

Summary of the newspaper clippings on Poverty, May 2008

Poverty

News papers of May show that aggravating price hike is pushing Pakistan towards a long-term recession, which may end up in increased poverty and food insecurity.

A sharp increase in the rates of the edibles is being reported (25 – 40 % May, 11.Dawn)
This is the out come of soaring prices of petroleum.

Comparison between the prices of commodities today and two months earlier is given below:

Items	Quantity	2 months old rates	New rates
Atta	20kg	Rs.285	Rs.395
Dalda oil	5kg tin	Rs.580	Rs.750
Ghee	5 kg tin	Rs.585	Rs.760
Rice	1 kg	Rs.65	Rs.100
Tea	1 kg	Rs.265	Rs.295
Packed milk	1 kg	Rs.40	Rs.45
Dal Chana	1 kg	Rs.38	Rs.60
Dal Mash	1 kg	Rs.65	Rs.75
Dal Masoor	1 kg	Rs.48	Rs.100
Spices	1 pack	Rs.18	Rs.25
Naan	1 piece	Rs.4	Rs.5
Mutton	1 kg	Rs.250	Rs.280
beef	1 kg	Rs.150	Rs.180

The way out of poverty is the greater investment in agriculture sector as 75% world's poor live in rural areas. The Center for Poverty Reduction and Social Policy Development is processing the economic and other relevant data for the fiscal 2006 for the estimation of incidence of poverty during last year.
Poverty dropout rate between 2001-2005 =5.2%

Source: the Daily Times, Dawn, Jang.

Summary of the newspaper clippings on Energy, May 2008

Energy

The country is facing its worst energy crisis as the power shortage in the country has increased to 3,000 MW per day. The supply dropped out to about 11,500mw against a demand of 14,500 MW. But the country can overcome electricity shortfall by getting 2500 MW from sugar and textile mills. (Daily Times)

More over two European banks –NIB and EIB have agreed to provide financial assistance to help minimize the growing energy crisis in Pakistan. (Dawn)

The use of generator throughout the country is pushing the petroleum demand up to 6-15 %. The growth in the consumption of petrol products went up to 13 % during July – March 2007-08 as compared to last year. The total consumption of petrol stood at 1,088,201 metric tones during the said period against 832,841 metric tones during July-March 2006-07 registering a growth of 13 %.

According to the dawn the country has the potential to save 20-30% energy without cost by providing energy saver bulbs. Solar power energy is another solution that will help reduce the power crisis but the government's energy conservation plans are yet to take off. The only plan which has been implemented on is, Markets are getting close at 9pm under energy saving plan.

The dependence on imports to meet nearly 30 % of energy and more than 80 %of oil requirements places serious question marks against the national sovereignty and decision making autonomy of the country in the international scenario.(dawn)

Source: the Daily Times, Dawn, Jang

Summary of the newspaper clippings on **Housing**, May 2008

Housing

- The coalition government has failed to provide the accommodation to the government workers as they are on waiting list for three years and there is a need of one million houses for the government servants to be built. (Daily Times).
- Ban on allotment of official accommodation to government has been lifted and houses are being allotted on the basis of new policy framed on the directives of the federal housing minister. (Dawn).
- The residents of sector G-6 are denied the property rights to government accommodation they have been occupying for over decades.(Dawn)
- Residents of a Katchi abadi adjacent to Army Public School, Tusla Road, held a demonstration against demolition of their houses by the chaklala Cantonment Board as they are living in the open beside the road without any shelter.
- Over 30,000 refugees residing in properties left by the Hindus in the Rawalpindi district in the wake of the 1947 partition of British India are facing eviction orders from the Auqaf Department for refusing to pay increased rent.

Source: the Daily Times, Dawn, Jang

Summary of the newspaper clippings on Development, May 2008

Development

- The Newspaper of May report that the government has dropped out the Kalabagh Dam project forever as it is a controversial issue among the provinces. It is actually three versus one because only Punjab wants it and the other three provinces have provincial assembly resolutions against it.
- Apparently all seems well with Islamabad but all is not well as CDA is indifferent to the development of low scale sector. The residents of G-7, I-9 and I- 10 continue to suffer because of the water taps running dry to garbage, overflowing gutters and faulty streetlights.
- The Central Development Working Party has approved 33 different projects worth 163.882 billion including foreign exchange component, infrastructure, social sector and etc.
- Daily Times says that the Nikki Leh Trunk Sewer project hangs in the balance following opposition by 'Rawal Town Nazim as the majority of the contractors did not fill the dug-up streets and roads after completion of projects.

