

Dated: Apr 21, 2012

## **Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP Madame Farzana Raja holds important Meetings with Iranian Vice President and top officials in Tehran**

**Vice President of Iran Mr. Saeed Loo congratulated Chairperson BISP for her untiring and noble work through BISP**

**President Ahmadinejad's Advisor on Women Affairs finalized to sign an MoU with BISP towards Mutual Cooperation for Women Empowerment**

**Iran's Sitting Interior Minister and the head of Crisis Management Center has emphasized to Route Iran's Flood Disaster Relief Efforts in Pakistan through BISP**

Tehran ( ): On the first day of an all important three days' visit to Iran, Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Madame Farzana Raja, while leading a high powered BISP delegation, held important meetings with top Iranian Government officials today. Issues of mutual interests of both sides were discussed during various meetings and Iran agreed on extending mutual cooperation with BISP in various social sector and humanitarian avenues.



Tehran: Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP Madame Farzana Raja giving BISP souvenirs to (from left to right) Vice President of Iran Mr. Saeed Loo, Advisor to the President Ahmadinejad on Women and Family Affairs, Khanum Maryam Mojtahedzadeh, and Mr. Aaqay Ghadami, Sitting Interior Minister and the Head of Crisis Management Center of Iran. (Dated: Apr 21, 2012)

Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP Madame Farzana Raja held a meeting with the Vice President of Iran on International Affairs Mr. Saeed Loo during which various avenues of cooperation were explored to bring both brotherly countries even closer. Iranian Vice President termed the relationship between both the countries old and deep rooted and said that both of our nations have skills and capabilities to develop. He further added that both of our countries are full of natural as well as human resource and we should put our hand together in building a long term friendship between both the nations leading us to the path of progress, peace and prosperity. The Vice President also congratulated Madame Farzana Raja for her untiring efforts

for the empowering the women of Pakistan and expressed the hope that Iranian organizations, in collaboration with BISP, would do a lot more for the welfare of people.

During her meeting with, Advisor to the Iranian President on Women and Family Affairs and Head of Women Affairs Center of Iran, Khanum Maryam Mojtahedzadeh, the Advisor to the Iranian President appreciated the good work done by BISP for improving the fate of underprivileged and marginalized segments of society. During the meeting it was decided mutually to sign an MOU with BISP for extending mutual cooperation and collaboration for empowering the under-privileged women in Pakistan.

Khanum Maryam Mojtahedzadeh appreciated BISP's idea for making the family as centerpiece of its interventions and also empowering the poor families through women and giving self respect and dignity to whole family. She also said that BISP is completing the mission of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, a mission for which the great leader sacrificed even her life.

Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP Madame Farzana Raja also held a meeting with Mr. Aaqay Ghadami, Sitting Interior Minister of Iran and the Head of State's Crisis Management Center. Crisis Management Center of the Interior Ministry of Iran has also agreed to route its disaster relief efforts for floods in Pakistan through BISP while considering the outreach, transparency and efficiency of the programme.

Mr. Ghadami, appreciated the efforts of BISP by saying that it's the vulnerable who are the first to be affected by any manmade or natural disaster and by helping their recovery, BISP is doing a great service for humanity.

Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP Madame Farzana Raja assured him of all possible cooperation from BISP as it will not only strengthen the relationship between the two brotherly countries but will also benefit the most deserving people.

All top level Iranian dignitaries including Vice President Mr. Saeed Loo, Khanum Mojtahedzadeh, Advisor to the Iranian President and Mr. Ghadami, sitting Interior Minister of Iran offered their condolences for the bereaved families of the victims of tragic air crash in Islamabad on Friday.

Secretary BISP Muhammad Sher Khan and Pakistan's Ambassador in Iran Mr. Khalid Aziz Baber were also present during the meetings.

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