

26pc women head surviving families

# Gender policy for quake-hit areas planned

By Nisar Ahmad Khan

MANSEHRA, Oct 7: The Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (Erra) has introduced a gender policy in the earthquake affected areas of the NWFP and Azad Kashmir where 26 per cent women are heading the surviving families after the calamity struck two years ago, *Dawn* has learnt.

The authority has detected broad spectrum gender discrimination in its rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in the affected areas.

Following the Oct 8, 2005, tragedy, women's responsibilities grew manifold after they lost male members and breadwinners of their families.

According to a recently updated data of those eligible for livelihood cash grant, over 26 per cent of households were being headed by women in the affected districts of the NWFP and AJK.

The gender policy, a copy of which is available with this correspondent, recommends that Erra's reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts will be successful if economic and social opportunities it offered to the survivors cover the needs of women equally.

The policy, which has been developed in consultation with the ministry of women development, governments of the NWFP and AJK, partner organisations, national and international NGOs, local communities and United Nations' human charter, ensures that sector-wise strategies, programmes implementation, monitoring and evaluation take into account the gender consideration, thereby increasing the likelihood.

It also recommends that benefits of reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts must reach all vulnerable groups equally.

## Court orders probe into stillbirth case

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR, Oct 7: A local court has ordered police to conduct an inquiry and register an FIR in a case of stillbirth due to alleged negligence of doctors.

Additional district and sessions judge Syed Zamurad Shah on Saturday directed the Town police to conduct the inquiry against doctors of the gynaecology ward of the Khyber Teaching Hospital and said that if they were found guilty then an FIR be registered against them.

The court accepted an application filed by Mr Sibghatullah Shah under section 22-A of the Criminal Procedure Code which empowers the court to order registration of a case.

The applicant said that when his wife went into labour he took her to the gynaecology ward of the Khyber Teaching Hospital.

He said that according to ultrasound the child to be delivered was perfectly alright, but doctors did not attend to his wife.

Mr Shah said that he went to the University Town police station to lodge an FIR, but they did not register it.

He requested the court to order registration of the case so that in future doctors should not repeat the same thing.