

**Islamabad: October 19, 2012**

### **Asian Development Bank delegation meets the Prime Minister**

Islamabad ( ): Diemer-Basha Dam is a project of great national importance over which there is a national consensus and all the stakeholders have endorsed it. This was stated by the Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf while talking to a six members' delegation comprising Board of Directors of Asian Development Bank (ADB) led by Mr. Maurin Sitours who called on him at the Prime Minister House, this afternoon.



**Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf talking to a delegation of ADB Board of Directors at PM House, Islamabad on November 19, 2012.**

The Prime Minister said that ADB has been a very reliable partner of Pakistan. It has extended technical and financial assistance to Pakistan in many development projects, Pakistan greatly values the co-operation extended by ADB, said the Prime Minister. “It is my earnest desire that we should concentrate on a few strategic projects so that they can be completed in time and yield results”, said the Prime Minister.

The leader of the ADB delegation informed the Prime Minister that his delegation had useful discussion with Pakistan’s financial team. Mr. Maurin Sitours also informed the Prime Minister that he would convey to the President of ADB Pakistan’s interest in Diemer-Basha Dam. The Prime Minister said that Diemer-Basha Dam would not only provide additional water storage capacity but also produce cheap electricity.

The leader of the ADB delegation also praised the government of Pakistan for successfully running Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

The Prime Minister said that BISP is government’s flagship programme which is aimed at targeting the poorest of the poor. BISP, he said has recently launched new projects and is a major tool of government to address poverty.

Minister of Finance Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, Federal Minister/Chairperson BISP, Madame Farzana Raja and Senior officials were also present during the meeting.