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Bangladesh committed to empowerment of women

Minister tells UNGA special session

Bangladesh is committed to empower women and work for their betterment, reports BSS.

"We pledge ourselves to achieve gender equality and make the world a better place for women in the new millennium" State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Professor Zinatun Nesa Talukdar told UN General Assembly on Monday during her speech at the 23rd special session of the world body at New York.

The General Assembly's weeklong special session began Monday morning. Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General made the opening statement and Theo Ben Guireb of Namibia, President of the General Assembly also elected as president of the present special session, made the opening remarks.

The special session will review the success and failure in

implementing a five year old programme called "Beijing Platform for Action." A large number of delegations from 188 countries are in New York to attend the special session. The session will also consider further actions and initiatives for achieving gender equality, development and peace for new millennium.

Prof Zinatun Nesa Talukdar, who is heading 24-member Bangladesh delegation, in her statement emphasised on the need for coordinated efforts by UN system to extend support to government initiatives with particular attention to the least developed countries.

She further said, "while primary responsibility is placed on national governments to implement the Beijing PFA, the international community, the UN system and other international organisations as well as the civil society must complement national and global efforts for women's empowerment."

While outlining the activities undertaken by the present government to implement the commitment made in Beijing Conference, she said that under the leadership of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina the government has made sincere and all out efforts to implement the commitments to empower women and achieve gender equality. She renewed Bangladesh's commitment made in Beijing.

The Minister further informed UNGA that Bangladesh has already undertaken a number of measures to achieve goals of equality, peace and development for women. Those areas are education to women, women's right to health, violence against women, participation

of women in politics, special focus on the girl child, house for homeless women, old age pension for vulnerable group and institutional mechanism for implementing the commitments made in Beijing.



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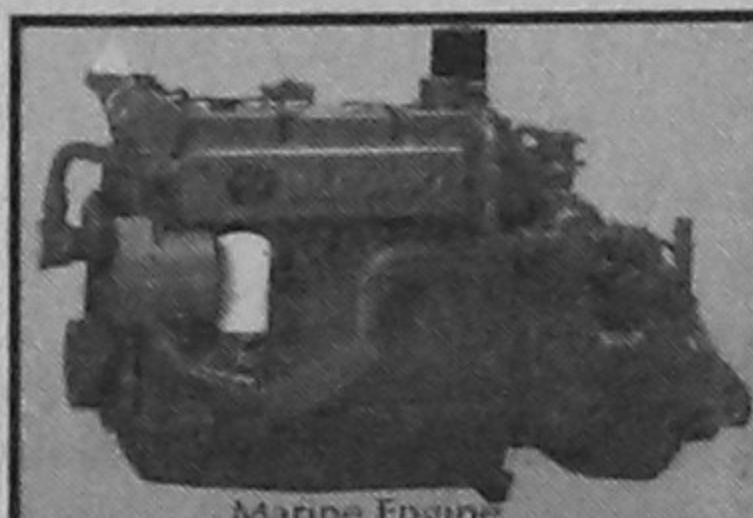
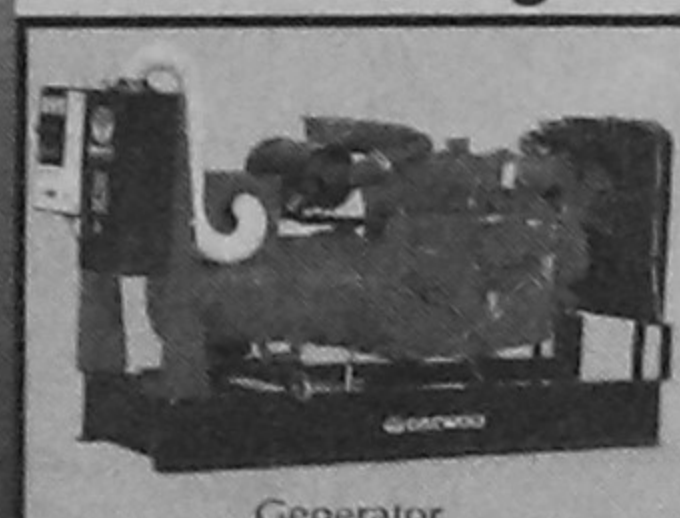
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STUDY IN USA

CAMBRIDGE FOUNDATION announces with pleasure for an exclusive Seminar of Andrew College, Georgia, USA to be held at the Banquet Hall of Chitra, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka on Friday, the 9th of June 2000 at 8:30am sharp.

Dr. Kirk Treible, President of Andrew College and Mr. Brad Parrish, Director of admissions & financial aids arriving Dhaka, on the 5th of June to address the students attending the Seminar. Dr. Treible and Mr. Brad Parrish will, however, interview some of the meritorious students and will grant them on the spot admission for the Fall 2000 and Spring 2001 Semesters.

Meritorious Students with good grades in 'O' Level and 1st divisions in SSC and HSC having a minimum of 500 TOEFL scores, interested for higher studies in the United States with lowest tuition, room and boarding fees and higher financial aids must bring along relevant transcripts and mark sheets, letter of recommendations, Bank Solvency Certificates and TOEFL score sheets in original or duly attested by a notary public for the spot admissions. The business session will last for 2 1/2 hours and then after light refreshments Dr. Treible and Mr. Brad Parrish will proceed with the interviews and spot admissions.

Competent male and female students willing to avail this rare opportunity must register their names & particulars well in advance over telephone or e-mails for reservation of seats to the following address.

