



PAKISTAN
GOVERNANCE
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State of Human Rights in Pakistan: HRCP 2011

Violence against women is increasing in Pakistan as at least 943 women were killed in the name of honor in 2011, according to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan's (HRCP) annual report. Of the 943, 93 victims were minors, 7 Christian and 2 Hindu women.

Around 4,500 cases of domestic violence against women were reported. The country's first woman ombudsperson was appointed to receive and examine complaints of sexual harassment and other grievances, it said, adding that the provisions of Sexual Harassment Act had not been implemented by many ministries. Only three hospitals nationwide had adopted the law.

- 1,715 people were killed in violence of Karachi
- 517 extra-judicial killings
- 517 in drone attacks
- 337 in police encounters
- 173 people were abducted and murdered in Baluchistan
- 2,307 killed and 4,341 injured in terrorist raids, including suicide and sectarian attacks
- 78,000 people being held in Pakistani prisons were under trial
- 92 inmates died in prisons across the country in 2011

The plight of Pakistani and Indian fishermen detained and jailed for fishing in the other country's waters continued. 313 people were sentenced to death by various courts in 2011, including six women.

The HRCP also verified 62 new cases of enforced disappearance,

- 35 disappearances occurred in Balochistan
- 20 in Sindh
- 173 victims' bodies recovered in Balochistan

According to the report, military operations and actions of terrorists prevented citizens from venturing into large parts of the country. Ethnic, sectarian and political violence and crime feuds made parts of Karachi no-go zones for a large section of the population. Despite official claims of putting in practice the rules for regulating the Exit Control List, arbitrary restrictions on travel were reported. Excessive delays in issuance of passports proved a hindrance for those who wished to go abroad. It said 600 clerics were barred from various districts during Muharram in a bid to prevent sectarian tensions. The population of Kurram Agency remained besieged amid regular attacks by terrorists on the road connecting the region to the rest of the country.

- 389 killed and 601 injured in Muslim sects
- More than 100 Hazara Shias were killed in targeted attacks in Balochistan
- At least six Ahmadis were murdered in target killings
- At least eight people were booked under the blasphemy law. Another three were given capital punishment under that law.

In flood-affected households, many children were pushed into hazardous labor or beggary because of a lack of any means of sustenance. As a result of floods,

- Nearly 500,000 children under the age of five were at risk of contracting serious diseases
- Chronic malnutrition among children in Punjab increased to 39 percent in 2011 from 32.5 percent in 2001
- In Sindh, 17.5 percent children of fewer than five suffered from acute malnutrition, and nearly seven percent were severely malnourished

- 15.1 percent children in the country faced absolute food scarcity
- Infant mortality rate was 63.3 deaths per 1,000 births. The under-five mortality rate was 89 deaths per 1,000 children

About Education Report

- At least 33 percent children to be out of school
- Drop-out rate from primary to secondary schooling was nearly 50 percent

It added 542 primary schools for boys and 108 schools for girls were dysfunctional in FATA due to threats by terrorists. Only 16 percent rural women in Sindh completed primary schooling and only eight percent women did so in Balochistan.

About the floods report;

- 1.5 million Houses in Sindh
- Over 7,000 houses in Balochistan

12,279 houses were destroyed or damaged in the militancy-hit Bajaur and Mohmand districts of FATA. At least 137 people were killed and 291 injured in the collapse of poorly constructed and maintained structures.

The report said that 16 journalists were killed in the country in 2011. In addition to the considerable risks, journalists often had to contend with non-payment of their salaries for months and sudden retrenchment without any severance pay.

Daily Times – March 24, 2012

Dir Man Insecure After Refusing Swara

Hafizur Rehman, 26 years old, resident of the Kalkot area in Upper Dir and a teacher in Karachi whose two family members were allegedly killed for refusing to give his minor sister 4 years old Asma as swara to their rivals, has moved to the Peshawar High Court (PHC) seeking the shifting of his case to Peshawar from Upper Dir due to security concerns. In a written application submitted to the court, Hafizur Rehman requested the chief justice to shift his cases regarding swara and murder of his father and brother to Peshawar due to security reasons. The cases are being heard in his absence in the trial courts. Darul Qaza circuit bench in Swat had granted bail to five of the accused in the swara case and two of them were freed, while the remaining three, were imprisoned for having being charged with the killing of his father and brother. The PHC Chief Justice Dost Mohammad Khan while taking suo moto had ordered the local police to provide protection to the family. On the court orders, the police had registered the first information report on December 21 under Sections 310-A and 506 of the Pakistan Penal Code at the Kalkot Police Station and ordered the police to provide more evidences against the victims till the next hearing.

The News – March 17, 2012

The Minorities Women

What's In a Name?

A number of Christians with non-Western names are being wrongly placed as Muslims in the religious column in their passports. The religion of Christians with names such as Javed, Kamran, Bashir, Rehmat and Rustam gets mentioned in the religion column as Islam. The country's premier registration organization National Database Registration Authority has no record of the births of the Christians. Therefore, there is no "B" form in this case. A NADRA Official admitted that they had no record of the births of Christian or other non-Muslim communities.

Dateline Islamabad – March 7, 2012

Yet Another Christian Woman Charged With Blasphemy

Twenty-six-year-old Shamim, mother of a five-month-old girl and resident of Chak No. 170/7R Colony, Fort Abbas tehsil, was taken into custody, by the Khichiwala Police and charged under Section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code after her neighbors accused her of uttering blasphemous remarks against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Nazeeran, sister of Shamim's husband Bashir Masih, nephew Nadeem and niece Bella converted to Islam and called on her to do the same but Shamim refused, telling that she is satisfied with Christianity and does not want to convert. According to the First Information Report (FIR No. 30/12) registered by the Khichiwala Police Station, Ansar Ali Shah, a local prayer leader of Chak 170 /7R Colony, alleged that Shamim's neighbors Hamad Ahmed Hashmi and Abdul Qayyum had told him and other Muslims that they had heard the Christian woman blaspheming while standing in her courtyard. Qayyum told that he hadn't witnessed the incident and his name had been included in the FIR by the locals, but still that does not prove that Shamim did not commit blasphemy.

Pakistan Today – March 13, 2012

Conversion Controversy Girl Sent To Government -Run Shelter

A single bench headed by Justice Shahid Anwer Bajwah was seized with the petition of Raj Kumar claimed that his maternal niece, Rinkle Kumari, who, according to him, was kidnapped and forced to convert to Islam before being married off to Syed Naveed Shah. A case (FIR No 21/2012) was lodged against the suspect at the Mirpur Mathelo police station. He said that she was produced before the area magistrate and handed over to the SHO who was also directed by the court not to allow anyone, including the parents, to meet her. The petitioner stated that his niece was again produced before the judicial magistrate, who allowed her to go with Mr Shah for the recovery of his teenage.

While, the girl told during a press conference that she embraced Islam without any coercion and married Syed Naveed Shah of her own accord. She identified herself as Syeda Faryal Bibi. Given such situation, it would not be appropriate at this state to record her statement and it would in the fitness of things if she is kept isolated from both the contending parties. Consequently, the alleged abductee was ordered to be lodged at Panah Shelter Home. Inspector General of Police, Sindh, was directed to ensure her with full and proper security. It was also ensured that no one, not even either from parents' side or from her husband's side, is allowed to meet her during this entire period and she is directed to be produced before the Honorable Supreme Court has ordered by the Honorable Supreme Court.

Dawn – March 13, 2012

Minority Women Face Problems Need Policy Response: Report by NCJP

The minority women are facing severe problems in the Pakistani society and need a policy response, according to a study conducted in 2010-11 by the National Commission for Justice and Peace (NCJP). The study looked into social, political and economic conditions of the minority women in today's Pakistan with the help of a baseline survey conducted in 26 districts of Punjab and Sindh – the two provinces where 95 percent of minorities are residing. Around 1,000 Hindu and Christian women were interviewed – the two communities forming 92 percent of the entire minority population of Pakistan.

- Religious discrimination at work place, educational institutions and neighborhood 43 %
- Faced problems in getting admission to educational institutions 27 %
- Sexual harassment 76 %
- Educated minority women (lower than national average 57%) 47 %
- Urban literacy among women (70% respondents belonged to urban) 65 %

The data showed a higher infant mortality rate among minorities than national ratio; 314 infant deaths among 3,050 births (10.3%), which was quite high to the national mortality rate that is 8.7% according to World Bank reports. A majority of the deceased offspring died either at birth or within 30 days of birth, 33.12% at birth and 36.62% within 30 days, making it a total of almost 70%.

Though 55% of minority women saw the social environment as conducive to multi-religious living around, 62% of the respondents thought that in the wake of a religious disturbance the majority community would not stand with them. While the minority women faced a threat in the form of forced conversion and assimilation into the larger culture, their families tend to control their autonomy, thus the important decisions about their lives and well-being are controlled by the male. The study noted the lack of official data on minorities that could actually help the civil society and government assess development and make interventions to improve the conditions of minority women.

Daily Times – March 15, 2012

Violence against Women

Girl Suffers From Acid Attack

A man threw acid on a girl's face in a village for not accepting his friendship proposal. Police arrested the man and registered a case under the newly enacted law – Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act. According to police, the man was under the influence of alcohol. The acid burnt the left side of the girl's face and shoulder. The girl is under treatment in a hospital in Kameer near her village.

Dawn – March 7, 2012

Daughters of Shame: S. Iftikhar Murshed

The HRCP report shows that

- Women killed by their sons : 19
- Women killed by their fathers : 49
- Women killed by their husbands : 169

The Aurat Foundation's 2010 report shows that there were 8000 atrocities (rapes and honor killings) against women.

Women Killed In Provinces

- Punjab: 5492
- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: 650
- Balochistan: 79
- Sindh: 577

The Edhi Foundation has compiled statistics about infanticide in the country that are nothing short of astonishing.

- 2008 890 bodies
- 2009 999 bodies
- 2010 1, 210 bodies
- 2012 70 bodies (Only in Karachi)

The News – March 12, 2012

Man Burns Wife's Face to Force Her into Quitting Job

A woman in Multan was hospitalized with burns she suffered in an acid attack allegedly by her husband to stop her from continuing a job. Doctors said 60 per cent of her face was damaged. They said she also had suffered burns to her neck and arms. The victim said the attack on night had followed an argument over her job at an advertising agency. He said he would send our son to work to ensure that the family income was not affected. The victim said the suspect had accused her of continuing the job so that she could maintain relationships with other men. His income as a personal assistant to a lawyer was not enough to run a family of six people. Gulgasht police have registered an FIR against husband of the victim, under Section 324 of the Pakistan Penal Code. SHO Amir Khan said the complaint filed by the victims' sister did not require the inclusion of Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act needed to be added in acid attack cases in accordance with a recent legislation making the offence non-bail able in the FIR.

The Express Tribune- March 27, 2012

Girls Sexually Assaulted In Karachi and Haripur

A seven-year-old girl, who had gone missing a day earlier near her home in Gulistan-i-Jauhar, was found raped and murdered in a local graveyard. The girl went missing on one evening while playing outside her house in Husain Hazara Goth in Gulistan-i-Jauhar. The girl's body was found in a graveyard near Kamran Chowrangi, the killers strangled her. The body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for a post-mortem examination. Dr Rohaina Hasan, the woman medico-legal officer at the JPMC, said that the girl, aged between six and seven years, had been subjected to rape. He lodged a case (FIR 127/12) under Sections 363 (punishment for kidnapping), 302 (premeditated murder), 376 (punishment of rape) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code with the Gulistan-i-Jauhar police station. The incident is taken very seriously but so far the family has not shown any suspicion about anyone (**Dawn - March 6, 2012**).

A young girl was raped when she was sent to buy groceries in Kotnajibullah village. Shabana*, five, had gone to buy groceries from a store in the neighborhood, where she was assaulted by the shopkeeper's son. The girl returned home in tears and informed her parents, who reported the case to the police. The child was taken for a medical examination. A lady doctor at the Women and Children Hospital confirmed that the girl had been sexually assaulted. The police registered a criminal case under section 376 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and arrested the accused. However, when enquired why the rapist was not registered under the Child Protection and Welfare Act 2010 (CPWA), the police expressed their ignorance about the law. A perpetrator found guilty may be sentenced to a minimum of seven and a maximum of 14 years

in prison, with a fine no less than Rs1 million under section 53 of the CPWA (**The Express Tribune - March 20, 2012**).

