election celebration yesterday in Washington, DC.

AFP, New York

tial election.

It wasn't supposed to happen again.

But four years after their 2000 deba-

cle, US media were left wondering

on Wednesday if they had goofed

one more time in trying to predict the results of a nail-biting presiden-

Both Fox and NBC reported that Republican President George W.

Bush would win the state of Ohio,

with its 20 electoral votes bringing

the incumbent to the doorstep of re-

election victory over Democratic

The Kerry campaign quickly fired back that all votes would have to be

counted and refused to concede,

raising the spectre of another legal

battle -- and more potential embar-rassment for the US broadcast

for many reasons, not least because

the US networks made an early

projection that Al Gore would win

Florida, a state he ultimately lost in a

bitter fight that went to the Supreme

The 2000 election made history

challenger John Kerry.

they goofed again

Voters report

computer

systems REUTERS, Washington

their votes in limbo.

problems with

Voters across the United States

reported problems with electronic

touch-screen systems on Tuesday in what critics said could be a sign that

the machines used by one-third of

day hotline reported more than

1,100 problems with the ATM-like

machines, from improperly tallied

choices to frozen screens that left

Voters in Maryland said congres

sional candidates were left off ballots,

while some in Florida told hotline

volunteers that their ballots had

already been filled out when they

stepped up to vote, watchdogs said.

Voters calling in to an election-

the population were prone to error.

# INTERNATIONAL



At the time, NBC news anchor

Tom Brokaw admitted: "I not only

have egg on my face, I have an entire

omelette all over my suit."

Brokaw was back in the spotlight

as the 2004 election dragged into the wee hours on Wednesday, after his

network said Bush was expected to

carry Ohio, a hotly contested battle-

However on rival CNN -- which along with ABC and CBS did not call

a winner in Ohio -- commentators were in no mood to gloat as they

revealed Republicans had been

angered over media election cover-

critical reform, the major TV net-

works scrapped the vote data service

used in 2000 to make the errant call

for Gore and instituted a cautious, new system intended to prevent any

But despite their best intentions,

exit poll data found its way onto the

Internet well before any of the polls

had closed on Tuesday -- and it

showed Kerry heading toward a

In what was supposed to be a

age earlier in the day.

comfortable victory.

World leaders keenly awaited the outcome of the US presidential election Wednesday, with many voicing hope for a fresh start in their often strained relations no matter who wins the White House.

As the cliff-hanger election saw incumbent President George W. Bush seeming to edge ahead of Democrat rival John Kerry, many countries called for a new chapter in relations, putting aside the lingering animosity over the war in Iraq.

"Regardless of who gets into the White House, you're going to see a renewed commitment to reach out to Europe," the US ambassador to the European Union Rockwell Schnabel told reporters in Brussels.

But if there is one thing the elec-

tion of 2004 proved, it was that the

potential for electoral chaos high-

ighted in 2000 remains very much

alive every time the archaic US

voting system runs up against a

battle between Bush and Democrat

GMT), all the major networks, using

exit polls from a consortium known

as Voter News Service, put Florida's

25 electoral votes in Gore's column

and declared him the likely overall

But VNS compiled its figures before polls closed in the state's

strongly Republican panhandle. As

those results came in, the networks

made an unprecedented turnabout

and proclaimed Florida too close to

At around 2:15 am (0615 GMT) the following day, the networks, led

Al Gore on November 7, 2000.

Few can forget the roller-coaster

Shortly before 8:00 pm (0000

super-close result.

system resurface

"You're going to see a United States that is interested in listening to your concerns, that is going to be dealing with you, coming from humility and coming from respect,'

Germany's coordinator for transatlantic relationships Karsten Voigt said a new beginning in European-American relations was both "possible and desirable." simply hope that the American president, whatever his name might be, will take this opportunity to reach out to Europeans and say in both style and substance how we canworktogether,"Voigt said.

