METROPOLITAN/NEWS

The Daily Star

Empowering women helps fight extremism

Prof Yunus tells journalists in Ankara

AFP. Ankara

Reducing poverty among women is crucial in fighting religious fundamentalism, said Prof Muhammad Yunus, the internationally acclaimed pioneer of microfinancing for the poor, yesterday.

Prof Yunus is the founder and managing director of Grameen Bank, which has provided tiny loans to 56 lakh impoverished people, 96 per cent of them for self-employment in women. rural Bangladesh.

"One relationship we see at Grameen Bank very directly is that the more women get empowered, fundamentalism has lesser and lesser a chance," Prof Yunus told a press conference during a visit to Ankara

The US-educated economist. who developed the microcredit concept and then established Grameen Bank in 1983, explained

that borrowers were not only advised on how to start a small business, but encouraged to vote to make their voices heard by politicians

As a result of more women voting, he said, fundamentalist political forces suffered significant losses in the 1996 parliamentary

elections in Bangladesh. Yunus stressed that the microfinancing system for the poorest of the poor was also an effective tool in fighting terrorism

The basic root of terrorism is poverty, ignorance and lack of education. Terrorism basically comes from the sense of injustice, he said. "Microcredit brings hope that I can build my own life ... that I can walk out of the darkness. "To the extent that economic

injustice is removed, the breeding ground for terrorism is reduced," he Since Prof Yunus's micro-

financing concept was introduced in Turkey's poorest region, the mainly Kurdish southeast, in 2003, some 3,200 women have been granted loans of 500 to 3,000 New Turkish Lira (340 to 2,030 dollars) so far.

One of Prof Yunus's best-known initiatives is the 'telephone ladies' project, under which women borrowers buy a mobile phone and then sell telephone services in villages where, in most cases, this service never existed before.

A 1998 World Bank study said five per cent of Grameen Bank borrowers move out of poverty each year

Prof Yunus said the money the proposed dialogue on electoral available for micro-financing was reforms. Such attitude clearly still insufficient due to lack of initiaindicates that the party has no tive in creating financial institutions commitment to democracy, he as well as the absence in many added. countries of legal bases and regulatory bodies for such lending.

Nurul Islam Moni MP, Mostofa Kamal Majumdar, editor of The New Nation, Gaziul Hasan Khan, managing director of BSS, Mir Kashem Ali Abdul Kader Molla, Rafiqul Islam Khan, Sadek Khan and Gias Kamal

'Electoral

reforms issues

can be settled

thru' dialogue'

Issues regarding electoral reforms

can be settled through a national

dialogue involving all political par-

Ahmed at a roundtable yesterday.

within 90 days after any government

the upcoming election.

Press Club auditorium.

"As we have constitutional

Progatishil Chetona Sangsad

organised the roundtable titled

'Proposal for caretaker government

reform and some thoughts on

dictate who should be on the com-

mittee of the four-party alliance for

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chowdhury also spoke. Barrister Abdur Razzak moder ated the roundtable while Hannan Shah presided.

SUST student killing protested

DU CORRESPONDENT

Different student organisations and working bodies protested killing of Shahjalal University student Mosharraf Hossain Shamim by police and demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the culprits on Dhaka University (DU) campus yesterday amid processions and rallies.

Shamim, a student of business administration of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), was shot by police on Friday night and succumbed to his injuries on Sunday.

Progotishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ), a combine of left wing student organisations, and Jatiya Chhatra Dhara brought out separate processions and held separate rallies on DU campus yesterday demanding punishment to policemen responsible for firing on Shamim and compensation for treatment of those who were injured on the day by police firing.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) in a press release condemned the killing of Shamim and demanded punishment to the culprit.



UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya Ahmed Obaid calls on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.

DU student succumbs to injuries

DU CORRESPONDENT

Mobarak Hossain, son of Golam Rabbani, hailed from Raipura thana student of the Department of Management, was seriously injured in head as a running bus hit him on

However, duty doctors refused to

moraue As the death news of Mobarak spread around the campus, a group of agitated students rushed to Shahbagh intersection and tried to block the roads but police prevented them. So no damage or casualties

With the death of Mobarak, a total of seven DU students died in road accidents in the last seven years on or around the campus roads

and were with the body of Mobarak. His namaz-e-ianaza was held at he DU central mosque after Maghrib

breakers at Shahbagh intersection

mediately Meanwhile, different student organisations including Bangladesh Chhatra League and Bangladesh Chhatra Union expressed deep shock at the death of Mobarak.

