

1. DETAILS OF MENTALLY DISABLED KIDS TO BE INCLUDED IN NSER

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Briefs

Details of mentally disabled kids to be included in NSER

Myra Imran

ISLAMABAD: To give special attention to the families with persons with disability (PWDs), the resurvey of Benazir Income Support Programme's (BISP) National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) will also include details of mentally disabled children in a family.

The information to this effect was shared with the joint delegation of World Health Organisation (WHO), Human Development Research Foundation, Mental Health Innovation Network (MHIN) and Overseas Development Institute which called on Minister of State and Chairperson BISP Marvi Memon on Thursday.

The purpose of the meeting was to find the common denominator among the organisations so that concerted efforts may be initiated for the welfare of children with learning disability in the country.

The delegation apprised the BISP chairperson of an initiative undertaken by MHIN with the assistance of WHO for the welfare of mentally challenged children in tehsil Gujar Khan. It was informed that in the pilot phase of the initiative, 70 families of two union councils of Gujar Khan were identified and champion mothers were trained through psycho-social empowerment programmes to mitigate the negative effects of mental disability of the children. Currently, 3,000 families of Gujar Khan have been identified and MHIN with the assistance of other national and international organisations aims to scale up this initiative at national level. For training of champion mothers, tablet based device is used. This initiative focuses on educating disabled children, women empowerment and anti-stigma campaign by utilizing WHO based innovative interventions packages.

2. BISP TO JOIN HANDS WITH WHO FOR CHILDREN WELFARE

Diplomatic News Agency

ISLAMABAD, MAR 10 (DNA) – A joint delegation of WHO, Human Development Research Foundation, Mental Health Innovation Network (MHIN) and Overseas Development Institute called on Minister of State and Chairperson BISP, MNA Marvi Memon at BISP Secretariat.



The purpose of the meeting was to find the common denominator between the organizations so that concerted efforts may be initiated for the welfare of children with learning disability in the country.

The members of the delegation included Dr. Dan Clifflom, Ms. Agnes Pecker, Ms. Josephine Tsui, Prof. Atif Rehman, Dr. Usman Hamdani and Dr. Siham Sikandar.

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Chairperson BISP, during the meeting, said that there is a need to identify BISP families from amongst 3,000 families of Gujjar Khan as the starting step of the cooperation

She said that BISP's database in the form of Demographic Directory contains details of mentally disabled children and the resurvey of BISP's National Socio Economic Registry (NSEER) will also include this demographic aspect. She added that BISP would like to enter into long term and countrywide scale of cooperation with these specialized organizations for benefit of such children

Secretary BISP, while discussing details of the cooperation, offered to facilitate these organizations by linking them with other relevant organizations. Moreover, he said that BISP is ready to initiate coordination for empowering needy population and to carry out research related endeavors.

(Patriot, Nawaiwaqt, Dunya, Jahan Pakistan, Naiabaat, Khabrian and Jinnah also carried the story and picture)

3. JHAGRA PRAISES MARVI'S BISP CONTRIBUTION

Published in Pakistan Observer, March 11, 2016

Peshawar—Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Marvi Memon here Thursday called on the newly appointed Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Iqbal Zafar Jhagra at Governor House

and congratulated him for assuming the office of Governor KP.

She remained there for sometimes and discussed matters related to performance of her organization. The Governor lauded the role played by Chairperson Marvi Memon for bringing significant improvement in BISP.



Meanwhile, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Engineer Iqbal Zafar Jhagra on Thursday directed the officials of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) and departments concerned to remain alert and monitor the flood and river situation round-the-clock in the province as the flood warning has been issued in the province and FATA.

He further directed the relevant officials that special safety measures should be made for TDPs to avoid damages in the tribal areas. Governor Iqbal Zafar Jhagra also directed that all institutions should finalize arrangements without delay to cope with any situation may arise due to rains and floods fore-cast in the tribal region.

The Governor ordered the Director General FDMA, Fayyaz Ali Shah that arrangements should be completed in the areas and immediate evacuation should be ensured if needed. He said that negligence in this regard would not be tolerated and strict action would be taken against the responsible. He asked the officials concerned that any emergency situation if caused by rains and floods in FATA should be monitored and protective divisions be strengthened. He also directed that the departments

concerned should en-sure the necessary equipment in order to cope the situation.

He asked the officials to remain alert and review the arrangements and preparations in their areas. He said timely provision of machinery and equipment should be ensured in case of any emergency in FATA and the control room should be functional round-the-clock,

(Patriot, Express, Jinnah, Naibaat, Pakistan, Ausaf and Mashriq also carried the story and picture)

4. 75 BISP OFFICIALS LINKED TO BOGUS TRANSACTIONS

Published in Daily Times, March 11, 2016

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Chairperson Marvi Memon has issued show cause notices to 75 employees, including officers, for helping bogus recipients.