Women in Politics and Government

Steps Ordered Against Anti-Women Jirgas

A three judge bench, head by Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Ch, had taken up a petition of Chairperson of the National Commission on the status of Women (NCSW), Anis Haroon and issued orders to the chief secretaries and inspector general of police to ensure that girls and women were not exchanged to settle disputes through jirgas and also asked to take measures against violation of Section 310A of the Pakistan Penal Code by initiating action against members of jirgas and punchayats. The section was introduced in compliance with a Supreme Court order after 2006 to provide a maximum punishment of 10-years rigorous imprisonment for giving a woman or girl in marriage to settle a dispute. The apex-court asked the government to amend Section 310 of the PPC or insert a provision into the Family Act of 1964 to dissolve marriages conducted under Vani.

Dawn - March 28, 2012

Resolutions Calls for Stringent Laws on Acid Crimes

A joint sitting of the National Assembly and Senate, unanimously adopted a resolution seeking comprehensive and dedicated laws against anyone found guilty of acid crime though not entirely without controversy. The house also strongly recommends that a comprehensive and dedicated law on acid crimes be passed at federal/provincial levels. The acid crime victims moved under the Rule 157 of Parliamentary business, further asserted that the federal/provincial governments must commit to provide fully-funded treatment, healthcare and rehabilitation programs for the victims of acid crimes.

The Express Tribune - March 28, 2012

Only 1 Woman Each From Baluchistan, AJK in Foreign Service

The number of women joining the Foreign Service of Pakistan is on the rise, only one out of total 63 serving women officers is from the country's largest province Balochistan, and one from Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). The number of women from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) currently serving in the Foreign Service is greater than those from Sindh. Punjab takes the lead with the highest number of 45 women officers, followed by nine from KP and seven from Sindh. There are none from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas/Northern Areas (FATA/NA). Currently the total number of career officers from AJK stands at 13.

According to a survey conducted by this scribe of the total 63 career women officers highest number ever:

- Two are serving in grade-22 (additional secretary & special secretary level)
- Five in grade-21 (additional secretary level)
- Eight in grade-20 (director general level)
- Nine in grade-19
- Fifteen in grade-18 (director/deputy director level)
- 24 are in grade-17 (assistant director level)

Indicating that in the last five to seven years an increasing number of women are opting for the Foreign Service. At the headquarters there are:

- Two additional secretaries (Head of Europe division and Foreign Affairs at the PM's Secretariat)
- One director-general (Head of South Asia Desk)
- Four directors including (India), (UN), (Policy Planning) and (Deputy Chief of Protocol)

More than 20 women work as assistant directors at the headquarters and over a dozen are posted in various missions abroad at different levels including deputy head of missions, counselors, first, second and third secretaries.

Pakistan Today – March 12, 2012

Women Legislators Perform Impressively In NA Last Year

As the 13th National Assembly is completing its fourth parliamentary year, women legislators continued to perform impressively, asserting themselves in their lawmaking and oversight roles.

Women in National Assembly

- Members elected on reserved seats 60
- Members elected through elections 17

Overall, women parliamentarians have been active in introducing legislation – single female members authoring 20 of the 53 Private Members' bills that appeared on the Orders of the Day in the fourth parliamentary year. Of the Private Members' Bills moved by women parliamentarians, 14 were introduced in the House, five not taken up while two were passed.

- Total Questions in fourth Parliamentary year 2,365
- Questions put forward by female members 1,196 (51 percent)
- Questions put forward by male members 1,169
- Submitted question by each female member 16
- Women legislators present in the sessions 75 out of 97

Critical issues raised by women legislators;

- Energy crisis
- Increase in power tariff
- Dilapidated condition of national highways
- Violence against women
- Draft electoral list
- Disaster management
- Increase in prices of petroleum products

Total points of orders raised in the house were 1,764 out of which 252 (14%) were raised by women legislators.

Representation in the House by Women Legislators

- Pakistan People's Party 121 Point of orders
- Pakistan Muslim League – N 44 Point of orders
- Awami National Party 44 Point of orders
- Pakistan Muslim League – Q 24 Point of orders
- MUthida Qaumi Movement 13 Point of orders
- Muthida Majlis – e - Amal 6 Point of orders

Resolutions Moved By Females

- Single female member moved resolution 25
- Multiple female member moved resolution 3

▪ Jointly male and female members moved resolution	14
▪ Resolutions moved by Male members	18

Dawn – March 28, 2012

Analysis: Will Punjab Take Lead On Women Empowerment?

Sindh and Balochistan transformed their existing women development departments into fully-fledged ministries and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa established a women's commission. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government in Punjab has taken the lead.

On International Women's Day, Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif announced a comprehensive package of well thought-out and concrete measures specifically designed for the development and empowerment of women.

These measures can be divided into three clusters.

- Institutional arrangements that the provincial government will make to strengthen the provincial machinery. The package announced that the existing Women Development Department will be transformed into an independent provincial ministry and a provincial ombudsperson will be established under the anti-sexual harassment legislation passed at the federal level in 2010. Several special desks will be established at the district level to monitor the investigation of crimes against women. The quota of women in provincial public service will be increased from 5 to 15%, but, more significantly, a 25% quota will be established for women representation on major decision-making bodies, such as the provincial public service commission.
- A set of new or amended legislation which includes a specific amendment in the property inheritance procedures, to ensure individual qualified relatives of the deceased are granted their inheritance directly from the courts rather than collectively. An amendment has been proposed in the Poison Act to regulate acid as a poison — making it potentially less accessible for use in acid crimes. The government is also considering the passage of an omnibus legislative package that will cover several crimes against women rather than struggling to pass a law for each crime separately. The intention has been announced, but the details of this legislation are not yet known.
- The third cluster can be characterized as more of an acknowledgement of the gap between women and men in social and economic development by ensuring the inclusion of women in future initiatives. A whole array of actions has been mentioned ranging from separate toilets for women in workplaces, transportation to education facilities and establishment of degree colleges in every tehsil and hostels for women students attending district-level degree colleges and interest-free loans for women entrepreneurs.

The Express Tribune- March 12, 2012

An Hourglass Society: Analysis by Muhammad Waseem

POLITICS in Pakistan operates at two thinly connected levels representing a non-delivering ruling mechanism at one end, and perennially and potentially protesting masses at the other. Pakistan can be viewed as an hourglass society. As an instrument for measuring time used in the late mediaeval ages, it had two separate halves connected by a narrow tube. The sand passed from the top to the bottom in one hour. Later, the glass was turned over for the next round of the falling sand. Two characteristics defined the hourglass. It had a narrow link between the two spaces and it was a top-down rather than a bottom-up mechanism. High politics in Pakistan is characterized by an internecine conflict among rival contenders for power — the army, judiciary, mainstream and ethnic parties, Islamic and sectarian groups, the intelligence agencies and bureaucracy. The arena is relatively shielded from the masses clamoring for justice down below.

The idiom of this conflict includes national interest, security, sovereignty, independence of the judiciary and media, Sunni majoritarian supremacy and the clash of institutions. It draws on a long list of perceived evil characters, countries such as the US, Israel and India, potentially blasphemous religious communities such as Christians and Hindus and corrupt elements such as political parties and political leaders. One can point to three generations of protagonists of the power play on stage. The first so-called Independence generation included Iskandar Mirza, Ayub Khan, Daultana, Suhrawardy, Maududi, Bhashani, Ghaffar Khan and G. M. Syed in the 1950s and 1960s. The second generation included Bhutto, Wali Khan, Mufti Mehmud and the Bugti-Marri-Mengal triumvirate in the 1970 and 1980s. The third generation comprised Benazir Bhutto, Nawaz Sharif, Altaf Hussain and the siblings of the great Khans and the Baloch in the 1990s and 2000s. Imran Khan from this generation is trying to capture the youth's immense potential across the generational divide. He has crystallized the idiom of the upper half of the hourglass in terms of corruption, Islam, national sovereignty, Kashmir, anti-Americanism and anti-Indianism.

This is a zero-sum game, within the upper echelons. One's gain is the other's loss. The Abbottabad operation brought grief to the army. The civilian component of the ruling elite smiled. Memogate inflicted pain on President Zardari and the top brass smiled. Mian Nawaz Sharif filed a case in court in this regard, and smiled. Following allegations about preparations for a coup after Abbottabad hurt the men in uniform, the prime minister smiled. The rejuvenated NRO case turned the civilian hierarchy of the government upside down. It was noted by some that the judiciary smiled. Mehran gate heaped scorn on the ISI, president Ishaq Khan, Gen Aslam Beg and Gen Asad Durrani among others. President Zardari and the prime minister smiled. The news item about the disappearance of a large sum of money from Intelligence Bureau funds on the eve of the no-confidence vote against Benazir Bhutto in 1989 has dampened the spirit of the treasury benches. Whoever dug up this information from the official files; smiled. The judiciary picked it up. The musical chairs go on. The new name of the game for the government is survival in office. The opposition is committed to making that as unlikely as possible. The court talks about the law, about crime and punishment, and about right and wrong. It appears to be thinking and operating retrospectively, not prospectively.

The verdicts do not seem to consider the fallout on the mega currents of public life. Smugness, self-righteousness, claiming the moral high ground and confidence in one's power and ability have adversely affected the structural and operational dynamics of various institutions and groups in the country. The bottom half of the hourglass represents the people. The celebrated political scientist Bhabani Sen Gupta quipped in one of his cynical moments 20 years ago that the Indian system had put one-third of society — the poorest and the destitute — behind the curtain and that it became marginal to the national agenda. That may be less true of India than Pakistan. Who are the wretched of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan? How many are they? And for how many of them is there realistic hope of deliverance from misery? In Pakistan, people — the destitute particularly — are not visible on the national agenda, apart from such projects as

the Benazir Income Support Programme. Sixty-five million Pakistanis, three times the population of Afghanistan and 10 times the population of Jordan see the death of hope. They live through economic, psychological and physical insecurity. They are living because they are not dead. Their marginal position has been institutionalized through street demonstrations and political rallies that turn them into cannon fodder. People on the street are fast multiplying. A large mass of humanity is suffering because of malnutrition, ignorance and belligerent identities. The virtual abandoning of the population planning programme is a step towards pushing social thought and practice back to the mediaeval ages. With shrinking market space both at home and globally, the teeming millions of Pakistan have no relevance for the state managers' agenda. One finds depression, sullenness, fatalism, superstition, acute cynicism and a general lack of productivity among the masses. There is a rampant sense of injustice at the hands of the police, magistracy and the local judiciary. Police brutality, corruption, extrajudicial killings and torture within and outside the jails are common. The district court is the handmaiden of local people with influence. Some proto-Taliban and sectarian groups operate as instruments of state patronage and manipulation. The people at the bottom have not been able to exert pressure upwards to change policy, given the weakness of multiple institutional channels including trade unions, professional associations, student organizations, minorities' forums, literary guilds and lobbies for the missing persons. The hourglass society is operative in two separate spheres of activity, even as the traditional and emergent leadership swears by its concern for the masses and the latter pin their hopes on the messiahs.

Dawn - March 20, 2012

Governmental Functioning

i. National Assembly

Performance of the National Assembly till Fifth Parliamentary Year

The National Assembly enters its fifth and final parliamentary year with following as its performance indicator.

Performance of the National Assembly

No. of bills in four years Assembly	96 bills
Average of the bills	2 weeks
No. of Bills in fourth year	28 bills
No. of Bills in third year	31 bills
No. of Bills in second year	32 bills
No. of Bills passed	64 bills
No. of Bills pending (Senate for approval)	31 bills
No. of bills tabled by private members	147 bills
Ordnances laid by Government	97 include 68 presidential

Dawn - March 15, 2012

ii. Senate

Current Senate Party Position

After the 2008 Senate elections, the current party position in Senate stands like this.

Seats in the Senate of Pakistan

Name of the Party	Seats Number in Senate
PPP	41
Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz	14
Awami National Party	12
Pakistan Muslim League – Q	5
Jamiat- Ulma – e - Islam	7
Mutahhida Qaumi Movement	7
FATA	8
Independents	4
Jamaat-e-Islami	-
Balochistan National Party (Awami)	4
National Party	-
Pakistan Muslim League (F)	-
Jamhoori Watan Party	-
Pakistan People’s Party (Sherpao)	-
Pakhtun-khwa Milli Awami Party	-
Total	104

The Express Tribune – March 3, 2012

Balochistan Senate Seats

The Election Commission of Pakistan upheld the result of Balochistan Senate seats and ordered the provincial Election Commission following objections raised by PML-N on the success of ANP candidate Daud Khan Achakzai. Returning officer Abdul Jabbar Jamali recounted the votes at the ECP Secretariat in the presence of both parties’ representatives and candidates. After recounting the votes again, the commission retained the earlier results.

