

Republicans score big in US polls

AFP, New York

Republicans won two governors' seats Tuesday in off-year elections that dealt a stinging blow to President Barack Obama and his Democrats exactly 12 months after they swept into power.

But Democrats did eke out a single win in a race for a vacant congressional seat in a strongly Republican district of upstate New York.

In New Jersey, Republican Chris Christie pulled off an upset to defeat Jon Corzine, the incumbent governor in the heavily Democratic state, by a margin of 55-44, according to preliminary results.

Republican Bob McDonnell also took back the Virginia governor's mansion from the Democrats by defeating Creigh Deeds by 59-41 percent, preliminary results showed.

The results were setbacks for Obama, who had campaigned in both states on behalf of his party's candidates, and will help buoy Republicans

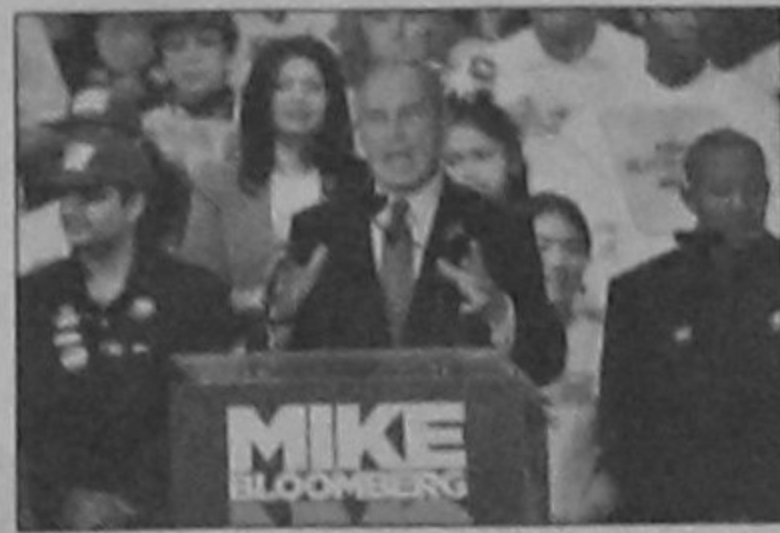


PHOTO: AFP
New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg celebrates on stage after a narrow win over Democratic challenger William Thompson on Tuesday in New York City.

left reeling by the scale of his historic White House victory on November 4, 2008.

Virginia is a pivotal state and a year ago helped propel Obama into office as the nation's first black president, the first time it had backed a Democratic presidential contender in more than four decades.

The loss in New Jersey was likely more devastating for Obama, who had some political skin at stake as he campaigned heavily there on behalf of Corzine, including at a rally with 11,000 people over the weekend. The state has long been dominated by the Democratic Party.

Preliminary results gave Democrat Bill Owens 49 percent to 46 percent for his main challenger Doug Hoffman, who ran on the tiny Conservative Party ballot, but was backed by senior figures from the right of the Republican Party.

With mid-term nationwide elections to Congress due next year and Obama bogged down in confrontations over the economy, health care reform and the Afghanistan war, many saw Tuesday's off-year races taking on outside importance.

The Republican Governors Association quickly congratulated McDonnell in Virginia, saying his victory gave the party "tremendous momentum heading into 2010."

Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs earlier played down the wider significance of the three races.

"I don't think the president is looking at these and believes that they say anything about our future legislative efforts or our future political efforts," he said.

But if the races showed that Obama's Democratic machine is not invincible, they also bared rifts in the Republican Party over how to rebuild after last year's drubbing in presidential and congressional elections.

In the New York special congressional race, the official, moderate Republican candidate withdrew in the face of the insurgent Conservative candidate.

Hoffman's storming run made him a standard bearer for the wing of the Republican Party organising nationwide "tea party" protests against Obama. Among his high-profile, out-of-state backers was Sarah Palin, the former vice presidential candidate.



PHOTO: AFP
Iranian members of the Basij militia burn a US flag outside the former US embassy in Tehran yesterday during a rally to mark the storming of the American embassy by Iranian students 30 years ago.

