METROPOLITAN/NEWS

US supports democratic process, not any parties

Says embassy official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Washington supports democracy and the democratic process in Bangladesh, not any particular political party, said a top official of the US Embassy yesterday.

"We want the next election to be free and fair, with an outcome accepted by all as in the previous elections," said Deputy Chief of process, she added. Mission Geeta Pasi.

She said the image of Bangladesh abroad matters to the country's economic growth. "That is never more true than during an election cycle.

Geeta Pasi was speaking at a discussion on 'The role of the US in Bangladesh development' organised by Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) at its boardroom in the city. BCI President AK Azad chaired the programme. "Bangladesh's recent economic

success reflects its reputation as a democracy -- a reputation it has earned through three elections generally acknowledged to have been free and fair," said Geeta, who attended the meeting on behalf of the US ambassador.

She said Bangladesh should be

proud of its democratic tradition. 'We want the tradition to continue." Responding to the demand for more US investment, Geeta said the US investors are ready, willing and able to play an even larger role in Bangladesh

But they are frustrated at inexplicable delays, arbitrary decisions and an opaque decision-making

'The investors are concerned at the lack of transparency in many government and regulatory decisions. They find it difficult to deal with extended delays for project approvals -- or just getting basic licences and customs clearances."

'They want predictability and are dismayed when decisions are arbitrarily revised or reversed. seemingly due to political pressure or pressure from so-called vested interests. They worry about corruption and political unrest," said the US Embassy official

She said Bangladesh must create the regulatory and investment climate to support private infrastructure.

national policies on mineral resources is a case in point. These policies must be structured to reflect global economic realities and to balance fairly the interests of both

Bangladesh and the domestic and international investors," she added. In his welcome speech, BCI President AK Azad urged the US

government to include Bangladesh in the Millennium Challenge Account, a special package for selected developing and least developed countries to facilitate poverty reduction programme.

For the last three years, Bangladesh was on the preliminary list but was excluded during the final selection, he said.

Bangladesh is again on the primary list for the fourth time and the final selection will be made in November, he said.

Azad also sought assistance from the US government in developing the existing infrastructure, especially in the sectors of power

"The current debate over and ports



Police recovered the body of an eight-year-old boy at his house at Kafrul in the city yesterday afternoon

Rabbi a student of class II was found hanging with a gamchha (towel) from a line at a room at around 2:30pm

The boy was alone at the time of the incident. He might have been strangled accidentally while plaving with the towel, police said quoting his father Nazrul Islam.

An unnatural death case was filed with the Kafrul Police Station. Meanwhile, a domestic help allegedly committed suicide at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) officers' quarters at Cantonment in the city on Monday.

Police said they recovered the body of Lucky Akhter, 14, from the storeroom of the residence of Lt. Col. Wahidul Islam Talukdar after breaking open the door of the storeroom in the afternoon.

Lucky, daughter of Nur Ali of Kumarkhali, Kushtia, hanged herself from the ceiling of the storeroom, police said.

An UD case has been filed with Cantonment Police Station.

Money, valuables worth Tk 7 lakh looted from

Eight robbers entered the building at Road-14 of Sector-12 at around 2:10am breaking open the arille of a window on the ground floor, police said.

the housewife, Shamsunnahar, to open the doors of other rooms.

Jewel, son of Shamsunnahar.

PHOTO: STAR



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia offers munajat after inaugurating Arial Khan Bridge at Belabo in Narsingdi yesterday

Need for speedy trial of child BSF abducts 2 Bangladeshis violation cases underscored BSS, Jamalpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

abused children.

cases

support to abused children to bring them back to normal life Olof suggested that media has a Speakers at a discussion vesterday tremendous responsibility to sensicalled for building up skilled professionals to ensure care for sexually tise society to treat the abused child dren with due care.

Salma Ali, executive director of They also underscored the need for speedy trial of child rights violation Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) The discussion titled 'Minimum called for psychosocial rehabilitation

care standard for the children who of abused children. have been sexually abused, exploited and trafficked' was organised by Save sion she said family environment the Children Sweden-Denmark to rather than shelter homes can help mark the International Children's Day and National Child Rights Week in the cal trauma after the abuse

Olof Risberg, country representative of Save the Children, in his welcome speech said there is no ideal model to take care of sexually abused children as variety of needs are often found while working with them.

He however called for being flexible while giving psychosocial

Iraq leaders seek to flesh out peace plan

of talks led to a deal late on Monday.

One negotiator denounced it as a

hollow sham. Another said it was

merely a stop-gap to relieve US pres-

The US military reported eight soldiers died on Monday alone, four

killed by a roadside bomb and four

others shot dead by insurgents, taking

committees for the capital is the plan's

first point. They should involve politi-

cians, tribal and religious figures and

the Iraqi military. But several officials

said they did not know how large an

area each would cover, the size of the

The formation of local security

the US death toll to 15 since Saturday.

sure on Maliki

victims to cope with their psychologi-

cooperation with NGOs.

eged children of the society.

REUTERS, Baghdad

Iragi leaders hope to flesh out a deal to end sectarian bloodshed in Baghdad when they meet again yesterday but conceded a four-point plan, drafted under US pressure, was still a long way short on vital substance.

Washington's ambassador and its top general in Irag welcomed what local media called Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's "Ramadan Agreement" as a significant step in the right direction.

"Now begins the hard work of implementing the plan," they added. Mass kidnaps by men in uniform and dozens of sectarian murders a day during the Muslim University said children from privileged section of the society are also not safe

"Once the children are abused they may suffer from fear. anxiety. posttraumatic disorder and low selfesteem for a long time," she said.

She called for efficient counselling by counsellors and family members for abused children to bring them Presenting a paper at the discusback to mainstream of the society.

> Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of The Bangladesh Observer, called for speedy trial of child rights violation cases.

All the parties would sit on every

However, Shi'ite negotiator Abdul

committee, whatever the sectarian

make-up of the neighbourhood con-

Kareem al-Anizi said the committees

For example, the Shi'ite militia strong-

hold of Sadr City would have few Sunnis

on its committee. Such imbalances could

be common - in months of ethnic cleans-

ing, thousands of Baghdad's 7 million

people have fled areas where they feel in

would reflect the local populations.

cerned, Dulaimi said.

She also urged the policy makers to take initiative to check trafficking Representatives from different organisations including Unicef, Habibur Rahman, director of Durjoy Nari Sangha, Nari Maitree social services department, said and Breaking the Silence attended most of the victims are underprivithe discussion chaired by AKM But Prof Mehtab Khanom of Masud Ali, executive director of psychology department of Dhaka **INCIDIN Bangladesh**

On the penultimate day of its last session, parliament yesterday passed six bills, including two

The bills are the Islamic University (Amendment) Bill 2006, the Madrasa Education (Amendment) Bill 2006 Shaheed Ziaur Rahman University Barisal Bill 2006. Randpur Carmichael University Bill 2006, Sylhet Agricultural University Bill 2006, and the Special Privileges for Convicted Women in

Prison Bill 2006. Education Minister Dr Osman

On behalf of Social Welfare

a minority. The second point of the plan is a Central Committee for Peace and vote. Security. The third element would be ht of the media

the BSF to get them back. JS passes 6 bills

UNB, Dhaka

upgrading madrasa education.

Farruk piloted the bills.

Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, Law Minister Maudud Ahmed moved the Special Privileges for Convicted Women in Prison Bill 2006.

All the bills were passed by voice Opposition lawmakers censured

PHOTO: STAR

Photo exhibition

The Institute of Development Strategy

and the Centre for Development

The weekly meeting of Rotary Club of

Eskaton Dhaka will be held. Venue:

Rotary Eskaton

Dhaka Club. Time: 5:30pm

Museum. Time: 2:00pm.

Roundtable

Time: 10:30am.

Trade Union Kendra stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday protesting the new labour law, saying that it goes against the interests of the workers.

city. city house STAFF CORRESPONDENT A gang of robbers looted money and valuables worth Tk 7.1 lakh from a rented flat at a three-storey building at Uttara in the city yester-

The armed gang then forced

The robbers tied up all the family members, took the keys of almirahs at gunpoint and took away Tk 1.14 lakh, 34.5 tolas of gold ornaments, three mobile phone sets, a camera and other valuables, said Syed

Police and family members said the owner of the building is Matiur Rahman, father of Lt. Col. Badrul Ahsan, commanding officer of Rab-

Distribution of

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) abducted two Bangladeshi nationals from Dhanua Kamalpur, a bordering rea in Bakshiganj upazial, on

The Daily Star

Monday evening. Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources said Abdul Awal and Sultan Ali, two emplovees of an NGO, went on a visit to the area. When they reached the demarcation line, the BSF members

asked them to come up for a talk. As they further approached the no man's land, the BSF men swooped on them and dragged the two into Indian

rritory When contacted, BDR officials aid they were communicating with

urged to open **BPEd** course

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) authorities have failed to open Bachelor of Physical Education (BPEd) course even after its 53 years of journey despite availability of all infrastructural and academic facilities

University students and sportsmen have been urging the authorities concerned for last two decades to introduce the course.

"We staged demonstrations formed human chains and submitted several memorandums to vicechancellor and Pro-VC in last three years for opening the course but our demands were always ignored," said Rajshahi University Players Welfare Association President Abdus Samad Pintu and General Secretary Protap Kumar.

Tuktuki Begum, deputy director of physical education at Monnujan Hall, said the launching of BPED course is badly needed in a university with an enrolment of 30000 students.

Deputy Director of university physical education department Abul Kalam Badsha said the department remains almost idle as physical education course is not studied here.

In absence of the course, university stadium which is the second largest stadium in the country, gymnasium, swimming pool, playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts, volleyball courts. athletic practice centres and indoor badminton courts on the campus remain almost unused all the year round, said sources.

Delwar Hossain, an athlete of the university, said, "For want of BPED course we have no opportunity to get high level training and as a result we face various problems in the athletic arena.'