Earlier Result of Parties

PPP	4
JUI – F	3
PML-Q	2
BNP-A	2
ANP	1

The News – March 6, 2012

Political Parties Figures Who Lost Representation in Senate

Four political parties have lost their representation in the upper house of parliament following the recent elections. Following are the political parties mentioned by their names, as below;

- Jamaat-e-Islami
- Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party
- Jamshoori Watan Party
- Pakistan People’s Party Sherpao

Daily Times – March 12, 2012

Senators Come Up With Half Truths about Their Assets

Senators appear to have come out with half-truths about their assets, taking advantage of the absence of a mechanism to scrutinize the declarations made by legislators. The statements of assets and liabilities for the last financial year when compared with the previous year's declarations show that most Senators, if not all, have more to conceal than reveal about the value of their assets and sources of income, including foreign remittances.

Assets of Gulshan Saeed of the PML-Q,

Sale of house in United Kingdom (72.5 million) but did not mention any assets in abroad and received remittances of 20 million pounds but do not shown in the fresh statement.

- Two houses and Agricultural land value of Rs60 million
- Gold bangles weighing 12.83kg
- Cash Rs9 million
- Invested unspecified amounts in stocks, national savings schemes and regular income certificate

Assets of Gul Muhammad PPP,

- 64 acres of agricultural land (Valued 13.9 million in 2010 but now its value dropped to 39.5 million)
- 2 plots in DHA
- Flat at Silver sand (Valued Rs7.5 million in 2010 but now its value dropped to Rs2 million)
- Property in the name of his wife declined from Rs60 million to Rs30 million
- Property worth Rs30 million in the name of this son has not been shown this time
- Nine assets abroad were valued at Rs1.18 million in 2010 remained unchanged, the worth of villa in Dubai dropped from Rs575 million to Rs300 million
- Assets of in Jumeirat Tower global Lakeview dropped from Rs16.10 million to Rs12 million
- Investment in factory increased from Rs230 million to Rs745 million
- Assets in abroad declined from Rs1.18 billion to Rs600 million
- Sold flat at Jeddah Rs46 million in 2010

Assets of Sughra Imam of the PPP

- Total Value of assets Rs158 million
- 130 Acres of land in khalal and Jhang by her parents
- Cash in Banks 13.7 million
- No Car

Assets of Haroon Akhtar

- Worth unspecified plots has increased from Rs47.51 million to Rs59.43 million
- Investments in stocks Rs306 million
- Cash holds 372 million
- Liability of Rs336 million
- Own no Car
- Increase in jewelry six-time Rs1.2 million

Assets of Muhammad Idrees of the FATA

- Family property worth Rs520 million
- Transport and property business Rs 200 million
- 2 Cars valued Rs4 million but he has no car

Assets of Malik Rasheed from FATA

- Farm House in Islamabad and in Kurram worth Rs4 million in 2010
- Now owns coal and soapstone mines whose value has been unlimited
- Agricultural land in his village but not shown this time 2011

Assets of Pervez Rasheed of the PML-N

- No Car
- House, Business and all he got is Rs124, 000 in his bank account
- Pervez Rasheed of the PML-N has no car, house or business and all he has got is Rs124, 000 in his bank account.

Assets of Maulana Khan Shirani

- One kilogram of Gold
- Cash in hand Rs 100, 000
- No Bank Account
- No Car
- Nature and Value of properties are jointly inherited

Dawn – March 14, 2012

iii. Federal and Provincial Governments

Scores of Devolved Employees Still Awaiting Promotion

After the devolution of powers and the transfer of employees between federal and provincial departments, thousands of government employees are still awaiting for their promotions but to little or no avail. The government had formed a high-powered committee to look into the matter of these employees' grievances under the Ministry for Inter Provincial Coordination, but had so far failed to hold any meetings to deliberate over the issue. The promotion cases of even those officers who had been adjusted within federal departments had been pending and lingering on the desks of concerned authorities for more than a year and a half. Those employees transferred to provincial departments were facing continued hurdles and problems with regard to the seniority issue, since the provincial governments were not ready to accept their seniority status according to their rules and regulations.

According to data collected by the Establishment Division,

▪ Total No. of employees	38, 400
▪ Total No. of affected Ministries	17 Federal Ministries
▪ Total No. of Officer Grade Civil Servants	18, 340
▪ Total No. of Ordinary Employees	20, 060

The News – March 19, 2012

Punjab Assembly Mandatory Teaching of Holy Quran

A resolution supporting mandatory teaching of the Quran, with translation and comprehension, in all public and private educational institutions was passed, unanimously, by the Punjab Assembly. The resolution said that the teaching of Quran should be made mandatory in all educational institutions in order to sensitize the young generation. It called for making Quran lessons part of the syllabus, starting from grade 1 and continuing till professional degrees. The Punjab government was also asked to allocate funds for teaching of Quran.

The Express Tribune- March 7, 2012

Governance Issues, Security Situation Upset Development Goals in KP: UNDP

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa continues to fare poorly in its pursuit to achieve Millennium Development Goals due to paucity of funds, lack of political will, and insecurity triggered by war against terrorism. The provincial government has not made a serious effort to rectify the situation after its MDGs Report-2011. The MDG-1 requires the 'Eradication of Extreme Hunger and Poverty' by 2015. The province is far from eradicating poverty by 2015, and needs to employ significant poverty reduction efforts to reach the target. The lack of financial resources, prolonged armed conflict that shattered the provincial economy during past one decade and devastating floods in 2010 have been cited, in the report, as reasons for the province's inability to miss the MDG-1 with a big gap. The MDGs had propagated sustainable use of resources to protect the interest of future generations. The goals, had asked for maintaining a balance between enhancing coverage and improving quality, in case of health and education sectors, to set our house in order. The province does not generate its own resources as its total reliance is either on federal transfers or overdrafts provided by the State Bank.

The MDGs report, released by the United Nations Development Program,

- Poverty reported 2005-06 27 percent
- Poverty reported 2009-10 39 percent
- Mortality rate of death 2006-07 75 per 1, 000 live births
- Mortality rate of death 2007-08 100 per 1,000 live births

Dawn - March 14, 2012

Facts & Figures

National Debt Doubles To Rs11.7 Trillion In 4 Years and Rs65, 144 of Debt Burden

The country's total public debt (excluding liabilities) swelled to Rs11.73 trillion by the end of December 2011. The coalition government led by Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani has added Rs5.7 trillion to the national debt which is 94 per cent higher than the level in June 2008. This comes to an increase of Rs4.2 billion per day in the last around four years. In calendar year 2011, the government added Rs1.08 trillion to the public debt. Total public debt in December 2010 stood at Rs10.7 trillion. In terms of total size of national economy, the public debt stood at 56.1 per cent, an improvement of around three percentage points in four years. In June 2008, total public debt had been estimated at 59 per cent of national output. In 2008, the GDP stood at Rs10.2 trillion that has soared to Rs20.9 trillion. In terms of total revenues, the public debt is 471.8 per cent. This year, the finance ministry has estimated total revenues at Rs2.5 trillion, including tax and non-tax revenues. As of June 30, 2008, the public debt stood slightly above Rs6 trillion that amounted to Rs34, 500 per Pakistani (considering the current size of the population). But during the tenure of the present government, the burden has almost doubled to Rs65, 144. In addition to the debt, outstanding liabilities stand at \$6 billion (Rs540 billion). By adding liabilities to the debt, total national burden comes to Rs12.3 trillion or Rs68, 144 per person. In terms of GDP, total debt and liabilities stood at 61.1 per cent. According to the Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act of 2005, the country's total debt should not exceed 60 percent of GDP. The sharp increase in the debt burden has been attributed to rupee depreciation and large budget deficits due to increasing power subsidies and interest payments on debt stock. For the current fiscal year, the government has estimated debt servicing at Rs791 billion, which is slightly over 40 per cent of tax revenues. In the first half, the government has spent Rs397.2 billion on interest payments, according to the finance ministry. Independent economic experts and the State Bank of Pakistan criticize the government for its inability to manage the debt. According to the documents, the government has borrowed Rs6.9 trillion from domestic sources, which is Rs3.6 trillion or 110 per cent higher than June 2008 level. Borrowing from international sources remained at Rs4.9 trillion, slightly over Rs2 trillion or 75 per cent higher than June 2008. In June 2008, total domestic debt was Rs3.3 trillion while external debt stood at Rs2.8 trillion.

The Express Tribune- March 7, 2012

Budget Deficit: Government Trying To Clean Up the Mess

The government dropped a hint to increase both electricity and fuel prices before June to control the swelling budget deficit while admitting for the first time that inflation will touch 12.9 per cent, almost a per cent higher than the target. For the current fiscal year, the government had targeted 4.7 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or Rs985 billion budget deficits, however, during the first eight months of the current fiscal year this has already crossed Rs1, 153 billion or 5.5 per cent of the GDP. It was expected that the inflation would remain at 12.9% against the target of 12.0%, said the finance ministry. He informed that against real GDP target of 4.3% the GDP would remain at 3.6%. While the finance ministry itself admitted its three big failures;

- Missing of economic growth
- Inflation
- Budget deficit targets

The Express Tribune- March 17, 2012

Circular Debts Soar 465% in Four Years

The circular debt among energy companies has soared 465% in four years since the Pakistan People's Party-led coalition government came to power in March 2008. The power sector circular debt increased to Rs396.7 billion by March 15, 2012, which is Rs326 billion or 465.7% higher than the debt in March 2008.

The Express Tribune – March 16, 2008

Government Facing Massive Shortfall in Non-Tax Revenues

The federal government is heading towards a massive shortfall in achieving its envisaged non-tax revenue target in the current fiscal year which would consequently result in breaching revised budget deficit target of 4.7 percent of the GDP. The PPP-led government has just collected RS231 billion as non-tax revenues in the first seven months (July-Jan) period against revised envisaged target of Rs677 billion for whole for the year. In the remaining period of this fiscal year, the government will have to collect the Rs446 billion. The major component of non-tax revenues include risky inflows from the United States in the shape of coalition support fund (CSF) and auction of 3G license which is estimated to be \$1 billion transaction. The target of non-tax revenue was revised downward from Rs 780 billion to Rs 677 billion. Against this revision on account of non-tax revenues, the government had revised upward its budget deficit target by 0.7 percent from 4 percent of GDP on the eve of holding Article IV consultation with the International Monetary Fund.

The News – March 16, 2012

State Bank of Pakistan Orders Review of Charities Account

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) issued a policy and regulations circular regarding financial institutions' required compliance to new guidelines in order to protect them from the risks of money laundering and terrorist financing activities. The regulations are binding on all financial institutions under the Banking Companies Ordinance 1962. The institutions have been warned of appropriate legal action in case of non-compliance. In accordance with the SBP's Banking Policy and Regulations Department Circular No4 (2012), banks and development financial institutions (DFIs) have been instructed to conduct enhanced due diligence and obtain senior management approval prior to establishing a relationship with any NGO or not-for-profit organization (NPO) or charities. Institutions will also be required to ensure that all transactions related to such accounts comply with the stated objectives of their operating entities. All financial institutions are further required to open accounts only in the name of the relevant NGO or NPO, as per the title given in the documents submitted by the entity. Those authorized to operate these accounts, along with members of the governing body of the applicant organization, will be subject to Customer Due Diligence and scrutinized for any involvement in proscribed organizations or relationship to suspicious individuals. All NGOs and NPOs – and their operatives – will be reviewed for any involvement in suspicious activities by June 30, 2012, and reported for legal action if required, according to the circular. Furthermore, in case an organization advertises its account number for soliciting donations or similar purposes, financial institutions are required to immediately flag the account and file a Suspicious Transaction Report if necessary in the condition that the advertising party's account title is not found to be in correspondence to the account number publicized. The circular notifies that personal accounts can no longer be used legally to collect charity or donations. The circular also details documentary requirements that NGOs and NPOs must fulfill in order to be able to avail the services of financial institutions.

