

Gubernatorial race in California
Republicans against medicare for illegals

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct 23 - A measure seeking to end social benefits for illegal aliens and deny their US-born children citizenship is drawing solid support in California, as many voters blame immigrants for the state's economic woes, reports AFP.

Governor Peter Wilson, a Republican facing a tough challenge in the race to the November 8 election, propelled the immigration issue to the national level, suing the federal government for education and health care expenses incurred by illegal aliens and their families.

Now he is pushing a measure that would bar undocumented immigrants from receiving government aid and calling for a constitutional amendment that would deny their US-born children the automatic citizenship they now receive.

The latest polls show that State Proposition 187 is backed by two-to-one in California, where the demise of the defence industry and a lag behind the US economic rebound has boosted unemployment from 5.4 per cent to 8.3 per cent in the past four years.

President Bill Clinton, who was here Saturday campaigning for Wilson's Democratic opponent Kathleen Borwn, has rejected the measure as "plainly unconstitutional," and charged it would cause the troubled state even more problems.

"If you don't give the children health care, you can create health risks for the society generally," he said at a White House news conference Friday.

But the measure is likely to pass, according to the polls, and it could catch on in other areas.

Recently, at least four other states have followed Wilson's lead and are demanding billions of dollars in compensation from Washington.

N'ganj clash

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Till the filing of this report at 10 tonight, the transport workers' leaders were holding a meeting at the local bus terminal.

According to police and witnesses, the clashes broke out after Iqbal, a worker of a motor garage, teased Shrina, a student of class VI of Morgan Girls' High School, on her way to school yesterday morning.

After Shrina informed her family of the matter, her brother Sagar tried to mobilise the local people to remove the garage. This prompted the garage workers to attack the house of Sagar at 9.30 at night. The workers numbering 10 to 12 injured Sagar, his mother and a neighbour and damaged households. However, Shrina was unhurt.

At about 11 that night, Sagar accompanied by some of his friends attacked the garage workers and damaged a few buses there. Motor mechanic Osman was stabbed. Knives, sticks and iron rods were used during the attacks.

Both sides filed cases with Fatahul police in this regard. None was arrested so far.

Meanwhile, two persons were killed in two separate road accidents here today.



Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (C) presides a meeting of the Revolution Command Council in Baghdad yesterday to hear a report of Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz on the latest meeting of the UN Security Council on the Iraq-Kuwait issue. — AFP photo

Rape victim dies :
5 held in Pabna

PABNA, Oct 23: Police today arrested five people including a municipal employee, for their alleged involvement in rape and murder of a teenage girl in the town, reports UNB.

The arrested—Sub-Assistant Engineer of Pabna Pourasbaya Mohammad Polish, 27, Swapan, 25, Liton, 24, Akai, 20, and Aslam (25)—were arrested from their residences.

All of them were sent to jail after they made confessional statements in the Magistrate's court.

FBCCI

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development during the time. To this end the focus was on macro-economic environment, incentive package, legal and regulatory framework, physical and social infrastructure and financial sector efficiency, he said, adding in all these fields, the government and the business community worked hand in hand.

"I feel confident that the interaction with the government over the period has for the first time brought out adequate confidence for inclusion of the private sector in key policy committees and even to participate in areas which were purely the government domain", said the outgoing FBCCI president who is due to hand over his responsibilities to the newly elected President today.

"We have strived for deregulation, decontrol and responsible intervention in the interest of private sector growth and the economy", he said, adding efforts were made also to bring about trust, mutual respect and concerted efforts by the private sector and the government for economic emancipation.

He also said that the FBCCI projected the view of the trade and industry on many matters including political and labour issues. It also approached the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in parliament for an 'effective parliament' and an end to the current 'stalemate' in the interest of the country and the economy, he said. The interaction was very significant from the business community's point of view, he added.

"During the tenure of my Committee, we had the privilege of launching the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry which has already become a strong body for regional interaction and exchange", he said. The successful inauguration of the Chamber in Dhaka gave the organisation the 'impetus to forge ahead after five fledgling years in incubation'. Now it is receiving attention of other regional blocs, he added.

Malaysia plans to wipe out all 'deviant' groups in 5 yrs

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 23: Malaysia will start a tough five-year plan next year to wipe out all Muslim movements in the Southeast Asian country deemed to be deviant. The Star newspaper reported today, says Reuter.

