



1. PAKISTAN BELIEVES IN GLOBAL PEACE, STABILITY: MARVI

Published in Frontier Post, Apr 13, 2016

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Chairperson Marvi Memon Tuesday said Pakistan believed that peace and stability was essential for global prosperity as terrorism and extremism were the biggest threats to global peace which could only be countered by closer cooperation among stakeholders.

She was speaking at a luncheon she hosted in honour of France Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group on behalf of Convener France Pakistan Friendship Group Muhammad Junaid Anwaar Chaudhary.

Marvi Memon said Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with France. The France Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group was established with a view to strengthen the inter-parliamentary links and promote parliamentary cooperation, she added.

Senator Pascal Allizard Chairman France Pakistan Friendship Group, Senator Francois Carton Vice president of Senate, Senator Patricia Morhet-Richard, French Ambassador H.E Martine Dorance, Ms. Nathalie Dupont represented the French side.

Lt Gen r Abdul Qayyum, Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, Senator Khalida Parveen, Arshad Khan Laghari, Rubina Khursaid Alam, Sardar Azam Khan Musakhel and BISP management

welcomed the delegates and conveyed warm wishes from the people of Pakistan.

The BISP Chairperson said poverty anywhere was threat to peace everywhere. That was why the BISP not only focused on poverty management but poverty alleviation as well, she added.



Marvi said that the core objective of the BISP was financial inclusion and economic empowerment of its beneficiaries. BISP E-Commerce was an initiative that aimed to take the poor out of financial crisis by providing them access to national and international market.

She said the products of the marginalized women were now available online. Global community could lend hand towards poverty reduction by supporting these poor women artisans.

The Chairperson BISP sought cooperation of French companies through Corporate Social Responsibility.

Senator Pascal Allizard stated that it was time to reinvigorate bilateral relations. He pledged French cooperation in education, health, economy and terrorism. He added that it was



high time to remove all the loop holes and move together towards a better safe future.

Senator Francoise Cartron stated that lack of education was the core reason behind terrorism. Both the sides needed to put in serious efforts in education to get rid of extremist mind set.

The French ambassador highlighted the bilateral cooperation and emphasized the importance of friendship group in the promotion of bilateral relations.

Parliamentarians from Pakistan appreciated French partnership in defence and commerce and highlighted that Pakistan was keen to take the relationship with France to the next level of long term institutional cooperation.

Parliamentarians acknowledged the French contributions towards global peace and reiterated that global community should join hands to eliminate the terror menace from this beautiful planet.

(The Nation, Pakistan Today, Pakistan Observer, Jang, Express, Naibaat, Khabrain, Jahan Pakistan, Jinnah, Ausaf and Pakistan also carried the story and picture)

2. GOVT SOUGHT \$1B LOANS FOR BISP CASH GRANTS

Published in Pakistan Today, Apr 13, 2016

A shocking disclosure was made before the Senate Standing Committee on Finance on Tuesday when it was informed that the governments has taken \$1 billion in loan from

international financial institutions to provide cash grants to the poor under the Benazir Income Support Programme.

Saleem Mandviwala chaired the committee meeting. The BISP officials informed the members that the PPP government had signed loan agreements with the World Bank for \$60 million in 2009 and \$210 million in 2011. The loan was to be provided till 2016.

The PML-N government signed a loan agreement with Asian Development Bank in 2013 for \$430 million. Only British DFID gave a grant of \$446 million. So far \$ 429 million have been disbursed while \$657 million still are in the pipeline.

The committee members expressed shock over the revelation. They wanted to know the reason why loans were necessary for cash grants. Officials of the Finance Ministry were absent from the meeting so no answer could be furnished.

Earlier a team of economists led by former adviser finance, Dr Salman Shah briefed the committee on the tax scenario in the country. They said that the tax system and tax machinery has collapsed in the country. Nobody trusts the FBR, people are not ready to pay taxes. Instead of increasing tax base FBR is burdening the existing tax payers, they added.

Salman Shah recommended that the parliamentarian should take lead to reform the tax system. He proposed insulating FBR from political system, inducting professionals, adopting modern IT systems. He said the IMF and Finance Ministry's diktat for enhancing



NEWS TODAY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016

revenue collection every quarter has driven FBR to shambles. The institution has lost its track to enhance tax base. The committee decided to look into their proposals for future plan of action.

(Also published in Daily Jinnah)