The Express Tribune- March 13, 2012

Prime Minister for Removing Distrust among Religions

Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani underlined the need for removing distrust and misunderstandings among followers of different religions to foster greater understanding, tolerance and respect for all. The creation of the new Ministry of National Harmony at the federal level is a step forward to promote harmony among different faiths/religions of Pakistan. The Ministry of National Harmony had been mandated to actively engage in a dialogue with scholars and leaders of all faiths to develop a national policy.

Daily Times – March 7, 2012

Why Cannot a Non- Muslim Be President or Prime Minister: Senate Discusses

After taking the oath ceremony of newly elected senate members, terming the ineligibility of non-Muslims to become president or prime minister unjust, Awami National Party (ANP) Senator Haji Adeel demanded to abolish the condition. He was referring the sub-clause two of the Article 41 of the Constitution, A person shall not be qualified for election as President unless he is a Muslim of not less than forty-five years of age and is qualified to be elected as member of the National Assembly. ANP Haji Adeel, PPP Aitzaz Ahsan, PML-N's Senator Kamran Michel, Newly elected chairman Senate Nayyar Husain Bukhari suggested for bringing an amendment in the Constitution with the consensus of all political parties and they all agreed that minorities have equal political rights.

Dateline – Islamabad – March 13, 2012

National Human Rights Commission Bill

The Senate unanimously passed the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) 2011 Amendment Bill, which provides for the establishment of a national commission to safeguard human rights. The bill was moved by the Leader of the House in the Senate, Syed Nayyar Hussain Bokhari. In pursuance of the United Nations General Assembly resolution of December 20, 1993, members are under obligation to establish independent national human rights institutions. The commission shall prepare its annual reports and special reports as and when required and while inquiring into the complaints of violations of human rights may call for information on report from the federal government or a provincial government or any other authority or organization.

Salient features of NCHR composition are:

- Chairperson of NCHR would be Judge of the Supreme Court
- Appointment of Chairperson or members will be for four years
- Through a public notice will invite suggestions for suitable person for appointment
- The list of members submitted to Prime Minister and Opposition Leader in the National Assembly after scrutiny
- The Prime Minister shall in consultation with opposition leader regarding the appointment of chairperson
- The names of three members shall forward to the parliamentary committee which selected the one person for each post
- If there is no consensus between the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader than the Speaker of National Assembly constitute a Committee of 50 percent members from

treasury and 50 percent from opposition, which based on their strength in parliament, with one-third out of 12 members taken from the Senate

- The chairperson could be removed by moving a reference against him as is done to remove a judge of the apex court by the judicial commission
- The tenure of an acting chairperson in absence of the chairperson or in case of his death would not exceed 60 days
- The members of the commission should have practical experience in the field of human rights

The News – March 10, 2012

First Ever – Ever Human Rights Policy on the Anvil

Authorities are preparing the country's first-ever human rights policy to furnish guidelines for institutionalizing official response to a scourge that is among several factors maligning the country's image abroad. The officials told that they are in the final stages of drafting a human rights policy that will be covering all aspects of a grave problem ... it is going to be out in a few months. The official said the proposal being considered for the preparation of draft would primarily deal with how the government and its agencies at various levels — federal, provincial and grassroots — should respond to human rights violations, with an aim to reduce them. This is going to be a first step ... something that can start sensitizing people, the society and the state towards what is generally ignored as useless debate.

The Express Tribune-March 25, 2012

Teacher Torture: Former PPP MPA Sent On Physical Remand

An anti-terrorism court in Sargodha sent former Pakistan People's Party MPA Aslam Madhyana on a one-day physical remand on charges of torturing a school teacher and breaking both his legs. The police had requested for an eight-day remand. Madhyana said that he did not know the teacher and he denied all the allegations. Madhyana was granted interim bail by the Lahore High Court. His lawyer requested the court for the confirmation of the bail, but the request was rejected by the LHC. The Supreme Court has also taken suo motu notice of the incident and sought a report from all four provincial chief secretaries about steps taken to protect civil servants.

The Express Tribune-March 15, 2012

State of Minorities

Forced Conversion, Abduction and Re-Locations

Minorities' legislators belonged to PPP, PML-N and PML-Q, all were agreed and demanded the government to do proper legislation for their protection and urged for stoppage of forced conversion to Islam. The legislators said that Islam did not allow forced conversion. All of the legislators were against and also condemned the forced conversion of Islam (**Daily Times – March 16, 2012**).

Forced conversions to Islam and increasing incidents of kidnapping have instilled a deep sense of insecurity among the Hindu community in Balochistan, said Minister for Human Rights and Minority Affairs Basant Lal Gulshan. He said four girls and three boys of the Hindu community forcibly converted to Islam in 2011. At least 50 Hindu families have migrated from Quetta alone. The families migrated to rural Balochistan and Sindh because their rights were not safeguarded in Quetta. The minister claimed that investigations have not begun in the conversion cases reported in Loralai, Chaman and Sibi. He criticized the Balochistan government for its lack of

interest on minority rights and said: According to a rough estimate, around 200,000 Hindus reside in different parts of Balochistan and most of them are either businessmen or traders. Criminals consider Hindus an easy target for earning money **(The Express Tribune- March 19, 2012)**.

The minister for national harmony has stated that about 100 non-Muslims, mostly Hindus girls, were forced to convert to Islam in recent months. Talking about the law he said, the draft of the proposed law is likely to be tabled before the Parliament after the passage of the national budget in June, this year. About the proposed legislation, Gill recommended the formation of official bodies to authenticate whether or not anyone had converted to Islam or any other religion with his or her free will and not under coercion. Learning the basic principles and teaching of Islam should be made obligatory, under the proposed laws for all those non-Muslims who decided to embrace Islam **(The Express Tribune- March 24, 2012)**.

Missing Persons: Status and Up-Date

National Assembly Passes Unanimous Resolutions on Missing Persons

The National Assembly unanimously passed a resolution expressing concern on the plight of families of missing persons and called upon the government to ensure prevalence of rule of law and implement, without further delay, observations of the Supreme Court and recommendations of the Commission of Enquiry on Enforced Disappearances. The resolution, initiated and moved by the Pakistan Muslim League-N, was adopted by the house without making any changes in it. The house, through the resolution, also authorized the Speaker to constitute, in consultation with prime minister and leader of the Opposition, an eight-member special committee with equal representation from both sides of the house to monitor progress in this regard. The special committee, after meetings with representatives of the families of missing persons and victims of terrorism and briefings by the concerned intelligence and security agencies, will submit its recommendations to the house within two months and also for comprehensive framework law to regulate the role and functioning of the intelligence and security agencies.

Daily Times – March 15, 2012

70% Missing Persons Will Be Identified and Set Free: PHC

The Peshawar High Court said that 30% of missing persons are likely to remain with authorities, whereas the rest will be identified and set free. Justice Dost Muhammad Khan, who was heading the divisional bench with Justice Waqar Ahmad Seth, said that the authorities have also been considering the court's earlier suggestion to take over 15 test cases of detained persons. The chief justice said that the court wanted the terrorists to be tried and punished if found guilty but due process should be applied and the accused should be dealt with in accordance with the law and Constitution.

The Express Tribune- March 16, 2012

Woman Moves Court for Husband's Recovery

Naib Subedar Muhammad Ilyas, who had retired from army service last year, his wife, in a petition had sought help from the Lahore High Court (LHC) for the recovery of her husband. Justice Mazhar Iqbal of the LHC Rawalpindi bench asked the DPO to submit a report on the case. Making secretary defense; deputy general military intelligence (DG MI) and Judge Advocate General (JAG) branch of General Headquarters (GHQ) and DPO Jhelum respondents.

Missing Persons Reunites with Family – Thanks To Supreme Court

After allegedly being in the custody of intelligence agencies for the last six days, Umer Mahmood reunited with his family. On the complaint of Umer's father, Mahmood Ahmad Khan, the chief justice took suo motu notice and directed the Islamabad Inspector-General of police (IGP) to submit a report of the incident. Advocate Tariq Asad, counsel for Umer, confirmed his safe return, saying that the family was reluctant to share details of the incident even with him as they were receiving threats from unknown people. Perhaps wanting to avoid any interaction with the media as a result, their cell phones were also switched off. Umer's counsel had informed a two-judge bench of the apex court, headed by the chief justice, that the only crime his client had committed was supplying food to demonstrators who were demanding the recovery of missing persons in Islamabad's Parade Ground.

The Express Tribune - March 18, 2012

DPC Joins the Chorus for Missing Persons' Recovery

Speakers at a Difa-e-Pakistan Council's (DPC) rally at the fabled Qissa Khwani Bazaar vociferously demanded that the government recover all missing persons who, they said, are in the custody of the country's spy agencies and also blamed the security forces for targeting madrassa students and religious scholars in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. In a resolution passed at the rally, they also asked for an immediate end to military operations across the country.

The Express Tribune-March 10, 2012

CONFLICT & CRISIS WATCH

Crisis of Sectarian Killings

2 Killed In Quetta Target Shooting

Two men belonging to the Hazara community were killed when unidentified men opened fire on them on Quetta's Sabzal Road before fleeing the scene. A local police official said that it might be a case of sectarian attack. Police and counter-terrorism officials say that outlawed militant groups such as Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi were actively involved in fomenting sectarian hatred in the province. However, no group has claimed responsibility for the killings.

The Express Tribune- March 27, 2012

Senior Lawyer, Son Gunned Down

A senior lawyer and his son were gunned down. Advocate Salahuddin, ex-president of the Malir Bar Association (MBA), and his son Ali Raza were killed by unidentified assailants. Taking notice of the killings, Sindh High Court (SHC) Chief Justice Musheer Alam ordered a judicial probe into the incident. Sindh Home Minister Manzoor Wassan also took notice of the incident and directed the Sindh inspector general to personally supervise the investigations and file a report to him in 24 hours. Police said that the motives behind the killings might be of a sectarian nature. The killings drew countrywide condemnation.

The Express Tribune- March 25, 2012

Conflict & Crisis in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

i. Loss of Life to Conflict

Area	Killed	Injured	Reasons
Bara, Khyber Agency, Mandikas	3	2	Stepped on IED
Sepah, Bara, Khyber Agency	3	-	Bodies of Militant
Bara, Sepah, Khyber Agency	29	12	Operation against lashkar-e-Islam
Bara, Sepah, Khyber Agency	14	-	Bullet riddled bodies of civilians and bodies of militants suffered from acid
Zakakhel, landi-Kotal	3	-	Bodies found killed by tribal militia Tauheed-e-Islam
South Waziristan, Orakzai Agency	32	12	24 militants, 8 soldiers killed, 8 troops and 4 militant injured
Lower kurram Agency, Pir Qayyum Village near sadda	2	17	Passengers coach hit by road side explosion remote controlled

ii. Loss of Infrastructure to Conflict

Area	No. of Schools Destroyed
Safi Subdivision	47

Khwezai and Baizai Subdivisions	18
Ambar Subdivision of lower Mohmand Agency	11
Pindyali	6
Ekkaghund	4
Ghallanai (Agency Head Quarter)	2
Prang Ghar Subdivision	1 (Due to 2010 flood)

The Express Tribune- March 12, 2012

iii. IDPs

The Cost of Fighting Militancy in the North: IDPs

The displaced tribesmen, living in Tank and Dera Ismail Khan, admit that the military has flushed out militants from South Waziristan Agency, the stranglehold of the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan which is blamed for most violence in the country. The stats of FATA disaster authorities are:

Agency/FR	Families Registered	NADRA Verified	Returned	Balance Families	Remarks
Bajaur	70,258	70,258	69,158	11,00	Mostly Loisum IDP families, Reside in Jalojai Camp
Mohmand	43,052	39,098	38,598	500	Reside in Jalojai Camp
Khyber*	14,933	12,064	0	12,064	Fresh Registration in Jalojai Camp is in progress. The balance will increase after NADRA Verification of Fresh IDPS. (updates up to 22.03.12)
Orakzai	60,836	36,257	24,869	11,388	Orakzai Phase-III return is continued once in a week. (updates up to 11.01.12)
Kurram*	51,781	30,389	4,742	25,647	Registration in New Durrani camp and in host is in progress. The balance will increase after NADRA Verification of Fresh IDPS. (updates up to 18.02.12)
SWA	69,279	41,563	6,580	34,983	Return in Phase-I, II and III is completed.
FR Tank	2,097	2,097	0	2,097	-
Total	312236	231726	143,947	87779	-

Each repatriates IDP family is provided with free transport, food items for 6months, tents and 25, 000 in cash.

