

April 23, 2012

**BISP is performing great and noble service, Governor General of Khorasan, Dr. Mahmood Salahi**

**Khorasan is ready to expand its trade with Pakistan, Governor General Iran and Pakistan are like two families, says Madame Farzana Raja during her visit to Mashhad**

**There is a lot of potential in the area of bilateral trade, which needs to be explored by both the sides: Chairperson BISP**

Tehran: During her visit to Iran, Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP Madame Farzana Raja visited Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan Razavi. While heading a delegation, she met the Governor General of Khorasan, Dr. Mahmood Salahi. During the meeting matters of bilateral interest were discussed.



**MASHHAD: Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Madame Farzana Raja being presented a memento by Governor General of Khorasan, Dr. Mahmood Salahi. (Dated: April 23, 2012)**

Dr. Mahmood Salahi appreciated the work of BISP, which is targeted to helping the poor and marginalized segments of society. He was of the view that BISP is doing a great and noble service similar to the one done by Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation in Iran.

He added further that Pakistan and Iran are two brotherly countries who not only share common borders but also share the same religion, culture and even language in certain parts. We have very friendly relations which are improving with every day.

Speaking on the occasion Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP Madame Farzana Raja said that Iran and Pakistan are like two families. She said that we have very good economic, cultural, and political relations which we need to develop further. Considering our geographical proximity, she said, our bilateral trade needs to be extended further.

While emphasizing upon the need for expedient growth in the bilateral trade, Madame Farzana Raja said that we need to work on the pace of growth of our bilateral trade because the marginalized and poor people of Pakistan have already suffered and waited a lot for the trickling down effect of economic development.

Responding to the suggestion of Federal Minister, the Governor General expressed his willingness to readily start trade with Pakistan; he said that Khorasan province is ready to import many products from Pakistan including barley, soya, mutton etc.

He also suggested that BISP and IKRF should exchange experts to learn from each others' experience of social protection in both the countries. Federal Minister informed the Governor General that BISP is already working on these lines and both parties are keen to help each other.

Dr. Mahmood Salahi expressed his condolence and sympathies for the recent air crash in Islamabad. He prayed for the souls of deceased and wished the bereaved families patience to bear their loss.

Mr. Muhammad Sher Khan, the Secretary BISP and Qazi Habib-ur-Rehman Councilor General of Pakistan in Mashhad were also present in the meeting.