

VOL. X NO. 289 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2000

Wishing the  
BEST for the  
3rd Millennium

KARTIK 23, 1407 BS

SHABAN 09, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : TAKA 6.00

## Govt to amend pvt school registration ordinance

By Nazmul Ashraf

The government is going to amend the 38-year-old law on registration of private schools mainly to bring under the law all private schools following foreign syllabus and to make the registration process strict.

The Ministry of Education has prepared a bill seeking some other changes in the Registration of Private Schools Ordinance, 1962. The bill will be placed in the parliament in its session beginning on November 9.

The Cabinet approved the bill titled 'The Registration of Private Schools (Amendment) Act, 2000' on August 23 last year.

The bill has already been submitted to the Parliament Secretariat. A copy of the bill was made available to The Daily Star yesterday.

As per provisions of the bill, private schools offering 'O' and 'A' level courses and International Baccalaureate or equivalent courses of any foreign education.

See page 11 col 6

## Crop loss in floods put at Tk 578.76 crore

### Agriculture ministry for international assistance in rehabilitation

By Nazrul Islam Mithu

The damages in agriculture sector in the 16 floodhit districts stood at Tk 578.76 crore, according to a preliminary report of the agriculture ministry.

It emphasised international assistance for the sector for rehabilitation.

The finance ministry so far allocated Tk 10.5 crore to face the aftermath of the devastating floods while the agriculture ministry sought Tk 45.5 crore, said a senior official.

The 16 districts, mostly in south-western region of the country, were affected by the floods for over a month since late September. The deluge caused loss of lives and serious damage to property and crops. But the government measures to recover the losses are inadequate, sources pointed out.

The government has planned to seek assistance from the donors for agricultural rehabilitation in the affected districts. The Economics Relations Division (ERD) has been asked to make an appeal for this.

The agriculture ministry has ordered formation of a task force to conduct spot survey to determine the loss of lives and damage to property and crops. The task force to be formed with the representatives from the ministry, Bangladesh Agriculture Develop-

ment Corporation, DAE, BARI and BRRI will submit another report to the ministry.

The preliminary report on the damages was submitted to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Agriculture yesterday.

Chairman of the Standing Committee T I M Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury said financial help given to the flood victims is insufficient. The actual damage is much more than what was stated in the ministry's report.

The Committee at its meeting yesterday suggested the ministry to take immediate measures for rehabilitation of the flood victims and provide support to the agro-based farms in the affected areas.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury who attended the meeting said the government has taken all possible measures to rehabilitate the floodhit people, according to meeting sources.

Tk 8.35 crore has been allocated for procurement of paddy and wheat seeds from West Bengal. These would be available by November 15, she was quoted as saying.

The remaining Tk 2.14 crore, allocated by the

See page 11 col 1

## One market for OIC mooted

By Diplomatic Correspondent

Bangladesh is likely to float the idea of an Islamic Common Market at the ninth OIC Summit to be held next week, sources said.

A common market will create an enabling environment for boosting trade and investment and help expand commerce among member countries of the 55-member organisation.

The three-day meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) will be held from November 12 to 14 in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will lead a large delegation representing Bangladesh in the Summit. She is due to leave Dhaka on November 11.

Concerned sources said Bangladesh, as an active member of the OIC, will moot the idea of a common market not only to strengthen economic ties but also the bonds of the Islamic Ummah.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who will address the plenary session is expected to make a strong plea for peace and unity of

See page 11 col 3



## Biman, Oman Airlines still deaf as Jarina wails

By Staff Correspondent

Biman is the gorund handling agency at ZIA.

Biman security service and Cantonment police are jointly investigating the incident.

Biman officials said yesterday Jarina had kept the briefcase with her up to Mascot. During the stopover there, she was asked to give the briefcase to luggage compartment in the aircraft.

She then told Mascot airport officials that her briefcase contained valuable and she insisted on keeping it with herself. But the

officials did not pay any heed to this and sent the briefcase to luggage section.

The aircraft landed at ZIA at about 4:15 am all the luggage was placed on the conveyer belt by 5:05 am.

Jarina found that her briefcase was broken and a purse in it containing the money was missing. She reported the incident to the airport authorities and it was immediately conveyed to the aircraft personnel.