The Express Tribune – March 15, 2012

Number of IDPs in Jalojai to Exceed 100, 000

The crisis of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is again deepening as the population of the uprooted people at the Jalojai Camp is bound to exceed 100,000 after unstopped displacement of tribesmen from Khyber Agency. The registered population of the camp has already crossed

90,000 while 10,857 enlisted families are waiting to be given the status of IDPs in the next week. Officials said that an average family has seven members, which means that an estimated 75,999 individuals would be added to the already 90,577 population of the camp. The fresh displacement is being caused by the military action against militants in Bara tehsil of the volatile Khyber. Officials said majority of the people were displaced from Sipah, Akakhel, Qamarkhel, Malikdinkhel and Storikhel areas of Bara. The flow of displaced people from Khyber Agency is so huge that authorities suspended enlistment for three days and to take out time for sorting the enlisted families. To check overlapping, people are enlisted and scrutinized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) before being registered as displaced persons. The UNHCR had provided a staff of 90 persons, which helped dispose of a lot of work.

The News – March 24, 2012

iv. Extremists Group

Lashkar-E-Islam Promised Justice, Delivered Violence: Khyber Agency

At first, locals in the Khyber region thought Lashkar-e-Islam (LeI) would deliver a fairer and more orderly system of governance in the region. They are now wiser, as LeI has unleashed a reign of terror for four years. Members of the banned outfit are unapologetic and uncompromising in their outlook. We believe in terrorism and instilling fear in the hearts of the unbelievers and those Muslims who do not follow the true Islamic way of life, says Omar, and LeI spokesperson, from an undisclosed location in Khyber Agency. The rise of this armed militia did not happen overnight. A mixture of sectarian violence, control over key smuggling routes and an unfair system of justice gave the initial impetus to LeI. The LeI has now lost most of this local support, but analysts feel that the movement was supported by locals at first because it talked about delivering justice. The LeI introduced itself as a reformist movement initially and wanted a uniform Islamic system based on Deobandi ideology, says Rustum Shah Mohmand, a former political agent from the tribal belt. He also alleges that local authorities, instead of dealing with them head on to re-establish the writ of the state, started to support another armed force in the area, known as Ansarul Islam. After that strategy failed, an operation was launched, but forces have been unable to control the area for four years because it did not contain it in the beginning which it should have, he complains. A military official who looks after intelligence affairs in Fata says that Khyber Agency has been virtually occupied by smugglers. The LeI has taken control of those routes to generate funds for themselves. Interestingly everyone, including the military and tribal elders, say the solution to the conflict is through talks. Even the LeI feel the same, but Omar, their representative, says certain elements are not letting talks happen. The government is lying since it tells us one thing and tells the public another.

The Express Tribune-March 28, 2012

Conflict in Karachi

10 Killed As Violence Flares in Karachi

Gunmen and arsonists went on the rampage in the country's financial capital Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Nawab Shah and other cities of Sindh, killing at least 10 people and setting dozens of vehicles alight. The unrest was sparked by the murder of a worker of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) and his brother late, reviving fears that the city of 18 million could return to horrifying levels of violence that left more than 1,700 people dead last year. Mansoor Mukhtar, 37, was shot dead late when gunmen burst into the home where he was sleeping, police said. His brother also died and his sister-in-law was wounded in the attack in the central neighborhood of PIB Colony, police said. SP Gulshan-e-Iqbal Abdul Salam Sheikh said the gunmen killed Mansoor Mukhtar instantly, while his brother Maqsood Mukhtar succumbed to his wounds at a private hospital. He said Mansoor's sister-in-law Uzma Maqsood and two other

MQM workers, Muhammad Yousuf and Muhammad Amjad received bullet wounds. He said the attackers ransacked the entire house and also stole cash, jewelry and other valuables. Soon afterwards, armed men took to the streets and started setting fire to vehicles, in violence that left a further six people dead and more injured. Our hospitals have received a total of eight bodies of victims from today's firing incidents. At least 50 vehicles, including buses, mini buses and trucks were torched in Karach. There were incidents of firing in Gulistan Jauhar, Malir, Nagan Chowrangi, Nazimabad and Sarjani Town. Private schools announced the closure of all educational institutions, while University of Karachi cancelled all its examinations scheduled for Tuesday owing to the rampant violence across Karachi.

(Pakistan Today - March 28, 2012)

Balochistan's Situation

Government Ready for Referendum in Balochistan: Prime Minister

Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani said the government was willing to take any initiative within the constitution, including holding a referendum in Balochistan, to determine the wish of people of the province. The prime minister said the army was not conducting any operation in Balochistan. However, he added, the Frontier Constabulary (FC) was in the province on the provincial government's request. The prime minister said he had meetings with the army chief, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) director general and newly elected senators from Balochistan in order to devise a strategy to deal with the province's problems.

Daily Times – March 20, 2012

Security Situation

In an effort to keep a check on militants in the province, the government shut down cellular phone services in Balochistan. Landlines and Internet services were functional though. Cellular services were suspended from 8am to midnight to implement the national security policy, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Chairman Dr Mohammad Yasin told. The home department had requested the interior ministry to shut down cellular services, in an effort to thwart militant activities, said an official from the Balochistan Governor House. Interior Minister Rehman Malik subsequently directed the ministry of information technology to ask PTA to shut down mobile phone services on Pakistan Day. Locals visited the offices, to protest against the shutdown.

The Express Tribune - March 24, 2012

Lawlessness in Balochistan: SC Stresses Need for Local Government

The Supreme Court underlined the need for gearing up the local government system in Balochistan to improve the law and order situation. Balochistan's chief secretary Ahmed Bux Lehri submitted before the court that the provincial government had approved the local bodies act and that the local government elections would be organized as soon as updated electoral rolls were ready.

Dawn – March 23, 2012

Angry Balochs Will Agree To Talks

Balochistan's Chief Secretary Ahmad Bux Lehri said that angry Baloch elements will ultimately return to the negotiating table with regard to the Balochistan situation. The chief secretary contended that a number of measures were being taken to convince the Baloch leaders, who were presently not prepared to listen to the government. It was a welcome decision to hold dialogue with all the stakeholders and things would hopefully improve in the days and weeks to come. When reminded the exiled Baloch leaders had declined to enter into talks with the government, he remarked, we are quite optimistic about dialogue.

The News – March 21, 2012

Militants Kill Four Paramilitary Troops

Three paramilitary troops were killed and seven injured in a pre-dawn militant attack on a security check post in Sheerani district, about 350 kilometers from Quetta. Four troops went missing after the attack and are believed to have been kidnapped by the militants. The alleged militants, believed to be members of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), ambushed a Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan check post in Sheerani. The area borders the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. Four FC men went missing after the deadly attack.

The Express Tribune-March 24, 2012

8 Killed In Balochistan Violence

8 people, a woman and a cleric among them, were gunned down in different areas of Balochistan. 2 people were shot dead near Chaki Shahwani area of Sariab late in the evening. In another incident, armed men shot dead a man, in Killi Deba area. In Kashmir Bad area, armed men barged into the house and killed women. Police failed to ascertain motives behind the five killings. Two pilgrims were killed and eight others injured when a pick-up carrying them came under an attack in Kohlu area. The injured included four women and two children of to one family. Levies sources said that a group of 10 people from Gazani Nadi area were going to the shrine of Mast Tawakli, in Kohlu, when gunmen riding motorcycles opened indiscriminate fire on the vehicle, killing two of them on the spot and injuring eight others.

The News - March 25, 2012

Analyses

Balochistan Independence Movement: An Analysis by Babar Ayaz

American congressmen have added fuel to the Balochistan fire. The good thing is that unlike 1971 when the media and political parties were gagged by the government, this time media and leaders of different ethnic background are crying from the top of the roof that the problems needs urgent attention. Thankfully, even the Punjabi political leadership which was blamed for suppressing smaller nationalities rights in Pakistan is also vocal in support of appeasing the Baloch nationalists. Encouraged by the American congressmen, Brahmdagh Bugti declared on Pakistan television channels that the Baloch would not settle for anything less than independence from Pakistan. The media got all the self-exiled leaders of Balochistan — Harbiar Marri, Suleman Khan and Akhtar Mengal — to communicate with the people of Pakistan. They spoke loud and clear that they would not accept Pakistan and consider the civilian government's attempt to call an All Parties' Conference on Balochistan useless. Here a little deviation from the subject in defense of media coverage of Baloch independence movement leaders is necessary. The media was criticized by many short-sighted people who think that giving this coverage to the Balochistan issue the media has under-mined the 'National Interest.' It is the same theme which had kept the people of Pakistan unaware and misinformed about what was happening in East Pakistan.

The establishment continues to mismanage political and economic issues all in the name of 'National Interest.' Their intentions may be to keep the country together, but the outcome is that the oppressed people feel alienated because they do not get the support of the people from other nationalities living in Pakistan. By projecting the seriousness of the Balochistan issue the media is in fact bringing the people of the country together and letting the Baloch know that they are with them. The Retired Brigadier says that no other country would allow media coverage to the people who want to break the country. He is sadly mistaken. In Canada the independence movement of French-speaking Quebec is not only widely reported but the country had allowed two referendums to vote on the issue of independence. In United Kingdom,

Scotland's nationalist party is openly campaigning for independence and Prime Minister Cameron has only suggested a referendum to decide the issue. The civilized central governments of Canada and U.K. have not unleashed their intelligence and rangers to teach a lesson to the separatists. Soviet Union broke up into many countries, the Soviet forces learning from their Hungarian and Poland misadventure did not invade these countries, as the Soviet constitution provided right of secession to the Union states. And isn't the Pakistani government still demanding that the Kashmiris should be given the right of self-determination?

So this approach of media is to push the civil and military leadership to find a civilized solution to the Balochistan issue URGENTLY has to be lauded. Nusrat Javed, Najam Sethi, Talat Husain and Hamid Mir have played an important role by projecting the missing people and sinister killings of Baloch political activists in the electronic media. The list of print media columnists who have raised this issue is long. All are as equally Pakistani as anybody from the establishment. On the other hand there is an elected government in Balochistan, which is ineffective because the Baloch leaders say that the Director General of Rangers and intelligence agencies are the real government when it comes to dealing with the nationalists. The Chief Minister who speaks incoherently implicitly accepted this fact. But that is not the full story. Unfortunately Balochistan government which has received large sums of money in the last budget because of changed allocations under the 7th NFC Award has squandered it. Corruption of Ministers and MPAs, even some sensible Baloch leaders confirm, is unprecedented. The money allocated to be spent on development programs is polished off by these elected representatives. Consequently, the people see no development and outflow of money to them.

The Baloch militant leaders exploit this feeling of deprivation against the center, although they should also exert pressure on their provincial government. Best thing would be that people like Attaullah Mengal and Khair Baksh Marri who are respected by the educated and young people crossing the tribal maze, should contest the elections and use the resources at the disposal of the Balochistan government for the people. They have to consolidate the gains made in the 18th Amendment and NFC award and then struggle for getting more autonomy. Why the agencies rule Balochistan? This is the big question. The narrative of the establishment in Islamabad is that much of the trouble created by these four militant Baloch nationalist liberation groups and their supporting parties is all inspired by the CIA and Indian intelligence. Now if this narrative becomes over-riding then any political reconciliation is made irrelevant. A retired Brigadier, who does not want to be identified for fear of his security as he lives in Balochistan, says that the trouble is being created only by Bugti, Marri and Mengal tribes. This view is heard in many drawing rooms of Islamabad where it is said that it's a struggle of only 5% Balochs.

The Brigadier's thesis is that more Baloch live in Sindh and Punjab and they are not fighting for independence. His fact about the spread of Baloch Diaspora may be right but his political extrapolation is erroneous. His view is that the US would eventually break Pakistan and establish control over Balochistan to choke the energy corridor for China whenever needed. This view is also shared by many people at the top in Islamabad. They are of the view that while there was always apprehension that Americans would try to break Pakistan by 2020; the regional situation has pulled that date down. Another reason for US involvement they say is that it will help in surrounding the obstinate Iran. Two major points are missing in this geo-political analysis. First and foremost is that why CIA and Raw got inroads in the Baloch nationalist's camps? This question was also not asked in 1971 when West Pakistan denied the elected representatives of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) the right to form the government at the center. Foreign intelligence agencies do have their ulterior motives whether we read them correctly or not. But the issue is foreign agencies only get inroads through the local people who are unhappy or disgruntled with their government because of a history of injustice. It is not about flowing dollars as the intelligence people want us to believe. In all such movements even if the leadership has sold itself out, the rank and file is attracted because of the cause. People pick up arms when their grievances are not redressed on political, economic and social levels.