3 killed in road accidents STAR REPORT

At least three people were killed and nine others injured in separate road accidents in two districts yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Narayanganj reports: Two people, including a police havildar, were killed and seven others injured in two separate road accidents in

Narayanganj yesterday. Havildar Abul Hossain was killed and three other policemen were injured when a truck hit a police van on Link Road at Jalkuri area.

relative of Mobarak. In another accident, a passenger of a three-wheeler, was killed on the after helping his father in agriculspot and four others were injured ture," he said adding that Mobarak when a truck hit a tempo at Keodala lost his mother at his early age. area vesterdav.

The dead was identified as Shahabuddin.

Shafin told this correspondent that Our Correspondent from Mobarak studied accounting at Chandpur adds: A truck driver was Chittagong University for one year, killed on the spot and two others but left due to financial hardship. were injured in a road accident on "He got admitted to Dhaka Chandpur-Comilla road near Waruk Bazar under Shahrasti upazila in the University so that he can continue his study by providing tuition in his district yesterday. The dead was identified as truck free time as his father was unable to driver Nabi Hossain, 33. bear the cost." Shafin added

UNFPA proud of Bangladesh's success in health, social sectors

Thoraya tells Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

PHOTO: PID

A vendor's

shattered

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Dhaka University

afternoon

sent for autopsy.

A tragic road accident shattered

dreams of a vegetable vendor

good days when his son Mobarak

prayed for recovery of his critically

injured son, but all efforts turned

futile when doctors at Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujib Medical University

declared Mobarak dead yesterday

Despite being born in a poor

family, Mobarak did good results in

both SSC and HSC examinations

securing GPA 4.80 and GPA 4.60,

respectively, said Shafin Ahmed, a

"He had to study in spare times

of his village Raipura in Narshingdi,

dream

The visiting UNFPA executive director yesterday said the UN agency feels proud of Bangladesh's wonderful successes in social and health sectors under the leadership of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, also UN Under Secretary General, made the remarks when she had a courtesy call on prime minister at her office.

The UNFPA boss cited primary and women education, reduction of infant and maternal mortality rates, population, rural and urban health, immunisation, sanitation and gender parity as the sectors wherein the country attained remarkable successes.

She said the population agency of the United Nations, which has support to many programmes in Bangladesh, is very grateful for its wonderful success in such a good number of fields, particularly girl's education

"We are proud of it," Thoraya was quoted as saying. She remarked that they often project Bangladesh's successes as examples for others to emulate.

UNFPA has allocated 40.5 million US dollar to Bangladesh for country programme action plan 2006-2010, according to an official. Khaleda said her government

has given top priority to education, particularly women's education, which kept positive impact on a number of fields like reproductive health, women empowerment, antidowry measures, gender parity, and population.

Golam Rabbani who had dreamt of "The objective of all the programmes is to improve quality of would graduate from the life of people, and progress has Department of Management of been made to that end," Khaleda said For the last eight days Rabbani

Both the PM and the UNFPA executive director expressed identical sentiment about working together to further improve the quality of life of people.

Khaleda thanked the UNFPA top executive for its support to Bangladesh and hoped that the help would continue.

Rabbani fell unconscious at the UNFPA country representative principal's room of Dhaka Medical Sunita Mukharjee was present. College where his son's body was

Euro 9 lakh Dutch help to curb violence against women

UNB, Dhaka Talking about the brilliant student

Dutch Development Cooperation programme will provide RDRS Bangladesh with financial support for working towards the elimination of violence against women and

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan speaks at a party rally at Muktangan in the city yesterday.

MAY 9 VANDALISM Juba Sangram Parishad denies allegation STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Juba Sangram Parishad (JSP) formally denied the allegation of their over a hundred vehicles during the PDB office siege programme on May

STUDENT KIDNAP **DC** house ransacked for arrest of culprits

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoregan

appeared before the protesters and assured them of taking necesA student of Dhaka University (DU), who has been admitted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital after a road accident on May 8, succumbed to his injuries yesterday after a week

of sufferings in the incentive care unit. of Narshingdi district and a first year

the day while crossing Shahbagh intersection.

comment on the cause of Mobarak's death before autopsy report arrives from Dhaka Medical College

was reported.

Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz. Proctor Prof AK Firoz Ahmed and other senior teachers visited BSMMU

The JSP, a platform of Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition alliance's youth front, alleged that Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, ruling BNP's youth front, carried out the vandalism with the help of police only to tarnish the image of the JSP.

"It was a pre-planned drama of the alliance government only to foil the ongoing anti-government movement," Jahangir Kabir Nanak, JSP leader who is also AL backed Jubo League Chairman, said at a press conference held at its central office on Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday.

He said that Juba Dal cadre Mirza Kalu led the vandalism chanting slogans in the name of Mirza Abbas and put the blame on JSP.

Nanak also said though the Juba Dal cadres went on rampage, police filed case against their 1,500 leaders and activists.

Reading out a written statement, Nanak alleged that the lawenforcement agencies arrested at least 20 leaders in connection with the incident.

He demanded immediate release of their leaders and withdrawal of the 'false' cases.

Protesting arrest and police action on youth leaders, Nanak announced protest rallies in divisional headquarters across the country on May 20 warning tougher movement

The JSP will lay a siege to the Upazila power offices across the country tomorrow protesting ongoing power crisis

They will also lay a siege to District Election Offices on May 22 and 24 demanding cancellation of the draft voter list.

Mirza Azam MP, Nazma Rahman and Nazmul Hug Prodhan were present at the press conference

Publication of result demanded **DU CORRESPONDENT**

Masters students of political science department, Dhaka University, yesterday demanded immediate publication of their honour examination results and issued a 24-hour ultimatum.

They put department's office and classrooms under lock and key to press their demand yesterday noon and said they would go for tougher actions if their demand is not met.

Agitating students of Gurudayal Govt College attacked and ransacked the house of the deputy commissioner (DC) of the district on Sunday night demanding immediate arrest of the extortionists and

abductors at the college dormito-Over 500 students brought out

a procession on the campus at about 11:30pm on Sunday following the abduction of a student and his release after paying ransom. An extortionist Mamun and his gang kidnapped Saiful and freed him taking ransom on Sunday evening, student sources said.

The agitating students then marched to the house of the DC CM Yusuf Hussain and laid siege to the house demanding immediate arrest of the extortionist gang leaders Mamun and Russell. At about 1:00am, the protesters ransacked the DC's house. After half an hour, police reached the

spot and brought the situation under control. Later, DC Yusuf Hossain

UNB, Dhaka

said.

City/Town

Chittagong

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Cox's Bazar

Dhaka

12 hours until 6:00pm today

5:15am tomorrow.

sarv steps to arrest the criminals overnight and of setting up a permanent police camp on the college

campus. Some outsider extortionists led by Mamun and Russell had been collecting tolls from the residential students of the college for a long time, but the college authorities did not take any steps about it, stu-

dents alleged. Principal of the college Professor Badar Uddin Khan Pathan, however, said he had no knowledge of the incident adding that he had instructed the hostel supers to look into the matter.

Additional Police Super Shariful Alam, also the acting police super of the district, said that ten extortionists have been arrested immediately after the incident, adding that police forces have been deployed on the college campus.

The arrestees are Azad, Bhuttu, Amirul alias Bappi, Rabin, Kentu, Sharif, Kamal, Alam, Lal Mia and Faruq. All of them are from Harua area, adjacent to the college.

Humidity in

percentage

Evening

56

79

63

71

76 54 83

Morning

71

70

76

83

86

64

81

VEATHER o

Thundershowers likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally

wind is likely at one or two places over all the six divisions in the next

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office

Highest temperature 33.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

The sun sets in the capital at 6:34pm today and rises at

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

Mir

23.0

23.5

23.2

23.1

22.5

21.8

23.0

Temperature

in Celsius

at Bogra and lowest 21.2 degree Celsius at Rangpur.

Max

32.0

31.6

33.5

32.0

31.0

32.0

31.6

major cities and towns yesterday were:

Prof Absar Uddin passes away

BSS, Dhaka

Prof Muhammad Absar Uddin, former pro-vice-chancellor of Dhaka University (DU) and senior teacher of the Department of Sociology, passed away due to old age complications at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital yesterday at the age of 75.

He left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of students, relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Prof Absar was laid to rest at Mirpur Intellectual Martyred Graveyard after a namaz-e-janaza at Dhaka University Central Mosque after Johr prayers.

His qulkhwani will be held at his residence at Road No-8/A, House No-71 at Dhanmondi in the city on

departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Faiz, pro-vice-chancellor Prof Dr AFM Yusuf Haider and treasurer Prof Dr Syed Abul Kalam Azad also expressed their deep condolences at his death.

They conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Jahanara Begum

Jahanara Begum, director of Phoenix Insurance Company Ltd, passed away at the Birdem Hospital in the city on Sunday at the age of 63, says a press release.

She left behind her one son and five daughters to mourn her death.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at her Madhubagh residence on May 17 after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the milad and doa mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul

prayers and his father took the body to village home for burial. Students demand a foot over

bridge or an underpass and speed

PHOTO: STAR Bangladesh Jewellers' Association stages a demonstration in the city yesterday protesting frequent robberies in ewellery shops.

New Japanese envoy due

today

BSS, Dhaka

Ambassador designate of Japan to Bangladesh Masayuki Inone will arrive in Dhaka today to take up his new assignment.

A career diplomat Inone joined the Japanese ministry of foreign affairs in 1973 after his graduation from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, official sources said.

He will succeed Matsushiro Horiguchi who left Dhaka for Tokyo early this month.

protecting women's rights in northern Bangladesh. The Dutch contribution, approxi-

mately Euro 900,000, will come over a period of five years under an agreement signed between the Netherlands government and the Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Services (RDRS)

Dutch Ambassador Kees Beemsterboer and Kamaluddin Akbar, Executive Director of RDRS, signed the agreement vesterday at **RDRS** Dhaka office

"The focus of RDRS activities will be on legal and institutional initiatives for combating discrimination against women under the second phase of the LEGAL (Legal Education and Gender Aware Leadership) programme," says the agreement document

These will consist of strategic, prevention, access and referral activities such as registering births. working to prevent early marriages, creating awareness regarding prohibition of dowry and ensuring marriages are registered

The Netherlands has identified Bangladesh as one of 36 countries for developing a long-term, bilateral development cooperation relationship that began shortly after independence in 1971.

Current Netherlands assistance is focussed on social sectors like health, basic education, integrated water resources management and rural electrification with gender and governance as crosscutting themes. The annual turnover of Dutch aid in Bangladesh currently stands at Euro 50 million.

Huge polybags seized

BSS, Dhaka

A mobile court in a drive yesterday a project titled 'Involving religious leaders seized a huge quantity of polythene in human resource development shopping bags at Karwan Bazar in organised by UNFPA and the ministry of the city. religious affairs will be held. Venue: The Dhaka Metropolitan Bangladesh-China Friendship

Magistrate and the Dhaka Metropolitan Police jointly conducted the drive with the assistance of the Environment Department.

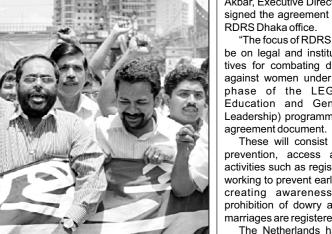
The mobile court raided eight Dhaka will be held. Venue: Pan Pacific shops and realised Tk 10,100 in fine.

Discussion Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal will hold a discussion to mark the Historic Farakka

Day. Venue: Moulana Bhashani

auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

A seminar on 'Higher study at Sunway University, Malaysia' will be held.





Conference Centre. Time: 12:30pm.

excellence in their own fields. Venue Biam auditorium. Time: 4:00pm. National council A national council of trained imams under

Venue: Planning & Development Academy, Nilkhet. Time: 11:00am.

Rotary Dhaka The regular meeting of Rotary Club of

Heritage Cultural Institute will accord a reception to people who achieved Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30pm

Seminar

Reception

May 19 after Asr prayers. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia expressed deep shock at the death of ProfAbsar. In a condolence message, she prayed for eternal peace of the

Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr SMA