ موجود ہے، یہ ریمارکس انہوں نے انسانی حقوق سے متعلق لاہور کینال روڈ توسیع منصوبہ سو موٹو کیس کے دوران دیئے۔

اسلام آباد (طاہر غلیل) پاکستان میں شناختی کارڈز سے محروم ایک کروڑ خواتین کو انتخابی عمل میں شامل کرنے کے لئے الیکشن کمیشن نے حکمت عملی طے کر لی، چیف الیکشن کمشنر جسٹس سردار محمد رضا نے یورپی یونین کے وفد کو بریفنگ میں بتایا کہ ایک کروڑ اسی خواتین کی رجسٹریشن کر کے انتخابی عمل میں شریک کیا جائے گا، جن کے پاس اب تک قومی شناختی کارڈ نہیں ہے، انہوں نے کہا کہ تمام انتخابی قوانین کو یکجا کیا جائے گا اور مناسب آئینی و قانونی ترامیم کے ذریعے انتخابی نظام کو مضبوط بنایا جائے گا، انہوں نے کہا کہ انتخابی عمل کی تربیت اور استعدادی صلاحیتوں میں اضافے پر خصوصی توجہ دی جارہی ہے، شناختی کارڈز کے حامل تمام افراد کے نام انتخابی فہرستوں میں شامل کئے جائیں گے، چیف الیکشن کمشنر نے کہا کہ شفاف حلقہ بندیوں کے لئے جیو انفارمیشن سسٹم سے استفادہ کیا جائے گا، یورپی یونین کے وفد نے چیف الیکشن کمشنر سے پاکستان میں انتخابی اصلاحات اور الیکشن کمیشن کی ترجیحات پر تبادلہ خیال کیا، چیف الیکشن کمشنر نے کہا کہ الیکشن کمیشن اس وقت سینٹ کے الیکشن کرانے کا آئینی تقاضا مکمل کر رہا ہے، جس کے بعد بلدیاتی انتخابات کے لئے انتخابی فہرستوں میں 78 لاکھ نئے ووٹروں کا اندراج کیا جائے گا، انہوں نے کہا کہ شفاف انتخابی عمل، مضبوط لیگل فریم ورک اور عملے کی بہتر تربیت کے ذریعے جمہوریت اور جمہوری نظام پر لوگوں کا اعتماد بڑھتا ہو گا۔

سامارو (نامہ نگار) ٹاؤن کمیٹی سامارو کی انتظامیہ کی نااہلی اور کرپشن کے باعث شہر پاکوہ، بدبودار اور مضر صحت پانی پینے اور استعمال کرنے پر مجبور ہیں۔ ذرائع کے مطابق حکومت سندھ کی جانب سے شہریوں کو صاف پانی کی فراہمی کے منصوبے کے تحت نصب کیا گیا فلٹر پلانٹ غیر فعال ہے اور فلٹر پلانٹ کو آپریشنل رکھنے کے لئے آنے والے ماہانہ لاکھوں روپے کے فنڈز زمین واٹر سپلائی کی لائنیں بوسیدہ اور کئی جگہوں سے پھٹنے کی وجہ سے صفائی کے لئے مختص فنڈز میں بھی خورد برد کی اطلاعات ہیں۔ شہر میں کچھی زیر زمین واٹر سپلائی کی لائنیں بوسیدہ اور کئی جگہوں سے پھٹنے کی وجہ سے شہر کے کئی علاقوں میں سیوریج کا پانی لائٹوں میں شامل ہو رہا ہے جو شہر میں فراہم کیا جاتا ہے۔ آلودہ، بدبودار اور مضر صحت پانی کے استعمال کی وجہ سے شہریوں میں وبائی امراض پھوٹ پڑے ہیں۔ دوسری جانب پانی کی بوسیدہ لائٹوں کے کئی جگہوں سے پھٹنے کے باعث پانی سڑکوں اور گلیوں میں جمع رہتا ہے جس سے شہریوں کو آمدورفت میں مشکلات کا سامنا ہے۔ ٹاؤن انتظامیہ کی جانب سے تالابوں کی صفائی کے لئے مختص لاکھوں روپے خورد برد کر جانے اور تالابوں کی صفائی نہ ہونے کے باعث تالابوں کے اندر گھاس اور جھاڑیاں اگ رہی ہیں اور کئی کئی فٹ مٹی اور کچڑ جمع ہو گیا ہے۔ سماجی رہنماؤں عظیم غاصحیلی، عبدالغنی ہالچوٹ، آصف باغی، آزاد ماہی، پیرولی اللہ سرہندی و دیگر نے صوبائی حکومت سمیت ضلعی حکام سے مطالبہ کیا ہے کہ شہریوں کو صاف پانی فراہم کیا جائے اور نااہل و کرپٹ انتظامیہ کے خلاف کارروائی کی جائے۔

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) کراچی واٹر اینڈ سیوریج بورڈ کے اعلامیہ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ 17 فروری کو بھی واٹر بورڈ کے دھانچے پیپنگ ہاؤس کے تھرڈ فیز اور کے فیڈر 5 کی بجلی 6 بجے شام بند کر دی گئی، جس کی وجہ سے 22 میں سے 4 پمپس سے پانی کی فراہمی معطل ہو گئی، کے الیکٹرک نے 45 بجے 9:2 K-2 رات بجلی بحال کی، کے الیکٹرک تقریباً روزانہ دھانچے پیپنگ ہاؤس کی بجلی بند کر رہی ہے بدھ کو بھی بجلی کے بند ہونے سے 40 ملین گیلن پانی شہریوں کو فراہم نہ کیا جاسکا تھا، مندرجات وریکارڈ کے مطابق واٹر بورڈ کسی بھی پیپنگ ہاؤس کی بجلی بند ہونے کی صورت میں شہریوں کے علم میں لانے کے لئے خبر جاری کرتا ہے، بجلی کی مختلف پیپنگ ہاؤسز پر غیر اعلانیہ بندش کا مکمل ریکارڈ موجود ہے، یہ مسلمہ حقیقت ہے کہ ایک گھنٹہ یا زائد دورانیہ کیلئے بجلی کی بندش سے پانی کی فراہمی کا شدید متاثر ہوتا ہے جبکہ عموماً ایک گھنٹہ سے کم بجلی کے تعطل کی خبر جاری نہیں کی جاتی دھانچے کے دیوبیکل ہیوی ایک پمپ سے 350 ملین گیلن پانی پمپ کیا جاتا ہے، بجلی کی بندش کے دوران جتنے پمپس بند ہیں گئے پانی کی اتنی ہی قلت ہوگی، اس لئے کہ 22 ہیوی پمپس سے 24 گھنٹے پانی فراہم کیا جاتا ہے، اچانک بجلی کے بریک ڈاؤن سے فراہمی آب کا نظام شدید دباؤ کا شکار ہوتا ہے، شہر میں واٹر بورڈ کا

لاہور میں بارش کے باعث مختلف علاقوں میں بجلی کی سپلائی معطل ہو گئی

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

20 فروری 2015

پانی کی کمی، مجید نظامی نے اپنے کالم میں خطرے کی نشاندہی کی تھی: سپریم

کورٹ

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

19 فروری 2015

ایک کروڑ خواتین کو انتخابی عمل میں شامل کرنے کیلئے حکمت عملی تیار

روزنامہ جنگ

19 فروری 2015

سامارو، کروڑوں روپے کی لاگت سے نصب فلٹر پلانٹ غیر فعال،

شہریوں کو آلودہ پانی کی فراہمی

روزنامہ جنگ

19 فروری 2015

بجلی کی بندش، 4 کروڑ گیلن پانی سپلائی نہ

ہوسکا، بحران کا خدشہ

روزنامہ جنگ

19 فروری 2015

اثرات 3 سے 4 روز تک رہیں گے۔

لاہور میں شہباز شریف سے وفاقی وزیر پانی و بجلی خواجہ آصف نے ملاقات کی، جس میں توانائی بحران سے متعلق تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب کا کہنا تھا کہ پنجاب حکومت وفاقی حکومت سے مل کر بجلی بحران پر قابو پانے کے لیے سنجیدہ ہے، اس مقصد کے لیے بہاولپور میں سومیگا واٹ کا سولر منصوبہ لگایا ہے جبکہ نو سومیگا واٹ کے سولر منصوبے پر بھی کام جاری ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ پنجاب کے دور دراز علاقوں کے پانچ ہزار سے زائد سکولوں کو مرحلہ وار سولر پر منتقل کر دیا جائے گا، شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ پنجاب کے شمالی اور جنوبی علاقوں میں ونڈ پاور کوریڈور کی دریافت عوام کے لیے بڑی خوشخبری ہے، اس سہولت سے استفادہ کر کے ایک ہزار میگا واٹ بجلی پیدا کر سکتے ہیں۔

لاہور (ندیم ہسرا) وفاقی حکومت کی طرف سے بجلی بحران کو کم کرنے کیلئے مارچ کے آخر تک 200 ملین کیوبک فٹ ایل این جی پاکستان میں آجائے گی جس سے 11 سومیگا واٹ کے قریب بجلی گیس سے پیدا کی جائے گی۔ اس سے فرنس آئل پر اٹھنے والے اخراجات میں کمی آئے گی۔ حکومت نے بحران کو کم کرنے کیلئے پانی کے منصوبوں پر توجہ بالکل ختم کر دی ہے۔ ملک کے اندر 50 ہزار میگا واٹ سے زائد ہائیڈرو بجلی بنانے کی صلاحیت موجود ہے۔ ماہرین کا کہنا ہے کہ واپڈا کے جاری اور فزبیلٹی مکمل ہونے والے منصوبوں کو شروع کیا جائے تو آج بھی دورپے سے 3 روپے فی یونٹ تک بجلی حاصل کی جاسکتی ہے۔ مگر وفاقی حکومت ملک کے اندر وسائل کو بروئے کار لانے کی بجائے غیر ملکی وسائل پر انحصار کئے ہوئے ہے۔ وفاقی حکومت نے ایل این جی کو قطر سے اپورٹ کرنے کی تمام منصوبہ بندی مکمل کر لی ہے۔ حکومت کی یہی سوچ ہے کہ شارٹ ٹرم منصوبوں میں ایل این جی کے ذریعے زیادہ سے زیادہ بجلی پیدا کی جائے۔ کیپیکو کو یہ گیس دی جائے گی جس سے یقینی طور پر فرنس آئل سے پیدا ہونے والی بجلی اور اس پر بھاری بھر کم اخراجات کم ہونگے اور بجلی سسٹم میں آنے سے صارفین کو لوڈ شیڈنگ میں ریلیف ملے گی۔ مگر ایل این جی جیسے ہی ملک میں آئے گی تو اس سے پیدا ہونے والی بجلی کا بڑا شیئر انڈسٹری کو ملے گا، گھریلو صارفین کو پھر لوڈ شیڈنگ کا سامنا کرنا پڑے گا جبکہ منصوبے کے تحت پنجاب کے گھریلو صارفین کو اس سے پیدا ہونے والی بجلی دی جانی ہے۔ مگر طاقتور مافیائے پہلے ہی ایل این جی سے حاصل ہونے والی بجلی کی بندر بانٹ کا منصوبہ بنالیا ہے۔ حکومت کا یہ بھی ارادہ ہے کہ ایل این جی کی اپورٹ میں مرحلہ وار اضافہ کیا جائے اور اس کو 200 ملین کیوبک فٹ سے بڑھا کر 500 ملین کیوبک فٹ تک کر دیا جائے۔ رواں برس بجلی کی لوڈ شیڈنگ 12 سے 18 گھنٹے تک جا پہنچی جبکہ گیس کا بحران سردیوں میں 12 گھنٹے تک رہا جبکہ لاہور کے بعض علاقوں میں دو ماہ تک مسلسل گیس بھی بند رہی۔ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ اس وقت پانی سے جاری منصوبوں سے اگلے 3 برس تک کوئی بھی بجلی پیدا نہیں ہوگی جبکہ 2015 کے نومبر تک سسٹم سے مزید بجلی کی کمی واقع ہو جائے گی کیونکہ 4 کے قریب آئی پی بیز بند ہو جائیں گی جس سے بجلی کے بریک ڈاؤن بڑھ سکتے ہیں۔

چمن (نوائے وقت نیوز) بلوچستان کے ضلع لورالائی کے علاقے دکی میں گزشتہ روز کولے کی کان میٹھنے سے 8 مزدور دب کر جاں بحق ہو گئے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق جھرات کی رات 8 کارکن کولے کی کان میں پھنس گئے تھے۔ دھماکے سے یہ کان بیٹھ گئی تھی جس کے باعث تمام کارکن دم توڑ گئے۔ جاں بحق ہونے والے مزدوروں کا تعلق خیبر پٹی کے مختلف علاقوں سے تھا۔ اطلاع ملتے ہی علاقے میں امدادی کارروائیاں شروع کر دی گئیں۔ دریں اثناء وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب محمد شہباز شریف نے بلوچستان کے ضلع لورالائی میں کولے کی کان میں دم گھٹنے سے 8 مزدوروں کے جاں بحق ہونے کے واقعے پر دکھ اور افسوس کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے مرنیوالوں کیلئے مغفرت و رثاء کیلئے صبر جمیل کی دعا کی ہے۔

ٹھٹھہ (نامہ نگار) ضلع ٹھٹھہ میں تعلیم کی صورت حال فانا، ڈیرہ گبٹی اور کھلو سے بھی بدتر ہو چکی ہے، جہاں پر 50 فیصد بچے اسکولوں سے باہر ہیں اور 85 فیصد اسکول زبوں حالی کے شکار ہیں۔ ایسا انکشاف ملکی جیمخانہ میں سماجی ادارے پلان پاکستان کی جانب سے منعقدہ سیمینار میں الف اعلان کی رپورٹ پیش کرتے ہوئے کیا گیا۔ اس موقع پر رپورٹ پیش کرتے ہوئے نامور دانشور جامی چانڈیو نے کہا کہ صوبہ سندھ کے 23 اضلاع میں سے ضلع ٹھٹھہ میں خواندگی کی شرح آخری نمبر پر ہے، ضلع میں میٹرک تک تعلیم حاصل کرنے والے طلبہ کی شرح صرف 15 فیصد ہے، انہوں نے مزید بتایا کہ اسکولوں میں صرف 50 فیصد طلبہ داخلہ لیتے ہیں اور ان میں سے صرف 27 فیصد پڑھنے لکھنے کے قابل ہو پاتے ہیں۔ سندھ کے 59 فیصد اسکول زبوں حال اور 85 فیصد اسکول غیر محفوظ ہیں۔

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) مسلسل چار ماہ پٹرولیم مصنوعات کی قیمتوں میں کمی کے بعد پانچویں ماہ پٹرولیم مصنوعات کی قیمتوں میں اضافے کا امکان ہے۔ ذرائع وزارت پٹرولیم کے مطابق یکم مارچ سے پٹرول کی قیمت میں 3 روپے 75 پیسے فی لیٹر اضافہ کا امکان ہے، ہائی اوکٹین کی قیمت میں 4 روپے 61 پیسے فی لیٹر، مٹی کے تیل کی قیمت میں 4 روپے 61 پیسے فی لیٹر اضافہ کا امکان ظاہر کیا گیا ہے جبکہ ہائی سپیڈ ڈیزل کی قیمت میں یکم مارچ کو بھی 3 روپے 25 پیسے فی لیٹر کمی کا امکان ظاہر کیا گیا ہے۔

