

# Yunus calls for lifestyle 'traffic rule' to fight global warming

AFP, Seoul

The 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr Muhammad Yunus called yesterday for a worldwide lifestyle change, saying global warming is "a matter of life and death" for low-lying nations like his own country Bangladesh.

In a keynote speech to a symposium on climate change, Dr Yunus suggested a "traffic rule" under which products bear red, yellow or green markings to indicate the extent to which they come from renewable sources.

Prof Yunus, honoured for his

creation of the Grameen Bank which grants microcredit to the poor, said his country is bearing the brunt of climate change, with 40 percent of its land mass less than one metre (3.3 feet) above sea level.

Sea levels are rising an average three millimetres a year, he said, and Bangladesh's 150 million people are already confined to living on around 144,000 square kilometres (55,598 square miles).

"Floods and Bangladesh are becoming synonymous," Dr Yunus said, adding that their frequency and intensity are increasing year-by-year.

"For many people around the

world this is an issue of concern but for us it's an issue of life and death."

He called for global lifestyle changes to make the world a better place.

"Can we come to a decision, this simple decision globally? Each generation will make a pledge they will leave the world safer than we found it when we came to this world. I think that is the best start to make it happen."

Dr Yunus said allegations that rich countries are the polluters and developing countries the victims no longer apply since the quality of life and consumption levels are also

rising in underdeveloped countries.

"The worst part of it is, we (developing nations) are imitating the world which created pollution. So our lifestyle is imitating the lifestyle of the people who have already led the way. That is the most dangerous part of it."

Dr Yunus said the lesson was that the world could not continue a lifestyle at the cost of the planet itself.

"So we have to find a lifestyle which is consistent with our principle or decision -- we should leave the world safer than we found it."

## Efficient use can save 800MW electricity: Energy experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Energy experts at a roundtable yesterday gave energy saving through its efficient use a top priority followed by setting up coal-based power stations in the northern part of the country to meet the increased power demand and ensure energy security.

Terming corruption and mismanagement as the major obstacle for setting up new power plants in public sector, they said the government should provide private sector with finance and other facilities to set up power plants to add more power to national grid.

The roundtable styled 'Energy efficiency: Third fuel for Bangladesh' was organised jointly by Energy and Power, a fortnightly magazine, in association with German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

"No load shedding would be there if we could save 700MW to 800MW of electricity. Both the engineers and common people should think of how

we can save more energy," said Energy Adviser Tapan Chowdhury while speaking as chief guest at the roundtable.

He said a lot of gas is being misused in some industries while there is only 13.5 tcf (trillion cubic feet) of reserve that will hardly continue up to 2015.

"The other source of energy is coal, but it is very unfortunate that we could not take any decision on coal yet. If we cannot take a decision, we are going to face serious consequences in future," Tapan added.

Experts will have to make strong recommendations on coal, he said as journalists asked why the government is not taking any decision on it.

Urging all to use energy-efficient bulbs, he said a proposal has been sent to the finance ministry to import energy-saving bulbs.

In the keynote presentation, German Development Cooperation Senior Adviser Dr Khursheed-Ul-Islam said efficient use of power in thermal, electrical and even combined heat and power systems could save around 800MW of electricity.

"This is equivalent to two-power-plant capacities or deferring electric power demand growth for two years," he said, adding that application areas for efficient energy use are domestic, commercial and industrial lighting, industrial motors and power factor improvement.

The other options for future energy security are solar, bio-mass, bio-gas, wind and hydro power, but the penetration of these renewable sources is low with the major barriers being financial, technical and social, said Khursheed, also former consultant of World Bank's First Energy Audit Project.

Prof Nurul Islam of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) suggested introduction of a course for electrical engineering students on efficient use of energy against him.

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after Nahid Nawshad Mukul, deputy tax commissioner of the NBR, accused him of evading Tk 16,54,832 in income tax for fiscal years from 2001 to 2007.

Moreover, Shahidul also concealed over Tk 76,53 lakh in his tax return submitted earlier to the NBR.

But the divers failed to trace the 20-inch diameter concrete pipe buried 20 feet into the riverbed.

The divers searched over 150 feet area on both sides of the possible location of the pipeline, said GM (operation) Saiful Alam.

"We are now making vertical ditch over the pipeline on the other bank of the river and reached 10 feet into the sand," he said.

But strong current is delaying the operation, he added.

Sources also said it might take two or three more days to restore gas supply through an alternative line.

Meanwhile, the four-member probe committee headed by BGSL GM (Planning and Development) Mahbub Hossain started investigation into the accident that snapped gas supply to a huge area in Boalkhali and Patiya.

## Training for marginalised communities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 25 representatives from different marginalised communities were given training on different legal issues, including human rights, child marriage, dowry, rape and human trafficking, says a press release.

