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FRC Weekly Report

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BAJAUR AGENCY:

On 16 September 2013, speakers at a seminar the seminar titled `Democratic process in tribal areas threatened to launch a protest movement if government didn't announce local bodies` elections in Federally Administered Tribal Areas within the next two weeks.

On 21 September 2013, in Khar the Speakers at a seminar on Friday called for protecting women`s rights in the tribal areas, saying women empowerment is vital for the progress and prosperity of the region. Fata Secretariat`s Special Support Project organised the seminar, the first ever in the tribal areas on women`s rights, at Government Girls` College here in collaboration with United State Agency for International Development (USAID).

North Waziristan Agency

On 22 September 2013, three doctors, who were abducted from Baluchistan on June 13, 2013, were released by the kidnappers in North Waziristan Agency on Saturday. An official of the political administration from Mirali Tehsil of the agency said that Dr Nasrullah Ghilzai, Dr Muhammad Anwer Shabozai and Dr Ayaz Ahmed – had been kidnapped from the Loralai district of Balochistan and taken to North Waziristan.

KHYBER AGENCY

On 16 September 2013, after clearance of war ravaged area of Tirah Valley of Bara from militants by security agencies, the first phase of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) peacefully entered to Maidan area of Tirah valley from Kohat via Oragzai Agency on Sunday, officials of FDMA and local administration said.

On 16 September 2013, the authorities suspended the repatriation of displaced Bar Qambarkhel tribal people to Tirah valley in Khyber Agency after rival factions of the tribe failed to agree on formation of an impartial peace body in LANDI KOTAL.

On 21 September 2013, an alleged terrorist died after the explosives he was carrying went off accidentally in the mountainous Ponyal area of Shangla district.

On 21 September 2013, in Landi Kotal Bazaar, security forces on Friday arrested five suspected militants. Shopkeepers in the bazaar said the forces cordoned off the mobile market and arms market before conducting a search operation at around 11:00am

On 22 September 2013, in after the release of fund from Political Agent Office, second shift classes have been commenced in Landikotal Degree College for those 350 students, who owing to lack of seats had failed to take admission in college.

KURRUM AGENCY

On September 16, the political administration distributed compensation amount among the victims of the suicide blast in Parachinar town. Political Agent Riaz Mehsud distributed cheques worth Rs0.3 million among the families of the 44 persons who were killed in a blast in Parachinar town on July 26.

ISLAMABAD

On 16 September 2013, Awami National Party (ANP) has claimed that Taliban have made their comeback to Swat and Malakand Division during the last three months of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led government in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) and the killing of senior military officers on Sunday is the outcome of this re-grouping.

On 16 September 2013, the PML-N government's peace initiative with the Taliban has suffered a major setback with the killing of a high-ranking Army officer in a roadside bomb blast and the subsequent responsibility claim coming from the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

On 17 September 2013, the army said, 'No-one should have any misgivings that we would let terrorists coerce us into accepting their terms'.

On 17 September 2013, condemning the killing of senior army officials in Upper Dir blast, politicians who are considered close to the Taliban have urged the government to immediately launch practical measures to start the peace process.

On 17 September 2013, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Governor Engineer Shaukatullah Khan has disclosed that the landmine that killed Major General Sanaulah Niazi, Lt Col Muhammad Asif and Lance Nike Irfan Sattar in Upper Dir on Sunday was planted by Sufi Muhammad group, led by Atallah, though Tehrik-e-Taliban has claimed the responsibility.

On 18 September 2013, Islamabad Latest official documents show that some Rs650 million have been paid to the Taliban by the businessmen of the twin cities during the last 18 months alone. A list of 45 cases of kidnapping for ransom and extortion has been prepared in which Rs653 million have been paid to Taliban while billions have remained undiscovered.