Source: the Daily Times, Dawn, Jang

Summary of the newspaper clippings on Waster and Sanitation, May 2008

Water and Sanitation

With the arrival of summer, the twin cities water crisis has assumed a new dimension leaving tanks and taps in thousands of homes in several sectors running virtually dry. It is reported that more than 600 residents of Chishtiabad in Rawalpindi Cantonment Board are suffering with the problem of water shortage and are demonstrating protests so there is a need of more holistic water management approach.

The twin cities are optimistic about the Indus water project that is crucial to overcome the water shortage in the twin cities.

The Sindh government has expressed its reservation on the proposed allocation of water quota for the capital city.

To avoid the shortage of water and theft, water meters will be installed which will improve the supply of water as well. (Daily Times)

There are continuous reports of solid waste spreading everywhere in Rawalpindi and the concerned authorities are indifferent to the proper deposal of this waste which is posing serious threat to the health of the residents. Above 80 % residents of the capital are vulnerable to water borne diseases as they consume unsafe water from unclean underground water storage tanks of their houses.

Source: the Daily Times, Dawn, Jang

Summary of the newspaper clippings on Women and Children, May 2008

Women and Children

- According to the Daily Times internationally known US experts on women empowerment have underlined the need to systematically enhance the capacity of Pakistani women in critical areas of conflict management and negotiations.
- Crimes against the maids in the federal capital has forced majority of them to move back to their hometowns.
- Pakistan is experiencing worst form of child labor with over 3.3 million child workers which are a major concern and demands serious practical initiatives from all the stakeholders of the society to stop this menace effectively.

Source: the Daily Times, Dawn, Jang

Summary of the newspaper clippings on Education, May 2008

Education

- It seems that the new government is determined to undo whatever was done by the previous government regarding education policy making.
- The federal government has invited the participants of provincial textbook boards to give their expert opinion on the draft of the education policy.
- Keeping Pakistan's unique social, economical and educational background in mind, the specialists can recommend fundamental changes in the examination system so that a just viable, productive and long-lasting assessment system can be installed for improved education and for seeking a better future for Pakistan.
- There are reports of students succumbing to heat while many have complained of being unable to fully attempt the papers in the suffocating examination halls where lights and fans remain inoperative and even the answer sheets are drenched in sweat flowing down the hands of the students.
- Leaders of the seven student organizations have asked the government to involve students in preparing code of conduct for the restored student unions.
- The country's current medical curriculum is outdated and replete with gross inadequacies, which have a negative bearing on the character, talent, enthusiasm and performance of a doctor, says the Daily Times.

Source: the Daily Times, Dawn, Jang

Summary of the newspaper clippings on Economy, May 2008

Economy

The federal government has announced its 2007-08 budgets which amounted to 1.874 trillion and it is announced on the basis of interim NFC award.

For the financial year 2006-07, the previous government had borrowed Rs 300bn from the Central Bank. But the new government has taken a decision that the government would not make any unnecessary borrowing from the state bank of Pakistan so as to remove some of the concern of World Bank and IMF. For that reason it has been decided to float a new short- term bond to raise up 300bn for budgetary support in the fiscal year 2008-09.(May 29, Dawn)

The Dawn says that the government asked the budget makers to prepare a progressive budget without busting the financial limits. They are asked to chop the optional expenditure to bring down current account deficit permissible level of 5% of GDP from the current horrifically 9% high.

The trade deficit of the country is worsening and the petroleum products added 3.074 billion in it.

The prime minister has constituted an economic advisory council for the formation and implementation of policies and a reform agenda to drive the country out of the current crisis.

Source: the Daily Times, Dawn, Jang

Summary of the newspaper clippings on Health, May 2008

Health

Reported news of inoperative incinerator in Pakistan Institute of Medical sciences are observed in the Daily Times and the Dawn.

In the absence of proper incinerators PIMS is unable to dispose of the waste like syringes drips etc. This waste is being theft from the PIMS and resold in the market which is hazardous for the people using it.

- Govt. has decided to recruit twenty thousand lady health workers by June 30, 2009. At present, over 92,000 LHWs are working in the country catering to 46 % of the population.
- Health policy task force has been set up to review implementation and outcome of health policy 2001.
- Rs. 2.5 billion worth Hepatitis C programme launched in 2005 has failed to reach to large part of infected population.(May 1,2008 Dawn).
- The future of the contract doctors hangs in the balance as their contract period end up by June and they have been asked by the authorities to pack up.

Source: the Daily Times, Dawn, Jang