To understand this issue it is time to refresh our memory about the history of mismanaging Balochistan by Pakistan's ruling elite. Many years back I had called on Nawab Akbar Bugti at his Quetta residence. He was a bitter man, although his son Salim was a senior minister in the Balochistan government. During the discussion on harnessing Balochistan's oil and gas resources, he said that no fresh exploration should be allowed in the province. Knowing the reasons for his reaction, I suggested that the Balochistan government or the people living on each concession should establish their respective holding companies, which should partner with the prospective exploration companies. For instance, I explained, you can have say 15 percent to 20 percent equity in the company so that when oil and gas is discovered you can share the profit. Nawab Bugti laughed at my suggestion cynically and said, Babar, you are naïve. The government (federal) is not willing to give us control over our resources so how can we negotiate with others? He was right then because the constitution of Pakistan did not give the native people any right over their oil and gas reserves. Bugti was not the only one in Balochistan who felt that the natural resources should not be developed till the province gets control over them. Let them be under the ground as this is the asset of our people, we don't want to lose them like the Sui gas reserves. This has been the common stand of a majority of the Baloch and that of other nationalists in Sindh and NWFP.

However, the 18th Amendment and the 7th NFC Award have now given equal control to the federation and the respective provinces over their oil and gas resources. Minerals and coal were already in provincial control. But this only happened in 2010 when the federation and the provinces made a leap forward to granting provincial political and financial autonomy. Not every government in Islamabad in the past believed that natural resources were provincial assets and not that of the federation. It was this unresolved provincial autonomy issue that haunted Pakistan from its inception. Provinces were denied their right to control their economic resources even though half the country was lost because of this stupidity of the establishment. Balochistan is going through its fifth low intensity insurgency after the killing of Nawab Bugti by the army in 2006. Since then the resistance led by mainly four Baloch militant groups is keeping the independence demand alive. Every day, reports about either the killing of some Baloch nationalist allegedly by the intelligence agencies or the killing of security forces by one of the four major Baloch liberation militant groups are published or telecast as a matter of routine. It is one of the worst examples of the Centre-province relationship in what remains as Pakistan. Let us scan the Balochistan and Pakistani establishment relations briefly.

Baluch political unity, according to Selig Harrison, came in the 18th century when several successive rulers of the Baluch principality of Kalat succeeded in expanding their domain to bring the Baluch areas under one political umbrella. Mir Nasir Khan, who ruled Kalat for 44 years beginning in 1749, set a loose bureaucratic structure embracing most of Balochistan for the first time and got principal Baluch tribes to adopt an agreed system of organization and recruitment (Ethnicity and the Political Stalemate in Pakistan by Selig Harrison, published in *Regional Imbalances and the National Question*, Edited by S. Akbar Zaidi (P 231). But Adeel Khan's contention is that Baloch Nationalism emerged in a tribal set-up well before partition of India, and was opposed to Balochistan's accession to Pakistan. After partition, however, the Pakistani state's treatment of the region turned Baloch nationalism into a potent force, which attracted international attention... *Politics of Identity — Ethnic Nationalism and the State in Pakistan* by Adeel Khan, published by Sage Publications, 2005 (P 109). First the understanding was reached with the Khan of Kalat and the British Empire representatives on August 4, 1947 that Kalat would be independent on August 15, 1947, enjoying the same status as it originally held in 1863, having friendly relations with its neighbors. Another agreement was signed with Pakistan on the same date which said that: The government of Pakistan agrees that Kalat is an independent state, being quite different in status from other states of India, and commits to its relations with the British Government as manifested in several agreements. It was agreed that in the meantime a standstill agreement would be made between Pakistan and Kalat by which Pakistan shall stand committed to all responsibilities and agreements signed by Kalat and the British government from 1839 to 1947 and by this Pakistan shall be the legal, constitutional and

political successor of the British (the British had control only over Quetta and some other areas).

A few weeks later, Kharan, Lasbela state and the Marri, Bugti tribal areas were returned to the Kalat fold. The Kalat government made a formal independence declaration on August 11, 1947 and a delegation came down to Karachi to discuss the future relationship with Pakistan. While the Khan of Kalat seemed inclined to merge his state with Pakistan, the Baloch Sardars of his jirga were not interested to do anything in haste without settling the provincial autonomy issues. The Khan was under considerable influence of Quaid-e-Azam and had promised to work out the merger details in three months, but as the Quaid was unwell, this issue was handed over to his cabinet. They mishandled the whole issue and used the British tactics to pitch the Baloch against each other by carving out three states of Kalat — Kharan, Lasbela and Makran. This resulted in the first uprising against Pakistan in 1948. The unilateral decision to break the Kalat State by Pakistan was contrary to the earlier understanding that in case the relations of Kalat with any government got strained, Kalat will exercise its right of self-determination (some historians believe that this also led the Maharaja of Kashmir to merge with India). That was the beginning of the Baloch revolt against the Centre. They have been to the mountains many times since then, the last (before the present armed revolt) being the one against the dissolution of their elected government by Mr. Bhutto in 1973. Khair Baksh Marri and young Dr. Abdul Hayee Baloch refused to sign the 1973 Constitution as it did not recognize the rights of the provinces over their economic resources. Although gas was found in Sui in 1952, the province was not given any share from its profits. The provinces' right over 12.5 percent royalty on oil and gas was accepted as late as in 1995. And what Balochistan used to get on the gas produced by it, which meets almost 21 percent energy needs of the country, was a mere pittance. This royalty goes into the provincial kitty but not much trickles down to the people of the area who actually own this precious natural resource. Provincial governments in Pakistan have also been denying the local governments and people their due economic rights.

Daily Times – March 20, 2012

As stated earlier in this series, if the local governments of areas where the resources are located are given substantial share of the earning from their resources, the prosperity and high income level of the people living in those areas would encourage others to seek investment in their own. They would also benefit from a rise in consumption in rich districts and would find something to sell to their rich neighbors. If the Bugtis were given their due share from Sui earnings, the Marris would not have stalled the exploration in their areas. They would have rather competed to get the investors to explore what lies in their land. Allowing the local and provincial leaders to negotiate with the investors directly but transparently would open up the resource-rich province. At the same time, it is important for the Baloch leadership to realize that xenophobic policies are against the interests of the Baloch people. They have to broaden their horizons. It is also important for them to keep up pressure on their leaders so that the benefits of any business deal with local or foreign investors flow to them and are not pocketed by a few sardars (tribal chiefs) and provincial leaders. The mismanagement of the Reko Diq project by the federal and provincial governments have sent the wrong message to foreign investors. They had all the right to renegotiate terms with Tethiyan and the Chinese but they should not have thrown them out on the basis of half-baked theories sold to them by a Pakistani scientist.

Even though as stated above, the NFC award and the 18th Amendment has met the Baloch nationalist demands halfway, the killing of Baloch youth has not stopped, for which even the moderate leaders blame the intelligence agencies. "They (intelligence agencies)," a leading Baloch senator told me in a background interview, "have changed the tactics; instead of facing the cases in the courts for the missing Baloch activists, they kill them and throw their bodies after interrogation." The Baloch leader and poet Habib Jalib, who was assassinated, wrote in a lament before his death: Mujhe jang-e-azaadi ka maza maloom hay/ Balochon per zulm ki inteha maloom hay/ Mujhe zindgi bhar Pakistan mein jeenay ki dua na do/ Mujhe Pakistan mein saath (60) saal jeenay ki saza maloom hay. Roughly translated: I know the taste of independence/ I know the heights of oppression on the Baloch / Don't pray that I live in Pakistan for my whole

life/ I've suffered the sentence of living in Pakistan for 60 years. The trouble with Balochistan is that the establishment has fragmented society by fueling inter-tribal and intra-tribal feuds. When it comes to armed struggle, there are four major groups and many splinters, as happens in all such movements. Only one group that is led by Marri fighters has the allegiance of people from other tribes. The one led by Bramdagh Bugti has most fighters from his own tribe. Though there are a number of small splinter groups that have formed their own political parties, only the Balochistan National Party (Mengal) and National Party are the two major contenders among the nationalist parties of Balochistan. According to some Baloch activists, these groups are also at times killing each other's militants, which go unreported.

Going back to Islamabad's pet theory that only five percent Baloch are supporting the independence movement and that too fuelled by US dollars, an important point is being missed. Nationalist movements are led by some scions of the Marri, Bugti and Mengal sardars, but it has the backing of the Baloch middle class. The national independence slogan has always inspired the business and middle classes of any ethnic group where feelings of deprivation are stronger. We do not have to go far for an example: the Pakistan movement was to get maximum autonomy for the Muslim ruling classes, but it inspired the Muslim middle classes in provinces where Muslims were not in a majority. Economic interests bring these classes together. Even if we accept the allegation that the Baloch independence movement leaders are corrupt and are being paid by CIA and RAW as our establishment wants us to believe, the finer point here is that nobody in such movements is an agent of another country or forces. It is the convergence of interests that brings them together. Hence, it is all the more important for Pakistan to win these leaders away from the conspirators who are using them with little interest in the end cause of independence. By changing the present establishment-led policies, the politicians have the flexibility to win these people away from the limited CIA or RAW interests in the region as alleged by our agencies.

A Karachi-based Baloch leader, Yousuf Mustikhan believes that the independence movement is getting stronger as moderate leaders like Habib Jalib Baloch are being eliminated and the management of the province is not transferred to the civilian government by the establishment. For over six decades Balochistan has been exploited, which has now convinced many Baloch leaders that nothing short of independence would solve their problems. Political analysts hope that the seventh NFC Award would strengthen the hands of the Baloch leaders who want to do politics through democratic means within the structure of Pakistan. All democrats support the right of self-determination of nationalities, as Pakistan supports that for Indian Kashmiris. However, my fear is if Balochistan's militant groups' independence dream is ever realized, it would slip into an internal war between various groups and tribes just as it did in Afghanistan and many other such tribal societies. Balochistan has yet to develop into a society where the middle class and bourgeoisie would be in a position to override tribal politics. Nonetheless, at the same time, the reality is that the Centre cannot browbeat the people who stand for their rights but do not win. Remember what Jalib said when General Yahya launched a military operation in the then East Pakistan: Mohabat golion sey bo rahey ho/ Gumaan tumko kay rasta kut raha hey/ Yaqeen mujhko kay manzil kho rahay ho Sowing love with bullets/ You are presuming it's a way forward/ I am sure you are losing the destination.

Daily Times – March 27, 2012

Development Projects

NADRA Identifies 2, 007 Ghost Schools Costing Rs7 Million

National Database and Registration Authority identified 2, 007 ghost schools in four provinces fraudulently being run under a project Basic Education Community Schools (BECS) which is being introduced by National Education Foundation (NEF) costing Rs7 billion. NADRA showed that names and NIC of officials working with 2, 007 BECS raised the question and how much money they managed to secure on fake information out of total Rs 4.5 million so far spent on this project.

No. of NGOs	No. of Schools	Name of Provinces
130	3, 000	Punjab
58	2, 655	Khyber-Paktunkhwa
13	259	Sindh
-	40 % of 1, 100	Balochistan

The News – March 16, 2012

Livestock Project Being Extended To Other Districts: KP

Minister for Livestock and Dairy Development Hidayatullah Khan from Khyber-Paktunkhwa has said the Project for Improvement of Milk and Meat (PIMM) would be extended to other districts of the province. Hidayatullah said the government had revived corporative bank in the province, which could extend loans and other benefits to the farmers. He said the government had extended special incentives and benefits to livestock farmers. He said more than 200 dispensaries had been established for provision of free treatment facility to cattle.

The News – March 27, 2012

\$20m ERKF Project May Fall Short Of Objectives: KP

\$20 million Economic Revitalization of Khyber-Paktunkhwa and FATA project may fall short of its objectives. The project funded by the World Bank and based on Multi Donor Trust Fund, comprises of the components of the small and Medium Enterprises development, investment mobilization and institutional capacity building to foster rehabilitation, investment and reforms in the area affected by floods and militancy. About 65 percent of the grant is meant for Khyber-Paktunkhwa and 35 percent for FATA. The identified affected SMEs in Khyber-Paktunkhwa will get \$9.1 million while \$4.9 million will be spent in FATA on the revitalization and development of the SMEs. A single Small and Medium Enterprises can get grant of Rs3.5 million under the SMEs development component. Matching grant is being provided to the eligible individuals SMEs as well as to a group of SMEs cluster development for up-gradation support for which the grant limit has been fixed at Rs2.5 million. Some officials as well as member of certain private business bodies were active in the FATA Secretariat and elsewhere in K-P receiving Rs5, 000 for submission of form from each businessman and trader whose business have been affected by militancy and floods in the region. They alleged that the agents also lured the grant-seekers with quick disposal and approval of the cases. In some cases, the agents sought the pledge of 50percent of the total grant money from the tribesman on the approval of the case. Some of the applicants alleged that they were asked to pay Rs5, 000 for the retrieval and sub-mission of the forms and another Rs300 for a stamp.

The News – March 28, 2012

Ministry Of Finance and USAID-Funded Project Abandoned

Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been pocketed by local and foreign consultants during the last few years through a US-funded project. The real beneficiaries of a joint venture project between the ministry of finance and the USAID, titled Competitiveness Support Fund (CSF), were local and foreign consultants, who earned around \$785,000 in the name of conducting studies and arranging conferences that apparently failed to make any positive impact on the Pakistan's economy. Ironically, there appears no evidence of competition or transparency in the selection of consultants for a project called Competitiveness Support Fund. The ministry of finance has requested the USAID to abandon this project on growing suspicion that in disguise of consultants some officials of spying agencies and employees of the Pentagon had visited Islamabad.

The News – March 28, 2012

i. Government Funding

CDWP to Consider Projects worth Rs292b for Approval

The government will consider approval for 76 new development schemes, worth an estimated Rs292 billion. Schemes costing more than that have to be forwarded to the Executive Committee of National Economic Council, headed by the finance minister, for final approval. The volume of the proposed schemes is almost equal to the total development budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012.

The Express Tribune- March 14, 2012

Financial Woes Delay 18 Crucial Projects

Eighteen projects of strategic nature having a total estimated cost of about Rs875 billion are facing serious bottlenecks because of financial constraints and law and order problems. The Planning Commission has told the Economic Coordination Committee and the political leadership that an amount of Rs345 billion has already been spent on the projects and if financial difficulties were not solved and the security situation was not improved soon, their cost would keep mounting and their economic benefits would remain unachieved. The throw-forward cost of the 18 projects is currently estimated at Rs532 billion. An amount of Rs66.2 billion has been earmarked for them during the current financial year but in many cases allocated funds could not be released because of different reasons.

- Eight projects having a total estimated cost of Rs304 billion are in the water sector, on which about Rs155 billion has already been spent.
- Another four projects in the power sector with a total estimated cost of Rs386 billion are also facing hitches.
- Six projects in the road sector with a total cost of Rs184 billion are facing multiple problems.

Projects	Cost
Diamer-Bhasha Dam Land Acquisition	Rs61 billion
Three Nuclear Projects (Chashma 2,3,and 4)	141 billion
Mangla Dam Raising	Rs102 billion
Kachi Canal	Rs47 billion
Hingol Dam	Rs16 billion
Makhi Farah Link Canal	Rs27 billion
Hassanabdal-Mansehra Expressway	Rs47 billion
Islamabad-Peshawar Motorway	Rs27 billion

Karakoram Highway	Rs31 billion
Faisalabd-Khanewal Motorway	Rs28.6 billion
KKH-Skardu Road	Rs22 billion
N-5 Highway Rehabilitation	Rs29.5 billion
Lyari Expressway Project	Rs7 billion

Dawn – March 16, 2012

ii. Energy

Government Devising a Plan to Reduce Summer Power Outages

The water and power ministry is about to finalize a plan to minimize power outages during peak consumption hours in the summer in a bid to improve the government's image in the run up to a likely general election later this year. The plan will be presented to Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani for approval.

The plan involves a combination of two measures;

- Providing natural gas to power plants that are currently not receiving any
- Paying off the government's dues to the power companies that have been crippled by the state's inability to pay its electricity bills

The country would still face a power shortfall of approximately 2,800 to 3,000 megawatts during the peak of summer demand. Power outages would then be restricted to an average of four hours a day in urban areas and up to eight hours a day in rural areas. Power riots have erupted across Pakistan from common man to traders to Government representations.

The Express Tribune- March 15, 2012

Work on Country's First Wind Project in Progress

Inaugurated Pakistan's first 50MW wind power plant set up by the FFC Energy Limited, a subsidiary of the FFC in Jhampir near, by chief executive of Fauji Fertilizer Company, Lt Gen (R) Malik Arif Hayat. He said, Sixty-per cent work on the project has been completed and it will start trial production in June. Wind power will be provided to area people free of cost till the start of commercial operations in November 2012. In the current project the company was installing 33 wind turbines of 1.5 MW each out of which eight turbines had already been installed and the remaining would be installed in three months.

Dawn – March 10, 2012

Chinese Bank Backs Off From Iran Gas Pipe-Line

A federal cabinet committee constituted a ministerial committee for reviewing alternate options to arrange funds for construction of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline after a Chinese bank backed off from financing the project. The financial advisor is responsible for arranging funds for completing the 800-kilometre-long pipeline, at an estimated cost of \$1.5 billion. The committee will comprise the petroleum minister, the water and power minister, the State Bank governor, petroleum, finance and economic affairs division secretaries and the Planning Commission deputy chairman. According to a petroleum ministry official, the bank had demanded awarding the pipeline construction project to a Chinese firm without competitive bidding. The petroleum ministry sought the ECC's permission to cancel the contract with the ICBC and award it to the second-lowest bidder, which is a consortium of United Bank Limited, Burj Capital, ECO Trade and Development Bank, Field Stone Group and Islamic Corporation for Development of Private Sector. The petroleum ministry has proposed that the government set up separate accounts in Pakistani banks to collect a gas development cess levied to build the pipeline. The estimates

suggest that all funding requirements could be met through gas cess. The ministry also proposed to approach the Chinese, Russian or Iranian governments for signing government-to-government contract for construction of the pipeline from the Iranian border to Nawabshah. The ECC also discussed the possibility of exporting wheat to Iran in a barter arrangement, agreed to explore further arrangements of barter trade with Iran, expedite the process, plan the restructuring of barter system, and to find out items which may be procured from Iran in return. The committee also allowed selling 450,000 metric tons of surplus wheat in the domestic market. The ministry of national food security and research had proposed selling 1 million tons of wheat to the local millers.

The Express Tribune- March 14, 2012

iii. Health

Anti-Polio Drive

In connection with the launch of a three-day nationwide anti-polio drive, Shahnaz Wazir Ali said more than 60, 000 teams were actively taking part in the anti-polio drive and if steps are not taken to curb the crippling disease, it will spread even faster than the present rate after April. The Prime Minister Polio Monitoring and Coordination Cell has taken an initiative to introduce a legislation that would ensure that every single child is immune to the debilitating plague. Shahnaz said that an initial draft of the bill titled 'Compulsory Immunization Bill 2012' has been prepared and will be finalized after taking input from all the stakeholders. Under the proposed legislation, children who are not vaccinated are not to be given admission in schools or allowed to apply for identity cards. Condemning the negative propaganda about polio vaccines, Shahnaz said there should be laws to hold parents accountable.

The Express Tribune- March 13, 2012

\$12 Billion to Be Blown Away If Pakistan Fails To Eradicate Polio

Should Pakistan fail to eradicate polio, an investment of US \$12 billion will be blown away, and hundreds of thousands of children worldwide will once again be infected — this time, by a virus that has its origin in Pakistan. Under no circumstances will this be tolerable to the world, particularly at a time when the polio initiative is hit by a billion dollar funding gap constituting 50% of the total global financing required for eradication of the disease. The conference featured two announcements by Dr. Alwan; the first pertained to establishment of a new polio partnership between WHO and the Edhi Foundation and the second related to institution of 'WHO Health Journalism Awards' to recognize the media's contributions to health.

The News - March 21, 2012

Polio Emergency in Pakistan to Invite Travel Restrictions

The World Health Organization (WHO) said there would be a global polio emergency in Pakistan in three months, if health workers failed to improve their performance in eradicating the virus from the country. Balochistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata) are still registering cases of the virus in children. The organization's team leader in Pakistan expressed dissatisfaction over the performance of anti-polio campaigners, media, politicians and officials.

He said as many as 14 cases of polio were reported in Pakistan,

- Five from Fata
- Four from K-P

- Two from Sindh
- Two from Baluchistan
- While the virus was detected in a child in Punjab

There are 400,000 children at risk of being infected in three districts of Baluchistan.

The global polio emergency will be declared in Pakistan if performance regarding eradication of the polio virus is not improved in three months. It will tarnish the image of the country because a global emergency means that Pakistanis will face travel restrictions across the globe, he declared, adding that cases were being reported in Quetta, Pishin and Qila Abdullah. These three districts have jeopardized the neighboring ones because the virus is being detected in such areas where no cases were reported earlier. Giving his presentation on Balochistan, he added that there had been a dramatic polio rise in 2011, as 73 cases were reported in a single year, which was nearly equal to all the cases reported from 2005 to 2010. Sixteen per cent are due to refusals of families to get their children treated and 33% due to the unavailability of children in the areas where polio teams visited. Ironically, 43% was down to the poor performance of the teams.

The Express Tribune- March 27, 2012

iv. Social Safety Net

Deal for \$150m loan also aims to bring 1.5m families in social safety net

Pakistan signed a deal with the World Bank whereby the country will receive a loan of \$150 million to include an additional 1.5 million families in the social safety net and help enroll three million children in schools. The government intends to give Rs1, 000 monthly to at least 85% of families indentified by the Poverty Card Survey. The survey identified as many as 5.9 million families living below the poverty line. The government, under the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), has only been able to provide grants to 3.5 million families, citing resource constraints and incomplete data of beneficiaries as reasons. The agreement was signed by Economic Affairs Division Secretary Dr Waqar Masood, Country Director of World Bank Rachid Benmessaoud and BISP Secretary Muhammad Sher Khan (**The Express Tribune- March 27, 2012**). 90, 000 registered families will be covered by the BISP's health insurance scheme to be launched by the end of March, providing a health cover of Rs25, 000 on an annual basis (**The Express Tribune - March 15, 2012**).

ELECTION WATCH

ECP & Election Related Updates

Who Will Become The New Commissioner of ECP?

The government has finalized a list carrying the names of potential candidates for the post of new chief election commissioner, which would be sent to the opposition for consultation. The Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani would present three names to Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan as part of the consultation.

The government had presented three names for the CEC office;

- Justice (R) Hamid Ali Mirza
- Justice (R) Javed Iqbal
- Justice (R) Sardar Raza

In line with Section 213 of the Constitution, after consultations between the prime minister and the opposition leader, three proposed names are to be referred to the relevant parliamentary committee. The committee, comprising 12 members, will come up with a consensus candidate for the election commission's top slot. The parliamentary body has a half representation each from the treasury benches and the opposition benches— with eight members from the National Assembly and four from the Senate. Under the 18th Amendment, the tenure of the CEC has been increased to five years from the previous three. The president earlier appointed the CEC, but under Article 213, the premier in consultation with the opposition leader would forward three names to the parliamentary committee for finalizing one of them. If there is no agreement on the three names between the prime minister and the opposition leader, both sides will forward separate lists to the parliamentary committee, empowered to confirm one of them.

Date-Line – March 24, 2012

Voters Lists

The Election Commission decided to take steps for timely procurement of material for the upcoming general election but deferred a plan to place electoral rolls on its website which could be hit by hackers after the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) voiced concern over the proposal. It was decided to ensure timely procurement of ballot boxes, imported paper and other material keeping in view the gigantic and time-consuming exercise.

Dawn – March 14, 2012

The Supreme Court observed that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was depriving the 180 million people of Pakistan of their right by not implementing the court's orders.

The News – March 15, 2012

Acting Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mian Shakirullah Jan directed all provincial election commissioners to maintain a report on a daily basis about receipt of complaints about electoral rolls and their re-address. Justice Jan, , also asked the secretary of the commission, to have daily meetings with National Database and Registration Authority officials for re-address of complaints so that the error-free and credible final electoral rolls could be prepared well in time and send a daily progress report about them to electronic and print media.

Dawn – March 27, 2012

The Sindh Assembly expressed its dissatisfaction over the preliminary electoral rolls when a number of lawmakers pointed out anomalies and errors in the lists prepared by the National

Database and Registration Authority. The assembly which was also critical of the arrangements of their display, asked the election commission to extend the period of display of the rolls by one month. It also demanded that Nadra officials brief the lawmakers on the preparation of the voter lists.

