

Gore, Bush clinch US presidential nominations

AUSTIN, Texas Mar 15: Less than one week after their rivals withdrew from the race, US Vice President Al Gore and Texas Governor George W. Bush clinched their nominations, promising a brawling race for the White House in November, reports AFP.

"Tonight we can say: Mission accomplished," presumptive Republican nominee Bush said at a rally here in the Texas capital after six southern states voted in the "Super Tuesday II" round of primaries and caucuses.

Bush and Gore have now secured the delegates needed to win the nominations at their parties' conventions after vanquishing their respective rivals, insurgent Republican John McCain and Democrat Bill Bradley.

Bush, the son and namesake of the former president, immediately trained his sights on the only obstacle left to replacing President Bill Clinton, attack-



Al Gore

ing Gore's ties to the scandal-tainted administration.

"With this victory comes a sacred duty. Americans want a leader who will raise our sights. Americans want a president who will keep his oath and his honour. And this is a charge that I will keep," said Bush.

But he warned that the battle

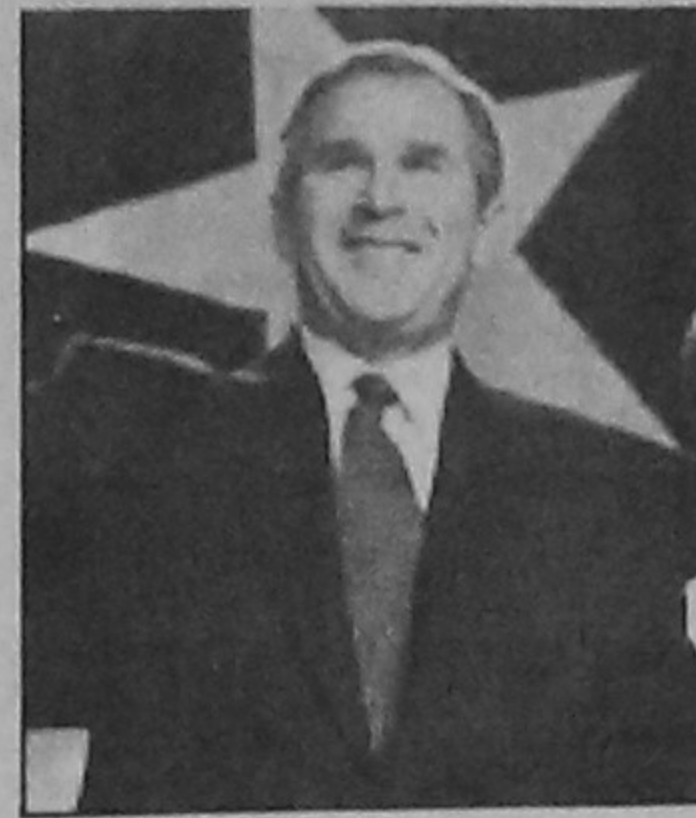
for the November vote will be long and potentially dirty.

"We are halfway -- but only halfway -- to ending the Clinton-Gore era in Washington DC. To get there, we must face one more Clinton-Gore campaign. The last week has been a preview. The Gore campaign will say anything and try to win at any cost," said Bush.

Votes in Florida, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Tennessee put both men over the top for the delegates they need for the nominating conventions in July and August.

Television networks estimated that Gore won 2,575 delegates, far more than the 2,169 needed to win the Democratic nomination. The votes in six states gave Bush more than 1,100 delegates of the 1,034 needed for the Republicans nomination.

Gore, meanwhile, tapped into his greatest strength -- the



George W. Bush

boom economy.

"We stand at a mountaintop moment in our history!" Gore said at a rally in Florida, a decisive state in the November race, where Bush's brother Jeb is governor.

"Look at all we've achieved, the longest period of economic growth in history," he said.

The vice president had been pulling ahead in polls since last year's surveys gave Bush a 20-point lead. But a USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll Tuesday showed Bush holding a 49 per cent to 43 per cent lead over Gore.

