

# NEWS TODAY

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## **1. GOVT TAKING MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY: MARVI**

*Published in Business Recorder, March 07, 2016*

*PESHAWAR: Minister of State and Benazir Income Support Programme Chairperson Marvi Memon on Sunday said that the government was taking measures to empower women and eliminate their poverty.*



MINISTER OF STATE & CHAIRPERSON BISP, MARVI MEMON INSPECTING THE HANDI CRAFTS DURING HER VISIT AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF 3RD WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS TRADE FAIR AT SERVICE CLUB, PESHAWAR ON MARCH 6, 2016

*She was addressing the closing ceremony of three-day "Women Entrepreneur Trade Fair" here at Peshawar Services Club. The event was organized by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan in collaboration with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chamber of Commerce and Industry Peshawar.*

*Marvi Memon said it was the responsibility of government to facilitate skillful women on their doorsteps, therefore, the BISP budget had been increased from Rs40 billion to Rs105 billion.*

*She said interest-free loans would be given to beneficiaries trained by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan. The BISP's aim was to bring socio-economic uplift in the society by imparting vocational and technical skills to beneficiaries enabling them to get employment opportunities.*

*She added that the government had focused on the programme to promote sustainable poverty reduction measures by exploring national and overseas employment potential.*



MINISTER OF STATE & CHAIRPERSON BISP, MARVI MEMON TALKING TO MEDIA PERSONNEL AT PESHAWAR ON MARCH 6, 2016

*President Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chamber of Commerce and Industry Zulfiqar Ahmad and President Women Chamber of Commerce Nasira Luqmani were also present on the occasion.*

*Later, Marvi Memon distributed shields and certificates among the skillful women.*

*(The News, The nation, Tribune, Pakistan observer, frontier, Jang, Express, Dunya, Nawarwaqt, Ausaf, Khabrain, jinnah, and Mashriq also carried the story and pictures)*

## **2. EFFORTS ON FOR GENDER EQUALITY, WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: MARVI**

*Published in The Nation, March 06 2016*

*Islamabad - Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Marvi Memon yesterday said the government is undertaking serious efforts to ensure gender equality and women empowerment. She stated this while speaking at an interactive session held to commemorate International Women's Day 2016. The chairperson BISP said the economy*

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*must work for women so that they can contribute towards economic progress as it ultimately empowers the nation.*

*She said “women need empowerment, we are proud to be the largest empowerment programme with prime focus on women.” Marvi said besides being a social safety net, BISP has a strong focus on women empowerment, adding BISP strives to bring its beneficiaries in direct contact with ruling elite, media and women role-models.*

*The interactive session organized at BISP Secretariat was attended by BISP beneficiaries and leading women journalists. The chairperson BISP said that women make immeasurable contributions to the society. Their contribution as entrepreneurs, educators, scientists, artists, soldiers and head of states cannot be undermined, she added.*

*The session concluded with a resolve that women should believe in themselves and strive for the best of their abilities. She said it is high time to reshape misperceptions, realize hidden potential, stand up for rights and added the media has major role to play in this struggle.*

*She said “Each of us can be a leader within our own spheres of influence and should commit to take pragmatic steps to accelerate gender equality.” Under International Women’s Day 2016 theme “Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it Up for Gender Equality” government pledges to take concrete steps to help achieve gender parity. Later, Chairperson BISP connected with the beneficiaries from remote areas via live radio broadcast.*

*Beneficiaries from all over Pakistan, apprised the chairperson of the problems faced by them. Replying to queries, Chairperson stated that since she assumed office last February, she has been trying to make*

*BISP more efficient. She expects a re-survey transition, payment transition and a graduation transition this year.*



MINISTER OF STATE AND CHAIRPERSON BISP, MNA MARVI MEMON SPEAKING AT AN INTERACTIVE SESSION TO COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AT BISP SECRETARIAT IN ISLAMABAD ON MARCH 5, 2016.

