



Finalists selected for the 'Femina Miss India 2003' contest go through a cooking course in Mumbai yesterday. The winner of the contest will represent India for the Miss World and Miss Universe international contests.

## US anti-terror campaign targets Muslims: Mahathir

AFP, Tokyo

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Friday the US-led global anti-terror campaign was targeting Muslims and warned such action would only breed more violence.

"Sanctions have been applied against more Muslim countries than others," Mahathir, who arrived in Tokyo on Thursday, said in a speech delivered at the United Nations University in Tokyo.

"While Iraq, Iran and North Korea are labelled as the axis of evil, action is concentrated only on Iraq and Iran," he said.

Iraq, Iran and North Korea were lumped together in an "axis of evil" by US President George W. Bush earlier this year. All were accused of developing and spreading weapons of mass destruction.

"Muslims condemn these acts of terror as much as non-Muslims and most of them have shown a willingness to cooperate in the fight against terrorism," the vociferous critic of Washington said.

"But their contribution does

not free them from suspicion. The net result is anger, bitterness and frustration among the Muslims. The net result, simply stated, is their terror attacks."

The recent terror attacks were "something that is driven by their feeling of extreme hatred for the people they identify as their enemies, largely the America and other White people and also the Jews," the premier of largely Muslim Malaysia said.

"So (they feel) the world is against them. You will see these things happen ... in Southeast Asia, in Africa ... It (terrorism) will happen anywhere in the world," he said.

Mahathir called on Japan to play a role in bridging the gap between Muslims and non-Muslims.

"I think Japan has a very good role to play ... Japan can persuade friends in Europe, in America that you can increase your security and you can increase your defences, (but) those are not the total answer," Mahathir said.

"You have to do that. But you have also to solve the problems of

their perception of the Muslims," he said.

Mahathir also condemned Australian Prime Minister John Howard's recent statement that his country would mount pre-emptive anti-terror strikes on neighbouring nations if necessary.

"For example, if Australia suspects that there are some people in Malaysia planning to carry out terrorist attacks in Australia, then Australia has a right to take action in Malaysia without telling us," he said. "At that rate, no country is going to feel safe."

Mahathir also called on the international community to accept different political systems.

"We should allow for plurality, not just one single system," Mahathir said.

"Today, you are only allowed democracy. If you are not democratic, I will starve you to death. I will apply sanctions. I will bomb your country," he said.

"Is bombing your country democratic? Okay, you have to propagate democracy. But propagate it in a democratic way," he said.

## US vulnerable to smallpox's return

AP, Washington

It was one of history's greatest triumphs: Eliminating a disease that killed hundreds of millions of people and was feared across the globe.

Yet in a new world of terrorist threats, smallpox is feared again, and the Bush administration is set to offer a vaccine that will kill and seriously injure at least some in order to fight a battle public health thought it had won.

"I must confess, I thought we'd seen the very last of smallpox vaccine," said Dr. D.A. Henderson, who led the global campaign that wiped out smallpox. "It troubles me every time I think about this."

In a stroke of historic irony, it's the triumph over smallpox that makes the world so vulnerable to it now. As the disease was on the wane, vaccinations ended, leaving the entire population unprotected. Experts believe that people vaccinated more than thirty years ago have little if any protection today against the highly contagious, often-deadly disease.

In the decades since, thinking about smallpox has undergone a remarkable transformation.

Bioterrorism experts now paint frightening scenarios like this one: smallpox distributed covertly through a hotel's air ventilation system. Or this one: suicide smallpox patients infect themselves with the virus and, when they are at their most contagious, stumble through airports, infecting hundreds of others who then carry the

virus across the country and possibly around the world.

Thoughts like that were never mentioned back in 1977, when the last naturally occurring case of smallpox occurred, or in 1980, when the disease was declared eradicated. All stocks of smallpox — except for samples kept by special labs in Moscow and Atlanta — were supposed to be destroyed, and for more than a decade, smallpox was considered a thing of the past.

Then the threat of terrorism began to rise with the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center and the 1995 release of sarin gas in a Tokyo subway by the Aum Shinrikyo cult.

