

Resolve differences peacefully: US envoy

DU CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador Harry K Thomas has underlined the importance of resolving differences peacefully, saying that violence and hatred offer no prospect for the people of any nation while they strive to achieve their destiny.

He was speaking at the 'College Teachers' Lecture Workshop on US Society and Culture' that began at the British Council auditorium in the city yesterday.

The two-day workshop was jointly organised by the Bangladesh Association for American Studies (BAAS) and The American Centre (AC).

The US ambassador said the goal of the workshop is to help promote a deeper understanding of the US society and culture to improve the teaching about the United States.

"If Bangladeshis study American culture, they will understand the roots of our co-operation and the basis of

our abiding friendship," he said, adding that the topic of the workshop points to the fact that Bangladesh and the US share much in common.

"You, as educators, have a vital role in teaching the students about the importance of resolving differences peacefully," the ambassador said.

Speaking as chief guest, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof SMA Faiz said the university would provide an attractive piece of land on the campus for the construction of a centre for American Studies if the BAAS comes with a formal request in this respect.

BASS President Prof AKM Nurun Nabi, who presided over the inaugural session, said the workshop has been organised as social, economic, cultural and political lives of these two nations have become interdependent.

BAAS General Secretary Tahmina Ahmed and Director of AC Karl Fritz also spoke on the occasion.



Members of the delegation of All China Journalists' Association (ACJA) pose with Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam (seated 2nd from right) and Managing Editor Syed Fahim Munaim (seated 2nd from left) when the team visited the newspaper office in the city yesterday. The delegation members include Wei Mingxiang, executive secretary of ACJA, Zhou Baoyi, deputy director of China Radio International, He Yanli, deputy director of the Frontline, Bi Zheng, editor-in-chief of the Jilin Daily, Liu Zhengfei, a journalist of the Real Estates Week, and Hu Hui, deputy chief of International Department, ACJA.

Two labourers die inside septic tank in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Two labourers died of suffocation and another fell sick after they entered into a septic tank to remove its shutter at the underconstruction nursing institute in Nilphamari yesterday morning.

The dead are Tohidul Islam, 28, of Kismat Panchapukur village under Nilphamari Sadar upazila, and Rashidul Islam, 35, of Chowdhurani village under Pirgacha upazila, Rangpur.

The other victim Abu Taleb, 25, was rushed to Nilphamari hospital in a critical condition.

Abu Taleb first entered into the tank, but he managed to get out of it. Then Tohidul entered into it and got trapped. Rashidul jumped into the tank to rescue Tohidul but both of them died.

On information, fire brigade personnel rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies.



PHOTO: STAR

The Mohila Awami League stages a demonstration in the city yesterday protesting price hike of essentials.

South Asian Conference on Sanitation 48 pc have access to improved sanitation in Asia

UNB, Dhaka

Inaugurating a three-day South Asian Conference on Sanitation, LGRD minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said only 48 percent of the Asian population have access to improved sanitation.

"We should take united efforts to ensure sanitation for all Asian people as Bangladesh sets its targets to ensure sanitation for its people by the year 2010," said the minister at Bangladesh-China Friendship conference centre.

More than 200 delegates including ministers, high officials, civil society representatives, professionals and experts, journalists from nine countries attended the sanitation conference.

Referring to a recent survey conducted by LGRD, Bhuiyan said that only 33 percent people in Bangladesh, excluding Dhaka city, live within sanitary network.

Bhuiyana said the sanitation problems faced by the millions of people in this region are also common in nature so this conference will open the door for mutual cooperation

among the countries in the field of sanitation.

Referring to the worse sanitary situation in the densely populated Bangladesh, Minister for forest and environment Shajahan Siraj said 110 thousand children below the age of five years die of diarrhoea every year because of inadequate sanitation.

Emphasising a comprehensive plan to combat this deadly menace, he said now the assembly opened an avenue for all to regularly ventilate ideas, to share experiences in order to develop common policy and strategies for sanitation.

Taking part in the inaugural session, Indian union minister of Rural Development Kashi Ram Rana said his government took necessary steps to ensure sanitation for all by the year 2010.

"We feel that we should not wait till 2015, so our government have resolved to sanction the Total Sanitation Campaign projects to all the districts by the end of the year 2006 which is likely to be implemented by the year 2015," Kashi Ram said.

Among others, Umesh Pande of

Nepal, Vanessa Tobin of UNICEF, Dr Sangay Thinley of Bhutan, Aminath Rasheeda of Maldives, Dr Waan Mannang of Myanmar, Baddimah Tamang of Nepal, Wakil Khan Afridi of Pakistan and W Piyasena of Sri Lanka spoke at the inaugural session.

Delegates from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka's representatives will be presenting the sanitation situation in their respective countries in the three-day conference.

Japanese doll exhibition

UNB, Dhaka

An 11-day Japanese doll exhibition titled 'The world of Kokeshi doll' will begin at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy on Friday.

The embassy of Japan has organised the show in collaboration with the Shishu Academy and the Bangladesh-Japan Youth Friendship Association.

DHAKA TODAY

Ecstasy festival

The inaugural ceremony of a month-long Eid festival, organised by Ecstasy, a premier fashion house in the city, will be held with model pair Faisal and Joya to inaugurate. Venue: Banani. Time: 11.00am.

Discussion

Muktadhara Sangskriti Charcha Kendra organises a discussion to mark the birth anniversary of poet Rudra Muhammad Shahidullah. It will be followed by a session of recitation. Venue: Seminar room of the Central Public Library. Time: 5.30pm.

Film show

The Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'Irreversible'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Seminar

The Centre for Advanced Research in the Humanities organises a seminar on 'Postmodern Lilalasya and Bengali poem.' Venue: 434, Lecture Theatre of Dhaka

University. Time: 4.00pm.

Seminar

A seminar on river erosion will be held with Disaster Management and Relief Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf as chief guest. Venue: CIRDA auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

Batexpo

The concluding ceremony of BATEXPO-2003 will be held with Leader of the Opposition in parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 4.00pm.

Discussion

A discussion will be held on the occasion of Road Safety Day with Communications Minister Nzmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: Sarak Bhaban. Time: 4.00pm.

Fellowship day

Bangladesh Scout and Guide Fellowship organises a programme to observe the fellowship day. Venue: Scout Bhaban, Kakrail. Time: 5.30pm.

Robberies in eight houses in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Eight houses were looted in a span of one hour at Boyra Shasanghat area under Sonadanga thana in the early hours of Monday.

Sources said a gang of masked armed men wearing black half pants entered the houses one after another posing as members of the joint forces.

They confined the inmates in separate room of each house at gunpoint and looted money and gold ornaments.

The victims were Jahangir Sheikh, Alauddin Ahmed, Mujibar Rahman, Sona Mia, Rabi Pal, Abdul Jalil, Mannan Sheikh and Abra Sheikh.

All the members of the gang were carrying arms and daggers, the victims said.

The robbery began at 3.30am and continued till 4.30am, said Rabi Pal, a police constable serving at Sonadanga thana.