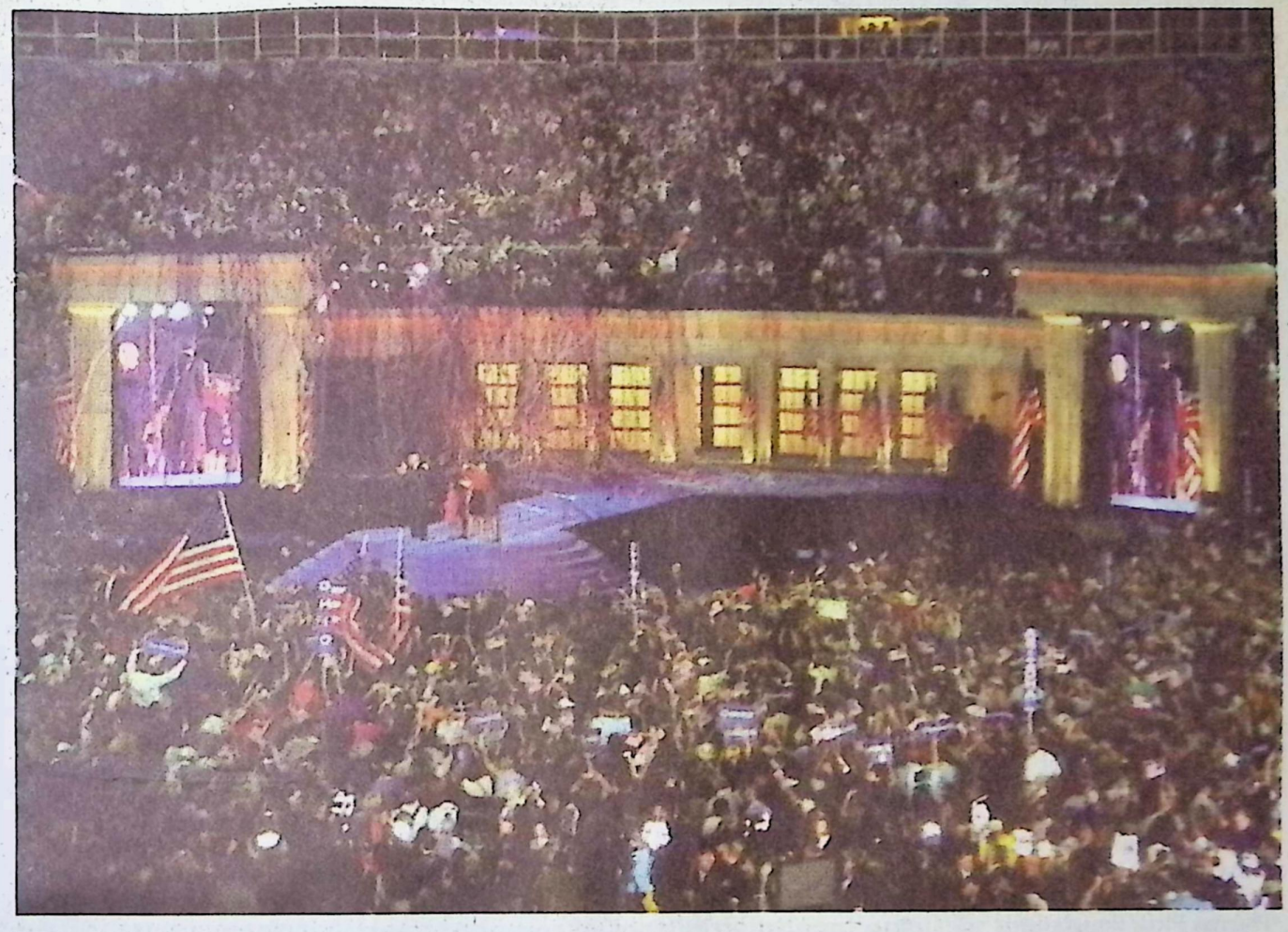


Bush's voice was steady and his gaze was unwavering. As I watched him tell reporters and the people that he would be in constant contact I was reminded of some thing former UK PM Tony Blair said about him when asked what he really thought of Bush he said (I am paraphrasing here) "Look, I like the guy. He's down to earth and nice."

I am sure there are a few million Iraqis who would disagree. As well as some Afghanis, maybe even an American or two, but there is an everyman quality about Bush that makes him seem less onerous than other malignant dictators. I can imagine sharing some Q with him at the ranch in Crawford and listening to stories about nights of drunken revelry. This of course would be after they sent me through a metal detector for being Muslim. But his everyman, pleasantly ordinary qualities came out when he gave is speech about Obama's win and made him seem human to me for the first time in a long time. There is no doubt he and the other President, Cheney, have driven this country and her reputation into the ground, but we need to put some of that damage, not all of it because we cannot forget how close we came to resembling Nazi Germany behind us and start the healing process. Obama needs us to maintain a high level of optimism and generosity to aid him in his transition and to unify the country and that is the strong message McCain sent to his supporters on Tuesday night.

I know Bangladesh heads into her general elections next month and I think all the officials and politicians involved need to tear a page out of America's book on this one. It behooves the parties involved to show one another the generosity of spirit and unity that is so sorely lacking it seems. This country, the US has been so powerfully divided for so long and yet there appears to be an olive branch extended across the aisle. Yes, we have some sore losers, and some gloating winners, but in general, Americans are breathing lighter now. So, hats off to the GOP, please don't bomb anything or issue fake terror alerts before January 20th, 2009, when my man can walk into the oval office and start one of the most incredible chapters in US history (I hope). McCain done good, but I feel I should end with a quote. On the day of election ecstatic revelers stood in front of the White House and chanted over and over again: "Who's house? Barack's house!"

And so it is. ■