

A man reads the headlines of two of Israel's leading newspapers, which feature the news of the U.S. presidential elections. The election results took precedence over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on Wednesday in Jerusalem.



David Silverman/NewsMakers

## Close election causes confusions

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — World leaders offered congratulations — then hastily took them back.

Newspapers hurriedly rolled out new editions. And from Hong Kong to Helsinki, ordinary citizens marveled at America's chaotic electoral spectacle.

"It's like Italy!" said the proprietor of a Roman coffee bar.

For a watching world, a full day of confusion over the results of the U.S. presidential race was a lesson in democracy's messy glory — or proof that the political system in the world's most powerful nation might just be in need of an overhaul.

Rushing to congratulate the winner was an early and oft-repeated mistake. European Commission President Romano Prodi was among the first to compliment George W. Bush on his election as president — and among the first to repent his haste.

Forty minutes after German President Johannes Rau circulated his letter congratulating Bush in the name of the German people, his office faxed an excited follow-up: "Please don't publicize the president's congratulations to George W. Bush!!!!!"

Too late. The Dutch government put out a congratulatory statement

— then retracted it. New Zealand's prime minister, Helen Clark, was all set to get down to brass tacks with the presumptive winner, mentioning the new round of world trade talks in her congratulatory note to Bush.

In every corner of the world, newspapers rushed to correct early editions proclaiming Bush the victor. "Bush wins," read the early-edition headline in London's Evening Standard. That was transformed in the second edition to "Deadlock."

In Seoul, the English-language Korea Times ran a banner headline: "Bush Elected U.S. President." "The U.S. Decides: Bush!" said Mexico's respected daily Reforma.

In Johannesburg, The Star newspaper sent out 20,000 copies of its afternoon edition with the banner headline: "Bush is President." Then it dispatched an extra 30,000 copies with a new headline: "Bush Win in Doubt."

A safer approach was to treat the election as a political who-won-it, akin to a juicy murder mystery. Sweden's Expressen newspaper called it a thriller, while a Swiss TV anchor likened the vote to a Hitchcock movie.

"The script for the American elections seems to have been written by a master of suspense," said Lisbon's A Capital

*"To tell you the truth, we didn't know what to believe."*

Mithat Bereket  
Turkey's NTV news editor

newspaper.

For many observers, long hours of waiting failed to pay off.

"To tell you the truth, we didn't know what to believe," a weary Mithat Bereket, foreign news editor of Turkey's private NTV news channel, said after an inconclusive all-night election special.

In Italy, home to 58 governments in the postwar period — and notoriously untrustworthy exit polls — many were amazed the more scientific American approach had failed to produce a reliable result.

"What happened in Florida? It sounds like Italy!" said coffee bar proprietor Massimo Ruggeri.

One Mexican analyst indicated some of his countrymen were amused at the uncertainty of the U.S. count, after enduring decades as the butt of foreign jokes for electoral chaos.

"It does sound very Mexican. It will probably play well here," said political scientist Federico Estevez.

Other observers worried

that the results pointed up fundamental problems with the American political system. Swedish Prime Minister Goeran Persson called the outcome "strange" and predicted it would lead to a constitutional debate.

Former Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev told Ekho Moskvy radio that whatever the outcome, "one might expect an amendment to the U.S. constitution aimed at improving the election process."

Others saw a deeply — and perhaps dangerously — divided America. "The U.S.A., in modern times, has never been as clearly split," analyst Ole Ludvig Nymoer wrote in a commentary for Norway's NTB news agency.

In Israel, even a nation of political junkies wearied of long discourses on the complexities of the U.S. electoral system. As one expert detailed the circumstances under which the selection could be thrown to the U.S. House of Representatives, radio anchor Mickey Miro cut in to plead: "That's about all we can take for now."

## Complaints over ballot flood state

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Three people filed a lawsuit Wednesday seeking a new election in Palm Beach County, claiming the punch-card ballot was so confusing that they accidentally voted for Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan instead of Vice President Al Gore.

The lawsuit came after hundreds of Gore supporters flooded the Palm Beach County elections office with calls Wednesday, saying they feared they had mistakenly voted for Buchanan.

Lawyers for the Democratic Party said that the design of the Palm Beach County ballot is illegal, and they may ask for a re-vote. No immediate action was taken.

Buchanan got 3,407 votes for president in the heavily Democratic county Tuesday, more than he received in any other Florida county, according to unofficial returns. Statewide, Gore was behind George W. Bush by fewer than 1,800 votes.

"It was so hard to tell who and what you were voting for. I couldn't figure it out, and I have a doctorate," voter Eileen Klasfeld said.

Two larger counties south of Palm Beach both had much lower Buchanan results — 789 in Broward County and 561 in Miami-Dade County. In Duval County only 650 Buchanan votes were cast.

The confusion apparently arose from the way Palm Beach County's punch-card style ballot was laid out for the presidential race. Candidates are listed in two columns, with holes down the middle between the columns, to the right or the left of each candidate's name.

The top hole was for Bush, who was listed at top left; the second hole was for Buchanan, listed at top right, and the third hole was for Gore, listed under Bush on the left. Arrows linked the names with the proper hole, but some voters feared they had missed the arrows and punched the wrong hole.

Florida law specifies that voters mark an X in the blank space to the right of the name of the candidate they want to vote for.

Outside the Palm Beach elections office, about 50 outraged citizens carried signs protesting the ballots.

"It was an injustice. Thousands of people were confused," said 42-year-old Niso Mama. "We have to have another election in this country."

## Weather

### TODAY

Partly cloudy  
high 36, low 26

### TOMORROW

Partly cloudy  
high 40, low 28

Questions? Comments?  
Ask for the appropriate section editor at  
(402) 472-2588  
or e-mail: dn@unl.edu

Editor: Sarah Baker  
Managing Editor: Bradley Davis  
Associate News Editor: Kimberly Sweet  
Opinion Editor: Samuel McKewon  
Sports Editor: Matthew Hansen  
Arts Editor: Dane Stickney  
Copy Desk Co-Chief: Lindsay Young  
Copy Desk Co-Chief: Danell McCoy  
Photo Chief: Heather Glenboski  
Art Director: Melanie Falk  
Design Chief: Andrew Broer  
Web Editor: Gregg Stearns  
Assistant Web Editor: Tanner Graham

General Manager: Dan Shattil  
Publications Board Chairman: Russell Willbanks, (402) 436-7226  
Professional Adviser: Don Walton, (402) 473-7248  
Advertising Manager: Nick Patsch, (402) 472-2589  
Assistant Ad Manager: Nicole Wolta  
Classified Ad Manager: Nikki Bruner  
Circulation Manager: Intiyaz Khan

Fax Number: (402) 472-1761  
World Wide Web: www.dailynebraskan.com  
The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080)  
is published by the UNL Publications Board,  
20 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St.,  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday  
through Friday during the academic year;  
weekly during the summer sessions.  
The public has access to the Publications Board.  
Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas  
and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by calling  
(402) 472-2588.  
Subscriptions are \$60 for one year.  
Postmaster: Send address changes  
to the Daily Nebraskan, 20 Nebraska Union,  
1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448.  
Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE.  
ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 2000  
DAILY NEBRASKAN

## Arafat to consult with Clinton

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Violence flared in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Wednesday even as Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat headed for Washington to consult with President Clinton.

Palestinian gunmen killed a customs worker on her way to work, and four Palestinians were shot dead in clashes.

The Palestinian leader flew to Cairo to meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak — the main sponsor, with Clinton, of the peace process — and then to Britain for a meeting with Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Arafat, who spoke with Blair during a three-hour London stop, "underlined the important role which Britain and the

European Union could play in support of the peace process," a Blair spokesman said. No further details were known.

The Palestinian leader was due in Washington by nightfall, and will meet with Clinton on Thursday. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak was to meet with Clinton on Sunday.

Barak said on Israeli television that he will not ask for resumption of peace negotiations. "I go to Washington to ensure that the end of violence that was agreed on at Sharm el-Sheik is carried out if that is possible. That is all," he said, referring to a truce mediated last month by Clinton in Egypt.

Although the Palestinians have said they won't declare statehood on Nov. 15 — the 12th anniversary of a symbolic inde-

pendence declaration Arafat made in exile — they did say they might do so without prior notice.

"The Palestinian people have the right to declare the state whenever they want," Nabil Shaath, a top aide to Arafat, said Wednesday.

That came a day after Barak made his clearest ever offer of statehood to the Palestinians, but said it could come only through negotiations — and that talks would resume only once the violence stopped.

"This situation cannot continue and Israel will put an end to it, be it by political or other ways," Barak said Wednesday at a memorial to former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, slain by a Jewish extremist five years ago.

## Nation elected more women governors

■ Five women win governor seats, which is the most the country has had.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ruth Ann Minner started working in the Delaware statehouse as a receptionist in the 1970s. Judy Martz entered Montana politics just four years ago after helping run a garbage business.

Now both lieutenant governors have been promoted to their states' highest office and have helped give the nation more women governors — five — than ever before.

In all, three women were among the 11 gubernatorial victors in Tuesday's elections; the other was New Hampshire's Democratic incumbent, Jeanne Shaheen. They join two serving Republican governors, Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey and Jane Hull of Arizona.

Two other women ran strong

major-party campaigns, but lost in high-profile races.

North Dakota's Heidi Heitkamp, a Democrat diagnosed with breast cancer in September, lost to Republican banker John Hoeven. In Vermont, Democratic Gov. Howard Dean survived a challenge from Republican Ruth Dwyer, who opposed a Dean-backed bill that extended marriage-like rights to gay couples.

Martz, a Republican, got 51 percent of the vote to 46 percent for Democratic State Auditor Mark O'Keefe. A former Olympic speed skater, Martz was virtually unknown in Montana politics until picked as running mate for outgoing Gov. Marc Racicot.

Minner, a Democrat whose stint as a statehouse receptionist preceded a lengthy legislative career, won 59 percent of the vote to defeat former GOP lawmaker John Burris.

With one exception, the gubernatorial elections ended with the same

party holding power. Only in West Virginia will there be a change — Democratic U.S. Rep. Bob Wise edged Republican incumbent Cecil Underwood, at 78 the nation's oldest governor.

Underwood's loss means there will be 29 Republican governors, 19 Democrats and two independents. The other five incumbents up for re-election won: Republican Mike Leavitt in Utah and Democrats Dean, Shaheen, Frank O'Bannon in Indiana and Gary Locke in Washington.

In Missouri, there was an exceptionally close race to succeed Gov. Mel Carnahan, the popular Democrat killed three weeks ago in a plane crash. The winner was Democratic State Treasurer Bob Holden, who edged Republican Rep. Jim Talent in a contest that wasn't decided until nearly 2 a.m. CST Wednesday.

"I'm just sorry he's not here for the rest of the journey," Holden said of Carnahan.

## World/Nation

The Associated Press

### ■ Washington, D.C.

#### High voter turnout credited to intense media coverage

Get-out-the-vote efforts, a barrage of political ads and intense media coverage were cited as explanations for increased voter participation in this year's election.

An estimated 51 percent of Americans old enough to vote did so on Tuesday, said Curtis Gans, director of the Committee for the Study of the American Electorate.

By comparison, the rate in 1996 was 49 percent, the lowest since 1924. In 1992, about 55 percent voted.

Gans said the higher turnout likely was because of well-funded, grass-roots mobilization efforts and media coverage about the White House race between Democrat Al Gore and GOP Gov. George W. Bush of Texas.

Still, he said, "We've got half the electorate sitting at home."

### ■ Russia

#### Note found on sailor's body described crew's desperation

MOSCOW — The mission to recover remains from a sunken Russian nuclear submarine has turned up a second note on a sailor's body, Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov said Wednesday, according to the Interfax news agency.

The note was written shortly after the submarine Kursk sank to the bottom of the Barents Sea on Aug. 12, crippled by explosions, with 118 men aboard, Klebanov told the commission investigating the sinking, the report said.

It was not clear if the note contained information that would help determine the cause of the accident. But, like a previous note found on a sailor's body, it gives a terse description of the trapped sailors' desperation.

"The general feeling is bad ... the pressure is increasing ... we can't last more than a day," the note states in part, according to Interfax.

### ■ China

#### China sentences 11 to death over corruption scandal

SHANGHAI — Splashing pictures of ill-gotten gains across the main evening news broadcast, China announced death sentences Wednesday for 11 people, among them police and government officials, in the nation's largest corruption scandal.

In all, 84 people were convicted of involvement in a multibillion-dollar smuggling ring that doled out huge bribes to officials whose influence touched the apex of power.

Twelve were sentenced to life imprisonment and 58 received lesser jail terms in the huge racket centered on the shady Yuanhua Group in the busy southeastern port of Xiamen.

Among those sentenced to death were Deputy Mayor Lan Fu of Xiamen in Fujian province; the city's customs chief, Yang Qianxian, and Zhuang Rushun, deputy head of public security for Fujian, the reports stated.

### ■ Australia

#### Great white shark attack kills man, injures another

PERTH — One man was killed and another injured in a shark attack Monday at a popular beach in western Australian, police said.

Scores of witnesses watched as the shark, believed to be a great white up to 13 feet long, attacked about 30 feet off the shore at Perth's Cottesloe Beach, which was crowded with early morning swimmers.

"I could see this huge shark — it was really huge," said Kim Gamble, who watched from the balcony of his beachfront cafe as the shark bit off the man's leg. "There was a whole sea of blood, and it was pulling the person."

One man was pulled from the water by other swimmers but died on the beach, police said.

A second was hospitalized with injuries to his lower leg. Neither was immediately identified. Police immediately evacuated the beach, and officials mounted an air and sea search for the shark.