At least 47 deviant groups had been identified of which 17 were active. Zainal Abidin Abdul Kadir, director general of Pusat Islam, Malaysia's state Islamic authority, told the newspaper.

Malaysia's experience with the outlawed Al Arqam sect showed that persuasion was insufficient to deal with such groups, he was quoted as saying.

He added that the spread of what he described as deviant movements in the country was alarming.

"The government wasted a lot of manpower and money. Hence in the new programme, the government will handle the groups firmly, scrutinise them closely and monitor their movements," he said.

Last Thursday, the detained sect leader of the banned Al

US navy intercepts ship with Iraqi diesel fuel

DUBAI, Oct 23: The US navy has boarded a ship believed to be carrying Iraqi diesel fuel in violation of UN sanctions, a navy spokesman said today.

"We boarded it and diverted it. It's loaded with diesel fuel that we believe to be from Iraq," the spokesman told Reuters.

"We have substantial evidence that she went to Iraq." It was the second such boarding in 10 days and came amid heightened tension in the Gulf region as a result of Iraq massing troops near the Kuwaiti border early in October.

On October 13 the navy, enforcing a UN oil embargo imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in 1990, boarded the 29,687-tonne Greek-owned, Liberian-flagged tanker Katearina P, saying it had oil believed to have come from Iraq.

Iran and the ship's agents denied reports that it had probably been carrying Iraqi gas oil to Iran, and that it had apparently also often carried

Iranian fuel oil to Iraq. The navy spokesman identified the vessel boarded on October 22 as the Honduran-flagged tanker Al Mahrousa, a Russian-built vessel displacing about 7,300 tonnes when fully loaded.

According to the spokesman, the captain said the tanker had been to Iran but the ship had no charts for that area, only maps for the Khawr Abdullah Waterway leading into Iraq.

It also had no documentation, no bill of lading and no manifest.

Kuwait radio, in a report monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said several of the crew had indicated it had loaded with diesel fuel in Iraq's port of Basra.

A US government spokesman said the ship would probably be turned over on Sunday to the Kuwaiti government, which would work with the UN sanctions committee to decide what to do with it.

1000 Bangladeshi troops fly to Haiti

SAN JUAN, (Puerto Rico), Oct 23: The last contingent of nearly 1,000 Bangladeshi soldiers flew Saturday to Haiti to join a multinational force assigned to keep the peace in the Caribbean nation, reports AP.

About 330 Bangladeshis flew each day on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, said Army Maj Steve Pantan, spokesman for a US team that provided refresher training. Another 136 peacekeepers from Guatemala are to fly Monday to Haiti.

Besides the Bangladeshi, there are 266 peacekeepers from six Caribbean countries deployed in Haiti.

Govt employees to observe strike today

Government employees will observe 5-hour work stoppage in their respective offices today and tomorrow to press home their 14-point demand, reports UNB.

The Bangladesh Govt Employees' Coordination Council and the Bangladesh Govt Employees' Solidarity Council have jointly called the strike throughout the country.

During the strike employees will stage rallies and demonstrations in their office compounds. Similar rallies will also be held in front of the DC and TNO, offices at district and thana headquarters.

Ashaari Muhammad appeared on television and said he had recanted beliefs he has peached since 1968.

The confession was rejected by the sect's members who continue to live in communes spread throughout Malaysia.

UN day

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ration of the UN Staff Association and the UN bodies in Bangladesh. Information Minister Nazmul Huda will lead the walkathon which will be followed by a blood donation programme.

"Bangladesh 2000", a voluntary organisation, will organise a seminar in cooperation with the United Nations Information Centre. The subject of the seminar will be 'Role of the UN in Poverty Alleviation for the Third World Countries'. It will be held at the UNIC premises at 12 noon today.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar will attend the seminar as chief guest while Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka Jon J Scott will be the special guest. Prof Wakil Ahmed and UNDP's Deputy Resident representative Michael Constable will be the guests of honour.

The United Nations System in Bangladesh and the United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) will jointly organise a commemorative function at Hotel Purbani at 5 pm today.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mostafizur Rahman will attend it as chief guest.

UNB adds "in a message, President Abdur Rahman Biswas reaffirmed the country's unflinching commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter on the auspicious occasion of the 49th anniversary of its ratification."