More importantly, the poll found McCain Republicans went 80 per cent for Bush and 14 per cent for Gore. McCain independents went 43-37 per cent toward Bush. McCain Democrats favoured Gore by a 76-13 per cent margin.

With the nominating race wrapped up, Bush predicted that voters would go into a "hibernation" period until the November elections loom.

Nevertheless, both candidates were looking for respectable turnouts Tuesday as a test of their appeal in the national elections.

Both were headed off to fundraisers for what will likely prove to be the costliest race in US presidential history.

US group posts pictures of Pak nuclear sites on Internet

WASHINGTON, Mar 15: A US policy group that caused a stir when it published satellite photographs of a North Korean missile site said on Tuesday that it would put pictures of Pakistani nuclear and missile facilities on the Internet only days before President Bill Clinton visits South Asia, reports Reuters.

The Federation of American Scientists will release photos -- bought from a Colorado company and of spy-satellite quality -- of Pakistan's nuclear reactor and support facility at Khushab and of its missile base at Sargodha, said John Pike, director of the group's space policy project.

The scientists' federation will unveil the images on its Web site, <http://www.fas.org>, at

8 am EST (1900 BST) on Wednesday -- only three days before Clinton leaves on a trip to India that will include a stopover in Pakistan.

The president's weeklong South Asian tour, during which he will also spend a day in Bangladesh comes amid increased tension between India and Pakistan, historic rivals over the Kashmir region. Washington is concerned about a potential nuclear conflict between New Delhi and Islamabad.

Pakistan's missile base at Sargodha houses M-11 missiles that the country bought from China a decade ago, Pike said. The photo, provided by Space Imaging Inc. of Thornton, Colorado, does not include missiles but shows that the installation is "a fullscale missile base," he

said. "Pakistan has invested a tremendous effort in building these facilities and I don't think we're going to talk them out of building these weapons any time soon," Pike said.

Future US policy should focus on "reducing the risk that these weapons will be used," he said.

The Federation of American Scientists has ordered satellite photos of similar facilities in India.

Pentagon spokesman PJ Croley said: "Our desire is for both countries to walk away from their nuclear programmes."

"And we don't think that the existence of nuclear weapons in India, Pakistan, in any way enhances their security."

Japan, ROK to bolster defence cooperation

SEOUL, Mar 15: Japan and South Korea today agreed to step up military cooperation and exchanges to help maintain stability in Northeast Asia, a spokesman of the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff said, reports AFP.

The agreement was reached at a meeting here between the chairman of Japan's Joint Staff Council, Yuji Fujinawa, and his South Korean counterpart Cho Yung-Kil in Seoul, the spokesman said.

"They shared the view that close bilateral ties of the two countries are important for maintaining stability in the Northeast Asian region and agreed to increase military exchange and cooperation," the

spokesman said.

The two also discussed the situation in the region, including military activities in communist North Korea as well as ways of increasing military exchanges and cooperation between Japan and South Korea.

Cho outlined South Korea's policy of engaging North Korea in dialogue and contacts with the outside world and called for Japan's support in the effort.

Fujinawa assured the Seoul delegation of Tokyo's full support of South Korea's policy of reconciliation toward Pyongyang.

Fujinawa's visit to Seoul is the seventh by a chairman of Japan's Joint Chiefs of Staff Council.

Cohen concludes visit: US seeks to develop ties with Vietnam

HO CHI MINH CITY, Mar 15: Winding up a landmark visit, Defense Secretary William Cohen saw and heard stark reminders Wednesday of the Vietnam War and received assurances from military and civilian leaders that the communist government has set aside hard feelings from the conflict, reports AP.

"In my view your visit is a milestone in the development of relations between our two countries," Vo Viet Thanh, chairman of the Ho Chi Minh Municipal People's Committee, told Cohen at the outset of a meeting in the ornate city hall that once was a seat of French colonial rule in Indochina.

Ho Chi Minh City, on the

banks of the Saigon River, was known as Saigon until North Vietnamese forces defeated US-backed South Vietnam in April 1975 and unified the country under communist rule. Thanh is essentially the mayor of Ho Chi Minh City and a surrounding district.