توانائی بحران سے نمٹنے کے لیے

اقدامات کر رہے ہیں: شہباز شریف

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

21 فروری 2015

ہائیڈرو منصوبے نظر انداز: ایل این جی

سے بجلی بنے گی، گھریلو صارفین کو فائدہ

نہیں ہوگا

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

21 فروری 2015

لورالائی میں کولے کی کان میٹھنے سے آٹھ

مزدور دب کر جاں بحق

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

21 فروری 2015

ٹھٹھہ میں تعلیم کی شرح فانا اور ڈیرہ گبٹی

سے بھی بدتر ہونے کا انکشاف

روزنامہ جنگ

20 فروری 2015

مسلسل 4 ماہ کی بعد پٹرولیم

مصنوعات کی قیمتوں میں 4.61 روپے

لٹر تک اضافے کا امکان

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

20 فروری 2015

پبلک سروسز

تفصیلات

لاہور: (دنیا نیوز) چاہ میراں میں گیس لیمپ کو جلاتے ہوئے گھر کو آگ لگنے سے کسن بچی علیحدہ، خاتون آمنہ اور فہیم بری طرح جھلس گئے۔ محلے داروں نے اپنی مدد آپ کے تحت زخمیوں کو میو ہسپتال منتقل کیا۔ ہسپتال انتظامیہ نے فرسٹ ایڈ دینے کے بعد فوری ڈسپارچ کر دیا۔ محلے داروں نے ہسپتال انتظامیہ سے شکایت کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ یہ غریب لوگ ہیں اور پیسے نہ ہونے کی وجہ سے ان کو جلدی ڈسپارچ کر دیا گیا ہے جبکہ ان کی حالت تشویشناک ہے۔

لاہور: (نوائے وقت نیوز) سوئی ناردرن گیس کمپنی کے ایم ڈی عارف حمید کا کہنا ہے گیس کی طلب ور سد کا جائزہ لے کر مارچ میں سی این جی سیکٹر کی گیس بحال کر دی جائے گی۔ سی این جی ایسوسی ایشن سے بات چیت میں 15 مارچ کے بعد گیس بحالی کا فیصلہ ہو گیا ہے۔ پنجاب کے سی این جی سیکٹر کو مارچ سے ہفتے میں 2 روز گیس ملا کرے گی۔ انہوں نے مزید بتایا ایل این جی کی درآمد میں ابھی وقت درکار ہے قیمت اور طریقہ کار طے ہونا باقی ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا سی این جی سیکٹر کو گیس نہ دینے کا کوئی فیصلہ نہیں ہوا، ایسے پراپیگنڈا سے بے چینی پھیلائی جا رہی ہے۔

لاہور: (سٹاف رپورٹر + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) تھانہ ہرنس پورہ کے علاقہ مغلیہ روہ میں نجی سکول میں جزیئر کی گیس لہج کے باعث نویں اور دسویں کے 30 طالب علم بے ہوش ہو گئے۔ اطلاع ملنے ہی امدادی ٹیمیں موقع پر پہنچ گئیں اور بچوں کو شالیمار اور سروسز ہسپتالوں میں شفٹ کر دیا گیا جہاں انکو علاج کے بعد گھروں کو بھیجا دیا گیا۔ اطلاع ملنے پر ہسپتال میں بچوں کے والدین کی بڑی تعداد پہنچ گئی۔ پولیس نے ہسپتال ایمر جنسی میں جانے والے راستے کو بند کر دیا جبکہ پولیس نے سکول آئیڈی کے مالک عبدالرحمن، پرنسپل بلال اور ٹیچر قیصر ندیم کو حراست میں لے لیا ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ شہباز شریف اور ڈی سی او کینٹن (ر) عثمان نے واقعہ کا نوٹس لیتے ہوئے رپورٹ طلب کر لی ہے۔ معلوم ہوا ہے لال پل کے قریب الحادی سکول فاؤنڈیشن میں دسویں جماعت کے طالب علم کیلئے الوداعی پارٹی کا انعقاد کیا گیا جس میں نویں اور دسویں جماعت کے 150 کے قریب طالب علم موجود تھے۔ اسی دوران اچانک لائٹ چلی گئی اور وہاں موجود گیس جزیئر چلا گیا جس سے اچانک گیس لہج ہونا شروع ہو گئی۔ بیہوش ہونے والے بچوں میں رمشا، عائشہ، عابدہ، ثناء، آمنہ، زونیرا، فائزہ، نرمہ، کلثوم، سحر، رابعہ جاوید، اقرار امتیاز، کاشف، فرقان، زین، نعمان، کامران، شہریار، فیب، بلال وارث، زین، حنظل، جبار، مناکل، سنبل سرفراز، اسامہ اور فیضان شامل ہیں۔ ان بچوں میں سے اکثریت کی عمر 15 اور 16 سال ہے۔ طالب علموں کے بیہوش ہونے کی اطلاع پر افراتفری مچ گئی اور چیخ و پکار بڑھ گئی اطلاع ملنے پر پولیس بھی موقع پر پہنچ گئی۔ پولیس کا کہنا ہے سکول انتظامیہ کیخلاف کارروائی کریں گے۔ بچوں کے والدین نے درخواست نہ دی تو پولیس کی مددیت میں مقدمہ درج کیا جائیگا۔ سکول انتظامیہ نے اس بات کا خیال کئے بغیر کہ تقریب بیسمنٹ ہال میں منعقد کی جا رہی ہے جزیئر چلا دیا جس سے ہال میں دھواں اور گیس بھر گئی جس سے ہال میں موجود بچوں کا دم گھٹنے لگا اور دیکھتے ہی دیکھتے متعدد بچے بیہوش ہو گئے۔ ڈی سی او کی جانب سے واقعہ کی تحقیقات کے احکامات پر دو رکنی کمیٹی قائم کر دی گئی جو آج صبح 10 بجے تک اپنی رپورٹ پیش کریگی۔ کمیٹی میں اے سی کینٹ اور ڈی ایس پی مغلیہ روہ شامل ہیں۔ مزید برآں وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب شہباز شریف نے بھی رپورٹ طلب کر لی جبکہ واقعہ کی مکمل تحقیقات کر کے ذمہ داروں کیخلاف کارروائی کا حکم دیا ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے ہدایت کی متاثرہ بچوں کو بہترین طبی امداد فراہم کی جائے۔

لاہور: (نوائے وقت نیوز) سوئی ناردرن گیس کمپنی کے ایم ڈی عارف حمید کا کہنا ہے گیس کی طلب ور سد کا جائزہ لے کر مارچ میں سی این جی سیکٹر کی گیس بحال کر دی جائے گی۔ سی این جی ایسوسی ایشن سے بات چیت میں 15 مارچ کے بعد گیس بحالی کا فیصلہ ہو گیا ہے۔ پنجاب کے سی این جی سیکٹر کو مارچ سے ہفتے میں 2 روز گیس ملا کرے گی۔ انہوں نے مزید بتایا ایل این جی کی درآمد میں ابھی وقت درکار ہے قیمت اور طریقہ کار طے ہونا باقی ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا سی این جی سیکٹر کو گیس نہ دینے کا کوئی فیصلہ نہیں ہوا، ایسے پراپیگنڈا سے بے چینی پھیلائی جا رہی ہے۔

کراچی: (سٹاف رپورٹر) کراچی وائٹرائیڈ سیوریج بورڈ کے اہم ترین اور ایشیا کے سب سے بڑے پمپنگ اسٹیشن کی بجلی 9 گھنٹے بند رہنے سے شہر کو 100 ملین گیلن پانی فراہم نہیں ہو سکا۔ وائٹرائیڈ بورڈ کے اعلیٰ کے مطابق ہفتے کو صبح 9:30 بجے کے الیکٹرک نے دھاتی بیج پمپنگ اسٹیشن کی بجلی بند کر دی، جو شام 6:30 تک بحال نہیں ہو سکی تھی، اس کی وجہ سے دھاتی بیج کے 6 بیوی پمپس سے پانی کراچی شہر کو فراہم نہیں کیا جا سکا۔ اور شہر میں پانی کی قلت 100 گیلن سے تجاوز کر گئی۔ ٹیجنک ڈائریکٹر وائٹرائیڈ قطب الدین شیخ نے شہریوں سے درخواست کی ہے کہ وہ بجلی کی بندش کے سبب پیدا ہونے والی پانی کی قلت کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے پانی احتیاط اور کفایت شعاری سے استعمال کریں، وائٹرائیڈ شہر کے تمام علاقوں میں پانی کی مساویانہ اور منصفانہ تقسیم کیلئے اقدامات کر رہا ہے، توقع ہے کہ اس بحران کو جلد حل کر لیا جائے گا، تاہم بجلی کی بندش کے باعث 100 ملین گیلن پانی کی قلت کے

سرخیوں

لاہور: آگ لگنے سے کسن بچی سمیت میاں بیوی جھلس گئے

دنیا نیوز

22 فروری 2015

سی این جی سیکٹر کو 15 مارچ کے بعد گیس بحالی کا فیصلہ ہو گیا: عارف حمید

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

22 فروری 2015

مغل پورہ: سکول میں جزیئر سے گیس لہج، 30 بچے بے ہوش، مالک، پرنسپل، ٹیچر گرفتار

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

22 فروری 2015

سی این جی سیکٹر کو 15 مارچ کے بعد گیس بحالی کا فیصلہ ہو گیا: عارف حمید

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

22 فروری 2015

پمپنگ اسٹیشن کی بجلی 9 گھنٹے

بند، 100 ملین گیلن پانی سپلائی نہ ہو سکا

روزنامہ جنگ

22 فروری 2015

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

16 فروری 2015

مارکیٹوں میں فروخت کرنے والوں کے خلاف کریک ڈاؤن کرے گی۔ صورتحال یہ ہے کہ شہر میں ریلوے سٹیشن لنڈے بازار، میوہپتال اور انارکلی سمیت درجنوں مقامات پر عام دکانوں پر سیورٹی اداروں اور پولیس کی یونیفارم اور بیجز بآسانی دستیاب ہیں۔ دہشت گردی کے متعدد واقعات میں حملہ آور، ایف سی، پولیس، سپیشل کمانڈوز، ایلپیٹ فورس، رینجرز اور فوج کی وردیاں پہن کر ان عمارتوں میں بآسانی داخل ہوئے۔

لاہور (نامہ نگار) حساس اداروں کی طرف سے دہشت گردی کے خطرے کی اطلاعات پر لاہور میں حساس مقامات اور عمارتوں پر سیورٹی مزید سخت کر دی گئی جبکہ پولیس نے سرچ آپریشن کے دوران لاہور کے مختلف علاقوں سے 21 مشکوک افراد کو حراست میں لے لیا۔ شہر میں جن مقامات پر سیورٹی سخت کی گئی ہے، ان میں اہم مراعات، مساجد، امام بارگاہیں، اعلیٰ پولیس افسروں اور حساس اداروں کے دفاتر، فورسز کے سکول، رہائش گاہیں، برٹش کونسل، امریکن قونصلیٹ، شہر کے داخلی و خارجی راستے شامل ہیں۔ ڈی آئی جی آپریشنز ڈاکٹر حیدر اشرف نے کہا ہے کہ شہر میں سرچ آپریشن کا سلسلہ جاری رہے گا۔

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) وفاقی دارالحکومت میں 90 فیصد سے زائد سرکاری کوارٹر سیورٹی رسک بن گئے، سرکاری مکانوں میں بنائے گئے پورشن میں کرائے پر غیر قانونی طور مشکوک افراد کے رہائش پذیر ہونے کا انکشاف ہوا ہے جن کا کہیں پر کوئی ریکارڈ موجود نہیں، ذرائع کے مطابق ایک وفاقی ادارے کی طرف سے وزارت داخلہ کو دی گئی رپورٹ کے باوجود وفاقی وزیر داخلہ کو اس معاملے سے بے خبر رکھا گیا ہے۔

اسلام آباد (کن لائن) قومی ایکشن پلان پر عملدرآمد سے متعلق سینئر فار پاکستان اینڈ گلف کے زیر اہتمام ایک روزہ کانفرنس 18 فروری کو مقامی ہوٹل میں ہوگی۔ تقریب سے سینئر سحر کامران، رونی ہائمن، سینئر افراسیاب خٹک خطاب کریں گے۔ صدارت سابق سیکرٹری خارجہ اکرم زکی کریں گے جبکہ سابق سیکرٹری دفاع لیفٹیننٹ جنرل (ر) آصف یاسین پاکستان میں موجودہ صورتحال کے مختلف پہلوؤں پر روشنی ڈالیں گے۔

دہشت گردی کا خطرہ، لاہور میں حساس مقامات کی سیورٹی سخت، سرچ

آپریشن، 21 گرفتار

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

16 فروری 2015

اسلام آباد کے 90 فیصد سرکاری کوارٹروں میں غیر قانونی افراد پر اجماع سیورٹی کے خطرات بڑھ گئے

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

16 فروری 2015

قومی ایکشن پلان پر عملدرآمد سے متعلق ایک روزہ کانفرنس 18 فروری کو اسلام آباد میں ہوگی

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

16 فروری 2015

روزانہ دھماکہ خیز مواد کی جانچ کی بات کہی گئی ہے۔

اس میں یہ بھی کہا گیا ہے کہ کسی سکول پر حملے کی صورت میں دوسرے سکولوں تک انتباہ جاری کرنے اور فوری امداد طلب کرنے کا نظام شامل ہونا چاہیے۔ اس میں یہ بھی کہا گیا ہے کہ مختلف علاقوں میں موجود چھوٹے سکولوں کو ایک جگہ لایا جائے یا ایسے علاقے میں منتقل کیا جائے جہاں زیادہ حفاظتی انتظامات ہیں۔ قوام متحدہ کے لیے عالمی سطح پر تعلیم کے سفیر مسٹر براؤن نے بین الاقوامی برادری پر سکیورٹی میں بہتری لانے کے لیے تعاون کرنے پر زور دیا ہے۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ 'ان اقدامات سے والدین اور طلبہ کی از سرنیلین دہائی ہوگی کہ انتہائی پسندی کے خطروں سے نمٹنے کے لیے ہر ممکن اقدام کیا جا رہا ہے۔' وزیر اعظم نواز شریف کے ایک ترجمان نے بتایا کہ وزیر اعظم نے سکولوں میں بچوں کی سکیورٹی کے نظام میں بہتری لانے اور مسٹر براؤن کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کے 'اپنے ذاتی عہد کا اعادہ کیا ہے۔'

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) محکمہ داخلہ سندھ نے صوبائی ایکشن پلان سیل قائم کر دیا ہے جبکہ کرائم انویسٹی گیشن ڈیپارٹمنٹ (سی آئی ڈی) کا نام تبدیل کر کے کاؤنٹر ٹیررازم ڈیپارٹمنٹ (سی ٹی ڈی) رکھ دیا گیا ہے۔ محکمہ داخلہ کی جانب سے بنائے گئے صوبائی ایکشن پلان سیل کا مقصد انتہیکس کمیٹی، ذیلی کمیٹیوں اور دیگر اسٹیک ہولڈرز کے ساتھ رابطہ رکھنا، انتہیکس کمیٹی میں ہونے والے فیصلوں کو مانیٹر کرنا اور سندھ حکومت اور انتہیکس کمیٹی میں جمع کرائی جانے والی رپورٹس اور ورکنگ پیپر تیار کرنا ہے۔ دوسری جانب محکمہ داخلہ سندھ کی جانب سے جاری نوٹیفیکیشن کے مطابق کرائم انویسٹی گیشن ڈیپارٹمنٹ (سی آئی ڈی) کا نام تبدیل کر کے کاؤنٹر ٹیررازم ڈیپارٹمنٹ (سی ٹی ڈی) رکھ دیا گیا ہے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق سی ٹی ڈی کو مزید وسعت دی جا رہی ہے اور اہلکاروں کی تربیت بھی جدید خطوط پر استوار کی جائے گی۔