Around the same time, reports surfaced about the Soviet biological weapons program. Ken Alibek, a former top scientist in the Soviet program came to the United States in 1992 and reported that the Soviets in the 1980s had covertly developed large quantities of smallpox for use in bombs and intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Still, officials quarters showed minimal interest. For last year, the bioterrorism budget was just \$305 million. The nation had just 15.4 million doses of smallpox vaccine, with another 40 million ordered, and few worried it wasn't enough.

After last year's anthrax attacks-by-mail, the budget skyrocketed to \$3 billion — enough to buy smallpox vaccine for all 280 million residents. Even so, there was little talk of using it absent an attack. The vaccine will prevent

infection even a few days after someone is exposed to smallpox, and the plan was to vaccinate widely only if a case appeared.

The vaccine's dangers were too severe to simply give it to anyone absent an attack, given the uncertain risk that the disease would return. Studies from the 1960s suggest that, out of every million people vaccinated for the first time, 15 will face life-threatening complications and one or two will die. Reactions include brain-damaging encephalitis and progressive vaccinia, where the live virus used in the vaccine spreads beyond the shot site to eat away flesh, bone and gut.

In June, government advisers recommended vaccinating a relatively small cadre of people who would be needed to handle a possible attack. They suggested that each state have a smallpox response team to investigate suspicious cases, and that workers at one hospital in each community be protected as well, so contagious patients would have somewhere they could go. The total vaccinations were expected to reach 15,000 to 20,000.

But within weeks, top federal health officials had expanded that recommendation to cover all hospitals, some half-million workers, so no one hospital would be singled out.

By September, they had expanded their recommendation yet again, arguing that the vaccine should be available to all health care workers, emergency respond-

ers and, eventually, the general public.

In just months, the plans had grown exponentially. Experts such as Michael Osterholm of the University of Minnesota argued that if there is any risk of smallpox, the nation must prepare as if it will come. By way of comparison, he asked, what were the chances on Sept. 10, 2001, that hijacked airplanes would hit the World Trade Center?

Top health advisers began thinking of smallpox not as just a public health challenge, but an issue of national security — made more urgent as war loomed with Iraq, which may have the virus.

"If it's clear to the people who would do us harm that we are actually quite well prepared, that's a disincentive," said Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health, one of the government's leading experts on biological agents. "If we had very little protection, we would be considered by our enemies as being very vulnerable."

Still, with vaccinations set to resume, experts look at the state of play with chagrin, knowing some will surely die or be disfigured by the vaccine.

"It's a sad irony," said Margaret Hamburg of the Nuclear Threat Initiative. "This is a disease that nations around the world worked together to successfully eradicate. One of the great virtues of eradication is we wouldn't have to vaccinate."

## Britain unveils plan to fine parents of truant pupils

AFP, London

Britain on Thursday unveiled a controversial plan allowing schools to fine parents of persistent truants in a bid to reduce pupil absenteeism.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's official spokesman said it was "absolutely right" to focus on the issue of truancy in Britain's schools.

"We need to increase the instruments that are available so that we can deal with parents who collude in persistent truancy," the spokesman said.

"The proposals brought forward today are an imaginative way of doing that."

Some 50,000 British pupils are said to miss school each day without permission.

Under the plan announced by Education Secretary Charles Clarke, welfare and police officers and head teachers, will have the authority to issue fixed-penalty notices to parents who condone or ignore truancy.

Parents who fail to send their children to school will be obliged to sign a parenting contract. Breach of the contract could trigger a prosecution and a fine of up to 2,500 pounds or even prison.

"Quite simply, we can't raise educational standards if pupils miss school and behave badly when they are there," said Clarke.

## UN warns of water-borne catastrophe

AFP, United Nations

Warning of a mounting water crisis, the United Nations launched the International Year of Freshwater (2003) on Thursday.

"Water is likely to become a growing source of tension and fierce competition between nations if present trends continue, but it can also be a catalyst for cooperation," UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said in a statement.

Two of the aims of the campaign were to raise awareness about the scale of the crisis and to promote creative thinking about ways to end it, Deputy Secretary General Louise Frechette told the General Assembly.

About 1.2 billion people — one-fifth of the world population — lack safe drinking water and twice as many have no sanitation. UN figures show that more than three

million people a year die from diseases caused by unsafe water.

Heads of state and government agreed at the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000 to halve that proportion by 2015.

"If we continue with 'business as usual', it will take only a little more than two decades for two-thirds of the world's population to be living in moderate to severe water stress," Frechette said.

It was unthinkable to "condemn so many people to poverty, poor health and despair," she said, when "the investments required to avert this catastrophic scenario are within our means, not beyond."

The UN estimates that spending on drinking water supply and sanitation worldwide would have to increase from about 30 billion dollars a year to between 44 and 60 billion dollars to reach the Millennium Summit goals.



Pakistani rock singers Salam Ahmad (R) and Ali Azmat (L) of Junoon band perform during a concert at a function of the United Nations's Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Islamabad on Wednesday. Once a protest band banned by the government, Junoon is now arguably Pakistan's biggest musical sensation, selling millions of albums and even counting President Pervez Musharraf as a sometime fan. Junoon was the brainchild of Ahmad, a Pakistani raised in the United States where he acquired a passion — "Junoon" in Urdu — for Hendrix and Led Zeppelin.

**Telephone**  
**Shilpa Sangstha Limited**  
Tongi, Gazipur, Bangladesh  
Fax: 880-2-891177

### Tender Notice

**International Tender for Procurement of OSP (Outside Plant) Materials/Accessories**

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide international manufacturers/suppliers/eligible local agents against TSS Ltd's International Tender No. FP/IT/2K2-2K3/3530 dated 01-12-2002 for Procurement of OSP (Outside Plant) Materials/Accessories in SKD conditions to the extent possible & permissible.

Tender schedule along with terms and conditions can be obtained by submitting an application on letterhead pad of intending bidders along with documentary evidence/proof of agency-ship (if any) from the Sr Accounts Officer at the above office at Tongi as well as from the office of the Secretary, TSS Board of Directors, Room No. 7, Dak Bhaban (PMG Building), Ramna, Dhaka-1000 on payment of Tk 5,000.00 (Taka five thousand) only (non-refundable) in cash for each schedule during office hours. This will be financed from cash foreign exchange. No tender document will be sold on the date of opening of the tender.

Tender offers/bids are to be submitted in 2 (two) separate sealed envelopes. All the papers/documents/earnest money in response to the terms and conditions, technical specifications as well as signed tender documents are to be submitted in 1 (one) envelope marked "general, commercial & technical offer" with name and address of the bidder on it. The price quotation is to be submitted in another envelope marked "financial offer" with name and address of the bidder on it.

One tender box shall be kept in TSS Factory at Tongi and another tender box in the office of the Secretary, TSS Board of Directors for dropping sealed tender/offers/bids. Tenders may be dropped only on 15-01-2003 up to 12:00 Noon in any one of the tender boxes kept at the above two places. Tender offers/bids are to be submitted in triplicate. All the papers/documents/certificates/earnest money in response to the terms and conditions, technical specifications as well as signed tender documents are to be submitted along with offer for OSP (outside plant) materials/accessories in the sealed envelope and address of the bidder on it. Tenderer(s) bidder(s) must have to submit 1 (one) sample of each OSP material/accessories quoted by them along with the offers. Both the tender boxes at the above two places shall be closed at the same time at 12:00 Noon on 15-01-2003. After closing the tender box kept in the office of the Secretary, TSS BOD, Room No 7, Dak Bhaban (PMG Building), Dhaka-1000 shall be brought to TSS Factory at Tongi, and then both the tender boxes shall be opened at 14:00 hours on 15-01-2003 in TSS Factory at Tongi in presence of the tenderers or their authorized representatives, if they remain present. Immediately after opening of the above tender boxes, the sealed envelope marked "general, commercial & technical offer" will be opened and details of the bidders as well as submitted papers/documents/certificates/earnest money/samples will be checked/checked. After technical scrutiny/evaluation as well as successful test, only the technically accepted bidders will be invited to attend the opening of the other envelope marked "financial offer" at a fixed time and place. The envelope marked "financial offer" of the non-qualified bidders will not be opened.

Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the quotations, either partially or wholly without assigning any reason thereof.

**A N M Afzal Husain**  
Deputy General Manager (F&C)  
Telephone No. 9802334

## Protein in eye regulates body clock

AFP, Washington

A protein in the eye regulates the body's internal clock and its daily cycles, according to Stanford University research released Thursday.

The study, published in the current issue of Science magazine, shows that a protein in the retina called Melanopsin transmits to the brain information on the amount of light in the environment which determines the internal body clock.

Melanopsin captures light and keeps the body tuned to a daily cycle, called a circadian rhythm.

"It is the key protein in the eye that sends signals to the clock," said cell biology Professor Steve Kay of the Scripps Research Institute, which conducted a parallel research that confirmed Stanford University's conclusions.

The clock regulates the body's daily cycles, including sleep, hormone production, body temperature and blood pressure.

The researchers used genetically engineered mice to show that the mice deprived of melanopsin had a harder time adjusting their natural cycle to the artificial cycles of light and dark, or day and night.

## Extension of Time for Bid Submission of 210 MW Siddhirganj Thermal Power Station (2nd Unit) Project's Tender (Addendum#4)

Date for bid submission of Technical & Financial proposals for 210 MW Siddhirganj Thermal Power Station (2<sup>nd</sup> Unit) Project, Tender Enquiry No. PUR-115/2002 has now been re-fixed on 19-1-2003 instead of 19-12-2002. The technical proposals will be opened immediately after the closing time on the fixed date. Tender documents will be available for sale during office hours till the previous day of closing date of the tender. Prospective bidders are also requested to contact Director, Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka to collect addendum on time extension.

All other terms and conditions of the tender document shall remain unchanged.

**Secretary**  
Bangladesh Power Development Board  
Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড Bangladesh Power Development Board

দেশপ্রেমে উদ্বুদ্ধ হউন  
বিদ্যুতের অবৈধ সংযোগ বন্ধ করুন

**Amendment No. 01(One) Dated 30-11-2002 against Tender Enquiry No Pur-439/2002 Dated 16-10-2002**

The closing & opening date of Tender Enquiry No. Pur-439/2002 dated 16-10-2002 is hereby extended up to 01-01-2003 instead of 01-12-2002 for supply of spare parts of Shajibazar 60MW Power Station.

All other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged.

**Biddut/Jan-567(4)/2002-03**  
DFP-30030-9/12  
G-2301

**Md Khizir Khan**  
Director of Purchase  
PDB, Dhaka

## BCIC Tender Notice

The Managing Director, Zia Fertilizer Company Limited, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria invites sealed tender in two envelope system for procurement of the following items under Tender No. CM/EM/304/2002 & CM/EM/199/2002.

Sl. No	Description	Cost of Tender Schedule
01.	Split Type Air Cooler	Tk 750/-
02.	Compressor for Room Type Air Cooler	Tk 400/-

Tender schedule may be purchased from (i) ZFCL, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria (ii) BCIC, 30-31, Dikusha C/A, Dhaka (iii) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong. The tender should be dropped within 30/12/2002 up to 11.30 AM at ZFCL & BCIC Head Office and will be opened just after closing the tender. No tender document shall be sold on the date of opening.

BCIC-432-1/12/2002  
DFP-29980-9/12  
G-2299

**Abdul Jalil Ahmed**  
Addl Chief Manager (Commercial)  
for Managing Director

## Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)  
Court Road, Brahmanbaria  
"গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ। এর অপচয় রোধ  
করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।"

Tender No. PT/LP-36/2002-2003 Dated: 12-12-2002

## Tender Notice

Sealed quotation in the respective letterhead pad/prescribed form is hereby invited from the bonafide business organisation/manufacturers/dealers for supplying brand new & unused 03 (three) Car, 1 (one) Double Cabin Pick-up and 1 (one) Single Cabin Pick-up in local currency.

Tender schedule incorporating terms & conditions of the supply will be available from the Liaison Office at House # 42/1(A), Block # H, Road # 7, Banani, Dhaka between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM on all working days Sunday to Thursday from 19-12-2002 to 5-1-2003 at a cost of Tk 2,000.00 per schedule (non-refundable). No tender schedule will be sold on the day of opening of the tenders.

Tender shall be dropped in the tender box placed in the above office till 11:00 PM on 06-01-2003 and shall be opened on the same day at 11:15 AM in presence of the tenderers (if any). The Company reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**GD-1068**  
**General Manager (Technical Services).**