Seated in heavily lacquered teak armchairs with inlaid pearl figurines, Cohen and Thanh exchanged pleasantries, and Thanh said Vietnam understands that the United States wants a relationship with its former war enemy that is based on a spirit of "peace, friendship and cooperation."

Cohen is the first US defense secretary to visit Vietnam since

the war ended 25 years ago. Diplomatic relations were restored in June 1995.

Cohen began his final day in Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City with a trip to Tan Son Nhut Airport, the former air base that served as a headquarters and hub for American forces during the war.

Cohen met with the commander of the 7th Military Region of southern Vietnam, Lt Gen. Phan Trung Kien, who was a special forces soldier in Saigon during the war. In the formal introductions, through a Vietnamese interpreter, Kien was described as a "hero of the war."

Cohen never served in the military.



Iranian women wave firecrackers in Tehran late Tuesday during the Wednesday Fire, or Chaharshanbeh Soori, ritual held on the last Wednesday eve prior to Norooz, the Iranian new year that begins on March 20 to coincide with the first day of spring. — AFP photo

Oxford dictionary goes online

LONDON, Mar 14: The Oxford English Dictionary went on-line Tuesday, bringing nearly 640,000 words and phrases and 2.4 million quotations to paying customers in cyberspace, reports AP.

The online service is aimed at companies and institutions who will pay more than 1,000 pounds (1,600 dollar) for yearly subscriptions to use the second edition of the OED online.

The second edition is also currently available in a 20-volume print edition and as a CD-ROM.

The online version, which features an easy-to-use search, will be updated quarterly with at least 1,000 new and revised entries, the company said.

The initial changes focused on words beginning with "M" up to "Mahurat", a rather apt word that means an auspicious moment for the beginning of an enterprise.

Former top policeman jailed in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 15: Malaysia's former police chief was sentenced to two months in jail today for assaulting former deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim, who was blindfolded and handcuffed to a jail bed during the attack, reports AP.

Abdul Rahim Noor, who pleaded guilty and was convicted Tuesday, was also fined 2,000 ringgit (526 dollar). But he didn't go to jail, as the court granted him bail until the appeal on his sentencing is heard. No date was set for the appeal.

'Nuclear non-proliferation accord to form bedrock of Indo-US ties'

WASHINGTON, Mar 15: Agreement on nuclear non-proliferation will form the bedrock of strong US-India relations, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Tuesday, in advance of President Bill Clinton's landmark trip to the Indian subcontinent, reports AFP.

"The United States does not regard India's missiles or nuclear weapons as a direct threat to us. But we do regard proliferation as our number one security concern," Albright said at the Asia Society, a US organisation that sponsors educational programmes on Asia.

"For this reason we must accept that significant progress in this area is necessary before India and the United States can realise fully the vast potential of our relationship," she said. India, like the United States, has declined to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and talks between the two countries on the nuclear issue have yet to produce any significant results.

"We have not yet found a way to create sufficient common ground on these issues," acknowledged Albright.

Analysts here believe progress on the nuclear issue will be slow, particularly given India's antagonistic relationship with neighboring Pakistan, also a nuclear power.

It is that unstable relationship with Islamabad that has the administration worried, and likely will lead Clinton to make nonproliferation a key

topic in his March 20-25 trip to India and Pakistan.

But one analyst here warned Clinton against placing too much emphasis on the nuclear issue.

"The President needs to avoid the temptation to shape the agenda around nuclear goals," cautioned Richard Haass, vice president and director of foreign policy studies at The Brookings Institution, on Monday.

"These countries are not about to get out of the nuclear business," he said, adding the best that could be hoped for would be to get both countries to agree to a testing moratorium and a ban on export of nuclear weapons or their components.

Both India and Pakistan conducted nuclear tests in 1998, sparking a wave of international condemnation. And they have fought two wars over Kashmir, a territory both claim.