According to the sources in the BISP, Memon was told during a briefing that hundreds of thousands of bogus accounts were made. There was a gap in transactions in some accounts.

Memon formed an investigation team, which conducted an investigation into the issue and found that around 100 BISP employees were embezzling funds through bogus accounts.

The team also investigated the bogus accounts where no transaction had been made for the last two years. Sources said the BISP chief issued notices to the programme employees allegedly linked to this scam and told them to submit their replies within a week. Further action would be taken against the accused in the coming days, the sources added.

There is a suggestion for fresh survey in the areas where the ratio of bogus accounts is high in order to make the BISP beneficiaries list transparent. The amount in the closed accounts would be issued to the account holders after through investigations.

5. WESTERN ROUTE OF CPEC: FIRST TENDER TO BE OPENED ON 14TH, SENATE TOLD

Published in Business Recorder, March 11, 2016

The Upper House of Parliament was informed on Thursday that the tender for first phase of western route under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would be opened on March 14. During a question-hour, State Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Sheikh Aftab said that funds for western route have been allocated and a tender for first phase of the route would be opened by Monday (March 14).

He said CPEC transport sector projects are covered in transport monographic study and Orange Line project in Lahore is not included in the study, but he quickly added that Orange Line project agreement was signed during Chinese President's visit to Pakistan last year. "This project is totally financed by provincial government of Punjab and it has made all arrangements for financing of the project as the Chief Minister Punjab wants to complete it as soon as possible to facilitate the general public," he added.

To a question, he rejected that the federal government is not funding the Orange Line project, and maintained that it is purely a project of the provincial government, which will be completed without getting any help from the centre. According to Sheikh, 147 projects worth Rs 2114 billion have been approved by the present government that are being financed under PSDP of current financial year, adding the projects included energy, water, transport, communication and physical planning and housing sectors.

To a question about misuse of Benazir Income Support (BISP) monthly stipend, Zahid Hamid, Minister for Climate Change said that the government might go for another survey of the BISP, as there are reports that some undeserving people are also taking benefit from the social safety net programme. "Rs 199 billion have been distributed in the last two and a half years across the country under BISP, and we are

making efforts to make the programme transparent so that the poor can benefit from it as much as possible," he added.

He said the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has introduced a number of measures to determine the exact number of taxpayers and to bring them into the tax-net, adding a national data warehouse has been created to collect data through third party sources like motor vehicle registering authorities, educational institutions, capital value tax collected by FBR and provincial government on purchase of property, electricity distribution companies, automobile companies, insurance companies and withholding tax statements. He also said the gross non-performing loans of banks have gradually decreased during the last four years, adding as of 31st December 2012, non-performing loans stood at Rs 618 billion which decreased to Rs 605 billion on 31st of December last year due to concerted recovery efforts of banks.

The Minister for Industries Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi informed the House that a proposal has been submitted to federal cabinet for revival of subsidy on sugar sold through utility stores. The illegal construction of eight high-rise residential and commercial complexes in sector E-11 of Islamabad came under discussion in Senate on a motion moved by Senator Farhatullah Babar with senators demanding to expose the powerful elements behind the scam.

Referring to court's orders, Babar said that Islamabad High Court issued two verdicts to stop the illegal construction activity but Capital Development Authority (CDA) and ICT administration had failed to stop it because of the power and influence of those involved. Senator Babar quoted from court verdicts through which the CDA has been directed to stop construction work and ensure that no further construction is undertaken without a formal permission or No Objection Certificate.

Refuting the claim that E-11 fell under an exempt area, he said the court had also observed that none of the private respondents has been able to produce any documents or instrument in support of the claim that the area falls outside the jurisdiction of CDA or is

exempt.

He said the CDA, the ICT and all relevant state authorities had failed to stop the illegal constructions despite court's orders and admission by the civic body that it was an illegal activity. He said that last month the residents of E-11 sector took to the streets, protesting against illegal construction in their vicinity that had threatened the environment as well as overshadowed their houses.

He called for an inquiry to expose the elements behind this brazen violation of the court's orders and continuation of illegal construction activity that had threatened the environment. State Minister for Capital Administration and Development Division (CADD) Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhary said that efforts were on to stop the illegal construction and notices have also been issued to those who are violating the civic body's bylaws. The opposition Senators, however, staged a token walkout in protest against the government's ambivalence.