

26<sup>TH</sup> March, 2012

**Benazir Income Support Programme, The World Bank and Economic Affairs Division signed Financing and Project agreements for provision of \$ 150m for BISP.**

**Country Director World Bank, Rachid Benmessaoud congratulated Chairperson BISP Mrs. Farzana Raja on receiving Hilal e Imtiaz**

**This award is a due recognition of Mrs. Farzana Raja's leadership and contribution in making BISP an objective, transparent and technology based institution, Country Director World Bank, Rachid Benmessaoud**

**Chairperson BISP Mrs. Farzana Raja thanked the World Bank for its continued technical and financial support; expressed resolve to serve underprivileged segments transparently and on a fast track.**

**Country Director World Bank, Rachid Benmessaoud said that in accordance with international standards BISP has introduced the systems of self-accountability.**

**Waseela e Taleem initiative is launched to send 3 million out-of-school children to school**

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank has signed an agreement to provide Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) \$ 150 million to support Waseela-e-Taleem Scheme of BISP, which aims at imparting education to 3 million children of 6 million beneficiary families of the programme across Pakistan. Two financing and project agreements in this regard have been signed between the Benazir Income Support Programme, the World Bank and Economic Affairs Division. Waseela-e-Taleem initiative of BISP is being launched to provide incentive of Rs.200 per child per month, up to maximum of three children per family, for sending them to school. BISP is collaborating with various provincial governments to start enrolling BISP beneficiaries' children who are unable to attend school due to poor socio-economic conditions of their families.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Madame Farzana Raja, Country Director World Bank (WB), Mr. Rachid Benmessaoud and Secretary Economic Affairs Division (EAD), Mr. Waqar Masood signing the agreements between BISP, WB and EAD here at Economic Affairs Division. (Dated: March 26, 2012)

Mr. Rachid Benmessaoud speaking on the occasion, congratulated Chairperson BISP, Madame Farzana Raja on receiving Hilal-e-Imtiaz, which is one of the most prestigious civilian awards in Pakistan. The Country Director of the World Bank said that “I believe this award is a due recognition of her leadership and contributions in making BISP an objective, transparent, and technology based national safety net system”. While appreciating the technology based operations of BISP country director World Bank highlighted further that BISP has an independent management board, a comprehensive programme MIS, and has recently launched a grievance redressal system to assist beneficiaries in speedy resolution of their complaints. Highlighting the transparency of BISP he said that measures like third party evaluations, spot checks, and audits are strengthening the control and accountability of the programme. Mr. Rachid Benmessaoud further added that introduction of Benazir Smart/Debit card of BISP has ensured technology driven payment to the BISP beneficiaries.

Madame Farzana Raja on the occasion thanked the World Bank, on behalf of the Government of Pakistan, for its continued technical and financial assistance to BISP. She added that BISP is committed to provide benefits to its beneficiary families on fast track and in a transparent and effective manner. She said that BISP aims to curb poverty through promoting education among the under privileged segments of society and Waseela-e-Taleem initiative would contribute significantly in this regard.



**ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Madame Farzana Raja, Country Director World Bank (WB), Mr. Rachid Benmessaoud and Secretary Economic Affairs Division (EAD), Mr. Waqar Masood at the occasion of the signing of agreements between BISP, WB and EAD here at Economic Affairs Division. (Dated: March 26, 2012)**

Country Director Mr. Rachid Benmessaoud appreciated the self accountability systems of BISP, which have contributed further in the transparency of the programme. He said that the state of the art mechanisms adopted by BISP are being appreciated world over and the programme has set new precedents in the social sector. He further said that the Bank will continue providing assistance to BISP, furthermore other development partners like DFID and ADB are also considering using the common framework for their support to BISP being the flagship safety net initiative of the Government.

Addressing on the occasion, Secretary Economic Affairs Division Mr. Waqar Masood also appreciated the various initiatives of BISP. Speaking about its technology based

transparent systems Mr. Waqar Masood said that BISP is sighted as the international best practices, all over the world.