Police and protesters clash in Tehran

Huge crowds stage noisy anti-US rally

AFP, Tehran

Police used batons and teargas to break up an opposition protest in central Tehran yesterday, while huge crowds staged a noisy anti-US rally nearby to mark the storming of the American embassy by students 30 years ago.

US President Barack Obama, meanwhile, in a statement marking the anniversary of the event that sparked decades of hostility between America and Iran urged Tehran to make choices that would end its international isolation.

Witnesses said the violent clashes occurred at Haft-e-Tir square in the heart of the capital when riot police armed with batons and firing teargas moved in on a crowd of several hundred opposition supporters staging a protest.

The protesters, who were chanting "Death to the dictator," refused to disperse and dozens were beaten or arrested. Groups of pro-government hardliners also gathered at the square chanting "Death to America."

Opposition website Mowzcamp.com reported that opposition leader Mehdi Karubi was among the protesters at the square but left quickly after he and his supporters came under attack by the hardliners.

Qaeda blasts Saudi king over mixed university

AFP, Riyadh

The Yemen-based branch of al-Qaeda has accused Saudi King Abdullah of violating Islam by launching the kingdom's first public university where men and women can mix, SITE Intelligence reported.

Ibrahim al-Rubaish, a Saudi member of al-Qaeda on the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), said in an audio message posted on the internet that the new King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, where post-graduate science students and researchers will work together, violated Islamic Shariah law.

'Whitewash' could slow global warming

AFP, Lima

A Peruvian scientist has called on his country to help slow the melting of Andean glaciers by daubing white paint on the rock and earth left behind by receding ice so they will absorb less heat.

Eduardo Gold, president of non-governmental organisation Glaciers of Peru, made the suggestion in a presentation Tuesday to the country's parliamentary commission on climate change.

His idea has already attracted interest from the World Bank, and is among a series of projects to counter climate change that the organisation is considering, Gold told AFP. "Little by little the glaciers are turning brown. The brown areas and rocks absorb more heat, speeding up the process of glacial melting. Our suggestion is to recreate the original white colour and the conditions needed for recovery," Gold recently told official news agency Andina.

The phenomenon is known as "positive feedback": the more the glaciers disappear, the more earth there is to absorb radiant heat and reinforce global warming.

Gold says the paint that would be used is environmentally friendly and made from a base of lime, without chemical components.

Iran 'must choose' its future path: Obama

AFP, Washington

Iran "must choose" whether to open the door to opportunity and prosperity, President Barack Obama said yesterday in a statement marking 30 years since the storming of the US embassy in Tehran.

"We have heard for thirty years what the Iranian government is against; the question, now, is what kind of future it is for," Obama said.

"It is time for the Iranian government to decide whether it wants to focus on the past, or whether it will make the choices that will open the door to greater opportunity, prosperity and justice for its people."

Radical Islamist students captured the city-centre US embassy on November 4, 1979 — just months after the Islamic revolution toppled the US-backed shah.

The students, who took 52 American diplo-

mats hostage and held them for 444 days, said they were responding to Washington's refusal to hand over the deposed shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Obama paid tribute to the hostages and their families for "their extraordinary service and sacrifice."

"This event helped set the United States and Iran on a path of sustained suspicion, mistrust and confrontation," he said.

"I have made it clear that the United States of America wants to move beyond this past, and seeks a relationship with the Islamic Republic of Iran based upon mutual interests and mutual respect."

The president stressed that Washington has "recognised Iran's international right to peaceful nuclear power. We have demonstrated our willingness to take confidence-building steps along with others in the international community."

Lanka military chief skips US war crimes quiz: MP

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's military commander left the United States ahead of possible questioning over alleged war crimes committed during the defeat of the island's Tamil rebels, a legislator said yesterday.

General Sarath Fonseka headed back to Sri Lanka without facing questioning by the Department of Homeland Security later in the day, Samantha Vidyaratne told parliament.

"In the same way this brave soldier rid the country of terrorism, he is now on his way home without betraying the nation," Vidyaratne said.