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Trade Operations Staff / Officers

Trade Operations Staff / Officers will be recruited for the Dhaka branch. Applicants should be graduates with good academic records. Preference will be given to applicants having at least two-three years of relevant work experience. Candidates are expected to have thorough knowledge of LC operations, Export Bill Negotiation, Remittances, UCP and Bangladesh Bank regulations. The applicant should be willing to join at short notice. A graduate degree is considered a minimum qualification.

Any attempts at canvassing on behalf of a candidate will immediately disqualify the candidate from being eligible for being evaluated for any of these positions. Applications with envelopes clearly marked for the position applied should be sent to Box No. A-1452 The Daily Star on or before 14th June 2000.

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Metropolitan

Electoral law reform

FEMA launches signature campaign

By Staff Correspondent

Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) launched a signature collection campaign and collected about 22,000 signatures from the National Stadium area in favour of electoral law reform.

The volunteers of FEMA collected the signatures during the on-going Pepsi Asia Cup cricket tournament.

FEMA would also collect signatures from other places of Dhaka city and the volunteers have already started collecting signatures from different districts, says a press release.

FEMA has sought support from all quarters to implement the recommendations for electoral law reform.

Music lessons at Alliance Francaise de Dhaka

Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will begin music lessons on flute and vocal training in folk and classical songs at its premises from July 1, says a press release.

Classes will be conducted by renowned flutist Bari Siddique. Those interested have been requested to contact Alliance Francaise.

Govt trying to make parliament centre of all activities: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said her government is working hard to make Parliament a centre of all national activities and the parliamentary system powerful and accountable, reports UNB.

She made the remarks when a parliamentary delegation of Malaysia led by its Speaker Tun Mohammad Zahir Bin Hajee Ismael called on her in Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

Hasina apprised the delegation of the formation of parliamentary standing committees headed by a member instead of minister and introduction of the Prime Minister's question-hour to make the government activities more transparent and accountable to the people.

The Prime Minister said democracy could not function for last two decades when people were denied their voting rights. She said democracy and right to franchise were restored after a long struggle.

The Malaysian Speaker explained to her how parliament functions in Malaysia.

He also renewed the invitation of the Malaysian Prime Minister to Sheikh Hasina to visit Kuala Lumpur. Hasina said because of severe flood in 1998, she could not make any time to visit Malaysia. However, she accepted the invitation and hoped it would take place at a convenient time.

Principal Secretary to Prime Minister DR S A Samad, Parliament Secretary Manzur-e-Mowla and the Malaysian High Commissioner in Bangladesh were present in the meeting.



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AUSTRALASIA INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY (IN COLLABORATION WITH SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVT.)

Australasia Institute of Business and Technology (AIBT) an institute of higher learning established under an agreement between the ATL Foundation, Bangladesh and TAFE-programme of the South Australian government is going to open its doors to students in early August. Students studying at the institute located at a pleasant site in Banani in a fully air-conditioned space will enjoy the benefit of learning under highly qualified Bangladeshi teachers trained in Australia and under occasional visiting staff from the island-continent. Imparting tertiary level education, the institute aims at formation of high-quality professionals. All certificates and diplomas will be awarded by the TAFE, South Australian government. The courses to be offered in the ensuing semester are the following :

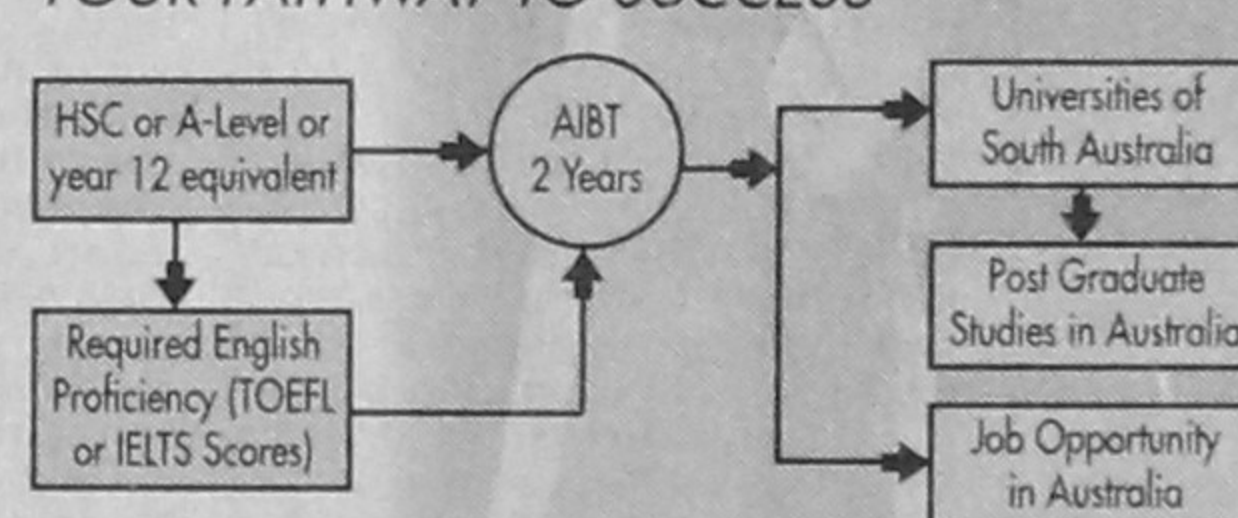
- Information Technology
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- English Language Proficiency

Students after having completed their studies at AIBT can get their credits transferred to South Australian Universities specially to the University of South Australia and continuing their studies there can get University degrees within a shorter time. This will save both time and money.

Application forms for admission and other necessary papers will be available between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. on all working days from 10 June to 9 July.

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