واہ کینٹ میں طلبہ نے مشکوک بیگ کی اطلاع اساتذہ کو دی تھی، جنہوں نے بروقت سکیورٹی اداروں کو مطلع کر دیا، جس پر قانون نافذ کرنے والے ادارے، پولیس اور ایم ڈی سپورٹ کی ٹیمیں موقع پر پہنچ گئیں جنہوں نے بیگ سے ملے والے دیسی ساختہ بم کو ناکارہ بنادیا، جس سے شہر خوفناک تباہی سے بچ گیا، واہ کینٹ کے نواحی علاقے واہ گارڈن سے کچھ عرصہ قبل بھی سکیورٹی اداروں نے خود کش بمبار کو بروقت کارروائی کرتے ہوئے ہلاک کر دیا تھا۔

خیبر ایجنسی میں چار روزہ انسداد پولیو مہم کا آج آغاز ہو گیا انسداد پولیو مہم کیلئے تین سو چھپن ٹیمیں تشکیل دی گئی ہیں، جبکہ پولیو ورکرز کی سکیورٹی کیلئے 11,000 اہلکار اپنے فرائض سرانجام دیں گے، ذرائع کے مطابق چار روزہ پولیو مہم کے دوران ایک لاکھ چھتیس ہزار چار سو تیس بچوں کو قطرے پلائے جائیں گے۔

پاکستان کے صوبہ بلوچستان کے ضلع ژوب میں سکیورٹی فورسز کے سرچ آپریشن کے دوران دوشدت پسند ہلاک ہو گئے ہیں۔ ادھر پولیو مہم کے مغوی کارکنوں اور لیویز اہلکاروں کی بازیابی کے لیے کارروائی پیر کو دوبارہ شروع کر دی گئی ہے۔ لیویز کے ایک اہلکار نے بی بی سی اردو کو بتایا کہ سکیورٹی فورسز نے اتوار کی شب ژوب اور قلعہ سیف اللہ کے سرحدی علاقے میں یہ آپریشن کیا۔ اہلکار کا کہنا تھا کہ تلاشی کے دوران تودہ کدزنی کے علاقے میں دو شدت پسندوں نے سکیورٹی اہلکاروں پر فائرنگ کی۔ ان کے مطابق جو ابی فائرنگ سے ایک شدت پسند تو موقع پر ہی ہلاک ہو گیا جبکہ دوسرا زخمی ہوا۔ اہلکار کا کہنا تھا کہ جب کارروائی میں شامل لیویز اہلکار زخمی کے قریب پہنچے تو اس نے دستی بم کا دھماکہ کر دیا جس میں وہ خود ہلاک ہو گیا اور لیویز کا ایک اہلکار زخمی ہوا۔ خیال رہے کہ نامعلوم مسلح افراد نے مرغہ کبڑی کے علاقے سے جمعے کو دو پولیو رضاکاروں اور ان کی حفاظت پر مامور دو لیویز اہلکاروں کو اغوا کر لیا تھا۔

لیویز کے مطابق ان کی بازیابی کے لیے آپریشن پیر کو دوبارہ شروع کر دیا گیا ہے تاہم اس میں تاحال کوئی کامیابی نہیں ملی ہے۔ خیال رہے کہ ژوب کوئٹہ سے شمال مغرب میں افغانستان کی سرحد سے متصل ضلع ہے اور اس کی سرحدویرستان ایجنسی سے بھی ملتی ہے۔ ژوب سے متصل ضلع قلعہ سیف اللہ میں بھی چند روز قبل پی ٹی سی ایل کے پانچ اہلکاروں سمیت چھ افراد کو اغوا کیا گیا تھا جن کی تاحال بازیابی ممکن نہیں ہو سکی ہے۔ چار جنوری کو بھی قلعہ سیف اللہ سے دس مسافروں کو بھی اغوا کیا گیا تھا جن میں سے ایک کو ہلاک کرنے کے علاوہ چھ کو چھوڑ دیا گیا تھا جبکہ تین افراد ابھی تک اغوا کاروں کی تحویل میں ہیں۔ مغویوں کی بازیابی کے لیے مزید نفری طلب کر لی گئی ہے جبکہ علاقے میں صورت حال کشیدہ ہے۔

لاہور (نامہ نگار) پولیس نے پشاور میں دو بڑے حملوں میں دہشت گردوں کی جانب سے سکیورٹی فورسز کی یونیفارم استعمال کئے جانے پر سکیورٹی اداروں کی وردیاں عام دکانوں اور مارکیٹوں میں فروخت کرنے والوں کے خلاف کریک ڈاؤن کا فیصلہ کر لیا۔ پولیس فوج، انزفوس، بحریہ، ایف سی، رنجیرز، اینٹی نارکوٹکس، ایف ایس ایف، ایف آئی اے، سٹیشل کمانڈوز، ایلپٹ فورس اور دوسرے سکیورٹی اداروں کی وردیاں عام دکانوں اور

صوبائی ایکشن پلان سیل قائم، سی آئی ڈی کا نام کاؤنٹر ٹیررازم ڈیپارٹمنٹ ہو گیا

روزنامہ جنگ

17 فروری 2015

راولپنڈی کے قریبی علاقے واہ کینٹ میں دہشت گردی کی کوشش ناکام بنا دی گئی

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

16 فروری 2015

خیبر ایجنسی میں چار روزہ انسداد دہشت گردی مہم شروع ہو گئی

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

16 فروری 2015

ژوب: مغوی اہلکاروں کی تلاش جاری، آپریشن میں دو ہلاک

بی بی سی اردو

16 فروری 2015

سکیورٹی فورسز کی یونیفارم عام دکانوں پر فروخت کرنیوالوں کیخلاف کریک ڈاؤن کا فیصلہ

اپنے جاری ایک بیان میں کہا ہے کہ اندرونی اور بیرونی طور پر انتہا پسندی، دہشت گردی، بنیاد پرستی کے خاتمے کے لئے سب کا ایک ہی مقصد ہے۔ امریکی سکیورٹی ایجنسیاں عالمی اتحادیوں کے ساتھ اپنا تعاون جاری رکھیں گے۔ وائٹ ہاؤس کا کہنا تھا دہشت گردی اور انتہا پسندی کے خاتمے کے لئے کی جانے والی کوششیں حال ہی میں سڈنی، پیرس، اور اوٹاوا حملوں کے بعد کی گئی ہیں۔

سکھر (ہیورورپورٹ) جمعیت علماء اسلام کے صوبائی جنرل سیکرٹری مولانا راشد محمود سومرو، مفتی سعید افضل ہالہجوی سمیت دیگر رہنماؤں نے اسلام آباد میں دینی مدارس کی بندش کے فیصلے اور علماء کرام، مدارس، مساجد کے خلاف کئے جانے والے اقدامات کی مذمت کرتے ہوئے 26 فروری کو ملک گیر احتجاج شروع کرنے کا اعلان کیا ہے۔

خیبر پور (ہیورورپورٹ) خیبر پور پولیس کا جرائم پیشہ گروہوں کے خلاف سرچ آپریشن، 9 ملزمان گرفتار کر لیے گئے پولیس فورس نے سرچ آپریشن خیبر پور سٹی اور تحصیل کنگری کے مختلف علاقوں میں کیا تفصیلات کے مطابق خیبر پور کی بھاری پولیس فورس نے جرائم پیشہ گروہوں کے خلاف سرچ آپریشن کر کے 9 ملزمان کو گرفتار کر لیا۔ پولیس فورس نے سرچ آپریشن خیبر پور سٹی اور تحصیل کنگری کے فیض محمد بندو، برادی جتوئی، پریالو اور دیگر علاقوں میں کیا گیا۔ سرچ آپریشن کی نگرانی ایس ایس پی ناصر آفتاب اور ایس پی مسعود بنگش نے کی۔ پولیس ذرائع کے مطابق گرفتار کئے جانے والے ملزمان کے قبضے سے بھاری اسلحہ برآمد کر لیا گیا جبکہ سرچ آپریشن کے دوران ملزمان کی کئی کمیں گاہوں پر بلڈوزر چلا کر مسمار کر دیا گیا۔ سرچ آپریشن میں 50 سے زائد کمانڈوز کے جوان بھی شامل تھے گرفتار کئے جانے والے ملزمان نے پوچھ گچھ کے دوران اہم انکشافات کئے ہیں اور پولیس کو اپنے دیگر ساتھیوں کے نام بھی بتادیئے ہیں ان کی گرفتاری کے لیے پولیس کی خصوصی چھاپہ مار ٹیمیں مقرر کر دی گئی ہیں۔

لاہور (ندیم علوی) محکمہ داخلہ پنجاب نے تین روز قبل لاہور کے قانون نافذ کرنے والوں کو بذریعہ مراسلہ آگاہ کر دیا تھا۔ جس میں واضح طور پر مطلع کیا گیا تھا کہ لاہور میں تین خودکش حملہ آور داخل ہو چکے ہیں۔ جو آئندہ دو تین روز میں لاہور میں اہم مقامات کو نشانہ بنائیں گے۔ محکمہ داخلہ پنجاب کے ذرائع کے مطابق حساس اداروں نے لٹری کو تل میں دو افراد عبدالرزاق اور ایک نامعلوم شخص کی گفتگو کا سراغ لگایا تھا گفتگو میں خیر ایجنسی کے عبدالرزاق نے کہا کہ عمر امیر نے خودکش حملہ آور لاہور بھیج دیئے ہیں جو دو تین روز میں لاہور میں دہشت گردی کی کاروائی کریں گے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق محکمہ داخلہ نے پولیس سمیت اہم حکومتی شخصیات کو اس بارے آگاہ کر دیا تھا۔ اور ان سے درخواست کی تھی لاہور میں سکیورٹی کے اقدامات کو فول پروف کیا جائے۔ تاکہ کسی بھی ناخوشگوار واقعے سے بچا جاسکے۔ عمر امیر کا عدم ٹی ٹی پی کے مولانا فضل اللہ کا قریبی ساتھی ہے اور آرمی پبلک اسکول پشاور اور امامیہ امام بارگاہ حیات آباد پشاور میں براہ راست ملوث ہے۔

پشاور (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) آئی ڈی بیز کیلئے پشاور میں قائم راشن سنٹر بند کر دیا گیا۔ فانا کے متاثرین کو راشن کے حصول میں مشکلات پیش آرہی ہیں۔ سرکاری ذرائع کے مطابق غیر ملکی این جی او کا این اوسی منسوخ ہونے پر راشن سنٹر بند کیا گیا ہے۔

اتواں متحدہ کے اہلی گورڈن براؤن نے پاکستانی سکولوں کی حفاظت کے لیے جو منصوبہ پیش کیا ہے ان میں سکولوں کے گرد احاطے، دھاتوں کی شناخت کرنے والے آلات، مسلح گارڈز اور ایمر جنسی موصلاقی نظام وغیرہ شامل ہیں۔ سابق برطانوی وزیر اعظم گورڈن براؤن نے پشاور سکول میں ہونے والے قتل عام کے پیش نظر پاکستانی وزیر اعظم نواز شریف سے بات چیت کی ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ پاکستان میں تعلیمی اداروں پر دنیا کسی دوسرے ممالک سے کہیں زیادہ حملے ہوئے ہیں۔ گورڈن براؤن نے کہا کہ وہ دہشت گردوں کے حملے کے مقابلے کے لیے سکولوں کو کھڑا کرنے، کی راہ میں تعاون کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ ان تجاویز کے بعد گورڈن براؤن اور نواز شریف کے درمیان پاکستان میں سکولوں کے تحفظ کا معاہدہ ہوا ہے۔ خیال رہے کہ دسمبر میں پشاور میں فوجی سکول پر ہونے والے طالبان کے حملے میں 140 سے زیادہ طلبہ مارے گئے تھے اور گزشتہ پانچ برسوں میں اسی صوبے میں سکولوں پر ایک ہزار سے زیادہ حملے ہو چکے ہیں۔ گورڈن براؤن تعلیم کے شعبے میں کام کرنے والے ایک مخبر ادارے ورلڈ ایٹ سکول کے تحفظاتی منصوبے کی تشہیر کر رہے ہیں۔ یہ منصوبہ پاکستان اور جنگ زدہ علاقوں کے سکولوں کو تحفظ فراہم کرنے کے لیے تیار کیا گیا ہے۔ اس میں مقامی برادریوں اور مذہبی رہنماؤں کے ساتھ مل کر سکولوں کے گرد پٹریں زون قائم کرنے کی بات کہی گئی ہے۔

سکیورٹی کے بہت سے اقدامات میں احاطے کی دیوار، سکیورٹی چیک پوائنٹس اور ریزر باڈھ وغیرہ شامل ہیں۔ اس میں اہم مقامات پر جہاں سے ارد گرد نظر رکھی جاسکے مسلح گارڈز اور سکیورٹی سٹاف کی سخت جانچ کی بات کہی گئی ہے۔ اس میں سکول کے نقل و حمل کے نظام پر سخت نگرانی اور بسوں میں

سکھر: دینی مدارس کی بندش مخالف
26 فروری کو ملک گیر احتجاج کا اعلان

روزنامہ جنگ

18 فروری 2015

خیبر پور: مختلف علاقوں میں پولیس کا
سرچ آپریشن، 9 ملزمان گرفتار

روزنامہ جنگ

18 فروری 2015

لاہور دھماکا، محکمہ داخلہ نے 3 روز قبل
خطرے سے آگاہ کر دیا تھا

روزنامہ جنگ

18 فروری 2015

غیر ملکی این جی او کا این اوسی منسوخ،
پشاور میں راشن سنٹر بند ہونے سے آئی

ڈی بیز کو مشکلات

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

17 فروری 2015

پاکستانی سکولوں کے لیے براؤن کا
سکیورٹی منصوبہ

بی بی سی اردو

17 فروری 2015

سیکورٹی نظام سے وابستہ ہیں اور ان میں کام کرنے والے افراد کی تعداد 6 لاکھ سے زیادہ ہے اور یہ تعداد پاک فوج کی تعداد سے بھی زیادہ ہے۔ لیکن حسد کے عنصر اور رابطہ کاری نہ ہونے کی وجہ سے یہ ادارے پاکستان کو نقصان پہنچانے والی مافیا اور دہشت گردی کے خلاف موثر کردار ادا نہیں کر پا رہے۔ خیال کیا جاتا ہے کہ ان انٹیلی جنس اور سیکورٹی ایجنسیوں کے درمیان بھرپور رابطہ کاری اور ان کی جانب سے مسائل پر توجہ دینے سے دہشت گردی کے نیٹ ورکس کو توڑنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ اس کیلئے نیکٹا کو بڑا کردار ادا کرنا ہو گا۔