*She assured the live callers that their complaints would redressed at the earliest.*

*(Daily Times, Pakistan observer, Business Recorder, frontier Post, Express Tribune, patriot, jang, dunya, Nai baat, Nawaiwaqt, Jahan Pakistan, Pakitan, and Jinnah also carried the story and pictures)*

## **3. IDENTITY ISSUE: BISP TO LAUNCH BIOMETRIC SYSTEM: MARVI**

*Published in Express Tribune, March 05, 2016*

*ISLAMABAD: Benazir Bhutto Income Support Programme (BISP) has decided to introduce biometric system this year for the identification of its beneficiaries.*

*BISP Chairperson Marvi Memon while talking to The Express Tribunesaid the biometric system for withdrawing BISP grant would be introduced across the country after effective tests in Larkana.*

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*Sixteen districts would be surveyed this year and the rest of the country would be covered before the general election of 2018, she said.*

*He said the last survey was conducted five years ago and there was a need to conduct a new survey, as such surveys have validity of five years.*

*BISP awards financial support of Rs4,700 to 5.2 million beneficiaries on quarterly basis via Benazir Debit Card (BDC) said Marvi. There has been a lot of talk about fake beneficiaries of BISP and irregularities in payment of financial support.*

*Diverting the payment system to biometrics will eradicate the role of middleman, she said. Many BISP beneficiaries were illiterate and unable to operate ATMs. For this simple task, she said, opportunists charge a fee from simple folks.*

*The biometric system will allow beneficiaries to draw their sums from ATMs without any hassle, she said.*

## **4. BISP A PIVOTAL TOOL FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION: EBAD**

*Published in Pakistan observer, March 05, 2016*

*Karachi—Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is playing a vital role in poverty alleviation and women empowerment in Sindh also. The initiation of projects for welfare and well-being of poor and downtrodden is the prime duty of any Government and by implementing them sincerely the goal of poverty reduction could be achieved. Registration of 2.7 million families and provision of financial benefits to 1.8 million families by BISP was very commendable.*

*Sindh governor Dr Ishrat Ul Ebad Khan said this during a briefing and meeting with beneficiaries of*

*BISP at Governor's House Thursday. BISP Chairperson MNA Marvi Memon was also present on the occasion.*

*The governor said that the main purpose of this programme was to make women courageous and brave to be able to handle any adverse situation without any fear or panic. It is really a shame that incidents of atrocities on women are reported daily and the reason behind most of such enormity is illiteracy, he added.*



Minister of State/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) MNA Marvi Memon calling on Governor Sindh Dr. Ishrat ul Ebad Khan at Governor House Karachi On 4-03-2016

*Dr Ebad said that lack of education and unawareness in women is very harmful for the entire society as women are foundation of our society and they have the pivotal responsibility of upbringing of children. To be positive and learn from any mishap or difficulty during life is the basic tool for success, he observed. He said that Government was attaching top priority on promotion of education in the province so as to enhance the literacy rate specially in women.. For this very purpose University students have been asked to educate at least one person of their surroundings, he added.*

*Sindh governor lauded the role played by Sughra Solangi and Humaira Bachal in the field of education and becoming a beacon of light for other women of the province. Their story of struggle must be followed by the women to achieve their goals, he added. He said that they with Marvi Rural Development Organisation and Dream Foundation Trust,*

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respectively have worked tirelessly for which whole society is indebted to the Sindh governor assured all help and assistance to BISP from Sindh government. Memon informed the Governor that 5.2 million families are being provided financial assistance throughout the country under this programme. Addressing the "Ladies Fund Women Awards" Sindh Governor Dr. Ishrat-ul-Ebad Khan on Saturday emphasized on exploring the talent and potential of women for the development and prosperity of the country and dignity of the nation. The women in Pakistan had performed excellent in various important fields /professions including the armed forces. In many fields, women were leading men because of their hard work, discipline, commitment. He noted that diplomats from different countries posted in Karachi were also present. The Governor said the nation could achieve its social and economic targets without maximum and active participation of the women.

providing education to handicapped children. The jobs would also be provided to the children getting education through this fund, he said. The Governor underlined the need for collective and targeted efforts towards economic empowerment of women.

(Business Recorder, Frontier Post, patriot, Express, Jahan Pakistan, Jinnah, Ausaf, Pakistan and Nai baat also carried the story and pictures)



MINISTER OF STATE/CHAIRPERSON BENAZIR INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAM (BISP), MNA MARVI MEMON BEING PRESENTED WITH A MEMENTO DURING HER VISIT TO JINNAH UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN IN KARACHI ON MARCH 4, 2016.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) do play very important role for empowerment of women. Federal and provincial governments had launched different schemes/programmes for providing soft-term loans to the women for starting SMEs, he said. He praised the role of the Ladies Fund especially for the promotion of education. Recently, he added, a programme titled "Give Education to One Girl" was started in coordination with the ladies fund for