Storm kills 90 in Vietnam

AP, AFP, Hanoi

The death toll from Tropical Storm Mirinae rose to 90 in Vietnam on Wednesday as authorities stepped up rescue and relief operations in affected areas of the central region.

In the hardest-hit province of Phu Yen, 26 more deaths were reported as information trickled in from isolated areas, bringing the death toll there to 65, disaster official Dang Thi Lanh said Wednesday. An additional 13 people were missing.

Elsewhere in the region, the storm and flooding left another 22 people dead and six others missing, according to disaster officials and the government's Web site.

ME peace talks must include Jerusalem, says Hillary

AFP, Cairo

Middle East peace talks must include the disputed city of Jerusalem, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in Cairo on Wednesday, stressing Washington is determined to push for a Palestinian state.

"There is no doubt that moving toward a state that reflects the aspirations and the rights of the Palestinian people must include all of the issues that have been discussed and mentioned by President (Barack) Obama, and that includes Jerusalem," she said. "We want to assure you that our goal is a real state, with a real sovereignty," she added at a joint press conference with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit.

"Nothing can interfere with our commitment and our resolve to move forward, and there are impediments, yes, but we cannot let anything deter us," she said.

Hillary extended a regional trip at the last minute to meet Mubarak after creating a storm by praising an Israeli plan to restrict settlement construction on the occupied West Bank.

The secretary of state said on Wednesday that the settlements were illegitimate but again described the plan as "unprecedented."

"Our policy on settlement activity has not changed. We do not accept the legitimacy," she said, adding that the Israeli offer, which would allow a limited expansion of the settlements, was "not what we prefer."

But "what we have received from the Israelis ... is unprecedented," she said. "It's a positive movement ... just like the Palestinians made progress on security," she said.

The settlements in the West Bank and annexed east Jerusalem, which Israel seized in the 1967 war with its Arab neighbours, are home to nearly 500,000 Israelis and are considered illegal by the international community.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company Ltd. invites applications from Bangladeshi citizens for the following positions:

- (a) Name of the post : Principal (in the rank of Senior Vice President), FILITRA

(b) Number of vacancy : 1 (one)

(c) Academic qualification : M. Com/MA (Economics)/MBA

(d) Professional qualification : Preference will be given to Ph. D holder.

(e) Age : Maximum 45 years

(f) Experience : 10 years working experience in Training & Research area of a Public Limited Company, Corporate Body and Professional/ Academic Institution out of which 3 years working experience as Head of Training & Research Department. Candidates should have fair knowledge of Computer.
- (a) Name of the post : Executive Officer (Audit)

(b) Academic qualification : M.Com/MBA

(c) Professional qualification : CA(CC)

(d) Age : Maximum 35 years

(e) Experience : 3 (three) years working experience in Audit Department in a reputed Life Insurance Company or Corporate Body and Knowledge of Computer.
- (a) Name of the post : Hardware Engineer in the grade of Principal Officer

(b) Number of vacancy : 25 (Twenty five)

(c) Academic qualification : Diploma in Computer Science or Diploma in Hardware Engineering

(d) Age : Maximum 35 years

(e) Experience : 2 (two) years working experience as Hardware Engineer in a reputed Company/ Computer firm and good knowledge in Troubleshooting.

Salary & other benefits as per Company's Pay Scale. Higher starting salary may be given to the extra ordinary, well experienced and deserving candidates.

Interested candidates having requisite qualification and experience are requested to send detailed CV, recent two passport size photograph & copies of all academic, professional & experience certificates duly attested by a Gazetted Officer to reach the undersigned by November 25, 2009.

Name of the post applied for shall have to be written on the Envelope.

Confidentiality of the applicants will be maintained.

Managing Director (cc)



Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company Ltd.

Head Office : T. K. Bhaban (13th floor) • 13 Karwan Bazar • Dhaka - 1215

News in Brief

Ten bodies found at rapist's home

AFP, Washington

Investigators unearthed four more bodies Tuesday at the Ohio home of a convicted rapist bringing the total number of corpses found in the grisly discovery to 10, local media reported.