See page 11 col 6

## Americans elect new president today

WASHINGTON, Nov 6: Americans elect a new president Tuesday, capping an agonisingly tight race between Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W Bush that could determine how their country uses its unparalleled prosperity and power over the next four years, reports AFP.

Bush, 54, the governor of Texas and son of former president George Bush, clung to a slight lead in opinion polls and had the edge in media estimates of decisive electoral votes awarded by each state, generally on a winner-take-all basis.

But with Gore, the 52-year-old vice president, running tough in several key swing states, the outcome was considered a tossup after a bitterly fought campaign to succeed Bill Clinton and become the United States' 43rd chief executive.

Also at stake on Tuesday were all 435 seats in the House of Representatives and a third of the 100-member Senate, both controlled by the Republicans since 1994. The Democrats were given an outside chance of winning back the House, but only a long shot in the Senate.

For the Republicans, a Bush victory matched with success in holding onto both houses of Congress would give them control of both the executive and legislative branches of government for the first time since 1954.

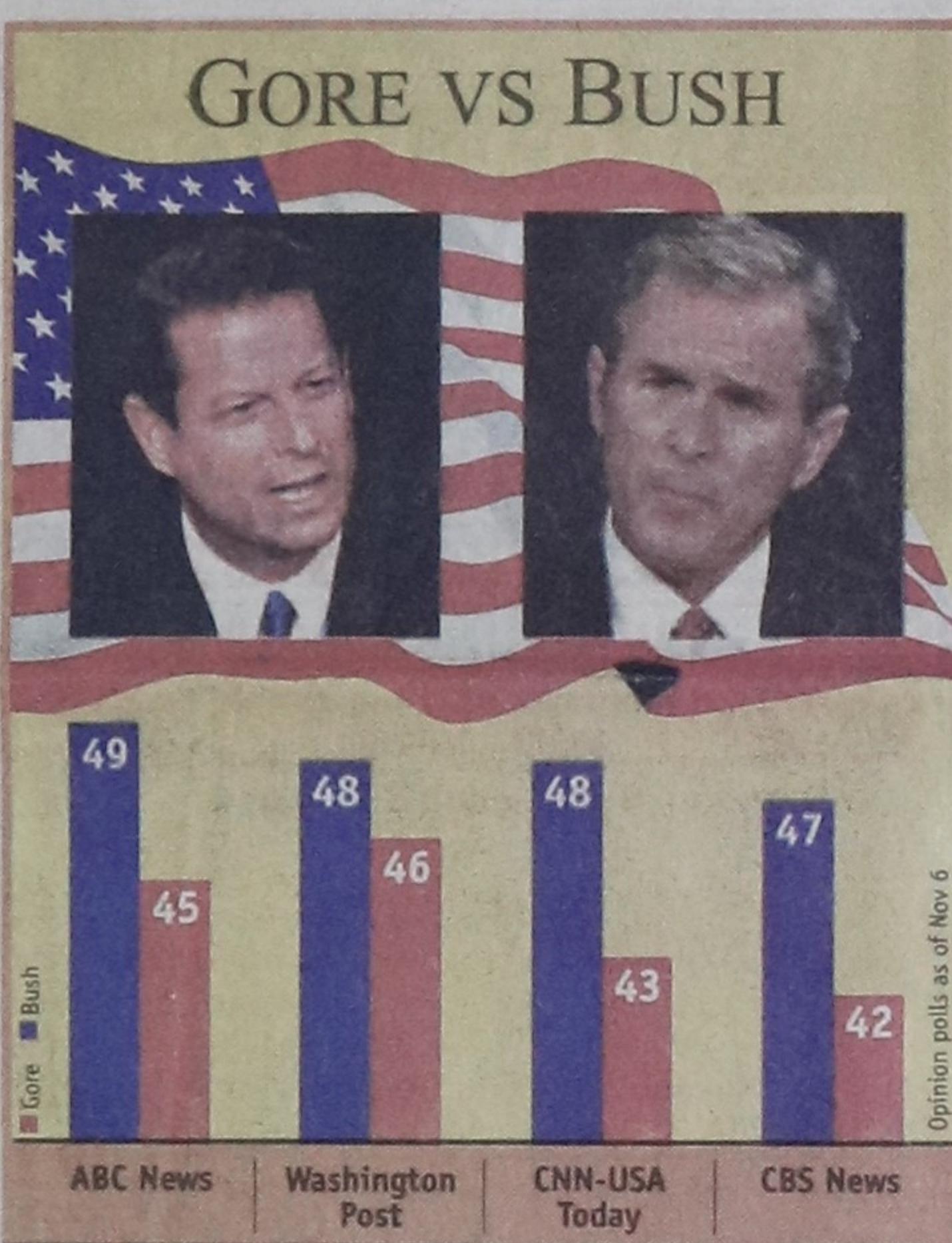
The presidential race pitted Gore, a Washington veteran with much experience but little charisma, against the more folksy Bush, who billed himself as a savvy outsider capable of bringing reason and results to government.