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia in her message said the people and government of Bangladesh join the world community in commemorating the United Nations day and rededicating themselves to the ideals on which the United Nations was founded 49 years ago.

"For many the dream of a peaceful and prosperous world, free from want and oppression, disparity and dismay still remains elusive," she said.

But the Prime Minister pointed out that positive gains had been achieved, thanks to untiring efforts made by the United Nations to make the world a better place for mankind. "That role of the UN needs to be strengthened further in the light of new realities of our time."

"We live in an age of extraordinary contrasts. Historic accomplishments in the Middle East and South Africa coincide with ongoing tragedies in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Rwanda," she added.

"Some countries are emerging into freedom and prosperity; others are falling into anarchy and chaos. New technologies have brought the world closer together; yet cultural, religious and ethnic divisions threaten conflict in many areas. We need to seize this historic opportunity to build the structure of peace in these uncertain circumstances."

BSS adds: President of Awami League and Leader of Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has called upon the United Nations to make efforts for overall development of mankind by eliminating conflicts between different countries and nations.

In a message on the occasion of United Nations Day today, Sheikh Hasina hoped that the world body would play a pioneering role in establishing peace in the world in the context of prevailing situation. "Our hope is to build a peaceful world," she said.

JCD-Shibir clash

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which several were hurt. Later, around 2:15 in the afternoon, the Shibir supporters brought out a procession with the body of Pathan after autopsy. The procession came under attack, reportedly from JCD snipers on the rooftop of the City College. As a result the groups clashed once again outside the campus, leaving many injured.

Police used teargas and resorted to wanton lathicharge to disperse the feuding students.

Simmering passions flared up once again around 3:45 p.m and some Shibir activists attacked the Collectorate building. They ransacked the chambers of two magistrates of the CMM Court and the Nezarat Khana who fled the scene in panic. Several vehicles parked outside were also damaged.

Later, both JCD and the Shibir, in press statements, blamed each other for the violence.

Meanwhile, the BL and MM City college authorities have closed their institutions until October 27 in apprehension of fresh trouble. Resident students have been asked to vacate their dormitories forthwith.

In another incident, one Liaquat Ali, reportedly a Shibir cadre, was arrested with a sawed-off rifle, a pipegun, a pistol and 14 rounds of ammunition. According to police, Liaquat made a confession with Sondanga thana where a case has been lodged.

The Midnight File

Israeli cabinet votes for peace treaty

JERUSALEM, Oct 23: The Israeli cabinet today voted unanimously in favour of the peace treaty which is to be signed with Jordan on Wednesday, officials said. Israel will return several hundred square kilometres of land (more than 100 sq miles) to Jordan under the agreement which includes clauses on water-sharing, security and economic projects, reports AFP.

Rockets kill 15 more in Kabul

ISLAMABAD, Oct 23: Opponents of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani fired at least 75 rockets into residential areas of the capital Kabul today, killing 15 people and wounding 43, the pro-Rabbani Kabul radio said. The broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, blamed anti-Rabbani militias led by Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum for the barrage. The Opposition forces also attacked the positions of presidential 'Islamic forces' in the west and southwest of Kabul this morning, the radio said, reports Reuter.

Kumaratunga to scrap executive presidency

COLOMBO, Oct 23: Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga today vowed to scrap Sri Lanka's controversial executive presidency and revert to a parliamentary system of government within nine months, reports AFP.

Kumaratunga, 49, the People's alliance (PA) party's presidential poll, said the current constitution, modelled partly on the French, US and British systems, was detrimental to the country.

"The government reiterates its resolve to take very early action to abolish the presidential system... and it will be completed before the end of July next year," Kumaratunga said in her two-paragraph statement.

Under the present constitution adopted in 1978, the president is head of state as well as head of government, commander-in-chief of armed forces and is also above the law.

Kumaratunga, Opposition leader Gamini Dissanayake and four minor candidates who are in the running for the presidency have criticised the wide powers of the highest office.

Policeman injured in city blast

By Staff Correspondent
A police sergeant and a person, allegedly an extortionist, were seriously injured in a blast in the city's Nilkhet area yesterday evening.

Sergeant M Sanwar Hossain was injured when a cracker in the hand of Abdul Khaleq — the accused extortionist — exploded.

