

HIV prevention, control collective responsibility of all quarters: CM

OBSERVER REPORT

PESHAWAR—Chief Minister Akram Khan Durrani has said that prevention and control of HIV/AIDS was collective mission of all sections of the society and to see this mission a success everyone has to be committed to the cause.

The MMA-led provincial government had not only taken concrete and realistic steps for the control and prevention of other diseases but also working to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS in the province.

This he said while speaking to the delegates of Parliamentary Forum for Global Action Seminar during a luncheon held at Frontier House in their honour. Provincial health minister Inayatullah, PGA members including Senator Roshan Paracha, MNA Dr Noor Jehan Panizai, Speaker Balochistan Assembly Jamal Kakar, Sri Lankan health minister Desilva Deputy Speaker Nepal Madam Chitra, New Zealand's vice speaker Ras Robertson, Punjab minister Dr Sohail Zafar Chema, MPA Balochistan Rahila Durrani and other foreign and local delegates.

Chief Minister on this occasion said that there was no sign of HIV/AIDS until recent past in the Frontier Province but later after conducting research and

surveys 126 cases were registered while official number of HIV cases was above 500. Durrani linked the spread of HIV/AIDS to Pakistani labourers working in different foreign countries who imported virus of the disease from abroad.

However, he said that the government was mulling a plan to establish centers at Peshawar Airport where medical checkup of the people coming from foreign countries could take place. Durrani said that his government was taking measures to create awareness among the people re-

garding various fatal diseases like malaria, diabetes, hepatitis, heart diseases and HIV/AIDS involving media and advertising of preventive and precautionary measures besides organizing workshops and seminars in this connection.

Chief Minister praised the role of PGA in combating such diseases and emphasized the need for launching a collective struggle with spirit of jihad against the killer diseases.

"We have to make this jihad a success by delivering joint efforts," he announced. He said that

his government had given top priority to health and education sectors during last four-year and took exemplary measures to move forward womenfolk in these sectors.

He said misperceptions were created against their government and they were declared unable for running the government that they would destroy the overall infrastructure of the province but the MMA proved by its prudent policies that all the predictions against their government were just baseless propagandas and nothing else.



PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Akram Khan Durrani addressing the Parliamentary Forum for Global Action about HIV/AIDS here on Monday.—Photo by Sajjad Gul