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Khaleda signs UNESCO statement

BEIJING, Sept. 4:—Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today put her signature to the UNESCO statement on women's contribution to a culture of peace in a simple ceremony at her Beijing hotel suite, reports BSS.

The statement will be presented to the UNESCO's member states at the 28th session of general conference in November with the intent to integrate its commitments in UNESCO's medium-term strategy 1996-2001.

The UNESCO statement would help further strengthening the UN goals through creative ways of transforming the culture of violence into a culture of peace..

The statement is simultaneously being submitted to women presidents, prime ministers, nobel laureates and heads of UN organisations.

UNESCO's Director General Federico Mayor, Foreign Secretary Farook Sobhan, Secretary to the

See Page 16 Col. 5

Khaleda signs

From Page 1 Col. 5

Prime Minister Abdullah Harun Pasha were also present on the occasion.

Ceremonial reception accorded to leaders

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and other leaders attending the fourth world conference on women were accorded a ceremonial reception here today at the Great Hall of the People.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin received Begum Zia, Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Iceland President Mrs Vigdis Finnbogadottir, and other leaders at Beijing's Great Hall. They exchanged greetings and had brief discussions.

Banquet

Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and other leaders who are now participating in the UN sponsored fourth world conference on women, tonight attended a banquet at Beijing state guest house, hosted by Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin received the special guests. Besides Begum Zia, Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Iceland President Vigdis Finnbogadottir, Uganda Vice-President Dr Speciosa Kazibwe, Vietnam Vice-President Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, UN Under Secretary General Ismat Kittani, Chairman of the conference Chan Mohua and Conference Secretary General Mrs Gertrude Mongella also attended the banquet.