As police dug into the night, Cleveland police chief Michael McGrath said Anthony Sowell had been charged with five counts of aggravated murder after women's bodies were dug up at his home last week, the Cleveland Plain Dealer said.

18 people killed in Mexico's north

AFP, Ciudad Juarez

A total of 18 people, including a police officer, were murdered between Monday and Tuesday in the Mexican state of Chihuahua, state authorities said.

The police officer was killed in the border city of Ciudad Juarez by "a group of armed men who shot him nine times" after confronting him inside a beauty salon where he was accompanying his wife, said the state's deputy attorney general's office.

Man jailed for laser attack on jets

AFP, Los Angeles

A California man who aimed a handheld laser at two passenger jets arriving at John Wayne Airport south of Los Angeles has been jailed for two-and-a-half years, justice authorities said Tuesday.

Dana Welch, 38, was sentenced after being convicted at a trial in April where he was accused of shining a laser at two Boeing jets as they approached the airport in May last year.



Dhaka Power Distribution Co. Ltd.

(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)
Biddut Bhaban (2nd Floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka - 1000.

Invitation for Local Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Power Division			
2	Agency	Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC)			
3	Procuring Entity Name	DGM, Contracts & Procurements Circle, Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC).			
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
5	Invitation for	Procurement of 400 Volt 10(100) A Whole Current Meter & Modem.			
6	Invitation Ref. no.	DPDC/DGM/CP&S/09-10/920			
7	Date	03/11/2009			
Key Information:					
8	Procuring Method	Open Tendering Method (Single -Stage -two - Envelope)			
Funding Information					
9	Source of Funds	DPDC's own fund (Revenue Budget)			
Particular Information:					
10	Tender Name	Procurement of 400 Volt 10(100) A Whole Current Meter & Modem.			
11	Last Selling Date of Tender, with Bid Submission and Bid Opening Date, Time	Last Selling Date	Bid Submission & Bid Opening Date	Bid Submission Deadline	Bid Opening Time
		07/12/09	08/12/09	12:00 noon	12:30 pm
12	Name & Address of the office for selling, receiving and opening of Tender Document	Selling DGM, Contracts & Procurements Circle, Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC) Biddut Bhaban (3 rd floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka – 1000.		Receiving & Opening DGM, Contracts & Procurements Circle, Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC) Biddut Bhaban (3 rd floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka – 1000.	
Information for Tenderer:					
13	Eligibility of Tenderer	a) The Tenderer shall have a minimum of 05(five) years of overall experience in the supply of electrical goods. b) The manufacturer shall have a minimum production capacity of Electronic Programmable Meter is 70,000 nos per annum & shall produce documentary evidence by certificate from a third party inspector. c) The satisfactory completion of supply of goods for value not less than 06 (six) crore in at least 2(two) contracts within last 05 (five) years to be evidenced by certificate from end user.			
14	Price of Tender Document for each Lot (Taka)	Taka 5,000/= (Taka Five thousands) non-refundable only payable in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of Deputy General Manager, Contracts & Procurements Circle, Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC).			
15	Item	Tender Security Amount (Taka)		Location of Delivery	
	Procurement of 400 Volt 10(100) A Whole Current Meter & Modem.	Taka 30,00,000.00 (Thirty Lac Only)		CSD (Revenue), DPDC, Tongi.	
16	Completion Time	120 days from the date of signing contract.			
Procuring Entity Details:					
17	Name of official Inviting Tender	Md. Shamsul Alam			
18	Designation of official Inviting Tender	DGM, Contracts & Procurements Circle, Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC)			
19	Address of official Inviting Tender	Biddut Bhaban (3 rd floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka – 1000			
20	Contact Details of official Inviting Tender	Telephone: 9567258 Fax: 9568349 E-mail: dgmcp@dpdc.org			
21	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all Tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.				

(Md. Shamsul Alam)

Deputy General Manager,
Contracts & Procurements Circle,
Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC)