

Aids awareness drive among youth launched

By Kalbe Ali

ISLAMABAD, Dec 8: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has launched an HIV/Aids awareness campaign among youth.

The campaign was launched by the Aids patients who lit candles at the PRCS National Headquarters on Tuesday.

Senator Nilofar Bakhtiar, the Vice Chairperson of the PRCS, was the chief guest on the occasion.

Addressing on the occasion Ms Bakhtiar said that an estimated 33.2 million people lived as victims of Aids worldwide killing an estimated 2.1 million people, including 330,000 children in last seven years. Over three quarters of these deaths occurred in sub-Saharan Africa, retarding economic growth and destroying human capital, she said.

Ms Bakhtiar said that treatment for Aids and HIV could slow the course of the disease, but it could not be cured. Antiretroviral treatment reduces both the mortality and the morbidity of HIV infection, but these drugs are expensive and routine access to antiretroviral medication is not available in all countries. Due to the difficulty in treating HIV infection, preventing infection is a key aim in controlling the Aids pandemic and awareness is the pivotal step towards it.