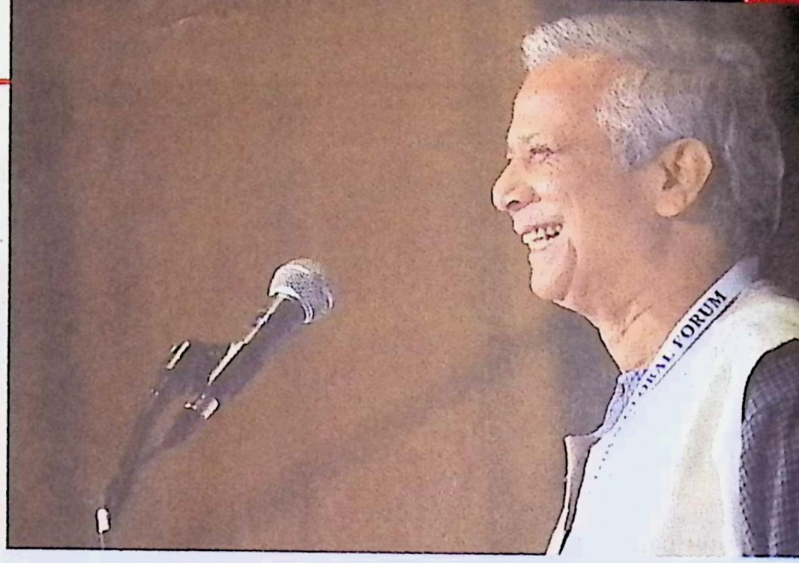
Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, founder and managing director of Grameen Bank, speaks about microcredit at the Georgetown Global Forum Arpril 17, 2009, in New York. The second annual forum brings together leaders from key sectors to share successful strategies for addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges, including poverty, access to education and global health.





Former US President George W. Bush (L) meets with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on the sidelines of the Boao Forum, in Boao in southern China's Hainan province. Under the theme "Asia: Managing Beyond Crisis", participants will discuss how to cope with the international financial crisis at the annual conference, a Chinese version of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.



A Palestinian artist paints a mural depicting captured Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit in 2006 (L) and 30 years later in 2036 (R), during a protest demanding the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails in the Jabalia refugee camp, northern Gaza Strip. The Islamist Hamas movement that seized power in the Gaza Strip in June 2007 had demanded Israel to free hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, including scores of men implicated in deadly attacks on Israelis, in return for Shalit, who was captured by Hamas militants in June 2006.

A Palestinian youth sprays paint to write the phrase "My dear Palestinian brother" on Israel's contoversial separation barrier in al-Ram in the West Bank, on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Israel says the steel and concrete walls, fences and barbed wire that will cover 723 kilometres (454 miles) when completed are essential to prevent attacks on Israelis, while Palestinians view it as a land grab that undermines their promised state. So far Israel has built 57 percent of the projected barrier, most of it inside the West Bank.

