

## **1. POVERTY THREAT TO NATIONAL, REGIONAL, INT'L SECURITY: MARVI**

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ISLAMABAD: Minister of State and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Marvi Memon Tuesday said poverty was a threat to national, regional and international security.

Poverty, she said, undermined a country's ability to fight disease, protect environment and respond to disasters effectively, besides making the affected people vulnerable to crime and terrorism.

Marvi Memon, who is also Member of the National Assembly, was addressing as a guest speaker at the round-table discussion titled "Poverty management and its effect on regional stability" at International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS) in London.

Rahul Roy Chaudhry, Senior Fellow for South Asia at IISS, chaired the discussion while Pakistan's High Commissioner to the UK Syed Ibne Abbas and former British High Commissioner to Pakistan Phillip Barton also attended the roundtable, said a message received here from the United Kingdom.

Marvi Memon said there was inadequate realization among the global community on poverty's role in threatening regional and international peace and security, and perhaps in the preamble to the United Nations Charter scourge of poverty needed to be added to scourge of war.

Calling for collective efforts to address the challenges of poverty, she termed the need to have official knowledge sharing on regional neighbours experiences on poverty management

and alleviation programmes as important Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) for dispute resolution and regional stability.



Those regional strategies, she added, could help create trust among neighbors and pave way for the larger regional development mega projects like the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), or TAPI (Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline) and resolution of disputes like Kashmir.

She remarked that regional economic development was the only way forward for the prosperity of people and for eventual dispute resolution of some longstanding historic territorial disputes.

She said that the Government of Pakistan was conscious that the symbiotic nexus between poverty and insecurity would be attacked most effectively through the propagation of the rule of law and access to justice.

Poor women, she said, would be empowered if they have access to financial tools and if they acquire skills and this was precisely what Pakistan's largest social safety net, the Benazir Income Support Program was trying to achieve.

*(Patriot, Nawainvaqt, Dunya, Naibaat, Khabrain, Jinnab and Ausaf carried the story and picture)*

## 2. PTA AWARENESS CAMPAIGN STARTS

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Initially, PTA informed their consumers to avoid fake messages of BISP.

