



Schwarzenegger: California's new strongman

Trading on celebrity, sincerity and a strongman movie image, actor Arnold Schwarzenegger won control of the nation's biggest and richest state on Tuesday, capping an improbable rise from Austrian farm boy to unexpected bright new hope of American politics.

Schwarzenegger, who never spent a day in political office and

Probes into private university standards begin today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A high-powered inquiry committee will visit different private universities starting today to assess their facilities and the courses offered to students, sources said.

falling standard of education, financial mismanagement, recruitment of teachers lacking required qualifications and various other irregularities.

The UGC, headed by Prof M Asaduzzaman, wanted an on the spot probe as the committee did not receive a proper response to a questionnaire prepared to evaluate activities of private universities.

Weather forces alliance to defer rally to Oct 19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The grand public meeting of the ruling four-party alliance to mark its completion of two-year in office has been shifted to October 19 at 3:00pm at Paltan Maidan, as inclement weather deferred the scheduled programme yesterday afternoon.

Sources in the BNP said all preparations were set for the rally, but the torrential rain due to depression in the Bay led to the postponement of the programme.

Rains likely to continue today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country experienced medium to heavy rainfall yesterday after the depression over the Bay of Bengal turned into land depression as it crossed into Orissa and North Andhra of India.

Today's weather condition will likely remain unchanged. The Met office forecasts light to heavy showers accompanied by gusty winds at most places in Khulna, Barisal, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Chittagong and Dhaka divisions.

It rained all day long for the second day in the capital yesterday. The highest rainfall was recorded at 117mm in Maijdi, followed by 110mm in Hatiya, 104mm in Feni, 87mm at Khepupara, 69mm in Comilla and 66mm in Barisal.

Our Barisal correspondent reported heavy rains and squally winds for the second day disrupting normal life in Barisal division. A total 206mm of rainfall was recorded between Monday midnight and yesterday evening in Barisal town and adjoining areas.

Prices of essentials went up as

3 electrocuted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A married couple and another youth were electrocuted in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Shahid Hossain, a rickshaw-puller, came in contact with a live wire as he was putting clothes outside to dry at about 11:00am at his Muktiyoddha Complex residence in Mirpur. His wife Saleha Begum tried to help him out but she succeeded only in electrocuting herself also, according to the victims' neighbour, Kalam Howlader said.

The couple was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared both of them dead, hospital sources said.

Hailing from Nagarpur Police Station in Tangail, the couple left behind a three-year-old daughter.

In the other incident, Anwar Hossain, 20, was killed in his sleep when an electrical line fell into his house at Dhalka Nagar in Sutrapur early yesterday.

The victim's brother Ali Hossain took him to the DMCH and doctors declared him dead at about 12:45am.

Ecneec rejects three projects for irregularities

Probe ordered into 17 more schemes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday rejected three projects of the water resources ministry on grounds of irregularities.

The Ecneec meeting chaired by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman also decided to form a high-level committee to probe the rejected projects as well as 17 other

schemes. The meeting however approved five development projects worth Tk 336.26 crore.

With respect to the three rejected projects, planning ministry sources said in fiscal year 1999-2000, the government allocated Tk 9.57 crore from the Annual Development Programme to save Betul and

Shibir, JCD clash again in Kushtia 2 JCD leaders arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) clashed again yesterday on the Kushtia Alia Madrassah campus in a sequel to Monday's gunbattle between the two students groups at the Kushtia Polytechnic Institute.

Activists of both sides used iron rods, bricks and bamboo sticks during the clash which took place at around 9:00am before police arrived and brought the situation under control. At least 10 people were injured, sources said.

Police arrested Alia Madrassah JCD President Nawroj Hasan Zipu and General Secretary Abu Hasan



Relatives, top, wait out the hours of drizzle to receive their loved ones at Zia International Airport and beggars, bottom, find a refuge under plastic sheeting in Dhaka. Yesterday was the day of incessant drizzle triggered by a depression.

Arafat suffered heart attack last week

AFP, London

Yasser Arafat suffered a mild heart attack last week, but the news was not made public for fear it would "create panic", the Guardian newspaper reported yesterday, quoting a close aide to the Palestinian leader.

"Although he has had a slight heart attack, the doctors say he will make a full recovery. He is in full control. There is nothing to worry about," the aide, who did not wish to be named, told the London-based paper.

Asked why it had not been made public at the time, the official said the news would "have created panic at a critical time when the Israelis are threatening Arafat's life".

The Guardian reported that Israeli officials said Arafat's health was not a factor as the government



Student nurses of Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital yesterday try to break a police barricade during a demonstration against a government move to recruit nurses without diploma.

Cops club agitating nurses, hurt 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police swooped on a rally of the striking unemployed and student nurses on the road near the old high court yesterday, injuring at least 20.

The nurses came under police attack as they were holding the rally at about 12:15pm, protesting the authorities' move to appoint in government hospitals 177 nurses, who passed from private nursing institutes.

The agitating nurses demand that nurses passing from government-run nursing institutes only be appointed in public hospitals.

Of the injured, seven were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). They are Salma, Maksuda, Samia and Tajrin Yasmin -- all aged 20-- Montaz, 21 and Saif Hossain Rony and Anwar Hossain, both aged 22. Saif and Anwar were stated to be in critical condition.