But although the final outcome of the US election -- the second cliffhanger in four years -- may not be known for 10 days at least, French

by the conservative Fox News, gave

Florida and the White House to

Bush. Gore was beaten 271 to 266 in

the electoral vote contest and called

Bush to concede, but the drama was

Florida shrunk to just a few thou-

sand votes, Gore, who was leading in

the popular tally nationwide by

more than half a million, called an

incredulous Bush to say the race was

reversed themselves and said

Florida was anybody's guess. Bush

was ahead by 1,784 votes out of

nearly six million cast and a recount

started, accompanied by fierce legal

Bush's margin was whittled down to a final 537 votes and the

country held its breath as court

challenges dragged on for weeks,

making their way through the

Florida court system before ending

maneuvering on both sides.

up in the US Supreme Court.

An hour later, the networks again

As the Republican's lead in

Foreign Minister Michel Barnier said it was time for a new phase in Franco-American relations in a multipolar world.

"Europe is acquiring institutional maturity. Relations between the EU and the US are at a key moment," he told RTL radio. A spokeswoman for the

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said they were concerned about Bush winning a second mandate, with the Middle East peace process seemingly in tatters.

"I fear that they (Bush and government officials) will see the vote as validating their policy in the Middle East," said Palestinian Authority envoy to France, Leila Shahid.

And Poland clearly favored the

incumbent. "We like strong and decisive leaders, whom we can judge by their acts and not their words. George Bush is closer to us with his actions. He is predictable and strong," Defense Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski told Polish public

"If Bush stays in the White House, relations between the United States and the European Union are likely to improve," said Antonio Tajani of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia party.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said Bush would likely be re-elected and that he did not expect major policy changes from a second Republican adminis-

Machines in New Orleans, Miami and suburban Philadelphia failed to start punctually in the morning, leading to long lines at polling places and prompting some to turn away from the polls, according to activists with the Election Protection Coalition.

The nonpartisan group said it had received 1,166 complaints as of late evening involving a wide array of machines.

"It gives us the uneasy feeling that we're only seeing the tip of the iceberg," said Cindy Cohn, legal director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a technology-policy group involved in the coalition.

Officials with voting-systems companies said most problems could be traced to human error, rather than the equipment.

About 45 million registered voters are expected to cast a ballot on touch-screen systems, which have been touted by election officials as a way to avoid a repeat of the messy recount battle touched off by antiquated punch-card systems in Florida four years ago.

### Eleven states 'shun gay marriage'

BBC NEWS ONLINE

Voters in 11 US states have approved a ban on same-sex marriage, according to early returns from a number of referendums being held

Dakota, Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, Utah, Mississippi and Arkansas appear to have approved the ban by wide margins.

expected to reject the proposed ban, also seemed to support it by a smaller margin. Ohio is reported to

have also backed an amendment against civil unions. We're certainly going to look at

"As we profess tolerance... we

third presidential debate.



Arundhati Roy, the award-winning Indian novelist and human rights campaigner, is all smiles after winning the Australian Peace Prize in Sydney yesterday. Roy, who had previously branded US President George W Bush as a "terrorist", has sparked outrage here by calling on people to join the Iraqi "resistance".

#### : fraud. The nightmare scenario of : court challenges in several states Karzai declared new Afghan

AFP, Kabul

president

US media wonder if Flaws in US electoral

AFP, Washington

Four years after a closely fought US

presidential election was decided by

the Supreme Court, the structural

problems plaguing the way Americans pick the world's most powerful leader have once again

Competing forecasts, com-plaints over exit polls, a candidate's

refusal to concede defeat and the

prospect of days of wrangling to

determine a winner gave Tuesday's

election an eerie resonance with the

boiled down to the Midwestern state

of Ohio, where Democrat John Kerry

trailed President George W. Bush by

133,000 votes but hoped to make it up with provisional and absentee

For the most part, the election

was remarkably trouble-free. Absent

were shrill cries of massive voter

Then it was Florida; this time it

become all too evident.

fabled photo finish of 2000.

Incumbent leader Hamid Karzai is the winner of Afghanistan's first presidential election, the spokesman for the election commission told AFPWednesday.

"Karzai is the winner," said Sultan Baheen of the Joint Electoral Management Body, three and a half weeks after the landmark October 9 The results of Afghanistan's first

ever presidential election will be formally certified in a public ceremony in Kabul at 3:00pm (1030 GMT), Baheen said.

Baheen named Karzai the victor shortly after the release of an expert panel's report on alleged irregularities on voting day.