Dawn – March 6, 2012

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly through a unanimous resolution asked the federal government and Election Commission of Pakistan to extend for a month the correction process of the computerized draft voter lists. The mover expressed concern over the existing confusion in the voter list and said there were cases where names of voters had been mentioned in constituencies other than their own. This was creating problems for the voters and could deprive many people of their right to vote in the coming general elections. He urged the government and Election Commission to provide one month additional time to correct the names and addresses of voters in the constituencies.

The News – March 7, 2012

Lawmakers in the Baluchistan Assembly demanded that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) rectify mistakes in the electoral rolls in different parts of the province. Voters of one constituency are registered in another. Previous mistakes have been repeated in some lists displayed by NADRA at its centers. Legislators demanded to extend the deadline to finalize the lists.

The Express Tribune- March 18, 2012

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) have solved the mystery of how registered voters abnormally increased in District Loralai, Sanghar, Khairpur and Tehsil Dukki and some other districts. The matter surfaced after the electoral body displayed preliminary voter lists at 55,000 prominent places for voters, enabling them to verify the related information on these lists was correct or otherwise. Nadra conducted detailed analysis of the complaints using their biometrics database and revealed that thousands of Form 'Alif' and Form-II were filled in by a few individuals to migrate voters across Pakistan to Tehsil Dukki, District Loralai. The authority furnished the names of five individuals, who were involved in the malpractice through their finger prints imposed on related forms. Their CNIC numbers have also been forwarded to the ECP for action. The Election Commission has ordered that an exemplary disciplinary/criminal action must be initiated against the culprits involved to ensure transparency and fairness of the electoral rolls at any cost.

The News – March 18, 2012

The Supreme Court dismissed the application of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for an extension in the time frame for the preparation of electoral rolls. The ECP had filed the application stating that it was not possible for the commission to meet the deadline, therefore some more time be given for the preparation of voter lists. During the proceedings, the bench, while rejecting the ECP application, said they should have filed it earlier rather than after they failed to meet the deadline. On July 4, 2011 the ECP secretary made the commitment himself regarding the updating of the electoral rolls.

The Express Tribune-March 22, 2012

Political Stakeholders and Elections

Up-Coming Elections and Their Expected Results

The coalition parties have advised the president to desist from holding general elections in 2012 and to stick to the original schedule mandating general elections in 2013. The PML-Q, ANP, MQM and other the smaller parties from Baluchistan were also in favor of the ruling dispensations serving out their entire term. The top leadership of the PPP, which was part of the core committee of the PPP, also advised that the election should be held in March, next year. Elections in early 2013 have worked out a fairly good argument. It was calculated that soon after the passing of the Budget for next fiscal year; the holy month of Ramadan will start and will run till August. After the Eid-ul-Fitr, the season of Hajj would begin and then Eid-ul-Azha, which would be followed by Muharram and it, would be difficult to run the election campaigns due to security reasons. Thereafter, due to severe cold it would be difficult to conduct election in the months of December and January.

The News – March 7, 2012

Female Mps Ask ECP to Take Action against Politicians

Female parliamentarians have urged the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to take the same prompt and strict action against the politicians who stopped women from casting votes as it took in the case of Waheeda Shah. They were unanimous of the opinion that men usually escape with more severe violations of rules and regulations of ECP only because it is not easy to punish a man. Women parliamentarians unanimously demanded the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) should take prompt action in areas where women were not allowed to cast votes.

The News – March 17, 2012

Protest Aimed At Creating Momentum for Early Elections

The PML-N is using load shedding protests to pressure the PPP government to hold general elections this year. The PML-N has decided to use power crisis to force the PPP to announce the election schedule immediately after the 2012-13 budget.

Dawn – March 27, 2012

Round Up Of Political Parties

182 Registered Parties, Pakistan Has One for Every Million

New parties were added to ECP list, taking the total to 182. Among new entrants are five parties with the words:

- Pakistan Muslim League
- Pakistan Muslim League (Muttahida)
- Peoples Muslim League Pakistan
- Pakistan Muslim League (Democratic)
- Pakistan Muslim League (Council)
- Pakistan Muslim League (Safdar)

The other parties are:

- Wattan National League Pakistan
- Awami Ittehad Party
- Muttahida Qaabail Party
- All Pakistan Minorities Alliance
- Sada-e-Pakistan Party
- Tehreek-i-Ittehad-e-Adam
- All Pakistan Youth Working Party
- Khud-Mukhtar Pakistan Party
- Pakistan United Inqalab Party

In Pakistan, the parties are registered under the Political Parties Order 2002. One needs to provide a printed copy of the party's constitution, a statement of an account in the name of the party from any bank and a list of names of some office-bearers of this party to the ECP. There is neither a fee nor any process of verification of these documents available with the ECP till now.

The Express Tribune- March 14, 2012

Political Parties Being Run As Family Limited Companies

Right from the PPP, claiming to be the only national party, down to PML-N, PML-Q, PTI, JUI-F, MQM and ANP, the top leadership emerges from single families they said parties and the rest have to wrestle all the time to exhibit loyalty. Only the Jamaat-e-Islami and MQM held the exception of being major non-family parties. PML-N held elections of its Punjab chapter and re-elected Shahbaz Sharif unopposed. Other reported aspirants like Khwaja Saad Rafique and Zulfiqar Khosa failed to figure in, let alone defeated in contest. Khosa's son, Dost Mohammad, was made Punjab CM, only as a stopgap arrangement, in wait for Shahbaz Sharif's election who subsequently replaced him. Nawaz Sharif has already been elected central president of the party. His daughter, Maryam Nawaz, and Hamza Shahbaz, the son of Punjab CM, are already in politics and being touted as the next generation leadership produced by the Sharif family. When the Sharif brothers were jailed by Musharraf, Kulsum Nawaz, the wife of elder Sharif, led the party that was later handed over to Javed Hashmi as 'amanat' when the family was forced into exile to Saudi Arabia. Abbas Sharif, third son of Mian Muhammad Sharif, was also an MNA in the parliament when Nawaz Sharif was PM and Shahbaz CM. Ishaq Dar, the prominent PML-N stalwart and potential opposition leader in the Senate, is also closely related to the Sharif family.

Likewise, Omer Sohail Butt and Abid Sher Ali are relatives of Sharif family, to name a few. The situation is not different in PPP either. Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari was hardly 19-year when nominated the party's chairman after the death of his mother, Benazir Bhutto who succeeded her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. The late Nusrat Bhutto, the wife of Zulfikar Bhutto, seized party leadership as a stopgap arrangement, until Benazir Bhutto was grown up. Bilawal's sister, Assefa, is being touted as budding party leader. She is goodwill ambassador for polio eradication campaign. Bilawal-Assefa's father, Asif Ali Zardari, is simultaneously PPP's co-chairman and President of Pakistan. Zardari's sisters, Faryal Talpur and Dr Azra, are sitting MNAs. The former is calling shots in all important party-government affairs. The PTI chairman, Imran Khan, who criticizes the PPP and PML-N for dynasty politics, is also different in what he preaches and practices. His senior vice president, Hamid Khan, is his cousin. Hafeezullah Niazi, Imran's brother-in-law, calls the shot at the Punjab level. His brother, Inamullah Niazi, is a new addition into the party from within the family. Hassam Niazi, Hafeezullah's son, was looking after the affairs of Insaf Students Federation (ISF), the PTI's students' wing, until recently when he went to UK for further studies. Imran's sister, Aleema Khan, is also politically active, though she does not hold a party office. Saifullah Niazi, Imran's cousin, is PTI's additional secretary general. Only Imran's two sons are not adults. Like other parties second tier leadership, the PTI leaders have their second generation in politics. Shah Mehmood Qureshi's son and brother are being prepared for next elections. Javed Hashmi's daughter has already served in the parliament until recently when she resigned together with her father after joining PTI. Owais and Jamal Leghari

are sons of Farooq Leghari. There are many other such examples in PTI as well but not limited to this party only.

The PML-Q is controlled by Chaudhrys of Gujrat. Ch Shujaat is party's central president. His cousin Pervaiz Elahi heads the PML-Q Punjab chapter in addition to being senior federal minister. MPA Moonis Elahi, son of Pervaiz Elahi, is being groomed as next party leader. Shujaat's brother, Wajahat is federal minister together in PM Yusuf Raza Gilani's cabinet. Yusuf Raza Gilani has also expanded his political empire after becoming the premier. His sons are parliamentarians - Abdul Qadir is MPA and Ali Musa Gillani is a newly elected MNA. Gilani's daughter, Fiza, is a goodwill ambassador of women empowerment. ANP; Asfandyar Wali is the political heir of his father, Abdul Wali Khan, who had succeeded his father, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. Even Chief Minister Amir Haider Hoti is closely related to Wali family. His father, Azam Hoti, has now been elected as a senator.

The News – March 6, 2012

Pakistan Muslim League – Quaid-E-Azam

Pakistan Muslim League-Q President Ch Shujaat Hussain dissolved the Khyber Paktunkhwa chapter of the party, removing Amir Muqam as its provincial president and constituting an organ committee for period of three months. Amir Muqam lashes out at Shujaat, says party is not Chaudry's property and did not support the Chaudhrys in becoming coalition partners with the Pakistan People's Party and took a decision against the wish of KP leaguers.

The News – March 28, 2012

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf finally un-veiled the draft of the party's new constitution. As per new constitution there will be a;

- National council
- Chairman
- President
- Vice-chairman
- Five senior Vice-president
- 12 Vice-president (at least one male or one female from each province)
- Four deputy secretary generals and one secretary for the each of the different sectors such as:
 - a. Finance
 - b. Information
 - c. Legal affairs
 - d. Education
 - e. Health

With the launch of new constitution, the party kicked-off an ambitious nationwide membership campaign to register 5 million persons as its members.

The News – March 28, 2012

Imran Khan seems to be confused how to handle the appointment of party chief for Khyber Paktunkhwa amid the intense lobbying by the newcomers and old workers and due to the fact that several senior leaders are in the run for the post. Imran Khan dissolved the KP chapter and announced to hold intra-party elections. To get-rid off this confusion he restored the discarded idea of holding intra-party poll within 3 months that will include election, not selection, of the party chief in KP.

The News – March 15, 2012

- **Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz**

Shahbaz Elected President of PML-N, Punjab

Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif elected president of PML-N, Punjab during the party's General Council. The PML-N announced that party's General Council elected had elected Shahbaz Sharif as a president as no one had submitted papers against him. Senior Minister Zulifqar Ali Khan Khosa proposed the name of Shahbaz Sharif while Khawaja Saad Rafique seconded him.

The News – March 6, 2012

CM Punjab Launches Housing Scheme For Poor People

Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Shahbaz Sharif launched Ashiana Iqbal Housing Scheme for the poor people. He said that after the success of Ashiana Quaid, Ashiana Iqbal has been launched on Burki Road, adding that a new city comprising 10,000 houses would be set up for the poor people. Sharif announced that a degree college and a university would also be set up in Ashiana Iqbal. The chief minister said the Punjab government had taken an important step towards making the country a welfare state in accordance with the ideals of Quaid-e-Azam and Allama Iqbal by providing shelter to the poor people through Ashiana Housing Scheme. For the first time in the country's history, he said the Punjab government was constructing residential colonies equipped with modern facilities for the poor, widows, orphans, hapless and heirs of the martyrs. The CM said that early completion of Ashiana Iqbal would be ensured and he will visit the project site twice a week to review the pace of work there. He said that all houses would also be allotted through a transparent balloting. He said basic facilities would also be provided to the residents of the scheme. The CM also thanked Pak Army chief General Ashfaq Kayani and the rangers director general for making the land available for the project.

The News – March 25, 2012

Shahbaz Asks People to Prepare For Long March

Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has asked the people to get ready for a long march to make the country prosperous and regain its lost glory, adding that he would lead the people even at the risk of his life. The chief minister said that the PPP government had destroyed Railways, PIA and Pakistan Steel Mills and its leaders were involved in corruption of billions of rupees. He lamented that coal reservoirs were not being utilized to generate electricity. A shortfall of 7,000 megawatt and Punjab was the main target of load shedding. He said the provincial economy had suffered a loss of Rs 300 billion due to load shedding during the last one year while the export sector faced a loss of billions of dollars.

The News – March 28, 2012