Albright urged the two countries to find some way to resolve the Kashmir standoff without armed force which could potentially trigger nuclear conflict.

"How India addresses all these issues will of course influence the decision we make. But our goal is a qualitatively different and better relationship with India -- not a simple return to the status quo before the tests," Albright stated.

"Our ability to attain this goal well depend largely on what India does," she concluded.

BRIEFLY

Taipei cuts air link to Manila: Taiwan cut air links to the Philippines Wednesday, stranding more than 600 passengers at Taipei's international airport, AP reports from Taipei.

The move came a day after Manila reneged on a recent aviation agreement that had partially settled a five-month dispute with Taiwan over passenger quotas. Taipei also complained that Manila did not provide adequate warning before it terminated the air pact, which allowed each side to fly a maximum of 4,800 passengers every week.

Fresh fighting kills 16 in Lanka: At least 15 Tamil Tiger guerrillas and a soldier were killed in fresh fighting in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, the defence ministry said Wednesday, AFP reports from Colombo.

Government troops killed 13 members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the northern peninsula of Jaffna on Tuesday while two more were shot dead in the adjoining Wanni region, the ministry said. It said the guerrillas opened fire and killed a government soldier in the eastern town of Batticaloa on Tuesday.



ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন
আপনার শিক্তে টিকা দিন

নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, মিরপুর ১নং সেকশনে অবস্থিত হবারত শাহ আলী মার্কেটের পুরাতন অবকাঠামো (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে ভিত্তিতে) আগামী ২২/৩/২০০০ইং তারিখ সকাল ১১-০০ ঘটিকায় প্রকাশ্য নিলামে বিক্রয় করা হইবে। উক্ত নিলাম সচিব মহোদয়ের অফিস কক্ষে (কক্ষ নং-২০২) নগর ভবন, ২য় তলা) অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে। প্রত্যেক নিলাম ডাককারী কর্তৃক নিলাম পরিচালকের নিকট জামানত বাবদ ২০,০০০/- (বিশ হাজার) টাকা জমা রাখিতে হইবে। কোন চেক গ্রহণ করা হইবে না। সর্বোচ্চ ডাককারী কর্তৃক নিলামের সম্পূর্ণ টাকা নিলাম শেষ হইবার সংগে সংগে পরিশোধ করিতে হইবে। সম্পূর্ণ অর্থ পরিশোধ করিতে ব্যর্থ হইলে জামানত বাজেয়াপ্ত করা হইবে। উল্লেখ থাকে যে, সর্বোচ্চ ডাককারী কর্তৃক মোট দরের উপর ৩% হারে আয়কর পরিশোধ করিতে হইবে। নিলাম পরিচালকের যে কোন কারণদর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে নিলাম গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করিবার সম্পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষিত থাকিবে।

ডিসিসি/পিআরডি/৩৬৫/১৯৯৯-২০০০
জিডি-২৫০

প্রধান সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তা
ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা।

Chinese PM warns Taiwan's voters

BEIJING, Mar 15: Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji today made a direct address to Taiwan's voters three days before their elections, warning them not to act on impulse by choosing the path of independence, reports AFP.

Zhu said the people of Taiwan were standing at a "very critical juncture" and it was vital they did not make any decision they would later regret.

"Let me advise all the people in Taiwan, do not act just on impulse at this juncture that may decide the future course that Taiwan will follow."

"Otherwise I am afraid they will not have another opportunity to regret," said Zhu during his annual press conference.

Zhu said he had faith the Taiwanese electorate would make a "wise historical choice".

"However there are still

three days to go before the election in Taiwan and things can hardly be predictable because anything may happen. So let me say once again to all the people in Taiwan, please do be vigilant."

China has repeatedly warned Taiwan in the run up to Saturday's presidential elections that any move towards independence by the island, which Beijing considers a rebel province, will lead to war.

And Zhu mocked foreign analysts who predicted China could not physically re-take Taiwan.

"Those people who have made wrong calculations do not know the history of China and that the Chinese people will sacrifice their lives and use all their blood to defend China's sovereignty and dignity," he said.



