



PERMANENT MISSION OF BANGLADESH  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

227 East, 45<sup>th</sup> Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 867-3434 • Fax: (212) 972-4038 • E-mail: [bangladesh@un.int](mailto:bangladesh@un.int)  
Web site: [www.un.int/bangladesh](http://www.un.int/bangladesh)

FAX MESSAGE

To : Principal Information Officer, PID, Dhaka.  
From : First Secretary  
Date : 7 March 2007

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

*Salam* —

*Ishrat Ahmed*

Ishrat J. Ahmed

PRESS RELEASE

New York, 7 March 2007:

Ms. Geeteara Safiya Choudhury, Adviser for Women and Children Affairs, Industries, Textile and Jute and Social Welfare to the Bangladesh Caretaker Government had a meeting with the President of the General Assembly, Ms. Haya Rashed Al Khalifa at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on Wednesday morning.

The Adviser explained to the President how the girls' education was given high priority by the Government of Bangladesh. She apprised the President how Bangladesh has managed to empower her women through microcredit and non-formal education. She also enumerated various measures that are being adopted to end violence against women. She also discussed with the President about the recently established 'Poverty Eradication Fund' in the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and its modality of use.

The President deeply appreciated the role of the Government in promoting gender equality and women empowerment. She suggested that Bangladesh should be eligible to have its programmes financed by the Fund. For this the Government has to submit to the Bank suitable projects. The President assured the Adviser that she would use her good offices to expedite release of resources once the programmes are approved.

Later the Adviser had a meeting with the UNIFEM Executive Director Ms. Noeleen Heyzer at the UN Headquarters. They exchanged their views on how UNIFEM's activities could be useful in Bangladesh. The Adviser asked the UNIFEM Director to strengthen their office in Dhaka with adequate resources and broaden the partnership with the Government.

Among those present in these occasions was the Acting Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, Mr. Mohammad Ali Sorcar. The Adviser also attended a panel discussion on 'empowerment of women including microfinance' held on the second day of the thematic debate in the United Nations General Assembly on promoting gender equality and empowerment of women.

\*\*\*\*\*