Sanwar, while patrolling the area, was chasing a group of extortionists who were exploding crackers around 7:30 in the evening reportedly after having failed to collect tolls from nearby shops.

Both Sanwar and Khaleq were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). A part of the left hand and a side of Sanwar's torso were burned while four fingers of the right hand of Khaleq were blown up in the blast. Khaleq's accomplices fled the scene immediately.

PM: Rajshahi

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sufficient food production in the current year.

The Prime Minister addressed another meeting at Niamatpur High School ground in Naogaon district.

Speaking at the meeting, she said the government was implementing programmes to ensure education for every citizen.

People likes BNP because it fulfils its pledges and does not believe in the politics based on falsehood. Only BNP succeeded in guaranteeing people's right to food and clothes, she said.

Referring to the construction of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge, extraction of coal and hardrock, Begum Zia said BNP wants to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people.

Development of roads and bridges is a precondition for overall development, she said and maintained, the government was constructing roads, bridges and culverts throughout the country so that the rural people could easily go to towns for marketing their farm products.

Begum Zia said the government was now carrying on development activities with its own resources.

Begum Zia asked the youths and rural women to take loan and set up cottage industries, poultry and dairy farms for their self-reliance.

Local leaders at both the meetings put forward various demands, including construction of roads and bridges, nationalisation of educational institutions, financial support for schools and colleges.

The Prime Minister assured them of looking into their demands and said all problems would be solved in phases.

Dialogue continues

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put forward two arguments, party sources said. Ashraf Hossain of the BNP maintained that a caretaker government was bound to be weaker than an elected one and acceptance of the opposition demand would lead to a fundamental change in the spirit of the constitution.

But the Opposition team members, especially Suranjit Sengupta, is learnt to have argued that a caretaker government would rather be a stronger one with support from all the political parties. Sengupta said that in the past the BNP rulers had even changed the preamble of the Constitution and also made other fundamental changes.

The Opposition strongly maintained that the strengthening of the Election Commission could not be an alternative to the Opposition's idea of holding elections under a caretaker administration.

Urging the government side to talk 'heart to heart', the Opposition side told the ruling party delegation that once the two sides agreed on the need for holding polls under a caretaker administration, the Opposition was ready to bring about changes in the already announced modalities for a caretaker government.

Today's session of the dialogue will be held between the same groups of leaders, while the next session is likely to be held between smaller ones, comprising deputy leader of parliament and his opposition counterpart and chief whips.

Deputy Leader of the House

Press Note

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ister and a state minister to oversee the relief activities.

Relief materials worth about Tk 27.75 crore, including 20,775.00 metric tons of wheat as TR grant, 6,000 tons as gratuitous relief, 4,100 tons of biscuit and Tk 16 lakh in cash had been allocated for the eight drought-hit districts.

Field-level monitoring was also being conducted in the region to ensure fair distribution of the relief materials and check wastage.

The Press Note said that overall situation in the region had become more or less normal following the measures undertaken by the government and some rainfall.

The government sought co-operation of the people in facing the situation and urged all concerned to refrain from publishing reports which might create panic among the people.

Copenhagen summit

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ment priorities through local level discussions to be followed by a National Workshop, Watanabe added.

FAO Representative Peter Myers, ILO Director Werner K Blenk, UNICEF's Water and Environmental Sanitation Chief Philip Wan, UNHCR Representative Canh Nguen-Tang, UNFPA Representative Dr S K Alok, WFP Country Director Alan Wilkinson and WHO Representative Dr W Hrdjotanojo also spoke on the occasion.

Coming in the 50th Anniversary year of the United Nations, the 1995 Social Summit in Denmark on March 6-12 occupies a central position in a constellation on UN gatherings on global development issues, according to available UN documents.

Heads of State and Government for the first time in the history of the United Nations will meet to give the highest priority to the betterment of the human condition, the documents said.

"The Summit presents an opportunity to build on the accomplishments of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, where more than 150 nations agreed that human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development."

Watanabe said that the UN Agencies have been working in close cooperation with each other in Bangladesh with their multi-sectoral integrated approach.

FAO is working for a sustainable farming in Bangladesh that would feed its population in future, he said.

Dr S K Alok, Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), said the forthcoming summit would be one-step forward from the recently held Population Conference in Cairo which charted a women-centered development programme.