اسلام آباد (مناجمہ جنگ) وفاقی دارالحکومت اسلام آباد کے تھانہ شہزاد ناؤن میں راولپنڈی اسلام آباد کے سنگم پر واقع علاقے شکرپال میں امام بارگاہ قیصر سکینہ کے باہر خودکش حملہ آور کی فائرنگ سے 3 افراد شہید اور 2 زخمی ہو گئے، امام بارگاہ کے باہر تعینات گارڈ نے حملہ آور کو گولی مار کر خودکش حملے کی کوشش ناکام بنادی، عینی شاہدین کے مطابق ایک حملہ آور نے شکرپال کے علاقے میں واقع امام بارگاہ میں داخل ہونے کی کوشش کی وہاں موجود رضاکاروں نے اسکی جامہ تلاشی کی کوشش کی جس پر حملہ آور نے اندھا دھند فائرنگ کر دی جس پر لوگوں نے اندر سے امام بارگاہ کا دروازہ بند کر دیا اور امام بارگاہ کے باہر تعینات گارڈ نے حملہ آور کو فائرنگ کر کے زخمی کر دیا، حملہ آور نے پہلے گرینڈ چھبک کر دھماکا کیا اور خودکش جیکٹ اڑانے کی کوشش کی مگر کامیاب نہ ہو سکا اور دم توڑ گیا، خودکش بمبار کی نعش مردہ خانہ میں منتقل کر دی گئی ہے۔ واقعے کے بعد ریسکیو ٹیموں نے موقع پر پہنچ کر زخموں کو قریبی اسپتالوں میں منتقل کیا جہاں بعض زخموں کی حالت تشویشناک ہے۔ صدر مملکت، وزیر اعظم اور دیگر مذہبی اور سیاسی رہنماؤں نے واقعے کی شدید مذمت کرتے ہوئے دھماکے میں معصوم انسانی جانوں کے نقصان پر افسوس کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے متعلقہ حکام سے واقعے کی رپورٹ بھی طلب کر لیا ہے۔ دھماکے کے بعد پولیس اور دیگر قانون نافذ کرنے والے اداروں نے علاقے کو گھیرے میں لے کر سرچ آپریشن شروع کر دیا جبکہ پاک فوج کے جوانوں نے بھی علاقے میں پوزیشنیں سنبھال لیں۔ واقعہ کی اطلاع ملتے ہی حساس اداروں سمیت پولیس اور ریسکیو ٹیمیں موقع پر پہنچ گئیں اور شاہد جمع کر لئے۔ فائرنگ سے جاں بحق 65 سالہ غلام حسین ولد خان محمد کے صاحبزادے انجم شہزاد کے مطابق وہ امام بارگاہ کی انتظامیہ میں تھے اور نماز مغربین کے موقع پر امام بارگاہ کے باہر جامہ تلاشی لے رہے تھے جبکہ شہید ہوئیوالا عبدالشکور ولد مکھن خان شکرپال میں مقیم تھا وہ بھی امام بارگاہ میں خدمتگار تھا۔ شہید ہونے والے تیسرے شخص کا نام سید سخاوت حسین بتایا جاتا ہے جبکہ الطاف حسین کی حالت تشویشناک بتائی جاتی ہے پھر میں لائے گئے 73 سالہ زخمی سجاد حسین کے دائیں بازو پر گولیاں لگی ہیں اس کی حالت خطرے سے باہر بیان کی جاتی ہے، مقتول عبدالشکور کے نواسے مجاہد حسین کے مطابق امام بارگاہ کا اندر سے دروازہ بند نہ کیا جاتا تو زیادہ نقصان ہو تا خودکش بمبار دروازہ بند کرائے جانے کی وجہ سے امام بارگاہ میں داخل نہیں ہو سکا، خودکش بمبار کو گولی لگنے کے بعد بم ڈسپوزل اسکواڈ نے اس کی جیکٹ ناکارہ بنادی۔ ریسکیو ذرائع کے مطابق دھماکہ خودکش تھا۔ دھماکے کی آواز دور دور تک سنی گئی جس سے قریبی عمارتوں کے شیشے ٹوٹ گئے۔ دھماکے کے بعد پمز اور پولی کلینک اسپتال سمیت اسلام آباد اور راولپنڈی کے تمام اسپتالوں میں امیر جنسی نافذ کر دی گئی ہے۔ ادھر پمز ہسپتال کی ترجمان ڈاکٹر عائشہ عیسائی نے صحافیوں کو بتایا کہ حملے کے بعد پانچ افراد کو اسپتال لایا گیا جن میں سے غلام حسین اور عبدالشکور راستے میں ہی دم توڑ چکے تھے ان کے سینے اور پیلوں پر گولیاں لگی تھیں جبکہ سخاوت حسین شاہ دوران آپریشن دم توڑ گیا۔ دریں اثناء صدر مملکت ممنون حسین اور وزیر اعظم نواز شریف نے کئی روز امام بارگاہ میں دھماکے کی پرزور مذمت کی ہے اور معصوم انسانی جانوں کے نقصان پر گہرے رنج و غم کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دہشت گردوں کا کوئی مذہب نہیں ہوتا۔ امام بارگاہ دھماکے کے ملزمان کو انصاف کے کٹہرے میں لایا جائے گا۔ صدر مملکت نے کہا کہ اس طرح کی بزدلانہ کارروائیوں سے دہشتگردی کے خلاف حکومت اور قوم کے عزم کو متزلزل نہیں کیا جاسکتا۔ جبکہ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب شہباز شریف، ایم کیو ایم کے قائد الطاف حسین، آصف علی زرداری، امیر جماعت اسلامی سراج الحق، تحریک انصاف کے سربراہ عمران خان، بے یو آئی کے امیر مولانا فضل الرحمن، اے این پی کے سربراہ اسفندیار ولی، علامہ ساجد نقوی، خیبر پختونخوا کے وزیر اعظم پرویز خٹک، بے یو پی (نورانی) کے سربراہ صاحبزادہ ابولخیر محمد زہیر، ایم کیو ایم کے چیئرمین آفاق احمد، سینئر سیاستدان ضیاء عباس سمیت ملک بھر کی سیاسی و مذہبی شخصیات نے دھماکے کی شدید مذمت کی ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نواز شریف نے دھماکے کی رپورٹ طلب کرتے ہوئے زخموں کو بہترین طبی سہولیات فراہم کرنے کی ہدایت کی ہے۔

واشنگٹن (آئن لائن) پاکستان انتہا پسندی اور دہشت گردی کے خلاف کی جانے والی عالمی کوششوں اور اس کے خاتمے کے لئے جامع پالیسی بنانے سے متعلق آج بدھ کو واشنگٹن میں ہونے والی انسداد دہشت گردی کانفرنس میں شرکت کرے گا۔ کانفرنس میں پاکستان کے علاوہ دیگر 70 ممالک بھی شرکت کریں گے۔ پاکستان کی نمائندگی وزیر داخلہ چوہدری نثار کریں گے۔ امریکی صدر اوباما کانفرنس کی میزبانی کرتے ہوئے دنیا سے انتہا پسندی اور دہشت گردی کا ملکر مقابلہ کرنے کے حوالے سے بحث کریں گے۔ وائٹ ہاؤس کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان کے وزیر داخلہ چوہدری نثار علی خان نیشنل ایکشن پلان میں انسداد دہشت گردی کے حوالے سے کئے جانے والے اقدامات پر کانفرنس کو اعتماد میں لیں گے جبکہ کانفرنس کے شرکاء کو دہشت گردی کے خلاف پاکستان کی جانب سے دی جانے والی قربانیوں سے متعلق بھی بتائیں گے۔ ایک پاکستانی سفارتکار کا کہنا ہے کہ وہ اس بات پر بھی روشنی ڈالیں گے کہ پاکستان انتہا پسندی اور دہشت گردی کے مائنڈ سیٹ کو تبدیل کرنے کے لئے بڑے عرصے سے کوشش کر رہا ہے۔ وائٹ ہاؤس نے

اسلام آباد میں امام بارگاہ میں خودکش دھماکے کی کوشش، حملہ آور فائرنگ سے ہلاک، 3 افراد شہید 2 زخمی

روزنامہ جنگ

19 فروری 2015

انسداد دہشت گردی کانفرنس آج واشنگٹن میں ہوگی، چودھری نثار پاکستان کی نمائندگی کریں گے

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

18 فروری 2015

آئی ایس پی آر کی طرف سے جاری کردہ اعلامیے کے مطابق سکیورٹی فورسز نے شمالی وزیرستان کے علاقے دتہ خیل اور گرد و نواح میں سرچ آپریشن کیا جس کے دوران دہشت گردوں سے جھڑپ ہوئی اور فائرنگ کے تبادلے میں پانچ دہشت گرد ہلاک ہو گئے۔ جبکہ فورسز کا ایک اہلکار شہید ہو گیا۔ جبکہ عسکری ذرائع کے مطابق دہشت گردوں کے خلاف جاری آپریشن میں بھی سکیورٹی فورسز کو بڑے پیمانے پر کامیابی حاصل ہوئی ہے اور آپریشن میں پیش رفت جاری ہے، عسکری ذرائع کے مطابق ملک سے دہشت گردوں کے مکمل خاتمے تک آپریشن جاری رہے گا۔

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) وفاقی وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار نے کہا ہے آپریشن ضرب عضب اور آئی ڈی پیز کی بحالی پر 1.3 ارب ڈالر خرچ ہوں گے، حکومت پاکستان 40 کروڑ ڈالر خرچ کر چکی، اب عالمی برادری دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں تعاون کر کے اپنا فرض ادا کرے، پاکستان کا مالیاتی خسارہ اگلے سال کے اختتام پر جی ڈی پی کے مقابلے میں 4 فیصد پر آ جائیگا۔ وہ بدھ کو یہاں امریکی سینیٹر جیک ریڈ اور برطانوی وزیر فرانس ماڈے سے الگ الگ ملاقاتوں میں گفتگو کر رہے تھے۔ امریکی سینیٹر جیک ریڈ نے کہا یہ بات آسانی سے دیکھی جاسکتی ہے پاکستانی فوج نے آپریشن ضرب عضب تمام دہشت گردی کے خلاف شروع کیا، دہشت گردی عالمی برادری کا مشترکہ مسئلہ ہے اور اس کے خاتمے کیلئے مشترکہ کوششیں درکار ہیں۔ عالمی برادری کو چاہیے اس مسئلے کے حل کیلئے پاکستان کی مدد کرے۔ انہوں نے کہا آپریشن کے دوران افغانستان کا مثبت رویہ خوش آئند ہے۔ آپریشن ضرب عضب کا آغاز موجودہ حکومت کی دہشت گردوں کے خلاف جارحانہ پالیسی کا واضح اظہار ہے۔ دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ کی وجہ سے پاکستان کو کئی قسم کے معاشی مسائل کا سامنا ہے، حکومت آپریشن ضرب عضب پر اب تک پالیس کروڑ ڈالر خرچ کر چکی ہے جبکہ آپریشن کی کامیابی اور آئی ڈی پیز کی واپسی تک کل اخراجات کا تخمینہ ایک ارب تیس کروڑ ڈالر لگا گیا ہے۔ لہذا عالمی برادری کو چاہیے کہ دہشت گردی کے خلاف پاکستان کی مدد کرے۔ برطانوی وزیر فرانس ماڈے سے ملاقات میں وزیر خزانہ کا کہنا تھا کہ موجودہ حکومت مسلم لیگ (ن) کے منشور کے مطابق معاشی اصلاحات کے ایجنڈے پر عمل پیرا ہے۔ حکومتی کوششوں سے مالیاتی خسارہ جی ڈی پی کے مقابلے میں 5.5 فیصد پر آ چکا ہے اگلے سال کے اختتام پر چار فیصد پر آ جائے گا۔ برطانوی وزیر نے کہا پاکستان کے حکومتی نظام میں شفافیت لانے کی ضرورت ہے اور برطانیہ اس حوالے سے مدد کیلئے تیار ہے۔

اسلام آباد (انصار عباسی) ماضی میں محکموں کے درمیان حسد کے چلن کے برعکس، دہشت گردی کے انسداد کیلئے ملک کی مختلف انٹیلی جنس ایجنسیوں کے درمیان رابطہ کار بہتر ہونا شروع ہو گئی ہے۔ اگرچہ متوقع وقت کی بجائے دیر سے آپریشن ضرب عضب کا مکملہ رد عمل ملک میں حملوں کی صورت میں سامنے آنا شروع ہو گیا ہے، لیکن صورتحال کا ایک حوصلہ افزا پہلو یہ ہے کہ انٹیلی جنس اور سیکورٹی ایجنسیوں کے درمیان دہشت گردی کے انسداد کیلئے زبردست رابطہ کاری اور بہترین ورکنگ ریلیشن قائم ہو رہا ہے۔ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ ایسا پہلے نہیں ہوا کہ مختلف سویلین اور ملٹری انٹیلی جنس ایجنسیوں کے اہلکار دہشت گردی کے خلاف اپنے فیلڈ آپریشنز کے متعلق ایک دوسرے سے معلومات کا تبادلہ کر رہے ہوں۔ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ پشاور میں اسکول پر حملے کے بعد اور اس کے بعد قومی ایکشن پلان کی تشکیل کے بعد سیکورٹی ایجنسیوں کے درمیان صورتحال نمایاں طور پر تبدیل ہوئی ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ پہلے یہ ایجنسیاں ایک دوسرے پر سبقت لے جانے کیلئے کام کرتی تھیں لیکن اب ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ تعاون کر رہی ہیں اور دونوں کی توجہ دہشت گردی کے انسداد پر مرکوز ہے۔ پنجاب پولیس میں اسپیشل برانچ کے ایک افسر کا کہنا ہے کہ ماضی میں شاذ و نادر ہی ایسا ہوتا تھا کہ سویلین ایجنسیوں کی جانب سے کوئی اجلاس بلائے پر فوجی ایجنسیوں کا کوئی عہدیدار اس میں شرکت کرتا ہو۔ لیکن اب اگر انہیں اجلاس میں شرکت کی دعوت دی جائے تو وہ شریک ہوتے ہیں۔ کہا جاتا ہے کہ صوبائی دارالحکومتوں میں سویلین اور ملٹری قیادت پر مشتمل ہینکس کمیٹیوں کے نظام کی وجہ سے بھی سویلین اور ملٹری ایجنسیوں کے درمیان تعلقات میں بہتری آئی ہے۔ اعلیٰ سطح پر وزیر اعظم کی زیر صدارت کراچی، اسلام آباد یا دیگر شہروں میں ہونے والے اجلاسوں میں انٹیلی جنس ایجنسیوں کے سربراہان شرکت کرتے ہیں لیکن معلومات کے تبادلے اور اعلیٰ سطح پر حکمت عملی مرتب کرنے کیلئے اہم سیکورٹی حکام بشمول خفیہ ایجنسیوں کے سربراہان کی باقاعدہ اور معمول کے مطابق ملاقات کا فقدان پایا جاتا ہے۔ نیکیا ایکٹ کے تحت، اس طرح کے باقاعدہ اجلاسوں کیلئے ایک میکانزم موجود ہے۔ ان اجلاسوں کی صدارت وزیر اعظم اور وزیر داخلہ کریں گے لیکن ماضی میں اس قانون کو نظر انداز کیا جاتا رہا ہے۔ نیشنل ایکشن پلان میں نیکیا کو دوبارہ فعال بنانے کے عدم اظہار کیا گیا ہے اور یہ دہشت گردی کے خلاف منظم رابطہ کاری اور اسٹریٹجک منصوبہ بندی کیلئے ایک اہم ادارہ ثابت ہو گا۔ نیشنل کاؤنٹر ٹیررازم اتھارٹی (نیکیا) ایک نیا قائم ہونے والا ادارہ ہے جو شدت پسندی، دہشت گردی اور بغاوت کے خلاف قومی سطح پر جائزہ رپورٹس تیار کرے گا اور دہشت گردی کے انسداد کیلئے حکمت عملی مرتب کرنے میں حکومت کی مدد کرے گا۔ دستاویز کے مطابق، نیکیا کی بنیادی توجہ تحقیق، اعداد و شمار جمع کرنے اور دہشت گردی سے جڑے معاملات کے جائزے پر مرکوز ہوگی اور ساتھ ہی یہ ادارہ دہشت گردی کے خلاف کام کرنے والی بین الاقوامی تنظیموں اور اداروں کے ساتھ رابطے کا کام بھی کرے گا۔ نیکیا کیلئے منظور شدہ افرادی قوت 203 ہے۔ یہاں یہ بتانا ضروری ہے کہ وفاقی حکومت میں 33 ایسے ادارے ہیں جو ملک کے

شمالی وزیرستان میں سکیورٹی فورسز سے

جھڑپ کے دوران پانچ دہشت گرد

مارے گئے: بی ایس پی آر

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

20 فروری 2015

آپریشن ضرب عضب اور آئی ڈی پیز

کی بحالی پر 1.3 ارب ڈالر خرچ ہو گئے:

