

Communal harmony appreciable

US envoy tells religious affairs minister

UNB, Dhaka

US Ambassador in Dhaka Harry K Thomas Jr yesterday said people of various faiths are living in Bangladesh maintaining communal harmony and mutual respect.

"Bangladesh is a democratic country and its communal harmony is appreciable," Thomas said when he called on State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharef Hossain Shahjahan at the latter's office.

During the meeting, they also discussed matters of mutual interests and exchanged views on issues relating to bilateral cooperation. Issues relating to training of religious leaders and imams also

came up for discussion.

They said exchange of views, inter-religion dialogues, discussions and conferences among the devotees of various religions would be helpful in establishing world peace and strengthening relation among various religions. The US envoy assured of his country's all possible cooperation in this regard.

As the state minister mentioned about various government initiatives, including imam training programme and mosque and temple-based informal education programme, Thomas said these programmes would bring about positive results for the people of Bangladesh.



PHOTO: STAR

The Parbatya Bangali Chhatra Parishad stages a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding release of 47 people arrested in Mahalchhari.

Autopsy of women to be performed by women docs

UNB, Dhaka

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions at a meeting yesterday decided that the autopsy of women would be performed by women doctors and the autopsy of men by male doctors.

Chaired by Justice Mohammad Mozammel Haque MP, the meeting had a discussion on the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2003 and accepted it in an amended form. The bill was placed by Shahjahan Chowdhury MP to take care of dead bodies with honour.

It also discussed the Security Force (Uniform Selection and Control) Bill, 2002 placed by Dr Rustam Ali Farazi MP. Committee members Abu Yusuf

Mohammad Khalilur Rahman, Shawkat Ali, AKM Jahangir Hossain, Abu Hena, Nazir Hossain and Abdus Sobhan attended the meeting.

Senior officials of the Parliament Secretariat and Law Ministry were also present.

1,447 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,447 people, including two listed criminals, during their ongoing countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.

They also recovered 14 firearms and 35 rounds of bullet and filed 10 cases against 16 people under the Arms Act, said a police headquarters press release.



PHOTO: STAR

The Left Democratic Front took out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the move to privatise mills and factories at the dictates of IMF and World Bank.

Deputy Speaker elected AAPP vice president

BSS, Dhaka

Deputy Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid Siddiqui was elected Vice President of the 4th assembly of the Association of Asian Parliament for Peace (AAPP) on Tuesday.

Advocate Hamid was elected the AAPP Vice-President at its plenary session in Manila, the Philippines, a Parliament secretariat press release said.

Motahar Hossain, MP, took part in the workshop on "Respect for sovereignty and independence of states to achieve world security and stability" while Prof Abdus Shahid, MP, participated in the workshop on "Policies and strategies to address the adverse effects of globalisation and trade liberalisation".

Besides, MA Matin, MP, took part in the workshop on "Combating international terrorism and addressing its causes to maintain international peace and security".