On 18 September 2013, after some perceived reluctance, the National Assembly sprang to action on Tuesday to urge the new government to 'come out in full support' of the military's fight against terrorism, which Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has lately sought to tackle through unconditional dialogue

On 21 September 2013, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the senior most Afghan Taliban in Pakistan's custody, would walk out of detention centre on Saturday amid the hope that he could be the game-changer for the stalemated reconciliation process in Afghanistan

On 22 September 2013, the government freed senior Taliban commander Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar on Saturday to help revive the faltering Afghan reconciliation process. `Mullah Baradar has been released,` Foreign Office spokesman Aizaz Chaudhry said.

On 22 September 2013, Pakistan released its most senior Afghan Taliban detainee Abdul Ghani Baradar, a senior official told AFP, in a move welcomed by Kabul who hope it will encourage peace talks with the insurgents. Baradar, a one-time military chief often described as the militants' former second-in-command, was the most high profile detained Taliban commander in Pakistan.

KPK

On 16 September 2013, a two-star general of the Pakistan Army, commanding the security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Malakand Division, was martyred along with one other officer and a soldier in an attack in Upper Dir.

On 16 September 2013, the government has paid (according to Dawn news Rs25 million)a heavy ransom to militants to secure release of seven of eight Wapda employees working for Gomal Zam dam project, according to sources privy to the development.

On 16 September 2013, the outlawed Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has said its Shura after a meeting resolved that it expected the government to take certain confidence-building measures, including the release of Taliban prisoners and pulling back troops from the field to their camps, before formal peace talks.

On 16 September 2013, a state-run school was partially damaged when a rocket fired by suspected militants hit the school in Janikhel in the Frontier Region (FR) Bannu, sources said here on Sunday.

On 17 September 2013, the latest high-profile killing of Maj Gen Sanaullah Khan in Upper Dir district of the troubled Malakand region disturbed the Pakistani Taliban headed by Hakimullah Mahsud as they are now arguing the incident would never have happened had the government declared a ceasefire before the opening of formal peace talks with them.

On 17 September 2013, in Hangu Unknown persons dynamited the house of a militant commander in Spin Khawri area on the Bypass Road, official sources said.

On 17 September 2013, in Karak Heavy rain coupled with hailstorm played havoc in Karak by destroying standing crops.

On 17 September 2013, in Kohat three women named Saadia, Aman and Aasia were assassinated for honor on the orders of the Jirgah.

On 17 September 2013, Pakistan is set to release this week Abdul Ghani Baradar, a former military chief often described as the insurgents' ex-second in command. Sartaj Aziz, adviser to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on national security and foreign affairs, told AFP that Baradar "will be released this week, possibly in a day or two".

On 18 September 2013, the seminar was organised by Islamabad-based Fata Research Centre on 'social and psychological consequences of violence in Fata: issues and challenges' at a local hotel.

On 18 September 2013, the Chief Justice of the Peshawar High Court (PHC), Dost Muhammad Khan, observed that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government should not take the troops withdrawal decision in haste and take all the stakeholders, including the federal government and Pakistan Army, into confidence and prepare a proper strategy before pulling the troops out of the Malakand Division.

On 18 September 2013, the Pakistani Taliban insisted that they are still at war with government troops because peace talks have yet to start and the military is still launching offensives against them.

On 18 September 2013, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas Tribunal took suo motu notice of the honour killing of three women.

On 21 September 2013, in Nowshera A tribal leader belonging to Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf was killed and five others suffered injuries when gunmen on a motorcycle attacked a PTI office at the Jalozai camp.

World

On 18 September 2013, in Ankara Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that Afghan President Hamid Karzai had requested Pakistan to release Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar as he thought it was essential to bring the Taliban leadership to the negotiating table.

On 18 September 2013, in Ankara Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday said Pakistan would seek the help and guidance of Turkey to effectively wipe out extremism.

On 21 September 2013, in Geneva, Pakistan has called for cessation of US drone strikes on its soil through urgent and intense dialogue. Speaking during a UN Security Council debate on the situation in Afghanistan, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Nations Masood Khan said drone strikes infringe our sovereignty, violate international law and cause civilian casualties.