اسحاق ڈار

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

19 فروری 2015

دہشت گردی کی خلاف انٹیلی جنس اداروں

میں رابطہ کاری میں بہتری شروع

روزنامہ جنگ

19 فروری 2015

سیفی اور سیکورٹی

تفصیلات

ہنگو/میرانشاہ (نیوز ایجنسز) شمالی وزیرستان کی تحصیل رزمک اور ہنگو میں سیکورٹی فورسز کی کارروائی میں آرمی پبلک اسکول پشاور پر حملے میں مطلوب دہشت گرد سمیت ۵ شدت پسند گرفتار کر لئے گئے، سانحہ پشاور کے مطلوب دہشت گرد عبدالصیر نے آرمی پبلک اسکول پر حملے کیلئے دہشت گردوں کو خود کش جیکٹس فراہم کی تھیں۔ ادھر پشاور کے آرمی پبلک اسکول پر حملے کا ایک اور زخمی ہونے والا دسویں جماعت کا طالب علم اسحاق امین ہفتہ کو سی ایم ایچ میں زخموں کی تاب نہ لاتے ہوئے دم توڑ گیا۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق پاک فوج کے شعبہ تعلقات عامہ کا کہنا ہے کہ شمالی وزیرستان کو دہشت گردوں سے پاک کرنے کے لئے سرچ آپریشن جاری ہے۔ سیکورٹی فورسز نے انٹیلی جنس معلومات کی بنیاد پر شمالی وزیرستان کے علاقے رزمک سے سرچ آپریشن کے دوران ۴ دہشت گردوں کو گرفتار کیا ہے۔ ۲ دہشت گردوں کو رزمک بازار سے جبکہ ۲ دہشت گردوں کو قریبی کپاؤنڈ سے گرفتار کیا گیا جو ہاں چھپے ہوئے تھے۔ انہیں فورسز کے ہیڈ کوارٹر منتقل کر کے تفتیش شروع کر دی گئی ہے۔

لاہور (خصوصی رپورٹر) وزیر اعلیٰ شہباز شریف سے یورپین پارلیمنٹ کے نمائندہ وفد نے ملاقات کی جس میں باہمی دلچسپی کے امور، معاشی و تجارتی تعلقات کے فروغ، تعلیم، صحت، سکل ڈیولپمنٹ اور دیگر شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ شہباز شریف نے یورپین پارلیمنٹ کے وفد سے گفتگو میں کہا کہ پاکستان اور یورپی یونین کے ممالک کے درمیان بہترین دوستانہ تعلقات موجود ہیں۔ تعلیم، صحت، انفراسٹرکچر اور دیگر سماجی شعبوں کی بہتری کے حوالے سے پاکستان کے ساتھ یورپی یونین کے تعاون کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتے ہیں۔ پاکستان کو جی ایس پی پلس کا درجہ ملنے کے بعد نیک شائسل برآمدات میں ایک ارب ڈالر کا اضافہ ہوا ہے جس کے ملکی معیشت پر مثبت اثرات مرتب ہوں گے۔ ہم دوست ممالک کے تجربات سے پوری طرح فائدہ اٹھائیں گے۔ پاکستان کو دہشت گردی و انتہا پسندی کے چیلنجز کے ساتھ توانائی کی کمی کا سامنا ہے۔ حکومت دہشت گردی کے خاتمے اور توانائی بحران کے حل کے لئے سنجیدہ اقدامات اٹھا رہی ہے۔ سیاسی، عسکری اور مذہبی قیادت دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں ایک صفحے پر ہے۔ دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں جیت ہی واحد آپشن ہے۔ مسلم لیگ (ن) کی حکومت کا ہر قدم پاکستان کو ترقی یافتہ، پرامن اور خوشحال ملک بنانے کی جانب اٹھ رہا ہے۔ اجلاس سے خطاب میں شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ پنجاب حکومت صحت عامہ کی سہولتوں میں بہتری لانے کے لئے انقلابی اصلاحات متعارف کر رہی ہے۔ تحصیل و ضلعی ہسپتالوں میں گورننس اور مانیٹرنگ کے موثر نظام کے لئے انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی سے استفادہ کیا جائے گا۔ مریضوں کو ادویات کی فراہمی اور ادویات کے سٹاک کی چیکنگ کے لئے مربوط ڈیجیٹل نظام ترتیب دیا جا رہا ہے۔ مریضوں کو ادویات کی فراہمی کے عمل کو شفاف بنانے کے لئے سٹیٹنر فیزیک سسٹم سے استفادہ کیا جائیگا۔ اجلاس میں سٹیٹ آف بایو میڈیکل ورکشاپ بنانے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا اور تحصیل و ضلعی ہیڈ کوارٹرز ہسپتالوں میں بایو میٹرک حاضری کا نظام متعارف کرانے کی منظوری دی گئی۔ شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ پنجاب میں اگلے 3 برس کے دوران 20 لاکھ نوجوانوں کو ہنرمند بنانے کا ہدف مقرر کیا گیا ہے۔ پنجاب حکومت عوام کو ریلیف اور بنیادی سہولتوں کی فراہمی کے جامع پروگرام پر عمل پیرا ہے۔ صوبے کے عوام کو بہترین سہولتوں کی فراہمی کے لئے ادارہ جاتی اصلاحات متعارف کرائی جا رہی ہیں۔ سروسز کی فراہمی کے نظام کو بہتر بنانے پر خصوصی توجہ مرکوز کی گئی ہے۔ ایک اور اجلاس میں شہباز شریف کی زیر صدارت پنجاب میں ایل این جی سے بجلی پیدا کرنے کے منصوبے کا جائزہ لیا گیا۔ شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ حکومت توانائی کے مسئلے سے نمٹنے کیلئے قابل تجدید ذرائع سے توانائی کے حصول کیلئے کوشاں ہے اور اسی مقصد کیلئے پنجاب میں ایل این جی سے ایک ہزار میگا واٹ بجلی پیدا کرنے کی منصوبہ بندی کی جا رہی ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں وزرائے اعلیٰ نے ارکان قومی و صوبائی اسمبلی سے ملاقات میں کہا کہ دہشت گردی، انتہا پسندی اور فرقہ واریت ملک کے امن اور ترقی کے لئے زہر قاتل ہے۔ قومی معیشت کو مضبوط بنیادوں پر استوار کرنے کے لئے دہشت گردی کا خاتمہ ناگزیر ہے۔

وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب میاں شہباز شریف سے یورپین پارلیمنٹ کے وفد نے لاہور میں ملاقات کی، جس میں دوطرفہ تعاون اور دیگر امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا، وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب میاں شہباز شریف کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان اور یورپی یونین کے ممالک کے درمیان بہترین دوستانہ تعلقات موجود ہیں، جن کو مزید مضبوط بنانا چاہتے ہیں، انہوں نے کہا کہ دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں سیاسی عسکری اور مذہبی قیادت ایک صفحے پر ہے، پنجاب میں جدید تربیت یافتہ انسداد دہشت گردی فورس کا قیام عمل میں لایا گیا ہے، میاں شہباز شریف کا کہنا تھا کہ دہشت گردی کے ناسور کو شکست دینے بغیر ترقی اور خوشحالی کا خواب شرمندہ تعبیر نہیں ہو سکتا، اس کے خاتمے کے لیے ہندو کی گولی کے ساتھ تعلیم، صحت، سماجی مساوات اور انصاف کی گولیاں بھی ضروری ہیں، غربت اور بے روزگاری کو ختم کر کے انتہا پسندانہ رجحانات پر قابو پایا جاسکتا ہے۔

سرخیاں

ہنگو اور رزمک میں فورسز کی کارروائی، آرمی پبلک اسکول پر حملے میں مطلوب دہشت گرد سمیت 5 شدت پسند گرفتار

روزنامہ جنگ

22 فروری 2015

دہشت گردی کیخلاف جنگ جیتنا ہی

واحد آپشن ہے: شہباز شریف

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

21 فروری 2015

پاکستان کو دہشت گردی اور انتہا پسندی کے چیلنج کے ساتھ توانائی کی شدید کمی

کا بھی سامنا ہے: شہباز شریف

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

20 فروری 2015

پنجاب کے مطابق ویکی نیٹرز کی ٹیمیں گھر گھر جا کر بچوں کو پولیو ویکسین کے قطرے پلائیں گی جبکہ صوبے کے داخلی و خارجی راستوں، بس اڈوں، ریلوے سٹیشنز، موٹرویز اور ایئر پورٹس پر سفر کرنے والے بچوں کو بھی پولیو ویکسین کے قطرے پلانے کیلئے ٹیمیں مقرر کر دی گئی ہیں۔ ترجمان نے مزید بتایا کہ صوبے کے تمام سرکاری ہسپتالوں اور ہیلتھ سنٹرز پر بھی پولیو ویکسین کے قطرے پلانے کے انتظامات کئے گئے ہیں تاکہ زیادہ سے زیادہ بچے اس سہولت سے مستفید ہو سکیں۔ اس سلسلے میں سیوریٹی کے سخت انتظامات بھی کئے گئے ہیں۔



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وزیرستان ایجنسی سے بھی ملتی ہے۔ ڈوب سے متصل ضلع قلعہ سیف اللہ میں بھی چند روز قبل پی ٹی سی ایل کے پانچ اہلکاروں سمیت چھ افراد کو اغوا کیا گیا تھا جن کی تاحال بازیابی ممکن نہیں ہو سکی ہے۔ چار جنوری کو بھی قلعہ سیف اللہ سے دس مسافروں کو بھی اغوا کیا گیا تھا جن میں سے ایک کو ہلاک کرنے کے علاوہ چھ کو چھوڑ دیا گیا تھا جبکہ تین افراد ابھی تک اغوا کاروں کی تحویل میں ہیں۔

دنیائے پولیو کے مکمل خاتمے کی غرض سے بین الاقوامی سائنسدانوں کی ایک ٹیم کو ایک مکمل نئی مصنوعی ویکسین بنانے کا منصوبہ سونپ دیا گیا ہے۔ پولیو کی بیماری اب دنیا سے مکمل ختم کیے جانے کے قریب ہے اور ہر سال دنیا بھر میں صرف چند سوئے کیسز سامنے آرہے ہیں۔ اس منصوبے کے لیے مالی اعانت فراہم کرنے والوں کو امید ہے کہ نئی مصنوعی ویکسین موجودہ ویکسین میں پائی جانی والی کمی کو دور کرنے میں کامیاب ہو جائے گی جس کے بعد اس مرض کا ہمیشہ کے لیے خاتمہ ہو جائے گا۔ عالمی ادارہ صحت اور مائیکروسافٹ کے مالک کی فلاحی تنظیم 'بل اینڈ ملنڈا گیٹس فاؤنڈیشن' اس منصوبے کے لیے چھ لاکھ 74 ہزار ڈالر کی رقم فراہم کر رہے ہیں۔ اس منصوبے کا باقاعدہ اعلان سائنس کی ترقی کی تنظیم 'میریکن ایسوسی ایشن فار ایڈوانسمنٹ آف سائنس' کے سالانہ اجلاس کے موقع پر کیا گیا جو ریاست کیلیفورنیا کے شہر 'سین ہوزے' میں منعقد ہوا۔ اس منصوبے پر امریکہ اور برطانیہ کے سائنسدانوں کی ایک مشترکہ ٹیم کام کرے گی۔

جینوم کے بغیر ویکسین

انسان پولیو کے خلاف روزنامہ جنگ جیتنے کے بہت قریب پہنچ چکا ہے۔ ایک وہ وقت تھا جب ہر سال ہزار ہائے لوگ پولیو کا شکار ہو رہے تھے، لیکن گذشتہ برس دنیا بھر میں پولیو کے صرف 350 نئے کیس سامنے آئے جن کی اکثریت پاکستان سے تھی۔ لیکن لگتا ہے کہ پولیو کے خلاف ہمارے سفر کا آخری ایک میل بڑا صبر آزما اور پریشان کن ثابت ہو رہا ہے۔ اس کی ایک بڑی وجہ یہ ہے کہ پولیو کی موجودہ ویکسین میں جو وائرس استعمال کیا جاتا ہے وہ قدرے کمزور قسم کا ہوتا ہے۔ وائرس کی اس کمزوری کی وجہ سے ہوتا ہے کہ کچھ لوگوں کی انٹریوں میں انفیکشن ہو جاتی ہے جس کی وجہ سے ان کے جسم میں ویکسین نے جس وائرس کو جگایا (ایکٹیوٹ کیا) ہوتا ہے وہ جسم سے باہر نکل کر ارد گرد کے ان لوگوں کو پولیو کر سکتا ہے جنہوں نے بچاؤ کے قطرے نہیں پیے ہوتے۔ تاہم اگر وائرس کے اندر کوئی جینیاتی مشینری نہ ہو تو بیماری کے پھیلنے کا یہ راستہ بند ہو سکتا ہے۔ نئے منصوبے کے تحت عالمی ادارہ صحت اور بل گیٹس فاؤنڈیشن کے سائنسدانوں کی کوشش یہی ہوگی کہ وہ کوئی ایسا چیز بنائیں جو موجودہ ویکسین کی اس کمی کو پورا کر دے۔ منصوبے کی ٹیم سے منسلک برطانوی سائنسدان ڈاکٹر ڈیو سٹورٹ کا کہنا ہے مصنوعی ویکسین کے پیچھے خیال یہ ہے کہ اس میں کوئی جینیاتی مادہ (جینوم) نہیں ہوگا، یعنی یہ ویکسین وائرس کے بغیر ہوگی۔ بی بی سی سے بات کرتے ہوئے انھوں نے بتایا کہ 'موجودہ ویکسین ایک کیمیائی مادے کی شکل میں ہوگی، ایک پیچیدہ کیمیائی مادہ، جو ہوگا تو ایک وائرس جیسا ہی، لیکن اس میں خود کو تقسیم کرنے کی صلاحیت نہیں ہوگی۔ ماہرین کی ٹیم کا کہنا ہے کہ وہ مصنوعی ویکسین کے حوالے سے پُر امید ہیں کیونکہ دودھ دینے والے جانوروں کی بیماری فٹ اینڈ ماٹھ ڈیزیز کی ویکسین بنانے میں ایسی ہی ترکیب استعمال کی جا چکی ہے۔ اس بنیاد پر ٹیم پر امید ہے کہ پولیو کی مصنوعی ویکسین کے حوالے سے سائنسدان آدھا کام کر چکے ہیں۔

لاہور (خصوصی نامہ نگار) امیر جماعتہ الدعوة پاکستان پرو فیسر حافظ محمد سعید نے کہا ہے کہ تھرپارکر میں مسلمانوں سمیت ہندوؤں کی بھی بلا امتیاز خدمت کر رہے ہیں۔ مختلف شہروں و علاقوں میں ریکسوسنٹر بنائے جائیں گے جہاں وائریلکس کی ٹیمیں بھی موجود ہوں گی۔ کارکنان ملک کے کونے کونے میں ریلیف سرگرمیاں مزید تیز کریں۔ تھرپارکر، بلوچستان اور دیگر علاقوں میں 2352 وائپر و جیکٹ مکمل کر چکے۔ فلاح انسانیت فاؤنڈیشن کی جانب سے پچھلے سال تھرپارکر میں 38 ہزار خاندانوں میں ایک ماہ کا خشک راشن تقسیم کیا گیا۔ 122 شہروں میں 177 ایبوسینس خدمات سرانجام دے رہی ہیں۔ وہ مرکز القادیسیہ چورجی میں فلاح انسانیت فاؤنڈیشن کے ملک بھر سے آنے والے ضلعی و تحصیل ذمہ داران کے ایک بڑے اجلاس سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔ فلاح انسانیت فاؤنڈیشن کے چیئرمین حافظ عبدالرؤف، جماعتہ الدعوة کے مرکزی رہنما مولانا نصر جاوید، مولانا محمد قاسم و دیگر نے بھی خطاب کیا۔ حافظ سعید نے کہا جماعتہ الدعوة کے کارکنان ملک کے کونے کونے میں جا کر دعوتی اور ریلیف سرگرمیوں کو منظم کریں۔ افسوسناک امر یہ کہ اسلام دشمن قوتوں کو ہمارا ریلیف کام کرنا بھی برداشت نہیں۔ اس حوالہ سے مغربی میڈیا کے بے بنیاد پروپیگنڈا سے متاثر نہیں ہونا بلکہ اس عمل کو دین اسلام کی خدمت سمجھتے ہوئے سرانجام دینا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جماعتہ الدعوة روز اول سے تھرپارکر میں رفاہی سرگرمیاں سرانجام دے رہی ہے۔ قحط زدہ علاقوں میں ڈسپنسریاں قائم کر کے مزید وسیع پیمانے پر طبی امداد اور مفت ادویات فراہم کریں گے۔ فلاح انسانیت فاؤنڈیشن کے چیئرمین حافظ عبدالرؤف نے کہا کہ ایف آئی ایف صرف تھرپارکر میں 175 وائپر و جیکٹ مکمل کر چکی جبکہ بڑی تعداد میں مزید کنویں تعمیر کرنے کا سلسلہ تیزی سے جاری ہے۔

لاہور (نیوز رپورٹر) پنجاب بھر میں تین روزہ انسداد پولیو کی قومی مہم کا آغاز آج سے ہو رہا ہے جس کیلئے محکمہ صحت پنجاب نے پانچ سال تک کی عمر کے ایک کروڑ 80 لاکھ سے زائد بچوں کو پولیو ویکسین کے قطرے پلانے کیلئے 40 ہزار ٹیمیں تشکیل دیدی ہیں۔ ترجمان محکمہ صحت

پولیو سے بچاؤ کے لیے مکمل نئی مصنوعی ویکسین بنانے کا منصوبہ

بی بی سی

16 فروری 2015

تھرپارکر میں مسلمانوں سمیت

ہندوؤں کی بھی بلا امتیاز خدمت کر

رہے ہیں: حافظ سعید

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

16 فروری 2015

پنجاب بھر میں آج سے تین روزہ

انسداد پولیو مہم کا آغاز ہوگا

ہیں۔ پولیو کے رضاکار مرکزی بس اسٹاپس اور ٹرین اسٹیشن پر بھی مسافر بچوں کو پولیو کے قطرے پلاتے ہیں۔ پڑوسی ملک ہندوستان کو 2014ء میں پولیو سے پاک قرار دے دیا گیا تھا۔ سو ارب کی آبادی والے اس ملک میں بڑے پیمانے پر ویکسین کی فراہمی ایک بڑا کارنامہ تھا۔

بہت سے ماہرین کا خیال ہے کہ پاکستان 2012ء میں کامیابی کے قریب پہنچ گیا تھا، لیکن پھر پچھلے سال پولیو کیسز کی بڑی تعداد نے اس کامیابی کو متاثر کر دیا۔ امریکا میں جہاں والدین کا گروپ آئزم کے بارے میں پریشان رہتا ہے اور معروف شخصیات بے اعتبار سائنسی مضمون پر انحصار کرتے ہیں، لیکن اس کے برعکس پاکستان کی انسداد پولیو کی ویکسین کے کوہنود کی نوک کے ذریعے روکنے کی کوشش کی جاتی ہے۔ یاد رہے کہ پاکستانی طالبان نے 2012ء میں پولیو ویکسین پر پابندی عائد کر دی تھی، جب 2011ء میں امریکن نیوی سیزلر کے ایبٹ آباد میں ایک چھاپہ مار کارروائی کے دوران القاعدہ کے رہنما اسامہ بن لادن کا ہلاک کر دیا تھا۔ اس کارروائی سے پہلے سی آئی اے نے ایک مقامی ڈاکٹر کو بھیجا تھا، جس نے اسامہ بن لادن کے گھر دے بچوں کے ڈی این اے حاصل کرنے کے لیے پیسٹائٹس ویکسین پر وگرام کا انعقاد کیا تھا۔ اس بات نے ایک ایسے ملک میں بد اعتمادی کو جنم دیا، جہاں بہت سے لوگ یہ خوف محسوس کرتے ہیں کہ یہ ویکسین دراصل مسلمان بچوں کو ہانپھ بنانے کی سازش ہے۔

پاکستان میں عالمی ادارہ صحت کے پولیو سے متعلق مرکزی شخصیات ایلین ڈیوری کہتے ہیں ”دسمبر 2012ء سے مسلح عسکریت پسندوں نے قطرے پلانے والے رضاکاروں کی ٹیم کو نشانہ بنانا شروع کیا جو اب ایک ”خوفناک سیریل کلنگ“ بن گیا ہے۔ ڈاکٹر رانا صفدر محمود کہتے ہیں کہ ایک اندازے کے مطابق پاکستان میں پولیو کے خاتمے کی کوششوں میں شریک 75 رضاکار جب سے ہلاک کر دیے گئے ہیں۔ مشکل کے روز پاکستان کے صوبے بلوچستان میں حکام کو گولیوں سے چھلنی چار افراد کی لاشیں ملیں، جو ایک پولیو مہم کی تیاری میں مصروف تھے اور غصے کے روز سے لاپتہ تھے۔ پولیو سے متاثرہ بچے اور دیگر لوگ جو ایک علاقے سے دوسرے علاقے میں سفر کرتے ہیں، شہروں میں بلکہ ان ملکوں میں بھی جہاں سے پولیو کا خاتمہ کیا جا چکا ہے، نئے پولیو کیسز کا سبب بن سکتے ہیں۔ پاکستان کے علاوہ صرف افغانستان اور تائیوان ایسے ممالک ہیں جہاں پولیو کا خطرہ اب بھی موجود ہے۔ پولیو کا مقابلہ کرنے کے لیے پاکستانی حکومت نے اسلام آباد اور صوبائی دارالحکومتوں میں ایمر جنسی آپریشنز کے مراکز قائم کیے ہیں، جہاں حکام روزانہ ملاقات کرتے ہیں، اس طریقہ کار نے تائیوان میں بے حد مدد کی ہے۔ ایسے بعض علاقے جہاں پولیو کا خطرہ زیادہ ہے، وہاں قطروں کی صورت میں پلائی جانے والی ویکسین کے بجائے، طویل عرصے تک مؤثر رہنے والی ایسی ویکسین متعارف کرائی گئی ہے، جسے انجکشن کے ذریعے دیا جاتا ہے۔ پاکستانی فوج نے پچھلے سال جون کے دوران شمالی وزیرستان کے قبائلی علاقوں میں کارروائی شروع کی تھی، جس کی وجہ سے لاکھوں لوگوں کو اس خطے سے نکلنے پر مجبور ہونا پڑا تھا، یوں پولیو کے رضاکاروں کے لیے ان بچوں تک بالآخر رسائی ممکن ہو گئی ہے۔ ڈاکٹر رانا صفدر محمود نے بتایا کہ پچھلے دو سالوں کے بعد پہلی مرتبہ نومبر میں جنوبی وزیرستان کے اندر گھر گھر جا کر پولیو کے قطرے پلانے کی مہم بھی شروع کی گئی، اور پولیو رضاکاروں کے خلاف حملوں کی شدت میں بھی کمی آئی ہے۔ حکام کا کہنا ہے کہ پولیو کے قطرے پلانے سے انکار کرنے والے افراد کی تعداد میں بھی کمی آئی ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ حکام نے یہ بھی بتایا کہ پولیو رضاکاروں کے تحفظ کے لیے نئی سیکورٹی حکمت عملی پر بھی عمل کیا جا رہا ہے۔ ایلین ڈیوری کہتے ہیں کہ ”پچھلے سال تک کوئی بھی شمالی وزیرستان نہیں پولیو کے رضاکاروں کا کہنا ہے کہ“ جاسکتا تھا، پولیو رضاکاروں کو قتل کیا جا رہا تھا۔ اب یہ مسائل بہتر ہوئے ہیں اور یہ تبدیلی ڈرامائی طور پر ظاہر ہوئی ہے۔ ہنگامی ہسٹ کے شکار لوگوں کو قائل کرنے کے لیے وہ اپنی دلیلوں کا استعمال کرتے ہیں، جس طرح کہ وہ انہیں بتاتے ہیں کہ انہوں نے کس طرح اپنے بچوں کو پولیو کے قطرے پلائے تھے۔ تاہم انہیں اس کام سے روکنے کے لیے ہر اس لیے جانے کے واقعات بھی یاد آسکتے ہیں۔ پاکستان کے شمال مغربی علاقوں میں بہت سے لوگ خواتین کے گھر سے باہر نکل کر کام کرنے پر اعتراض کرتے ہیں۔ بیوروکریسی کے چیلنجز بھی پولیو مہمات میں رکاوٹ بنتے ہیں۔ پولیو رضاکاروں کو شکایت ہے کہ انہیں معاوضے کی ادائیگی بروقت نہیں کی جاتی ہے۔ باجوڑ کے قبائلی علاقے میں پولیو روکروں نے حال ہی میں احتجاج کیا تھا، ان کا کہنا تھا کہ انہیں پچھلے پانچ مہینوں سے ادائیگی نہیں کی گئی تھی۔ ڈاکٹر رانا صفدر نے بتایا کہ پے چیکس کے طریقہ کار کو تبدیل کر کے اب ادائیگی رضاکاروں کے بینک اکاؤنٹ میں براہ راست جمع کر دی جاتی ہے۔ لیکن انہوں نے کہا کہ تاخیر کا مسئلہ اب بھی برقرار ہے۔ پاکستانی حکام لوگوں کو اپنے بچوں کو پولیو کے قطرے پلانے پر قائل کرنے کے ضمن میں مذہبی برادری سے مدد لینے کے لیے رابطہ کر رہے ہیں۔ اس کوشش میں محمد اسرار مدنی بھی حصہ لے رہے ہیں، وہ شمال مغربی شہر نوشہرہ میں بااثر حقانیہ مذہبی مدرسے میں تدریس کرتے ہیں۔ اسرار مدنی نے بتایا ”میں ہر مدرسہ، ہر مسجد تک پہنچنا چاہتا ہوں تاکہ مذہبی عالموں کو قائل کر سکوں اور لوگوں میں آگہی بیدار کرنے کے لیے راستہ ہموار کر سکوں۔“

پاکستان کے صوبہ بلوچستان کے ضلع ژوب میں حکام کا کہنا ہے کہ انھیں ان چار افراد کی لاشیں ملی ہیں جنہیں جمعے کو اغوا کیا گیا تھا۔ لیویز حکام کے مطابق یہ لاشیں ژوب اور قلعہ سیف اللہ کے سرحدی علاقے مرغہ کبزی سے ہی پیر کی شب ملیں۔ ان مغویوں میں پولیو ٹیم کا ایک رکن، لیویز کے دو اہلکار اور گاڑی کا ڈرائیور شامل تھے۔ ان افراد کی لاشیں اسی علاقے سے ملی ہیں جہاں سے انھیں اغوا کیا گیا تھا۔ سیکورٹی فورسز نے ان کی بازیابی کے لیے اتوار کی شب سے سرچ آپریشن بھی شروع کیا تھا۔ اس آپریشن کے دوران تودہ کدزئی کے علاقے میں سیکورٹی اہلکاروں کی شدت پسندوں سے جھڑپ بھی ہوئی تھی جس میں دو شدت پسند ہلاک ہو گئے تھے۔ خیال رہے کہ ژوب کوئٹہ سے شمال مغرب میں افغانستان کی سرحد سے متصل ضلع ہے اور اس کی سرحد

ژوب: پولیو کارکن اور لیویز اہلکاروں کی

لاشیں برآمد

جی بی سی

17 فروری 2015

کانفرنس کا 21 واں سیشن منعقد کرے گا۔ یہ موسمی تبدیلیوں پر سب سے بڑی کانفرنس ہوگی۔ جس کا مقصد موسمی خلل کے باعث معاشروں اور اقتصادیات کو درپیش خطرات سے نمٹنا ہوگا۔ جس میں لچکدار، کم کاربن پر مبنی بہتر اور صحت مند معاشروں اور اقتصادیات کیلئے فریم ورک کے حوالے سے بین الاقوامی سمجھوتے کی ضرورت ہے۔ اسلام آباد میں فرانسیسی سفارت خانے کی جاری کردہ پریس ریلیز کے مطابق اس حوالے سے فرانس کی دہری ذمہ داری ہے۔ بہترین ماحول میں دو ہفتے کیلئے اقوام متحدہ کے تحت اس کانفرنس میں 20 ہزار مندوبین شرکت کریں گے۔ مذاکرات میں تمام اسٹیک ہولڈرز کیلئے سہولت کار کے طور پر ایک متفقہ قرارداد کیلئے تعاون فراہم کرنا ہے۔ ضرورت اس امر کی ہے کہ کانفرنس مستقبل میں بین الاقوامی سمجھوتوں کی جانب فیصلہ کن پیش رفت کرے تاکہ 2020 تک انہیں نافذ کیا جاسکے، تمام ترقی پذیر اور ترقی یافتہ ممالک کو پہلی فرامی موسمی سمجھوتے کا پابند ہونا چاہیے۔ فرانس اصولی اختلاف رائے کا احترام کرتے ہوئے قابل عمل بین الاقوامی سمجھوتے کا خواہاں ہے۔ جو پلس 2 ڈگری سنٹی گریڈ کے ہدف کو حاصل کر سکے۔ فرانس کانفرنس سے قبل کاروباری حلقوں، مقامی اور علاقائی حکومتوں کے ساتھ مل کر مسائل کے حل کے حوالے سے ایجنڈے کو فروغ دے رہا ہے۔ ضرورت اس بات کی بھی ہے کہ ”پیرس 2015“ آلودگی کے اخراج کے بوجھ میں حصہ دار ہونے کے بجائے پیداوار اور استعمال کے نئے طریقوں کے تحت ملازمتوں اور آمدنی کے مواقع پیدا کرے۔

تھریپارکر: تھریپارکر میں غذائیت کی کمی کے باعث آج مزید 3 بچے انتقال کر گئے ہیں۔ ماہ فروری میں 26 بچے انتقال کر گئے ہیں۔ تھریپارکر میں غذائیت اور مختلف امراض سے بچوں کی ہلاکت کا سلسلہ نہ رک سکا، آج بھی صول اسپتال مٹھی میں غذائیت کی کمی کے باعث 3 بچے انتقال کر گئے ہیں۔ انتقال کر جانے والے بچوں میں 2 نومولود ہیں اور ایک بچہ 2 ماہ کا تھا۔ ماہ فروری میں جاں بحق بچوں کی تعداد 26 ہو گئی ہے۔

کویت: کویت سمیت بلوچستان کے بیشتر علاقوں میں موسم معتدل ہے جبکہ رواں ہفتے کے آخر میں بارش کا نیا سلسلہ صوبے کے بالائی علاقوں میں داخل ہوگا جس کے بعد بارش کا امکان ہے۔ محکمہ موسمیات کے مطابق کویت سمیت صوبے کے شمالی اور بیشتر جنوبی علاقوں میں موسم صاف اور معتدل ہے جبکہ بارش برسانے والی مغربی ہوائیں صوبے کے شمالی علاقوں میں موجود ہیں، جس کے باعث چند مقامات پر بارش اور پہاڑوں پر برف باری ہو سکتا ہے۔ تاہم رواں ہفتے کے آخر تک نسبتاً زیادہ بارش برسانے والا مغربی ہواؤں کا نیا سلسلہ صوبے میں داخل ہوگا، جس کے بعد اتوار سے منگل کے دوران کویت، ثروہ اور قلات ڈویژن میں کہیں کہیں گرج چمک کے ساتھ بارش کا امکان ہے۔

لاہور (خبرنگار): ڈی سی اولہ اور کیپٹن (ر) محمد عثمان نے کہا ہے کہ شہر بھر کی یونین کونسلوں میں انسداد پولیو مہم دوسرے روز بھی جاری رہی اور پولیو ٹیبوں نے گھر گھر جا کر پانچ سال سے کم عمر بچوں کو پولیو کے قطرے پلائے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ تین روزہ پولیو مہم میں 15 لاکھ 70 ہزار پانچ سال سے کم عمر بچوں کو پولیو کے قطرے پلانے کا ٹارگٹ پورا کیا جائے گا۔

پشاور: امریکا میں خسرے کی وبا کے دوران اس کی حفاظتی ویکسین پر بد اعتمادی نے ایک بحث کو جنم دیا تھا، جبکہ پاکستان پولیو سے پاک کرنے کے لیے ایک خطرناک روزنامہ جنگ میں مصروف ہے۔ مغرب میں پولیو کے خاتمے کو طویل عرصہ گزر گیا، لیکن پاکستان میں طالبان کی جانب سے حفاظتی ویکسین پر پابندی، طبی عملے کو حملوں کا نشانہ بنانے اور اس ویکسین کے بارے میں شکوک و شبہات پیدا کرنے سے پولیو کا مرض پاکستان میں موجود ہے۔ اس مستقل معذور کردینے والی بیماری کے وائرس سے کہیں زیادہ خطرناک اس کے خاتمے کی مہم ہو سکتی ہے، اس لیے کہ پولیو کے خاتمے کی مہم میں شریک ہزاروں رضاکاروں کو مختلف علاقوں میں بچوں کو پولیو کے قطرے پلانے کے لیے اکثر اوقات مسلح گارڈ کے ساتھ بھیجا جاتا ہے۔ ایک رضاکار روبینہ اقبال کہتی ہیں، ”جب ہم صبح گھر سے نکلتے ہیں تو دراصل اپنی زندگی کو خطرے میں ڈال دیتے ہیں۔ ہم نہیں جانتے کہ آیا ہم زندہ واپس آئیں گے، یا نہیں۔“

پولیو انتہائی متعدی وائرس ہے، جو عام طور پر حفظان صحت کی غیر تسلی بخش صورتحال میں منتقل ہو جاتا ہے۔ اس وائرس کا کوئی علاج نہیں، جس سے ”زیادہ تر پانچ سال سے کم عمر بچے متاثر ہوتے ہیں، اگرچہ اس کو صرف ویکسین کے ذریعے روکا جاسکتا ہے۔ جب تک ڈاکٹر جو ناسالک نے 1950 کی دہائی میں پولیو کی ویکسین ایجاد نہیں کی تھی، اس وقت تک امریکا میں پولیو نے والدین کو خوفزدہ کر رکھا تھا ہر سال اس وائرس سے معذوری کے پندرہ ہزار سے زیادہ کیسز سامنے آتے تھے۔ 1980 میں چھوٹی چھچک کے خاتمے کے بعد حکام نے اپنی توجہ پولیو پر مرکوز کر دی۔ اس لیے کہ پاکستان میں یہ رد عمل زیادہ تر شمال مغربی علاقوں اور ساحلی شہر کراچی میں پایا جاتا ہے، اگرچہ پولیو کے قطرے پلانے کی مہم ملک بھر میں جاری رہتی ہے۔ پاکستان میں پولیو کے قطرے پلانے والے رضاکاروں کی کوششوں کا دائرہ متاثر کن ہے۔ ملک میں پولیو ایمرجنسی آپریشن کے مراکز کی نگران ڈاکٹر رانا صہر محمود کہتے ہیں کہ جنوری میں شروع کی گئی مہم کے دوران ملک بھر میں تین کروڑ پچاس لاکھ بچوں کا سرکاری ہدف مقرر کیا گیا تھا۔ ایسے علاقے جن کے بارے میں خیال کیا جاتا ہے کہ وہاں پولیو وائرس موجود ہے، چھوٹی مہمات زیادہ کثرت سے ان علاقوں میں منعقد کی جاتی

”پیرس 2015“ دسمبر میں منعقد ہوگی

روزنامہ جنگ

19 فروری 2015

تھریپارکر: غذائیت کی کمی سے مزید 3 بچے انتقال کر گئے

روزنامہ جنگ

19 فروری 2015

بلوچستان میں رواں ہفتے بارش کا نیا سلسلہ شروع ہونے کا امکان

روزنامہ جنگ

19 فروری 2015

لاہور میں انسداد پولیو مہم دوسرے روز بھی جاری رہی

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

18 فروری 2015

انسداد پولیو، پاکستان میں ایک خطرناک مہم

ڈان نیوز

18 فروری 2015

علاقے میں بڑھتی ہوئی اموات پر لائیو اسٹاک کے افسران اور عملے کی ناقص کارکردگی کھل کر سامنے آگئی ہے کیونکہ صالح چٹ میں گزشتہ ایک سال کے دوران مویشیوں کی اموات سے ریگستانی علاقوں کے غریب کمینوں کو لاکھوں روپے کے مالی نقصان کا سامنا کرنا پڑا ہے۔

پشاور: خیبر پختونخوا اور وفاق کے زیر انتظام شمال مغربی قبائلی علاقے فنانا میں پولیو کے مزید دو کیسز رپورٹ ہوئے ہیں جس کے بعد پاکستان میں رواں سال رپورٹ ہونے والے کیسز کی تعداد 9 ہو گئی ہے۔ پاکستان دنیا کے ان تین ممالک میں شامل ہے جہاں پولیو وائرس تاحال موجود ہے جس کی وجہ شدت پسندوں کی جانب سے پولیو ٹیموں پر حملہ بنائی جا رہی ہے۔ کے پی پولیو مائننگ سیل کے مطابق پشاور کے علاقے شیر روز نامہ جنگی میں 14 ماہ کی بچی حبیبہ اور خیبر ایجنسی کے علاقے جھرو ٹاؤن میں 13 ماہ کے شہزاد میں پولیو وائرس کی تصدیق ہو گئی ہے۔ رواں سال خیبر پختونخوا میں پولیو کے 5 اور فنانا میں تین کیس سامنے آئے ہیں جبکہ ایک کیس سندھ میں بھی رپورٹ ہوا ہے۔ دوسری جانب گزشتہ سال پاکستان میں 296 پولیو کیسز سامنے آئے تھے، جو 1998 کے بعد رپورٹ ہونے والی سب سے بڑی تعداد ہے۔

سامارو (نامہ نگار) ٹاؤن: کمیٹی سامارو کی انتظامیہ کی نااہلی اور کرپشن کے باعث شہر یاکوہ، بد بودار اور مضر صحت پانی پینے اور استعمال کرنے پر مجبور ہیں۔ ذرائع کے مطابق حکومت سندھ کی جانب سے شہریوں کو صاف پانی کی فراہمی کے منصوبے کے تحت نصب کیا گیا فلٹر پلانٹ غیر فعال ہے اور فلٹر پلانٹ کو آپریشنل رکھنے کے لئے آنے والے ماہانہ لاکھوں روپے کے فنڈز مین کئے جانے کا انکشاف ہوا ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ وائرس پانی کے تالابوں کی صفائی کے لئے مختص فنڈز میں بھی خورد برد کی اطلاعات ہیں۔ شہر میں بچی زیر زمین وائرس پانی کی لائنیں بوسیدہ اور کئی جگہوں سے پھٹنے کی وجہ سے شہر کے کئی علاقوں میں سیوریج کا پانی لائنوں میں شامل ہو رہا ہے جو شہر میں فراہم کیا جاتا ہے۔ آلودہ، بد بودار اور مضر صحت پانی کے استعمال کی وجہ سے شہریوں میں وبائی امراض پھوٹ پڑے ہیں۔ دوسری جانب پانی کی بوسیدہ لائنوں کے کئی جگہوں سے پھٹنے کے باعث پانی سڑکوں اور گلیوں میں جمع رہتا ہے جس سے شہریوں کو آمدورفت میں مشکلات کا سامنا ہے۔ ٹاؤن انتظامیہ کی جانب سے تالابوں کی صفائی کے لئے مختص لاکھوں روپے خورد برد کر جانے اور تالابوں کی صفائی نہ ہونے کے باعث تالابوں کے اندر گھاس اور جھاڑیاں اگ رہی ہیں اور کئی فٹ تک مٹی اور کچر جمع ہو گیا ہے۔ سماجی رہنماؤں عظیم خاں صہیلی، عبدالغنی بالیپوٹہ، آصف باغی، آزاد ماہی، بیرونی اللہ سرہندی دیگر نے صوبائی حکومت سمیت ضلعی حکام سے مطالبہ کیا ہے کہ شہریوں کو صاف پانی فراہم کیا جائے اور نااہل و کرپٹ انتظامیہ کے خلاف کارروائی کی جائے۔

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر): ”جامعہ کراچی کے وائس چانسلر پروفیسر ڈاکٹر محمد قیصر نے کہا کہ عصر حاضر میں بڑھتی ہوئی آلودگی اور فضائی کثافت نے انسانی زندگی پر منفی اثرات مرتب کئے ہیں۔ ضرورت اس امر کی ہے کہ لوگوں میں درختوں اور پودوں کی حفاظت کے حوالے سے شعور بیدار کیا جائے۔ پھول محبت اور امن کا بہترین علامتی ذریعہ ہیں صحت مند معاشرے کے قیام کے لئے فطری ماحول میں پھولوں کی نمائش وقت کی اہم ضرورت ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ عوام کو بنیادی سہولتوں کی فراہمی کے ساتھ معیاری تفریح جو کہ نالج بیسڈ ہو ضروری ہے۔“ یہ بات انہوں بدھ کے روز جامعہ کراچی کے بونٹکل گارڈن میں منعقدہ سہ روزہ پھولوں کی نمائش کی افتتاحی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ اس موقع پر سر داریا سین ملک، سابق شیخ الجامعہ پروفیسر ڈاکٹر سید ارتفاق علی اور ڈائریکٹر سینٹر برائے پلانٹ کنزرویشن پروفیسر ڈاکٹر انجم پروین، ڈاکٹر ماجد ممتاز، ڈاکٹر شیخ ندیم الزماں اور ڈاکٹر احتشام الحق بھی موجود تھے۔ نمائش کا انعقاد جامعہ کراچی کے پلانٹ کنزرویشن سینٹر کے تحت کیا گیا تھا۔ اس موقع پر شیخ الجامعہ نے ڈائریکٹر پلانٹ کنزرویشن سینٹر ڈاکٹر انجم پروین کی تعریف کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ہر سال پھولوں کی نمائش کا اہتمام کرنا خوش آئند ہے۔ پھول قدرت کا حسین عطیہ ہیں جن کی وجہ سے ماحول میں توازن قائم رہتا ہے اور خوشبوئیں بکھر تھیں ہیں۔ جامعہ کراچی میں منعقدہ پھولوں کی اس نمائش سے طلباء و طالبات کو بائیو ڈائیورسٹی اور پلانٹ کنزرویشن کے حوالے سے آگاہی بھی حاصل ہوگی۔ سر داریا سین ملک نے کہا کہ پھولوں کی نمائش شہروں میں رہائش پذیر افراد کو قدرتی حسن اور فطری ماحول کے قریب لانے کا نادر موقع ہوتا ہے۔ یہی نہیں بلکہ ایسی نمائش لوگوں میں باغبانی اور پھولوں کی اہمیت کے حوالے سے شعور بھی اجاگر کرتی ہیں۔ ڈائریکٹر سینٹر فار پلانٹ کنزرویشن ڈاکٹر انجم پروین نے نمائش کے مقاصد پر روشنی ڈالتے ہوئے کہا کہ یہ نمائش نہ صرف قدرت کے حسین شاہکاروں کو عام لوگوں پہ افشاں کرے گی بلکہ اس کے اولین مقاصد میں پھولوں کی اہمیت و افادیت کے حوالے سے شعور اجاگر کرنا ہے۔ نمائش میں تقریباً تین ہزار اقسام کے پھولوں کو رکھا گیا ہے۔ نمائش میں پوسٹرز کمیٹییشن کا بھی انعقاد کیا گیا جس میں مختلف اسکول اور کالجز کے طلباء نے حصہ جزیئن اسکول کی زباب سیلانی نے دوسرا جبکہ آغا خان اسکول کے th لیا۔ نتائج کے مطابق اسکولوں میں فاطمہ اسکول کی بتول مہدی نے پہلا انعام، 7 حسین علی خواجہ نے تیسرا انعام حاصل کیا۔ کالج میں این سی آر سی ای ٹی کالج کی منیبہ عرفان نے پہلا، بحریہ فاؤنڈیشن کی عنیقہ سلیم نے دوسرا جبکہ این سی آر سی ای ٹی کالج کے محمد حسان نے تیسرا انعام حاصل کیا۔ مقابلہ جیتنے والے طلباء کو انعامات بدست شیخ الجامعہ تفویض کئے گئے۔ علاوہ ازیں جامعہ کراچی کے شعبہ کیمیا کی طالبہ عائشہ اشرف کو پوسٹرز کمیٹییشن میں بہترین کارکردگی پر اسپیشل پرائز دیا گیا۔ نمائش کی افتتاحی تقریب میں اساتذہ و طلباء سمیت غیر تدریسی عملے کی بڑی تعداد شامل تھی۔ نمائش آج اور کل بھی جاری رہے گی۔

اسلام آباد (روزنامہ جنگ نیوز) فرانس ”پیرس 2015“ کے عنوان سے تبدیلی موسم پر اقوام متحدہ فریم ورک کنونشن کے تحت دسمبر میں پارٹیز

پولیو کے مزید 2 کیسز ظاہر

ڈان نیوز

19 فروری 2015

سامارو، کروڑوں روپے کی لاگت سے نصب فلٹر پلانٹ غیر فعال، شہریوں کو آلودہ پانی کی فراہمی

روزنامہ جنگ

19 فروری 2015

آلودگی اور فضائی کثافت نے انسانی زندگی پر منفی اثرات مرتب کئے، درختوں اور پودوں کی حفاظت کی جائے

روزنامہ جنگ

19 فروری 2015

موسمی تبدیلیوں پر کانفرنس

سکڑواحد ادارہ ہے جہاں سوائن فلو کی تشخیص کا انتظام ہے۔ حکام نے ریاست کی سرحد، جموں میں کھن پور کے مقام پر ایک معائنہ مرکز قائم کیا ہے اور ہوائی اڈے پر بھی مسافروں کے معائنے کا انتظام کیا گیا ہے۔ شوکت زگر کہتے ہیں: 'یہاں تو سیاحوں کا تانتا بندھ رہا ہے۔ ہم جانتے ہیں کہ جو بخار یا کھانسی سے دوچار ہو وہ سیر سپاٹے کے لیے نہیں نکلے گا، لیکن کچھ لوگوں میں یہ وائرس موجود ہوتا ہے، اور جب وہ ٹھنڈے ماحول میں پہنچتے ہیں تو وہ بخار یا کھانسی میں مبتلا ہو جاتے ہیں۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ کشمیری حکام کو زیادہ سے زیادہ احتیاط برتنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ کشمیر میں تعلیمی ادارے گذشتہ برس ستمبر سے بند پڑے ہیں۔ چھ ماہ بعد یہ ادارے 24 فروری کو کھلنے والے تھے۔ تاہم محکمہ صحت کے حکام نے حکومت سے کہا ہے کہ اس بیماری کے پھیلاؤ کے انسدادی انتظامات مکمل ہونے سے قبل تعلیمی اداروں کا کھلنا خطرناک ثابت ہو سکتا ہے۔ اس دوران سوائن فلو کے خلاف معروف دوائی ٹیپی فلو ای بھی تک کشمیر میں نایاب ہے۔ ڈاکٹر زایسو ایٹن آف کشمیر کے سربراہ ڈاکٹر شارالجن نے بتایا: 'کشمیر ابھی بھی سیلاب کے اثرات سے دوچار ہے۔ یہاں حکومت ہند کے اعداد و شمار کے مطابق 12 فروری تک ملک میں انفیکشن کے دوہرے خطرات ہیں اس لیے یہاں انتظامات بھی دوہرے ہونے چاہیے۔ سوائن فلو سے مرنے والوں کی تعداد 485 تھی۔ لیکن صرف پانچ روز میں یہ تعداد 624 تک پہنچ چکی ہے۔ بھارتی حکام نے کہا ہے کہ سوائن فلو سے حکومت کی جانب سے ہونے والی ہلاکتوں میں اچانک اضافے پر حکومت گہری نظر رکھے ہوئے ہے اور اس کے لیے مزید کٹ فراہم کر رہی ہے۔ جاری ایک بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ حکومت نے انگریڈیڈ یزیزرو ویلینس پروگرام کے تحت پہلے ہی اینچون این وائرس کی جانچ کی کٹ میں اضافے واضح رہے حکم جاری کر رکھا ہے۔ بیان میں مزید کہا گیا ہے کہ 'اس کے خلاف لڑنے کے لیے تیار رہنے کی خاطر دوا کے مزید سٹاک کا آرڈر دیا گیا ہے۔ کہ یہ بخار اینچون این وائرس کی وجہ سے ہوتا ہے۔ گذشتہ سال بھارت میں سوائن فلو کے 937 کیسز سامنے آئے تھے جن میں 218 افراد ہلاک ہو گئے تھے۔