Campus sources said RU players and sportsmen have glorious past in sports arena

They won medals taking part in many national and international games

Khaled Masud Pilot, Shahnewaz Sanu and all rounder Musfiqur Rahman Babu are some of the bright luminaries in cricket arena who belonged to Rajshahi University.

When contacted, VC Prof Altaf Hossain said the university is going to open the BPED course soon.



Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Officer said

Highest temperature 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and Chuadanga and lowest 24.8 degree Celsius at Srimogal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5.43pm today and rises at 5:52am tomorrow

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns ves

major onice and ic	wing yesteru	ay word.		
City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.7	26.7	73	79
Chittagong	34.2	26.3	78	81
Rajshahi	34.6	27.0	84	77
Khulna	34.2	27.0	77	77
Barisal	34.8	26.0	80	84
Sylhet	33.9	26.0	93	80
Cox's Bazar	32.6	27.0	79	86



Shykh Siraj, director (news) of Channel i, speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday to mark the completion of five years of the private satellite channel

JU admission forms begins on Oct 15 JU CORRESPONDENT

The distribution and submission of forms for admission into first year honours classes at Jahangirnagar University (JU) under 2006-07 academic session will begin on October 15 and it will continue up to November 9.

The forms will be available at Agrani Bank branches of Farmgate National Museum, Savar Bazar Road and JU at Tk 300 each.

The filled-up forms will have to be submitted to dean's office of respective faculties from 8:00am to 1:30pm everyday

The submission of forms will however remain suspended from October 21 to 29 due to Eid-ul-Fitr. An applicant can apply for four

departments under a faculty. The admission tests are sched-

uled to begin from November 19. The written tests for 24 depart ments under four faculties will continue up to December 2 with two Fridays kept as reserve day for the test in case of any inconveniences.

Students willing to take part in admission test under Ka unit (science faculty) and Gha unit (life science faculty) must have at least GPA 3 in both SSC and HSC examinations, while GPA 2.50 is required to apply for the departments under Kha unit (social science faculty) and Ga unit (arts faculty).

Results of the test will be published in national dailies on January 18, 2007 while the viva-voce examinations of the successful students will take place from January 27 to 29

Distribution and submission of forms for admission under different quotas will be held from January 27 to 31. Admission from merit list will be held from February 6 to 13 after publishing of final result on February

Distribution and submission of forms for admission from waiting list will be held from February 15 to 20. Admission will be completed

between February 25 and March 1. Classes under 2006-07 academic session are likely to begin on March 8.

ofall-outcivilwar.

today to agree the details," said Adnan Shi'ite and Sunni leaders were at al-Dulaimi, leader of the main Sunn odds in their interpretations of what was outlined by Maliki, after two days bloc.

Activists of Awami Jubo League march towards National Broadcasting Authority office at Shahbagh in the city yesterday protesting the telecast of a documentary showing distorted history and undermining the role of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The documentary was aired on state-run Bangladesh Television recently.

Report launching

3:00pm

0 1

Discussion

Unicef Bangladesh will release global

report card titled "Progress for children".

Venue: Unicef Dhaka office. Time:

Jubo Nagorik Odhikar Jote and Green

Voice organise a discussion on

"Phulbari movement: Foreign

investment and future of energy sector

of Bangladesh". Venue: Nagorik Uddog

WSSCC-B and Streams of Knowledge

organise a view exchange meeting with

grassroots level people. Venue: YWCA

Training Centre. Time: 4:00pm.

View exchange

auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

Death anniversary



Debabrata Chowdhury



Sunamganj, savs a press release

Dharampasha,

On the occasion, religious programmes will be held at Siddheswari Kali Mandir in Dhaka and at the residence of his elder

"There will be another meeting fourth monthly reviews of the plan.

the government for "deceiving" the people using Islam ahead of elections as Parliament passed the Islamic University (Amendment) Bill and the Madrasah Education (Amendment) Bill.

Obituary

Shahana Anis (Zakia), wife of Tareck Anis Ahmed, deputy managing director of "K" Line Bangladesh Limited, passed away in

the early hours of September 1 at the age of 57, says a press release

She left behind her husband, one son, daughter-in-law, three daughters. sons-in-law and grandchildren to mourn her death.

Her chehlum will be held in a local orphanage on October 5. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul,

Comrade Tafazzul Hossain

Comrade Tafazzul Hossain, presi-dent of Gonotantrik Mojdoor Party, passed away at his nome on Monday at the age of 70, says

a press release

He was also the president of Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Federation.

He had long been involved in the Iranian Culture Centre, Dhaka organises movement to establish the rights of a photo exhibition on Palestinian Intifada workers. against Zionism. Venue: National

Rebels kill 3 Pak soldiers

AP, Quetta

Research Bangladesh organise a Rebel tribesmen shot dead three roundtable on public views on electoral Pakistani soldiers yesterday after reforms. Venue: National Press Club. ambushing their jeep in a mountainous region of southwestern Baluchistan province, an official said.

The ambush happened at Bhambhor Top, a mountainous area in Baluchistan's Kohlu district, said Kumail Ali Hazara, the top government official in the area

anniversary of M Enayetur Rahman, former general secretarv of Ducsu. will be observed today, says a press release