If the contest shaped up as the closest in decades, it offered some widely divergent policy alternatives for the future of a country riding an unprecedented economic boom and reigning as the world's sole superpower.

Bush would use 1.3 trillion dollars of a projected 10-year budget surplus of 4.56 trillion dollars to reduce taxes. Gore champions a smaller tax cut, while focusing more on spending programmes and shrinking the national debt.

The two clashed on a variety of other domestic issues, including education, healthcare and social security for the elderly, and abortion. Bush billed himself as a 'compassionate conservative,' Gore clutched a populist mantle as defender of the poor and middle classes.

See page 11 col 7



The tightest,  
the costliest

Raffat Binte Rashid writes  
from Houston, Texas

The most expensive and unpredictable US elections come to a close Tuesday, with an estimated four billion dollars spent on the presidential and congressional race and opinion polls showing little difference between Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W Bush.

In Houston, Texas throngs of area voters have turned out for early voting, which began two weeks ago and close Friday evening, breaking records in the city's major counties.

Most independent tracking poll has so far shown Republican nominee George W Bush ahead of Democratic Vice President Al Gore. It has immensely encouraged the Texas Governor's campaign in his homestead. Election watchers, however, warn that the nationwide head-to-head surveys might not accurately reflect what really would determine the winner on Tuesday.

Only about 30 per cent of the country's voters are getting the full attention of the candidates

See page 11 col 2

For an American Perspective on the Presidential Elections

Listen to Voice of America  
on November 8, 2000



Bangla

11:30 a.m. - 12 noon 17855, 15460 kHz in the 16.8 and 19.4 meter bands

English

7:00 a.m. - 12 noon 21505 kHz

9:00 a.m. - 12 noon 17820, 17740, 15385 kHz in the 19, 16 and 13 meter bands

9:00 a.m. - 12 noon 11980 in the 25 meter band

Updates are also available on our new website

WWW.VOAnews.com

Join us!



## The Jungle Collection

Bata presents an array of attractive international ladies fashion sandals for the women of today. They have cushioned insoles with Wild Jungle patterns. Made of high quality materials, these sandals are comfortable, feather-light and affordable.

**Bata**  
The world at your feet

**The Daily Star** **DHL** **WORLDWIDE EXPRESS**

# BREAKING NEW GROUNDS ...

We proudly announce the introduction of

## Bangladesh Business Awards

in 3 categories

- Business person of the year
- Outstanding woman in business
- Enterprise of the year

Nominations will be invited soon ...

...so watch out for the dates!

**Bangladesh Business Awards** **DHL** **The Daily Star**

### Inside Today

#### Article

**Golam Azam and the Trial of War Criminals**  
Column: Heart of The Matter  
By Mansoor Mamoon

Page 4

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 7		5.16 pm
Nov 8	6.09 am	
<b>Prayer Timings</b>		
November 7		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5.00	5.35
Zohr	12.45	1.20
Asr	4.00	4.15
Maghrrib	5.25	5.30
Esha	7.15	7.45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

### Indian team due today

By Sports Reporter

Saurav Ganguly's Indian team arrives in the capital today to perform the rites in Bangladesh's baptism in Test cricket. The historic five-day match commences at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from November 10.

Upon their arrival in the afternoon, the 14-member team will check in at Hotel Sheraton.

It could not be confirmed as yet whether the Indians will have any nets today. A BCB media release however said yesterday that the team management would meet the press in the evening today.

Saurav Ganguly (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Jagavali Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, Rahul Dravid, Saba Karim, Zaheer Khan, Sadagopan Ramesh, VVS Laxman, Sunil Joshi, Yuvraj Singh, Murali Kartik, Shirish Dhas and Ajit Agarkar. Coach: Ansuman Gaekwad

(More stories on Page 13)