The UN-appointed panel found that "shortcomings" on election day, including the failure and mixup of indelible ink meant to stain voters' fingers to prevent multiple voting, did not impact the ballot's

"There were shortcomings ... but they could not have materially affected the overall result," the panel's report concluded, according to a copy sighted by AFP earlier Wednesday.

## Car bomb rocks Baghdad

#### More foreign hostages snatched

At least nine people were injured after a car bomb punched another hole in battle-scarred Baghdad on Wednesday, while militants kidnapped more foreigners and shot dead a top oil ministry official.

Fires were raging near major oil wells in northern Iraq after attacks on a pipeline network halted vital exports from Kirkuk to Turkey, dealing a new setback to efforts bring in much-needed revenue for reconstruction.

Baghdad shook to the all-too familiar sound of a car bomb that injured at least nine people who had been waiting in cars at a checkpoint on the road to the international airport, medics said.

An all-terrain vehicle sped towards the crowded checkpoint but was halted by US and Iraqi soldiers standing guard, said a woman who was hurt in the blast.

"The suicide bomber detonated his vehicle as they approached," Hiba Hamid told AFP from hospital.

The attack followed a string of deadly bombings across the country people and injured dozens of others. In the latest hostage drama, a US-Lebanese man working for Iraq's transport ministry was kidnapped

'Masked gunmen burst into his doctor friends. They made off with

The US embassy had no immediate information on the abduction but a spokesman said it was checking the reports. In Beirut, the Lebanese foreign ministry also said

It is the third time that kidnappers have snatched foreign civilians from their home in this area of the capital within the last six weeks, and it is the second such attack in just 48 hours.

several Iragis in Baghdad.

### on Tuesday that killed at least eight overnight from his house in the smart Baghdad neighbourhood of Mansour.

house as he was entertaining two him alone," said a police official.

it had no confirmation but was checking with its embassy in

Another five Jordanians including four truck drivers were also reported kidnapped in Iraq, while the Philippines confirmed that one of its nationals was taken along with a Nepalese and a US citizen and

#### INTERNATIONAL TENDER NATIONAL TUBES LIMITED

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Gazipur-1710

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'আদমজী পাইপ" নামে খ্যাত এনটিএলের জিআই/এমএস/এপিআই পাইপ वावशत करून या नीर्घञ्चात्री, भूनः वावशतयागा, निर्वतयागा ७ निताभन।

Sealed offers are invited by Managing Director, National Tubes Ltd. for supply of Hot Rolled Steel Strips for manufacturing of Water

Reference No	Quantity and description of goods	Eamest	Price of tender documents	Closing/opening date and time	Source of finance
COM(I)/STRIPS-	1500 MT Hot Rolled	US\$11,000/-	Tk 2000.00	Closing 30.11.2004	Cash/any
1500/04	Steel Strips (Quantity	or	(Taka two	at 11-00 AM. Opening	untied
	may be increased or	Tk 6,50,000/-	thousand) only	on the same day at 11-	Credit
	decreased)		(non-refundable)	15 AM.	

In case of unavoidable circumstances the offer will be received on the next working day and opened on the same place and time, Tender documents may be obtained during working hours (excepting on opening date) on cash payment from the following offices & the offers will also be received and opened in the Purchase Deptt of the same offices:

The Chief Accounts Officer, National Tubes Ltd., Tongi, Gazipur.

The Controller of Accounts, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation, "BSEC BHABAN", 102 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue,

GD-670

Md Habibur Rahman General Manager (Commercial) Phone: 9802737

### Laden warns of revenge for Iraq killings

REUTERS, Dubai

Osama bin Laden said on Wednesday in a full Internet broadcast of a video, partly aired by Al Jazeera last week, that George W. Bush had dragged America into a quagmire in Iraq and warned of retaliation for Iraqi deaths.

In the video, posted on Web sites often used by Islamists as results from the US presidential election were being announced, bin Laden said Bush had ignored advice against waging "an unjustified war on Iraq for which there would be no

"The black gold (oil) blinded him and he put his personal interests above the general interests of America so the war took place, many died, American money was squandered and Bush was dragged into a quagmire in Iraq which threatens his future," the al Oaeda leader said in the tape, dated October 24.

"More than 15,000 of our people were killed and tens of thousands wounded and more than 1,000 of your people (Americans) were killed and tens of thousands wounded. Bush's hands are sullied with the

blood of those on both sides just for oil and to employ his private companies," bin Laden said. Remember that for every action,

there is a reaction," he said, adding that al Qaeda would carry on fighting the United States "until it forces it into bankruptcy". The complete 18-minute tape

was posted on the Internet after Al Jazeera aired excerpts last Saturday in which bin Laden warned of possible new Sept. 11-style attacks. Al Jazeera did not broadcast his

remarks on Iraq. It was bin Laden's first video tape

in more than a year and appeared to be a deliberate attempt to influence this week's US presidential election.

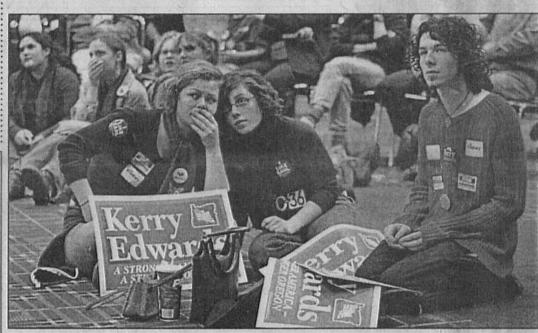
More than 850 US troops have been killed in combat in Iraq since last year's US-led invasion to topple Saddam Hussein. Others have died in accidents and other non-hostile incidents.

Bush, who ordered US forces to capture bin Laden dead or alive after the September 11 attacks in 2001, vowed after Al Jazeera's airing of the video that Americans would not be intimidated or influenced "by the enemy of our country".

#### legal challenges," Alan Melamed, who led the campaign opposing the amendment, told AP news agency. George W Bush has said he is seeking to change the US constitu-Oklahoma, Georgia, North tion to specify that marriage can only take place between a man and a

Oregon, which had been

shouldn't change - or have to : change - our basic views on the sanctity of marriage," he said in the



Supporters of John Kerry and opponents of Oregon Measure 36, the measure to ban gay marriage, watch in disbelief as results of the measure appear on Tuesday in Portland, Oregon. Early projections show the gay marriage ban passed.



#### বাংলাদেশ কেব্ল শিল্প লিমিটেড

শিরোমনি শিল্প এলাকা, খুলনা

দূত্ৰঃ বাকেশি/প্ৰশা/কঃ সাঃ নঃ-১৭০/৪৩৩২/২০০৪

তারিখঃ ২৮-১০-২০০৪ ইং

বাংলাদেশ কেবুল শিল্প লিমিটেড, সরকার ও সীমেন্স জার্মানীর যৌথ উদ্যোগে প্রতিষ্ঠিত একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান। এই প্রতিষ্ঠানে জরুরি ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগদানের জন্য দক্ষ, মেধাবী ও শিল্প কারখানায় কাজ করতে আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের নিকট পেকে দরখান্ত আহবান করা যাচেছ। ক্রমিক পদের নাম পদের বেতন স্কেল

नक्		সংখ্যা		
\$1	উপ-ব্যবস্থাপক (উৎপাদন পরিকল্পনা ও মান নিয়ত্রণ)	একটি	X 505.00-6 X 505.00- X 505.00-	বিএসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (ইলেকট্রিকাাল এন্ড ইলেকট্রনিক্স)/মেকানিকাাল। সকল পরীক্ষায় অবশাই প্রথম শ্রেণী/বিভাগ থাকতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে প্রতিষ্ঠিত শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানে কমপক্ষ্যে ১০-১৫ বছরের বাস্তব কাজের অভিজ্ঞ থাকতে হবে। অধিক শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার ক্ষেত্রে বয়স শিথিলযোগ্য।
wiretrasita		CHARGO SHADO		

নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে সরকার প্রচলিত সকল প্রকার বিধি বিধান প্রতিপালিত হবে। আবেদনপত্র ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ কেবুল শিল্প লিমিটেড, খুলনা বরাবরে লিখতে হবে।

আবেদনকারীকে অবশ্যই বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক হতে হবে।

শহন্তে লিখিত আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর পুরা নাম, পিতা/খামীর নাম, মাতার নাম, স্থায়ী ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা, শিকাগত যোগ্যতা, জন্ম তারিখ, বয়স, জাতীয়তা, ধর্ম, বৈবাহিক অবস্থা উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