The two-day training programme that ended on Wednesday was organised by Bangladesh LegalAid and Services Trust (BLAST) and Research Initiatives of Bangladesh (RIB) where people from different indigenous communities, including Munda, Buno, Kaora, Bede, Shanta, Monipuri and Sweeper attended.

They were also given training on issues related to their everyday life like indigenous land distribution, community right and environmental law.

RIB has been providing legal assistance to the people after conducting a research on the issue so that the people given legal training would contribute in establishing rights of their respective community people.

BLAST will conduct at least four training courses to make the people of the deprived community aware of their rights.



Six top scouts leaders of the country pose for photograph with senior Rotarians of Rotary Club of Dhaka Urbana in the city recently.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over all the six divisions of the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls are also likely at places, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country during the period.

Highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and lowest 23.5 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:04pm today and rises at 5:45am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature	Humidity
	in celsius	percentage
Dhaka	Max 33.2	Min 26.0
	Morning 81	Evening 76
Chittagong	31.4	25.8
	78	80
Rajshahi	34.0	27.0
	80	87
Khulna	34.2	26.7
	87	90
Barisal	32.5	26.0
	88	80
Sylhet	29.3	26.0
	97	89
Cox's Bazar	32.0	23.5
	76	89

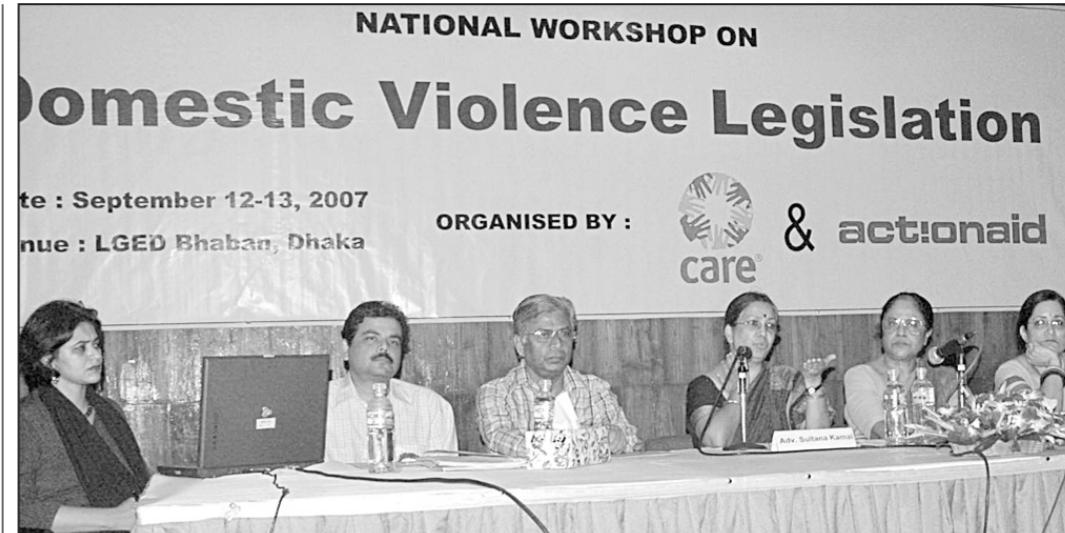


PHOTO: STAR  
Advocate Sultana Kamal speaks at a workshop at LGED auditorium in the city yesterday. On her right are Nurul Huda, Hasan Majumdar and Barrister Sara Hossain and on her left are Ayesha Khanam and Farah Kabir.

## TAX EVASION Ex-MP Abbasi, Babar's APS, families sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Former lawmaker and LDP president member MA Karim Abbasi, former state minister Lutfuzzaman Babar's cousin Salauddin Chowdhury, Babar's APS Mirza Haider Ali, and their family members have been sued for concealing information in their wealth statements submitted to the ACC.

Netrakona Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Assistant Director Md Nuruzzaman Khan yesterday filed a case with Durgapur Police Station against LDP president member MA Karim Abbasi, his wife Hamida Karim, their sons Hamidul Karim and Mahmudul Karim for hiding information in the wealth statement.

The ACC assistant director also filed two separate cases -- one against Babar's APS Haider Ali and Haider's wife Beauty Akther with Madan Police Station and another against Babar's cousin Salauddin Chowdhury with Netrakona sadar Police Station -- on same charges on Wednesday night.

Netrakona ACC office sources said, MA Karim Abbasi, Mirza Haider Ali and Salauddin Chowdhury submitted their wealth statements to ACC on March 7.

In the statement, MA Karim Abbasi mentioned that he had property worth Tk 9,471,781 while Salauddin mentioned Tk 2,970,047 and Haider Ali Tk 2,970,047.

After the investigation, ACC found hidden wealth of Tk 3,237,421 of Abbasi, Tk 2,391,086 of Salauddin and Tk 3,79,300 of Haider Ali.

Abbasi, Haider and Salauddin are behind bars now.

## Sadeque to be buried tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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UNB, Dhaka

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