



PHOTO: YUNUS CENTRE

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus shakes hands with Chairman and CEO of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan George C Halvorson during a meeting at the Grameen Bank Bhaban in the city.

Grameen Healthcare to work with Kaiser Foundation

METRO DESK

Grameen Healthcare Trust and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. USA will work jointly to develop a healthcare system in the country to provide quality healthcare for the poor in an affordable way.

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, chairman of Grameen Healthcare, and George C Halvorson, chairman and CEO of Kaiser Foundation, reached an agreement to this end following two days of discussions in the city this week, said a press release.

Kaiser Foundation is part of Kaiser Permanente, a major healthcare provider in the USA with \$42 billion in annual revenue. It works with employers, employees and individual members to offer prepaid health plans

and insurance. It has 14,000 doctors, 160,000 employees and 8.6 million members who receive total healthcare.

Prof Yunus briefed Halvorson on the preparations for setting up of a 350-bed Grameen Heart Hospital in Dhaka jointly with Dr Devi Shetty's Narayana Hrudalaya Hospitals of Bangalore, India. Dr Sandeep Attawar of Narayana Hrudalaya came from India to participate in the discussion with Halvorson.

Prof Yunus also briefed him on the progress of setting up of Grameen Cancer Hospital jointly with Medical Radiation Centre of Miami, Florida.

All these hospitals will be components of various other health initiatives, including a University of Health Sciences.

AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK

CID gets more time to submit probe report

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted more time to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to submit its probe report on one of the two cases involving the August 21 grenade attacks on Awami League rally in 2004.

Judge (in-charge) Mohammad Ismail Hossain of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka issued the order extending time till August 3 upon a petition filed by CID.

Thus, the CID was given 12 months in four phases to complete the investigation into the case.

Special Police Super of CID Abdul Kahar Akand, of the investigation officer of the case under the Explosive Substances Act, filed the petition with the court seeking four more months to complete the investigation.

Kahar said former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, Islamic Democratic Party (IDP) leader Maulana Sheikh Abdus Salam, Laker-e-Taiba member Abdul Majid Butt and Dhaka City Corporation Ward Councillor Ariful Islam

Arif were also shown arrested in the case.

Earlier, they gave important information about collecting and supplying the grenades for attack on the Awami League rally at Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21 in 2004, which left 23 people including Ivy Rahman dead and scores injured.

Moreover, of the arrestees, Majid Butt and Salam made confessions before magistrates about their involvement in the attack, he said.

So, he sought more time to arrest the culprits involved with supplying grenades, the IO said.

The other case filed for killing the victims is now pending with the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka.

On August 3 last year, a Dhaka court ordered the inspector general of police to reinvestigate the cases and submit reports in two months after identifying the persons who had procured and supplied the grenades used in the carnage of August 21 in 2004.



PHOTO: STAR

State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud speaks at a press conference on 'HSBC - The Daily Star Climate Awards 2010' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is CEO of HSBC Bangladesh Sanjay Prakash. (Story on Page 1)

LIBERATION WAR

Govt to recognise foreign nationals' contribution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will pay tribute to foreign nationals and agencies and recognise their contribution to the liberation war in 1971 during the 40th anniversary of independence.

The decision was taken at an inter-ministerial meeting titled 'Contribution of Foreigners to the War of Liberation' at the foreign ministry yesterday, with Foreign Minister Dipu Moni in the chair.

The meeting formed two sub-committees to formulate guidelines and prepare a comprehensive list of the foreign nationals who played important roles in attaining independence.

"We will give recognition to many foreign nationals this time. We have already received

lists from various sources," Dipu Moni told reporters after the meeting.

Based on the list, the government will invite selected individuals for receiving awards. If anyone fails to come in person, the award would be sent to him or her through a Bangladeshi mission in 47 countries, she added.

"Today, we discussed how to formulate a guideline and prepare the list," she said and hoped that they could complete the task ahead of the 40th Independence Day.

Dr Shamsul Bari, a member of the committee present at the meeting, told reporters that he was happy to be a part of the government's laudable initiative.

"It should have been done much earlier, though," he added.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Mushfeer Rahman, a renowned mathematician, breathed his last at his residence in Atlanta, USA, on Wednesday at the age of 87, says a press release.

He was reader of mathematics in Dhaka University and provost of Dhaka Hall as well as professor of mathematics at Eastern Illinois University, USA.

He is survived by his three daughters and two sons to mourn his death.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at Azad Mosque in the city after Asr prayers today.

All are requested to attend the doa and pray for salvation of his departed soul.

Asheesh Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asheesh Chowdhury, eminent cultural activist, former programme organiser of Bangladesh Betar and son of eminent musician of Comilla district Ashit Chowdhury, passed away at the age of 61 on Wednesday, says a press release.

He was fifth among the 10 brothers and sisters and actively participated in cultural activities from his childhood.

Obtaining his graduation in science from Victoria College in Comilla, he joined Betar.

His elder sister Gatahree Chowdhury is an actress and younger brother Arun Chowdhury is a journalist and dramatist.

Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chehlum of Hasina Younus, wife of late Ahmed Younus, former joint secretary of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADCO), will be held at House No # 66, Road No # 11, Sector # 14 at Uttara in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Hasina passed away at a city hospital due to kidney disease on Tuesday at the age of 66.

She left behind her five sons and two daughters to mourn her death.

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