

Administrator of USAID expresses 'concern' over grenade probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visiting USAID administrator Andrew S Natsios yesterday met Leader of the Opposition and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and expressed concern over probing the August 21 assassination attempt on her.

"The USAID chief termed the judicial probe body's report, which has linked foreign forces to the attack, totally irresponsible," said a meeting source seeking anonymity.

After the over an hour-long meeting at Hasina's Sudha Sadan residence, Natsios told reporters, "We've discussed the assassination attempt on her and are concerned about the investigation."

"Issues including rise in crimes, threat to democracy and corruption

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Afghan polls end amid boycott

15 out of 18 candidates claim fraud, demand re-election

AGENCIES, Kabul

Afghanistan's historic election was plunged into crisis yesterday after 15 of the 18 key candidates claimed fraud and demanded voting be stopped, casting a pall over the enthusiasm of voters who turned out in force across the troubled country.

Key contenders running against interim Afghan leader Hamid Karzai called for the boycott of Afghanistan's historic election yesterday during polling claiming

widespread fraud over the ink meant to keep people from repeat voting.

The opposition candidates said they would not recognise the results of the vote because of what election officials described as a mix-up. The officials had said workers at a few voting stations mistakenly swapped the permanent ink meant to mark people's thumbs with normal ink meant for ballots, but insisted the problem was caught quickly.

There was no immediate com-

ment from Karzai, who had voted in Kabul and even rubbed his thumb to show reporters the ink didn't rub off.

An aide to Yunus Qanooni, the main challenger to President Hamid Karzai, said the opposition candidate was demanding a suspension of the first Afghan exercise in democracy for decades to prevent further fraud.

Another challenger, Abdul Satar Sirat, said 14 candidates including Qanooni called for a halt following

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

Members of the Islamic Shashantntra Andolon gather in front of the National Sports Council yesterday to protest against country's first-ever women's football tournament, clogging traffic from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

Fighting crime, graft main challenge to development

USAID administrator tells Saifur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

USAID Administrator Andrew S Natsios yesterday warned Bangladesh that economic development would remain elusive unless it addresses the sliding law and order and crippling corruption.

"We are very worried about the issues as they significantly obstructs development," Natsios told reporters after his meeting with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur at the finance ministry yesterday.

They discussed the deteriorating law and order and corruption in the meeting.

Natsios said not only the finance minister but all ministers and members of parliament should work together to face the problems and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Ten-year-old Rumi, with a plate in her hand, bails water out of their house waterlogged for over a month at Della Bamoil village inside Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) embankment yesterday. Households engage themselves in turn in the ordeal throughout the day to keep their houses dry.

SC Bar rejects judicial probe report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday rejected 'planned' and 'motivated' report of the judicial enquiry commission on the August 21 carnage and said the report linking a foreign country or state agency to the incident might make Bangladesh a 'friendly state' in international arena.

"Without investigating impartially and realistically, the commission has just reported the government statement on the grenade attack on an Awami League (AL)

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

BSF dam-cut yet to be repaired

Gushing waters submerge fresh areas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Floodwaters from across the border gushing through the Khaitala point of the Bhomra-Baikari embankment which was cut by Indians aided by their Borders Security Force (BSF), on Thursday night submerged fresh areas in Baikari and Kushkhali unions in the Sadar Upazila of the district yesterday.

Within hours more than 25 villages may be under surging waters that have already inundated aman crops and hundreds of acres of land in Gazalia, Kathanda and Kushkhali beels, local people said.

Hundreds of villagers and the Water Development Board (WDB) personnel continued to repair the embankment to prevent worsening

of the floods.

Executive Engineer of Satkhira WDB Ismail Hossain said the repair of the embankment is likely to be completed tonight (Saturday night).

Meanwhile, a company-level flag meeting between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and BSF held at the D u b l i

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Jt census spots 419 tigers in Sundarbans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officials of Bangladesh-India joint tiger census in the Sundarbans yesterday said they have spotted 419 Royal Bengal Tigers in Bangladesh side of the world heritage mangrove forest.

Expressing satisfaction over the findings and management of the Sundarbans, Environment Minister Tariqul Islam told a news conference at Press Information Department auditorium that the tiger population includes 121 males and 298 females.

There are two male tigers against five females of the species. Besides, 21 tiger cubs found in the census have not been included, as they are not matured, the minister s a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Khulna editor's house raided by Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) raided the BK Roy road residence of the editor of Dainik Tathya, Sheikh Nazrul Islam, Friday afternoon reportedly to arrest him and a notorious armed cadre of PBCP (Janajuddho).

According to an official of Rab, Nazrul Islam, also senior vice president of FBCCI and former president of KCCI, was providing shelter to outlaws wanted in several sensational criminal cases including murders and bomb attacks. The outlaws were about to hold a secret meeting at Nazrul Islam's residence on Friday afternoon, the Rab official said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Kerry beats Bush again in debate opinion polls

War, jobs dominate second contest

AGENCIES, Washington

Snap polls taken after the second US presidential election debate late Friday said Senator John Kerry narrowly beat President George W. Bush.

Kerry won by 44 to 41 percent, according to an ABC News poll taken immediately after the two finished their debate at Washington University in St Louis, Missouri, late

Friday.

A CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll also said Kerry had eked out a win over Bush, 47 to 45 percent, but in both polls the difference between the two candidates was smaller than the statistical margin of error.

Each poll surveyed 515 registered voters who watched the d e b a t e .

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

JCD leader killed

BSS, Barisal

A leader of the ruling BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was chopped to death by a gang of criminals at Babuganj upazila headquarters yesterday.

The victim, Sabuj, president of JCD Babuganj Krishi Institute unit, came under attack as he tried to prevent the criminals from collecting tolls from the newly admitted students, police said.

They said a gang of 12 swooped on Sabuj and chopped him with sharp weapons. He was immediately taken to Babuganj Health Complex where the doctors declared him dead.

Sadr agrees to new Iraq peace deal

REUTERS, Baghdad

A Shia militia led by Moqtada al-Sadr will start to disarm in Baghdad from tomorrow following a deal reached yesterday with Iraq's interim government and US officials, the chief Shia negotiator said.

Karim al-Bakhti, negotiating on behalf of people in the capital's Sadr City district, said US forces had promised to stop bombarding the slum area with immediate effect.

"We have agreed that starting from Monday, the Sadr movement will hand over its weapons to the Iraqi police," Bakhti told Reuters after a decisive round of talks in Baghdad.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Cops bar AL rally, gives go ahead to alliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police did not allow Awami League-backed Sammilita Birodhi Dal (SBD) to hold its scheduled rally at Laldighi Maidan in Chittagong yesterday while the ruling four-party alliance held its on the road adjacent to the venue.

Tension gripped the port city yesterday as both SBD and Bangladesh Nationalist Party

(BNP)-led alliance had earlier declared to hold rallies at the same venue.

Police aided by paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) cordoned off Laldighi Maidan from early morning yesterday. Earlier on Friday night the law enforcers dismantled the dais SBD erected at the venue without police permission.

Prayer Timing		
October 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-45	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation