



One Voice of Workers

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GDP Growth Reduction, High Interest Rates Will Cause Unemployment: ILO

Lahore, Jan 14: The representative of the Geneva based International Labour Organisation (ILO) for Policy Integration Dr. Muazzam Mahmood has warned that reduction in annual GDP growth rate from six percent to three percent and higher bank interest rates would cause unemployment and discourage investment in industry and agriculture sectors in Pakistan.

He was addressing the two-day tripartite national seminar on the subject "International financial crisis & its impact and policy responses in Pakistan," organised by Pakistan Workers Federation (PWF) here on Tuesday. The ILO representative called upon the international financial institutions like International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (WB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to help the developing countries to overcome the ill effects of the current financial crisis.

He said the rich countries and the financial institutions should extend assistance to the poor countries for job

creation and poverty alleviation through significant increase in GDP growth rate. Addressing the inaugural session, ILO Director for Pakistan Doinglin Li said that ILO promotes "decent work" for the workers in a state of equity, freedom, dignity and security. "It is extending technical assistance for skill development and elimination of child and bonded labour in close co-operation with the United Nations and its specialised agencies" he added.

Earlier, president Employers Federation of Pakistan, Punjab region, Mian Tajamal Hussain stated that the ongoing electricity and gas load shedding has seriously affected the local industries and export, forcing lay off of millions of workers and closure of thousands of industrial units in the country. He called upon the government to take immediate measures for overcoming the energy crisis and uninterrupted running of the industrial units. Veteran labour leader Khurshid Ahmad and president Pakistan Work-

ers Federation (PWF) Chaudhary Talib Nawaz said the work force has been greatly hit by the global financial crisis and law and order situation in the country. They argued that bankruptcy of some USA financial institutions had exposed the capitalist system of free market economy, based on unchecked greed of profit in the absence of any international financial regulatory framework.

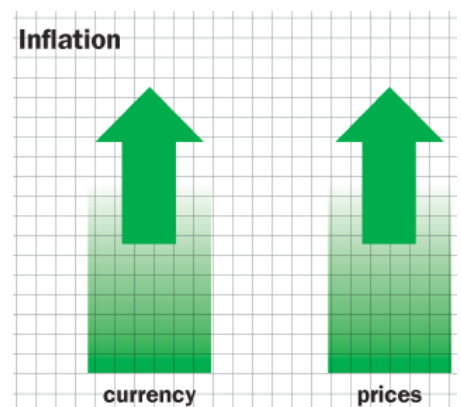
They warned that if the government did not overcome the load-shedding of electricity and gas and did not adopted policies to control unemployment, then there would be devastating social upheavals in the country. Secretary Labour and Human Resources Punjab Abdul Rauf said the government had raised minimum wages for the semi-skilled and skilled workers. "The government would ensure implementation of labour laws and elimination of abuse of child and bonded labour in the province" he added.

PWF Observed Demands Day 2009 All Over The Country

Lahore, Jan 19: Large rallies and processions of the working class were held on 19th January, 2008 all over the country for observing protest day in support of the demands of the workers under the aegis of Pakistan Workers Federation in order to press the Government to take special measures to check rising unemployment of the workers on account of serious load shedding and unbridle price hike and amend anti-labour provisions contained in Industrial Relations Act, 2008 and need to bring it in confor-

mity with ILO Conventions Nos.87 and 98 and enforce all labour legislation affectively through independent labour inspection machinery in conformity with ILO Convention No.81 ratified by the Government of Pakistan.

These processions were taken out in Pehsawar, Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Hyderabad, Faisalabad, Sukkur, Quetta, Gujranwala and other major cities of the country. The electronic and print media gave wide coverage to this event.



Pakistan Workers' Federation (PWF) - Newsletter

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Pakistan Workers Federation Held Rally Before Parliament Of Pakistan

Lahore, Jan 22: A mass procession of workers was taken out in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, on 22nd January, 2009 under the aegis of Pakistan Workers Federation which was participated by workers representatives of

various affiliated trade unions including Capital Development Authority Mazdoor Union CBA. The workers marched up to the Parliament House where they held a mass rally urging the Government of Pakistan to get

implemented the agreement reached between the CDA Mazdoor Union and the management as well as other demands of the workers. The national press gave wide coverage to this event.

Traders Held Rally To Condemn Israeli Aggression

Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Electric Central Labour Union CBA representing more than 1,60,000 WAPDA workers all over the country has entered into settlement with WAPDA Authority

which contain various fringe benefits for the workers of various categories employed in Hydel Power Stations and Common Services and Water

Projects all over the country. The settlement would benefit thousands of workers employed in various parts of the country.

Pakistan Workers Federation Has Asked The Provincial Government Of Punjab To Get Enforced The Provisions Of Punjab Social Security Laws In Letter And Spirit

Pakistan Workers Federation has asked the Provincial Government of Punjab to get fully implemented the provisions of Punjab Employees So-

cial Security Institution bringing all the registered workers within purview of the said law since number of workers who are entitled for medical facilities

is far less than the number of workers employed in various industrial and commercial institutions.

PWF Flays Power, Gas Load Shedding

Lahore, Jan 02: A meeting of the representatives of Pakistan Workers Federation was held at Bakhtiar Labour Hall on Friday.

Ch. Talib Nawaz President, Osama Tariq Deputy General Secretary, Hassan Munir Bhatti, Muhammad Usman, Rana Muhammad Khalid and

other representatives of the Federation addressed the meeting.

On the occasion, Khurshid Ahmed, General Secretary of the Pakistan Workers Federation through a resolution urged the government to take measures to allocate adequate resources for development of the indus-

try.

He said that the violent protests all over the country should be an eye-opener for those who were sitting at the helm of affairs because it was just the beginning and it could take an ugly turn n coming days.