কারখানার মনোরম পরিবেশে আবাসিক ভবনে (সরকারী নিয়মে বাসাভাড়া, বিদ্যুৎ বিল ও অন্যান্য যা প্রয়োজ্য হবে তা কর্ত্তন সাপেক্ষে) আবশ্যিকভাবে বসবাস করতে হবে।

নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীকে অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানে কমপক্ষে পাঁচ বছর চাকুরি করবেন এ মর্মে নির্ধারিত ফর্মে বন্ড প্রদান করতে হবে

আবেদনপত্রের সাথে নিম্নোক্ত কাগজপত্র সংযুক্ত করতে হবেঃ-শিক্ষাগতযোগ্যতার প্রমাণস্বরূপ সার্টিফিকেট/প্রশংসাপত্তের সত্যায়িত ছায়ালিপি।

পৌরসভা/ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান কর্তক প্রদন্ত নাগরিকত্বের মূল সনদপত্র - এক কপি। প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদন্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র - এক কপি (সত্যায়িত কপি গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়)। প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত সদ্যতোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রঙ্গীন ছবি - তিন কপি।

আবেদনপত্রের সাথে বাংলাদেশ কেব্ল শিল্প লিমিটেড, খুলনা-এর অনুকূলে যে কোন তফশিলভুক্ত ব্যাংক থেকে ৩০০.০০ (তিনশ) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার (অফেরতযোগ্য) সোনালী ব্যাংক, শিরোমনি শিল্প এলাকা শাখা,

কম্পিউটার পরিচালনায় অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীকৈ অগ্নাধিকার দেয়া হবে তবে কম্পিউটার পরিচালনার স্বপক্ষে সন্মপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

আগামী ৩০-১১-২০০৪ ইং তারিশ্ব অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে নিম্নথাক্ষরকারীর অফিসে আবেদনপত্র ডাক্যোগে/কুরিয়ার

সার্ভিসের মাধ্যমে পৌছাতে হবে। সরাসরি হাতে হাতে/ডাক বাঞ্জে কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না। চাকরিরত প্রার্থীগণ যথায়থ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে যথা সময়ে আবেদন করতে পারবেন। তবে অগ্রিম কপি গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।

প্রার্থীর বয়স ৩০-১১-২০০৪ ইং তারিখে ৪০ থেকে ৪৫ বছরের মধ্যে হতে হবে। বয়সের ক্ষেত্রে কোন প্রকার এফিডেফিট অসম্পূর্ণ, ত্রুটিপূর্ণ ও বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। সত্যায়নের ক্ষেত্রে সত্যায়নকারী কর্মকর্তার সুস্পষ্ট নাম,

পদবী ও সীল থাকতে হবে। আবেদনপত্রের সাথে দাখিলকৃত কোন ডকুমেন্ট ফেরত দেয়া হবে না।

চাকরির ক্ষেত্রে কোন প্রার্থী তদবীর করলে অযোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

আবেদনপত্র বাছাই ও নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে নিয়োগ কমিটির সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

যে কোন কারণে নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি স্থৃণিতকরণ/সময়সীমা বর্ধিতকরণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন। 301 আবেদনপত্র বাছাইয়ের পর তথুমাত্র সঠিক বিবেচিত প্রার্থীদের ভাকযোগে লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য ভাকা হবে।

আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর নিজ স্বাক্ষর ও তারিখ উল্লেখ থাকতে হবে। ব্যবহারিক কাজে পারদর্শী ও অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন অত্যন্ত যোগ্য প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে বিশেষ প্রারম্ভিক বেতন বিবেচনা করা যেতে পারে। পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

বিধি মোতাবেক উৎপাদন ও উৎসব বোনাস, দক্ষতা পারিতোষিক, হ্লাসকৃত মূল্যে কেন্টিন সুবিধা, নিজ ও পরিবারের জন্য চিকিৎসা সুবিধা,

আনুতোষিক সুবিধা ইত্যাদি। তাছাড়া ভবিষ্যতে যোগ্যতার ভিত্তিতে পদোনুতির সুবিধা।

ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক