



PERMANENT MISSION OF BANGLADESH  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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FAX MESSAGE

To : Principal Information Officer, PID, Dhaka.  
From : First Secretary  
Date : 6 March 2007

May I forward herewith the following with a request for arranging appropriate coverage.

*Ishrat J. Ahmed*  
Ishrat J. Ahmed

PRESS RELEASE

New York, 6 March 2007:

Ms. Geeteara Safiya Choudhury, Adviser for Women and Children Affairs, Industries, Textile and Jute and Social Welfare to the Bangladesh Caretaker Government stated that women's empowerment was essential for political stability and sustainable development, and any accountable government must ensure the improvement of women's social, economic and political status. This was a key aspect in strengthening democracy and maintaining its proper functioning, she added.

She was speaking in a thematic debate in the United Nations General Assembly on gender equality and empowerment of women on Tuesday.

The Adviser said 'The Bangladesh government has given a high priority to girls' education. Since 1993 primary education is free for all children with a special focus on girl child. Since 2002 education is free for girls upto Grade XII.' She also mentioned that Bangladesh had achieved gender parity in enrollment at the primary and secondary levels. She enumerated various measures being adopted in the country in achieving gender equality. She informed the world body that by use of microcredit Bangladeshi women had become economically empowered and that had led them to political empowerment. She also mentioned women's role and participation in national politics, local government, civil service, judiciary, armed forces, peacekeeping, entrepreneurship and so on.

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