



1. 'GANG OF TAX THIEVES STAND WITH IMRAN'

Marvi Memon says govt believes in serving humanity

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Faisalabad State Minister for Water and Power Chaudhry Abid Sher Ali has said that the gang of 10 tax thieves is standing with Imran Khan and they are destroying the peace of Pakistan on the foreign directions. He said the discriminatory attitude with the trans-genders in hospitals of KP should be stopped immediately.

Talking to media persons in Faisalabad he said that Imran Khan did not want progress in Pakistan. He said ATM machines, land mafia, loan mafia and gang of tax thieves is standing with Imran Khan. He said Imran should not interfere in the proceedings of parliamentary committee. He said Imran could not digest the progress of country.

Abid Sher Ali said Maulana Fazlur Rehman visited London on the invitation of his party. Abid Sher Ali said they respect all the people in Pakistan who faced torture for democracy.

He said Imran Khan has ended the respect in politics, adding that all political parties are united and government respect all political forces and matters should be resolved democratically. He said PML-N wants accountability of all people including those who have committed thefts and got loans written off.

Sher Ali said Mufti Popalzay should not create misunderstanding in Pakistanis regarding sighting of Ramadan moon. He said six hour long load shedding will be carried out during Ramadan.

Meanwhile, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Chairperson Marvi Memon on Sunday said the PML-N government believed in serving the humanity. "We are committed to conduct a comprehensive poverty survey of deserving families under the (BISP) in addition to making arrangements for provision of reasonable sustenance to them during our tenure", she said while addressing a gathering of local bodies representatives, notables and beneficiaries of the BISP at Ghausia Park here.

She said the PML-N's policy was to provide the best possible facilities to the have-nots under an impartial system. The chairperson said under first phase of the BISP, poverty survey was being launched in 16 selected districts, including Faisalabad. A system was being chalked out on the basis of survey to ensure financial assistance to the needy families, she added. She said 5.3 million families were getting benefits of the BISP, including 170,000 families from the Faisalabad division. No form will be given to any survey team but they would conduct survey by paying



door to door visit and making biometric identification of the poor, she added. The PML-N government had enhanced funds for the BISP from Rs 40 billion to 102 billion and during next financial year it will be further increased to facilitate the poor, she said. She said survey conducted in 2010 was not totally fair because most of the deserving women were ignored. Now proposed poverty survey will start after Ramzan-ul-Mubarak and teams will pay door-to-door visit and identify people living below the poverty line, she added.

“Strict monitoring will be ensured to make the survey reliable and free from any mistake and teams would use the latest electronic equipment to avoid any error or omission”, she said.

She also underlined the role of media, civil society and LB representatives in the monitoring of the BISP survey and said they should immediately identify any discrepancy to the local office or headquarter of the BISP. Special prayers were also offered for early recovery of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and participants hoped that the PM will recover soon. Agencies

(Daily Times, Frontier Post, Patriot, Jang, Naibaat, Nawaiwaqt, Jahan Pakistan, Jinnah, Khabrain and Ausaf carried the story and picture)

2. BISP TO LAUNCH POVERTY ASSESSMENT SURVEY

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Speaking at the gathering, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Chairperson Marvi Memon said that the PML-N government believed in serving people. “We will conduct a comprehensive survey of families who deserve the BISP grants. We will make arrangements to provide reasonable sustenance to them during our tenure.”

She said that the government’s policy was to reach out to the have-nots and to pull them out of the poverty trap through a transparent process.

She said in the first phase, the BISP would conduct a poverty survey in 16 districts, including Faisalabad. “The criteria for the survey are being chalked out to ensure we provide financial assistance to families who need it the most.”

She said 5.3 million families were registered with the BISP. As many as 170,000 families from Faisalabad division are registered with the BISP, Memon said. “Surveyors will be asked to go door-to-door and conduct biometric identification of people.”

Power supply partially restored in Karachi after major breakdown

The government had increased funds for the BISP, from Rs40 billion to Rs102 billion, for the financial year 2015-2016, she said. “This



amount will increase in the budget for the coming financial year.

Memon said that she did not think the poverty assessment survey conducted in 2010 was fair. "Too many deserving women were left out of the survey."

She said the survey would be conducted after Ramazan. A strict monitoring system will be ensured to make the survey reliable and transparent, she said. The monitoring teams will use the latest electronic equipment to avoid omissions or making errors. "This is a noble gesture and it is only possible if the people in charge of the programme perform their duties with honesty and diligence," she said.

Memon stressed the need for the media, the civil society and local government representatives to ensure strict monitoring of the BISP survey. "We request them to report on and help us identify any discrepancies in conducting the survey. They can report them to a local office or the BISP headquarters."

The participants of the gathering offered prayers for the early recovery of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who is scheduled to undergo a cardiac surgery on Tuesday.

3. CABINET TO APPROVE RS4,454B BUDGET TODAY

ISLAMABAD - The federal cabinet is meeting here today to approve the budget of around Rs4,454 billion for the fiscal year 2016-17.

The special meeting of the federal cabinet will be held here around 6:30 PM and Prime

Minister Nawaz Sharif will chair the meeting from the High Commission of Pakistan, London, through video link.

After approval of the development outlay and macroeconomic framework for the fiscal 2016-17 by the National Economic Council, the final budget of Rs4,454 billion will be presented for the approval of the federal cabinet.

The cabinet will approve a development outlay of Rs1.675 trillion earmarked for the federal PSDP and provincial annual development plan (ADP) for the fiscal 2016-17.

The cabinet will also discuss the defence budget of around Rs 850 billion to 900 billion.

Similarly Rs 1.5 trillion is being directed towards the debt serving and the federal cabinet is likely to approve it.

A proposal of enhancement the salary and pension by 7 to 10 percent will also be discussed in the cabinet meeting.

Similarly the federal cabinet will also approve a proposal of Rs 245 billion allocation for the pensions.

The cabinet is also likely to approve the allocation of Rs 107 billion for Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) in the upcoming budget.

The cabinet will ponder a proposal of the budget deficit of around 3.8 percent of GDP and a subsidy of Rs 169 billion.

The other proposal to be approved, as part of the federal budget, by the cabinet meeting include the tax to-GDP ratio which has been projected at 12.5 percent in the next fiscal year.



The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) collection target will be around Rs 3,606 billion and non-tax collection target is Rs 950 billion.

The foreign currency reserves have been estimated to increase to \$23.6 billion by the end of next fiscal year.

4. BISP SHUTS DOWN THREE SCHEMES

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Board's decision

BISP shuts down three schemes

Currently, there are 5.2 million beneficiaries of the support programme

A OUR CORRESPONDENT
ISLAMABAD

Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has finally closed down three schemes — Waseela-e-Rozgar, Waseela-e-Haq, and Waseela-e-Sehat — for its beneficiaries on the direction of the BISP Board.

The initiatives have been closed down primarily due to their weak design, fragile monitoring and overlapping of efforts and resources with other federal and provincial schemes.

Currently, there are 5.2 million beneficiaries of BISP who are getting financial support of Rs4,700 on a quarterly basis and closing down of these schemes mean they would be affected in one way or the other.

One of the schemes, Waseela-e-Rozgar, was aimed at providing work opportunities for the most impoverished segment of the population. The key object of another scheme — Waseela-e-Haq— was to provide small business and entrepreneurship among underprivileged people and to promote self-employment among women beneficiaries or their nominees to improve

WASEELA-E-HAQ

0.3m

rupee loan was offered to randomly selected families

their livelihood.

The scheme aimed to provide loan amounting up to Rs300,000 to the randomly selected beneficiary families.

Under Waseela-e-Sehat scheme, BISP had launched the Group Life Insurance Scheme, covering the breadwinner of a family, with effect from the 1st of January, 2011. Under this scheme, the dependents (widows/mothers/children) of the deceased were compensated against Rs100,000 in case of natural or accidental death of the breadwinner.

Kaisar Bengali, a renowned economist, told *The Express Tribune* that he had opposed these schemes as they didn't fall under the sphere of social security. "I had told the authorities not to make BISP a micro finance bank. One will not be able to take benefit of a larger amount such as Rs500,000 if he is not trained and belongs to a poverty-stricken class," he commented.