اسلام آباد (دنیا نیوز) خراب موسم اور حدنگاہ کم ہونے کی وجہ سے بینظیر انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ اسلام آباد سے اندرون و بیرون ملک جانہوالی پندرہ پروازیں منسوخ کر دی گئیں۔ فلائٹ انکوائری کے مطابق راولپنڈی، اسلام آباد اور مضافات میں گزشتہ دو روز سے وقفے وقفے سے جاری بارش اور حدنگاہ کم ہونے کی وجہ سے پروازوں کا شیڈول بری طرح متاثر ہوا۔ بینظیر انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ سے اندرون و بیرون ملک جانہوالی 15 پروازیں منسوخ کر دی گئی ہیں جن میں اسلام آباد سے گلگت جانہوالی 607، سکردو جانہوالی 453، کراچی جانہوالی 102، لاہور کیلئے 653 اور کوسٹ جانہوالی پرواز 402 منسوخ کر دی گئی ہے۔ اس کے ساتھ اسلام آباد سے چین کے شہر ارومچی جانہوالی پروازیں 1888 اور 6008 بھی منسوخ کر دی گئی۔

سکھر (ہیورورپورٹ) سکھر کے تعلقہ صالح پٹ کے ریگستانی علاقوں میں پراسرار بیماری سے جانوروں کی اموات کا سلسلہ نہ ختم ہوا، انتظامیہ اور متعلقہ محکموں کی جانب سے صالح پٹ کے ریگستانی علاقوں میں جانوروں کی ہلاکتوں کی روک تھام کیلئے کوئی خاطر خواہ اقدامات نہیں کئے گئے جس کے باعث جانوروں کی اموات مسلسل ہو رہی ہیں، چند روز میں صالح پٹ کے ریگستانی علاقوں ماڑو، مالاہو، طاہر فقیر، غلام رسول کلا دی سمیت دیگر ریگستانی علاقوں میں 30 سے 40 جانوروں کی پراسرار بیماری میں اموات ہوئی ہیں، ذرائع کے مطابق صالح پٹ تعلقہ میں موجود مٹری سینٹر میں گزشتہ تین سال سے ڈاکٹر موجود نہیں ہے اور اسپتال میں جانوروں کی دیکھ بھال کیلئے جو عملہ ہے وہ بھی خاطر خواہ فرائض انجام نہیں دیتا، تین سال قبل صالح پٹ کے مٹری سینٹر سے ڈاکٹر کے تبادلے کے باعث تاحال یہاں کوئی ڈاکٹر تعینات نہیں کیا جاسکا، جانوروں کی بڑھتی ہوئی اموات کے باعث صالح پٹ کے ریگستانی علاقوں کے مکین سخت مشکلات سے دوچار ہیں کیونکہ جانوروں کی اموات کے باعث انہیں لاکھوں روپے کے مالی نقصان کا سامنا ہے۔ انتظامیہ یا متعلقہ محکمے کی جانب سے جانوروں کی اموات کی روک تھام کے حوالے سے دعوے تو کئے گئے ہیں تاہم عملی طور پر کوئی اقدامات دکھائی نہیں دیتے، صالح پٹ کے ایڈیشنل کمشنر، ایڈیشنل کمشنر سمیت انتظامی اور لائیو اسٹاک کا متعلقہ عملہ اس حوالے سے اپنا موقف نہیں دیتے، صالح پٹ کے انتظامی افسران ایڈیشنل کمشنر، اسسٹنٹ کمشنر سمیت دیگر افسران اور لائیو اسٹاک کے عملے سے متعدد مرتبہ رابطہ کرنے کی کوشش کی گئی لیکن ان کا موقف معلوم نہیں ہو سکا اور نہ ہی ان کی جانب سے صالح پٹ میں کئے جانے والے اقدامات کے حوالے سے کئی بیان سامنے آیا ہے جس سے ظاہر ہوتا ہے کہ متعلقہ افسران اس اہم اور سنگین مسئلے پر مکمل طور پر چشم پوشی اختیار کئے ہوئے ہیں، جب روزنامہ جنگ نے ڈسٹرکٹ آفیسر لائیو اسٹاک سکھر ڈاکٹر عنایت اللہ اوشو سے رابطہ کیا تو انہوں نے بتایا کہ جانوروں میں پائی جانے والی بیماری اور اموات کا کمشنر سکھر ڈویژن محمد عباس بلوچ اور ڈپٹی کمشنر سکھر نے نوٹس لیا ہے، لائیو اسٹاک کی جانب سے صالح پٹ میں کیپ بھی قائم کیا گیا ہے جہاں سے لائیو اسٹاک کی ٹیمیں متاثرہ علاقوں کا دورہ کر رہی ہیں انہوں نے اعتراف کیا کہ گذشتہ چند روز میں صالح پٹ کے بعض ریگستانی علاقوں میں 25 سے 30 چھوٹے جانور مرنے کی اطلاعات ملی ہیں جس کے بعد ان علاقوں کا دورہ کیا جا رہا ہے، انہوں نے کہا کہ جانوروں میں اس وقت جو بیماری موجود ہے وہ نمونیہ اور سانس کی بیماری ہے جس میں جانوروں کی اموات ہو رہی ہے جس کی روک تھام کیلئے انتظامیہ اور متعلقہ محکمہ کوششیں کر رہا ہے، جبکہ علاقہ کمینوں کا کہنا ہے کہ لائیو اسٹاک کا عملہ علاقے میں جانوروں میں پھیلی ہوئی بیماری اور ان کی اموات روکنے کیلئے کوئی خاطر خواہ کام انجام نہیں دے رہا، یہی وجہ ہے کہ جانوروں کی اموات میں مسلسل اضافہ ہو رہا ہے، ذرائع کے مطابق سکھر میں لائیو اسٹاک کی لیبارٹری بھی موجود ہے لیکن مذکورہ لیبارٹری بھی اس حوالے سے کوئی کام انجام نہیں دے رہی جبکہ جانوروں کی

خراب موسم، حدنگاہ میں کمی سے
اسلام آباد ایئرپورٹ پر 15 پروازیں
منسوخ

دنیا نیوز

19 فروری 2015

سکھر، صالح پٹ کے ریگستانی علاقوں
میں جانوروں کی اموات کا سلسلہ جاری

روزنامہ جنگ

19 فروری 2015

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پولیو کے قطرے پلانے سے انکاری والدین کی تعداد میں کمی

اردو دایر

20 فروری 2015

پاکستان کے صوبہ خیبر پختونخوا میں محکمہ صحت کے حکام کا کہنا ہے کہ سیاسی جماعتوں کی جانب سے بچوں کو پولیو کے قطرے پلانے کی کھل کر حمایت کرنے کی وجہ سے پولیو کے قطرے پلانے سے انکار کرنے والے والدین کی تعداد میں کمی آرہی ہے۔ پشاور میں انسداد پولیو کے لیے بنائے گئے وزیر اعلیٰ خیبر پختونخوا کے مانٹرنگ سیل کے انچارج ڈاکٹر امتیاز علی شاہ نے بی بی سی کو بتایا کہ دودن پہلے مکمل کیے گئے اعداد و شمار کے مطابق انسداد پولیو مہم کے دوران پورے صوبے سے اب تک تقریباً 30 ہزار کے قریب انکاری کیسز سامنے آئے ہیں جو کہ پہلے کے مقابلے میں انتہائی کم ہے۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ اس مہم کے دوران صوبے کے تمام اضلاع میں 53 لاکھ سے زائد بچوں کو پولیو سے بچاؤ کے قطرے پلائے گئے جبکہ اس کے مقابلے میں والدین کی طرف سے انکار کا تناسب بہت کم رہا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جن والدین نے بچوں کو قطرے دینے سے انکار کیا ہے ان کو ابھی مکمل طور پر چھوڑ نہیں دیا گیا ہے بلکہ ان کے ساتھ علماء کرام اور مقامی انتظامیہ کے ذریعے بات چیت کا سلسلہ جاری ہے تاکہ ان کے بچوں کو قطرے پلائے جاسکیں۔ امتیاز علی شاہ کے مطابق ان انکاری کیسز میں وہ بچے بھی شامل ہیں جو مہم والے دن کسی وجہ سے گھر پر موجود نہیں تھے تاہم رہ جانے والے بچوں کو قطرے پلانے کے لیے پولیو ٹیمیں بدستور کام کر رہی ہیں۔ انھوں نے مزید کہا کہ ضلع مردان میں پچھلے چند سالوں کے دوران ہر مہم میں سات سے 10 ہزار کے قریب والدین قطرے پینے سے انکار کیا کرتے تھے لیکن حالیہ مہم میں چار سو کے قریب انکاری کیسز سامنے آئے ہیں۔ ڈاکٹر امتیاز علی شاہ کے مطابق سیاسی جماعتوں کی طرف سے اب بچوں کو پولیو کے قطرے پلانے کی کھل کر حمایت کی جارہی ہے۔ جس کا اثر بھی پڑ رہا ہے اور شاید یہی وجہ ہے کہ انکاری کیسز بھی کم ہو رہے ہیں۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ مختلف اضلاع کے مقامی انتظامیہ نے بھی اس حوالے سے اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے اور ان علاقوں پر خصوصی توجہ دی گئی ہے جہاں انکاری کیسز زیادہ رہے ہیں۔ خیال رہے کہ گذشتہ سال میں پولیو سے متاثرہ مریضوں کی تعداد دو سو سے تجاوز کر گئی تھی جو کہ پچھلے 14 سالوں میں ایک ریکارڈ تھا۔ پاکستان میں پولیو کے مریضوں کی تعداد میں اضافے کی وجہ والدین کی جانب سے قطرے پلانے سے انکار اور پولیو کے خلاف چلائی جانے والی مہم کے عملے پر بڑھتے ہوئے حملوں کو قرار دیا جاتا ہے۔ پاکستان میں اب تک سب سے زیادہ پولیو کے کیسز قبائلی علاقہ جات اور خیبر پختونخوا سے سامنے آئے ہیں جہاں مذکورہ وجوہات کی بنا پر ہزاروں بچے پولیو کے قطرے پینے سے محروم رہے ہیں۔

ریلیف فاؤنڈیشن کے تحت گوشوں میں طبی سہولتوں کی فراہمی

روزنامہ جنگ

19 فروری 2015

کراچی (رپورٹ: آغا خالد) کراچی کی میڈیسن نواحی ہسپتالوں میں نہ بجلی ہے نہ گیس اور نہ ہی ان ہسپتالوں کے ہزاروں رہائشیوں کو بنیادی سہولتیں میسر ہیں جبکہ گزشتہ چار سالوں کے دوران بارش نہ ہونے کی وجہ سے ان علاقوں میں خوراک کا بحران بھی پیدا ہو گیا ہے اور وبائی امراض نے ان علاقوں میں ڈیرے ڈال لئے ہیں، سہراب گوٹھ اور گڈاپ سے متصل اور سپر ہائی وے سے ناردرن ہائی پاس کے درمیان 130 سے زائد ایسے چھوٹے چھوٹے گوشے ہیں جن کی آبادی تین سو سے ایک ہزار کے درمیان ہے ایسے گوشوں میں ریلیف فاؤنڈیشن کی جانب سے صحافیوں کو گزشتہ ہفتے دورہ کرایا گیا جبکہ اس موقع پر فاؤنڈیشن کے چیئرمین حلیم عادل شیخ کی جانب سے مونیڈان نامی گاؤں میں میڈیکل کیپ بھی قائم کیا گیا جبکہ دیگر گوشوں کے رہائشی میڈیٹوں باشندے میڈیکل کیپ سے ادویات حاصل کرنے اور علاج کی غرض سے جمع ہو گئے تھے ان گوشوں میں گوٹھ محمد گنجو، پیر بخش چٹو، سونو نو تھانی، رب ڈونو تھانی، میمن چٹو، پٹھان چٹو، سائنداد چٹو، ایوب چٹو، سومار چٹو، ایوب چٹو باندھی چٹو، عبد الرحمن چٹو، جان محمد رفت، بکھر خاص خلی، کریم بخش رفت، بچہ بکر، ابو نو تھانی، اللہ ڈونو بکر، اللہ وراہو چٹو، جان محمد رفت شامل ہیں۔ میڈیکل کیپ صبح 9 بجے قائم کیا گیا اور رات کو 8 بجے تک میڈیکل کیپ سے 1700 سے زائد افراد نے استفادہ کیا ایسے مریضوں میں میڈیٹائنس کے مریض سب سے زیادہ شامل تھے جبکہ اس کے علاوہ جلدی بیماریوں کی بی، پیٹ کے امراض اور گلے کے بیمار مریض بھی بڑی تعداد میں میڈیکل کیپ پہنچے جبکہ سانپ، بچھو اور کتے کے کاٹنے کی ویکسین اور دوائیاں بھی مریضوں میں بانٹی گئیں یہ کیپ سارا دن لگا رہا جبکہ اس موقع پر حلیم عادل شیخ کے ہمراہ ڈاکٹر امیر اختر، ڈاکٹر حنیف پالاری، ڈاکٹر روبینہ، ڈاکٹر ذکیہ، ڈاکٹر مسرت، ڈاکٹر سیمہ، امینہ اور دیگر نے مریضوں کا معائنہ کیا اور ان میں ادویات تقسیم کیں۔

سوائن فلو کشمیر پہنچ گیا، دو ہلاک

بی بی سی

19 فروری 2015

بھارت کے زیر انتظام کشمیر میں گزشتہ پانچ ماہ کے دوران ستر سے زائد مریضوں کو سوائن فلو سے متاثر قرار دیا گیا جبکہ اس بیماری میں مبتلا دو افراد دوروز میں ہلاک ہو گئے۔ بھارت میں ایچ این وی این نامی وائرس سے مرنے والوں کی تعداد 600 سے تجاوز کر چکی ہے جبکہ کشمیر میں سیلاب سے سرکاری ڈھانچہ کی تباہی اور ادویات کی قلت کے باعث اس بیماری سے متعلق لوگوں میں خدشات پائے جاتے ہیں۔

شیر کشمیر انسٹیٹیوٹ آف میڈیکل سائنسز کے سربراہ شوکت زرگر نے بی بی سی کو بتایا: ”ہم ان مریضوں کا پچھلے پانچ ماہ سے جائزہ لے رہے ہیں۔ شوکت زرگر نے تصدیق کی کہ گزشتہ برس ستمبر میں آئے تباہ کن سیلاب کی وجہ سے کشمیر کے ہسپتالوں میں موجود تشخیص کا نظام پوری طرح تباہ ہو گیا تھا اور



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