Nearly 800 unemployed and student nurses under the banner of Bangladesh Unemployed Diploma Nurses Association (BUDNA) and Bangladesh Diploma Student Nurses Association (BDNSA) jointly brought out a procession from the outdoor wing of the DMCH at about 11:30am yesterday.

Police intercepted the procession when it reached Doel Chatter. But breaking the police cordon, the procession marched forward to be intercepted by police again near the old high court.

The demonstrators then started holding a rally on the road. But police baton charged them. The nurses then went unruly, blocking the nearby roads and damaging a microbus. As a result, traffic movement in the area was disrupted for about two hours.

Later, the demonstrators left the place and went to the Central



England cricketers walk down to immigration at the ZIA on their arrival yesterday for a month-long tour to Bangladesh.

Cellphone project BTTB breaks purchase rule

ABU SAEED KHAN

The Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) has violated the government's procurement regulation by simultaneously negotiating its 250,000-line mobile phone project with Huawei of China and Siemens of Germany.

Besides the BTTB has overlooked Huawei's incorrect statement and evaluated Siemens' bid, which was originally cancelled.

These findings and other discrepancies have made the BTTB's mobile project more controversial. Sources fear such irregularities may affect the public sector mobile project to be launched in June 2004.

General packet radio system (GPRS) is an advanced feature of the BTTB's proposed mobile service. It provides high-speed internet access to the mobile users.

The BTTB said the GPRS "must be field-proven in terms of having worked satisfactorily in operation for at least one year". Since the mobile bids were opened on December 18 last year, the proposed GPRS

should have been operating at least from December 19, 2001.

Huawei does not fulfil this mandatory criterion although it has claimed to have supplied the GPRS to China Mobile in July 2000. But in page 3 of the interim annual report 2002, Wang Xiaochu, CEO of China Mobile, said his company had deployed the GPRS in the first half of 2002.

His statement was officially reconfirmed by Rainie Lei, corporate communications manager of China Mobile, when this reporter contacted her.

Jerry Wang, Huawei's official designated for the BTTB's mobile project, however reiterated that the GPRS was commissioned for China Mobile in July 2000.

But Huawei's own brochure (Version No. M3-030030-20020617-C-1.0) says that "by June of 2002", its GPRS "is in commercial application" in China Mobile networks.

Therefore, China Mobile's

Nobel prizes for economics, chemistry announced

AGENCIES, Stockholm

US economist Robert Engle and Britain's Clive Granger have won the 2003 Nobel economics prize, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said yesterday.

"This year's Laureates devised new statistical methods for dealing with two key properties of many economic time series: time-varying volatility and non-stationarity," the Academy said in its citation for the

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Attack by JCD man Biman staff demand police deployment at office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Officials and union leaders in an emergency meeting Tuesday demanded immediate deployment of police at the Chittagong office of Biman to protect them from the alleged criminal activities of a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadre who works there as a contrac-

tor. The meeting decided to lodge a General Diary (GD) and seek deployment of police at the office for 24 hours, and if necessary bar JCD cadre Ali Akbar from entering the office premises, sources said.

District Manager Rezaul Karim flew to Dhaka Tuesday evening to

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Tough university teacher hiring rule suggested

STAR REPORT

Stakeholders in public universities, including teachers and officials, yesterday recommended a tough selection criteria for appointment of university teachers to raise the standard of education.

They unanimously recommended that the requirement for appointment as teachers in science, engineering and commerce subjects must be four first divisions/classes for other subjects, except English. They suggested that the requirement should be at least two first divisions/classes for English because of the shortage of candidates with more first divisions/classes in this subject.

The recommendations were made at a meeting of the unified selection, promotion and upgradation policy formulation

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Notice served on accused DCC staff for bribe bid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chief executive officer of Dhaka City Corporation served a showcause notice on an accused DCC engineer on Tuesday for offering to bribe him into settling a document doctoring case out of court.

Superintendent Engineer Khandaker Sujat Ali of the DCC mechanical engineering department, one of the two charged with doctoring documents, will have to explain by today why punitive action should not be taken against him for the bribe offer.

Sujat and Abdus Sattar, executive vice

Illegal toll collectors kill betel leaf planter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Extortionists killed a betel leaf planter in South Palardi village of Gournadi Upazila in the early hours yesterday.

Fazlul Huq Howlader, 42, of North Bijoypur village of Gournadi recently purchased a property for the purpose of producing betel leaf.

A gang of local extortionists allegedly backed by the ruling party leaders demanded Tk 40,000 from Fazlul but he refused to pay the toll, police and family sources said.

Fazlul had been missing since he made a visit to the plantation area on Tuesday afternoon. His beheaded body was found at around

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| | Sun Rises | Sun Sets |
|--------|-----------|----------|
| Oct 09 | | 5-39 pm |
| Oct 10 | 5-53 am | |

| Prayer Timings | | |
|----------------|-------|--------|
| October 9 | | |
| | Azan | Jamaat |
| Fair | 5-00 | 5-25 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 4-25 | 4-40 |
| Maghrib | 5-46 | 5-51 |
| Esha | 7-30 | 8-00 |

Source: Islamic Foundation