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Recruitment of 50,000 primary teachers likely this year

Adviser for Finance Dr A B Mirza Azizul Islam on Wednesday said the government is planning to recruit 50,000 primary school teachers this year and 60 percent of them would be women, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at the launching of a skill development project for women entrepreneurs titled 'design on diversification' at a city hotel, the finance adviser said the government is relentlessly working for the emancipation of women.

He said women make up half of the country's population and the dream of a poverty free nation cannot be achieved without their socio-economic empowerment. "We have to travel a long way to achieve that goal and the women should be on board the train."

Head of the Delegation of the

European Commission Ambassador Stefan Frowein, British Deputy High Commissioner Duncan Norman and Project Director Jonathan Webber also spoke on the occasion. President of the Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI) Salima Ahmed presented the keynote.

The project was launched jointly by Lyon Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Silk Association of Nepal and the BWCCI.

The aim of the project is to promote skills of the country's women entrepreneurs in promoting design, colours and other expressions of products to upgrade their quality to make them attractive to buyers in the global

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Recruitment

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market.

The project is being implemented at a cost of 450,000 euros covering activities over two years. Stefan Frowin said the European Union would continue to provide technical assistance to the country's women entrepreneurs with a view to promoting skills and their access to global market.

The finance adviser said the government is spending 20 to 25 percent of the overall budgetary allocations to support women's activities and promote the quality of their life.

He said an educated girl can educate a whole family. Referring to a Chinese proverb, he said, "If you want returns from investment in one year, invest in crop, if you want it in 10 years, put the money in tree plantation and if you want to enjoy the benefit over hundred years, invest in the development of women."

Pointing to progress in school enrolment, he said boys and girls have achieved parity at the primary level and they are closer at the secondary and higher levels. He said women are the better manager of funds as their repayment record of microcredit is better than men.

Mirza Aziz said the government has SMEs fund, equity development funds and such other funds, besides special loans from banks and other financial institutions targeted to women.

Since women are better credit worthy, they should be given loans by banks and financial institutions for their own interest, he said.

He hoped that the new project funded by the European Union would help improve the capacity of the country's women entrepreneurs to promote their exportables in the global market.