

US envoy apprises FM of Saudi, Iraq situation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador Harry K Thomas called on Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan at his office on Sunday and discussed matters of mutual interests.

The envoy apprised the minister of the latest situation in Saudi Arabia and Iraq during the 40-minute-long meeting, according to sources.

Talking to newsmen after the meeting, Morshed Khan said the US ambassador wanted to know the progress of roadmap for the development of the country.

The envoy also expressed keen interest about the outcome of his

recent visit to Germany, Morshed Khan added.

Responding to a question whether the US wanted deployment of peace keeping forces from Bangladesh to Iraq, the foreign minister only said they wanted to know what Bangladesh could do for them.

Ambassador Harry K Thomas also told the reporters that the Saudi situation and FM's visit to Germany figured prominently during their talks.

Regarding a question whether they discussed about the cancellation of US Generalised System of Preference to Bangladesh, the

ambassador replied in the negative.



PHOTO: STAR

Different political and social organisations placed wreaths at Noor Hossain Square at Zero Point yesterday in observance of the Noor Hossain Day.

'Withdraw fee hike of DU admission form'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Progatishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ), a combined organisation of left-leaning students, yesterday demanded immediate withdrawal of increased price of admission form in Dhaka University (DU).

The price was increased to TK 300 from TK 250.

PCJ leaders made the demand at a rally on DU campus.

Addressing the rally, they said they would not tolerate any move to com-

mercialise the higher education by increasing the price of admission form.

The leaders said the increased price would discourage students from middle and lower classes to pursue higher studies.

They alleged that some departments have been collecting TK 1,000 from the students without receipts. They urged the students not to pay any money without receipts.

The PCJ leaders also threatened to launch greater movement if their demands are not met soon.

They decided to submit a memorandum to Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz on November 13 demanding cancellation of price increase of admission form.

Rahman Mizan, president of Bangladesh Chhatra Kendro, presided over the rally addressed by Khalequzzaman Lipton, Luna Nur, Baki Billah, Julhas Nahin Babu, Abdul Ahad Minar and Sheikh Faruk.

Earlier, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, and Bangladesh Chhatra League (left leaning) also demanded cancellation of increased price of admission form.

Nirmal Sen sent to Singapore for treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ailing veteran journalist and politician Nirmal Sen was sent to Singapore for treatment last night.

Nirmal Sen will be admitted to Singapore's Mount Elizabeth Hospital today, says a Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal press release.

His nephew Kankan Sen and party central leader Mosaddek Hossain Shawpan and his daughter Dr. Trisha Mosaddek accompanied him.

He had been undergoing treatment at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia donated Tk 5 lakh and Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil and some left-leaning politicians gave Tk 6 lakh on Thursday for his treatment.

Nirmal Sen, chief of the left-leaning Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal, suffered a brain stroke on October 11 that left him partially paralysed.

1307 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,307 people, including two identified criminals, during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours till 6am yesterday.

During the drive, they also recovered 15 firearms, two other arms and 13 bullets and filed six cases against 15 people under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.

Transport workers' leader murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A transport workers' leader was hammered to death at Lalkuthi in Mirpur on Sunday night.

The victim was identified as Sheikh Babul Hossain, 33, publicity secretary of Dhaka-Aricha Transport Sramik Union.

A police patrol team found a critically injured Babul knocking at the gate of a house in the area at around 11.30pm.

Before losing his consciousness, Babul told the police that several peo-

ple, including one Khokon, hit him with a hammer in his head and waist at a nearby muri (perched rice) factory.

He, however, managed to flee and was crying for help when police rescued him.

Doctors at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) declared him dead at 1:30am after police rushed him there at around 12:45am.

Police also raided the factory and recovered a bloodstained hammer. But they could not arrest anybody.

The victim's relatives linked the

killing to enmity with rival transport leaders of Gabtoli Bus Terminal.

"Babul was fighting against some influential transport leaders who were involved in collecting tolls and it might have led to his killing," said his brother-in-law Bashir Ullah.

He also wanted to hold a fresh election to his union before the expiry of tenure of the present executive committee, his relatives said.

They said Babul went out of his Lalkuthi residence at around 7.30pm on the day after some youths called him

out.

"When I contacted him over his cell phone at the time, Babul said he had to meet his apprentice Khokon in a nearby factory," Bashir said.

Third among two sisters and two brothers, Babul is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

Mirpur police said no case was filed and none was arrested till 6.30pm yesterday.