Chinese President Jiang Zemin (C) chats with Prime Minister Zhu Rongji (R) and Vice Premier Qian Qichen before voting on various work reports at the closing session of the National People's Congress, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. — AFP photo

Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology, Dhaka Tender Notice

No. P&D/LP-1(567, 572 & 579)/99-2000/D-2024(3)

Dated: 15.3.00

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide suppliers for supply of Computer, Printer, Computer Accessories, Multimedia PC, UPS, Monitor, Digital Multimeter, Induction Motor, Toner Cartridge, Ribbon, LAN Card, GIS and other Various Electrical Goods.

Intending participants shall have to obtain permission for purchasing tender paper etc. on application to the undersigned. Application must accompany TIN certificate, Trade licence and certificate of experience about concern works/supplies etc. from reputed organisations. Tender paper and other terms & conditions will be available from the office of the undersigned on payment of Tk 500.00 (Five hundred) (non-refundable) to the Sonali Bank, BUET Branch, Dhaka. Each tender must accompany a Bank Draft or Pay Order from nationalised bank amounting to 5% of the quoted amount as earnest money deposited in favour of the "Comptroller, BUET" without which no tender will be considered. Tenders must be put into the tender boxes kept for this purpose in this office or offices of the Heads of the Department of Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering (Civil Engineering Building and EME Building respectively) up to 12-00 Noon of 2-4-2000 and will be opened on the same day at 12-30 PM before the participants presents.

The university authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders or one or more items of any tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.

No tender paper will be sold on the opening day of the tender.

Deputy Director
Planning & Development

GD-251

Invitation for Prequalification (IFP)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Dhaka City Corporation

Project Implementation Unit

Dhaka Urban Transport Project

Reconstruction of Intersections

IDA. Credit No. 3163 BD

CORRIGENDUM

THE INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION (IFP) NO-DUTP/PD/2000(2)/107 DATED: 27/2/2000 PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH 1, 2000 ISSUE OF BANGLAR BANI AND MARCH 2, 2000 ISSUE OF THE DAILY STAR AND THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS HAS BEEN AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

This invitation for prequalification follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in *Development Business* Issue No 526 of 16 January, 2000.

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward cost of the Dhaka Urban Transport Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Credit to payments under the Contract (W)C2: Reconstruction of Intersections-10 Nos.

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, hereinafter referred to "the Employer" intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for the Contract Package No. (W)C2: Reconstruction of Intersections-10 Nos in Dhaka Metropolitan City.

It is expected that invitations to bid will be made in July 2000. Prequalification will be conducted through prequalification procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, January 1995 (revised January and August 1996, September 1997 and January, 1999), and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the guidelines. However, the following countries are not eligible for procurement under the Credit: The Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Kuwait, Qatar, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates.

A 7.5 per cent margin of preference will be granted to domestic bidders in the evaluation of bid. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Project Director, PIU, DCC, Dhaka Urban Transport Project. If requested, the documents may also be sent by courier service. But under no circumstances will the Employer be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the document so dispatched.

A complete set of prequalification documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Taka 5000.00 (five thousand) or US\$ 100.00. The method of payment will be in cash or in the form of Pay Order or Demand Draft from any schedule bank in Bangladesh in favour of Project Director, PIU, DCC, Dhaka Urban Transport Project. If requested, the documents may also be sent by courier service. But under no circumstances will the Employer be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the document so dispatched.

Submission of applications for prequalification shall be in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address below by 17:00 hours on or before May 15, 2000 and be clearly marked "Application for Prequalification for Contract Package No. (W)C2: Reconstruction of Intersections — 10 Nos under DUTP."

Shafiul Islam

Project Director

Project Implementation Unit

Dhaka Urban Transport Project

Dhaka City Corporation

DCC/PRD/367/1999-2000

GD-249

Nagar Bhaban, 14th Level Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

Tel: (880-2) 9562732, Fax: (880-2) 9666333