

Feb 28, 2012

## **Benazir Sehat Card a major step towards welfare state: Prime Minister**

### **Chairperson of BISP calls on the Prime Minister**

Islamabad ( ): Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani is expected to launch Benazir Sehat Card, a cashless card under BISP in Faisalabad by the end of March, 2012 which will provide health insurance upto Rs 25000 per family for the 90,000/- poorest of the poor families consisting of 550,000 individuals.

The Prime Minister appreciated the scheme and said that the redressal of the health problems of the poor would be a leap forward to alleviate poverty as these are the cause and effect of each other.



**ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Madame Farzana Raja Briefs Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on BISP's Health Insurance Programme to be launched next month in Faisalabad (Feb 28, 2012)**

The Prime Minister directed the Chairperson, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) to roll out this scheme throughout the country extending coverage to the six million families who have been benefiting from the BISP since its launching.

The Prime Minister said that the health insurance coverage to the downtrodden section of society was a major stride towards making Pakistan a welfare state, and BISP would prove as a catalyst to achieve that cherished goal.

Earlier, the Chairperson of the BISP, Madame Farzana Raja apprised the Prime Minister about the Benazir Sehat Card. She said that the list of the deserving families had been prepared on the basis of poverty census which is perceived as the most credible source of data.

The Chairperson said that the scheme focused on the mother and child health care because they are the most vulnerable and prone to diseases due to age and gender.

The Chairperson said that the premium of Sehat Card will be paid by BISP like its life insurance programme, adding that 2.5 million people have been benefiting from the scheme.

Madame Farzana Raja further said that BISP's Health Insurance Programme is first of its kind in the history of the country and will provide support to millions of beneficiary families to tackle the catastrophic impacts of health related issues. The programme is initially launched in Faisalabad which will be rolled over to all over the country later, she added.