

The Paris News

Hospital: General 'in excellent health'



Paris Regional Medical Center CEO Andrew Knizley and his wife, Elizabeth and, children Lincoln and Lillian meeting Pres. Musharraf

By Phillip Hamilton
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Gen. Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, underwent routine testing at Paris Regional Medical Center on Saturday.

"President Musharraf was found to be in excellent health," the hospital said in a statement confirming that Musharraf had been a patient during his two-hour stay at the hospital's South Campus.

Due to an agreement reached Thursday, The Paris News is not publishing the name of the attending physician due to security concerns.

After tests were completed, Musharraf traveled to the home of a Paris physician for a private luncheon attended by several physicians, hospital administrators, the president's staff and other guests.

Musharraf appeared to be in good health as he dined with family, personal staff and guests before personally greeting those attending the dinner and having his photograph taken with several guests. Among those traveling with him was Major. Gen. Shafqaat Ahmed, military secretary to the president.

Security was tight throughout Musharraf's visit. A heavily armed 29-vehicle motorcade brought him from Dallas to Paris. Entry into the hospital was limited, and Texas Department of Public Safety troopers stood guard outside. Explosive-sniffing dogs were used to search the area.

It was raining as the motorcade entered Paris on Texas 24 and traveled north on Church Street and east on Clarksville Street to PRMC. Vehicles carrying Musharraf, his staff and security personnel went into the underground doctors parking area and entry to the hospital was gained from there.

Musharraf was in the hospital from 10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., but he was not involved in testing throughout that time. He took time to visit with PRMC Chief Executive Officer Andrew Knizley and his wife, Elizabeth, along with their children Lincoln and Lillian. The children presented Musharraf with a bouquet of yellow roses and drawings about his country. Lillian Knizley presented him with a 'thank you' drawing of a snow leopard similar to one Pakistan recently donated to the Bronx Zoo in New York.

After the luncheon, Musharraf walked with his motorcade through The Hills subdivision to personally greet the physician's neighbors who had been inconvenienced by security measures associated with his visit. He was scheduled to tour Paris before traveling back to Dallas.