

Swine flu in Australia 'may tip pandemic'

BBC ONLINE, Melbourne

A sharp increase in swine flu cases in Australia may mean the infection has become a pandemic, the World Health Organization says.

For that to happen, officials would have to verify that the disease had become established outside North America, where the crisis began.

"Once I get indisputable evidence, I will make the announcement," said WHO director general, Margaret Chan.

More than 1,200 people have contracted the virus in Australia - though none fatally. The total means Australia has seen a four-fold increase in a week.

Less than a month ago the country had only a handful of cases of the H1N1 virus but it now has the highest number of infections outside North America.

Victoria and the state capital, Melbourne, are the worst-hit with more than 1,000 confirmed cases.

Most of those affected are suffering only a mild illness, but the Health Minister of

Australia's Queensland state, Paul Lucas, has warned that the contagious respiratory condition would inevitably claim lives.

It does not mean that the severity of the situation has increased.

On Tuesday, the head of the WHO's global influenza programme, Keiji Fukuda, said the situation had "evolved a lot" in recent days.

"We are getting close to knowing that we are in a pandemic situation," he said.

But Dr Fukuda urged calm. "It does not mean that the severity of the situation has increased or that people are getting seriously sick at higher numbers or higher rates than before," he said.

The WHO will hold a conference call with governments on Wednesday before making a formal announcement, Associated Press news agency reported.

Following the major outbreaks in North America the flu alert is currently at phase five of a six-level scale.

The virus has infected more than 26,500 people in 73 countries, the WHO said on Tuesday.

London Tube strike creates travel chaos

AFP, London

Millions of exasperated Londoners battled with travel chaos yesterday, as the British capital's underground system ground to a halt at the start of a two-day Tube strike.

Commuters took to bikes, buses and boats on the Thames to beat the underground gridlock, while the streets were packed with people walking miles to work.

"It's quite irritating because I might have to take tomorrow off work if it's going to be as bad as today," said admin worker Phoebe Wood, 24, who took an hour longer than usual to get in to work.

"I want to go to work and I need to earn my rent," she added.

The Tube walkout - which started at 7 pm (1800 GMT) on Tuesday - fully shut down five of the 11 subway lines in the capital, of which only one, the Northern line, was running without any disruption.

Overland mainline trains were packed to near bursting point as workers from outer districts used the only alternative to travel into central London during the morning rush hour.

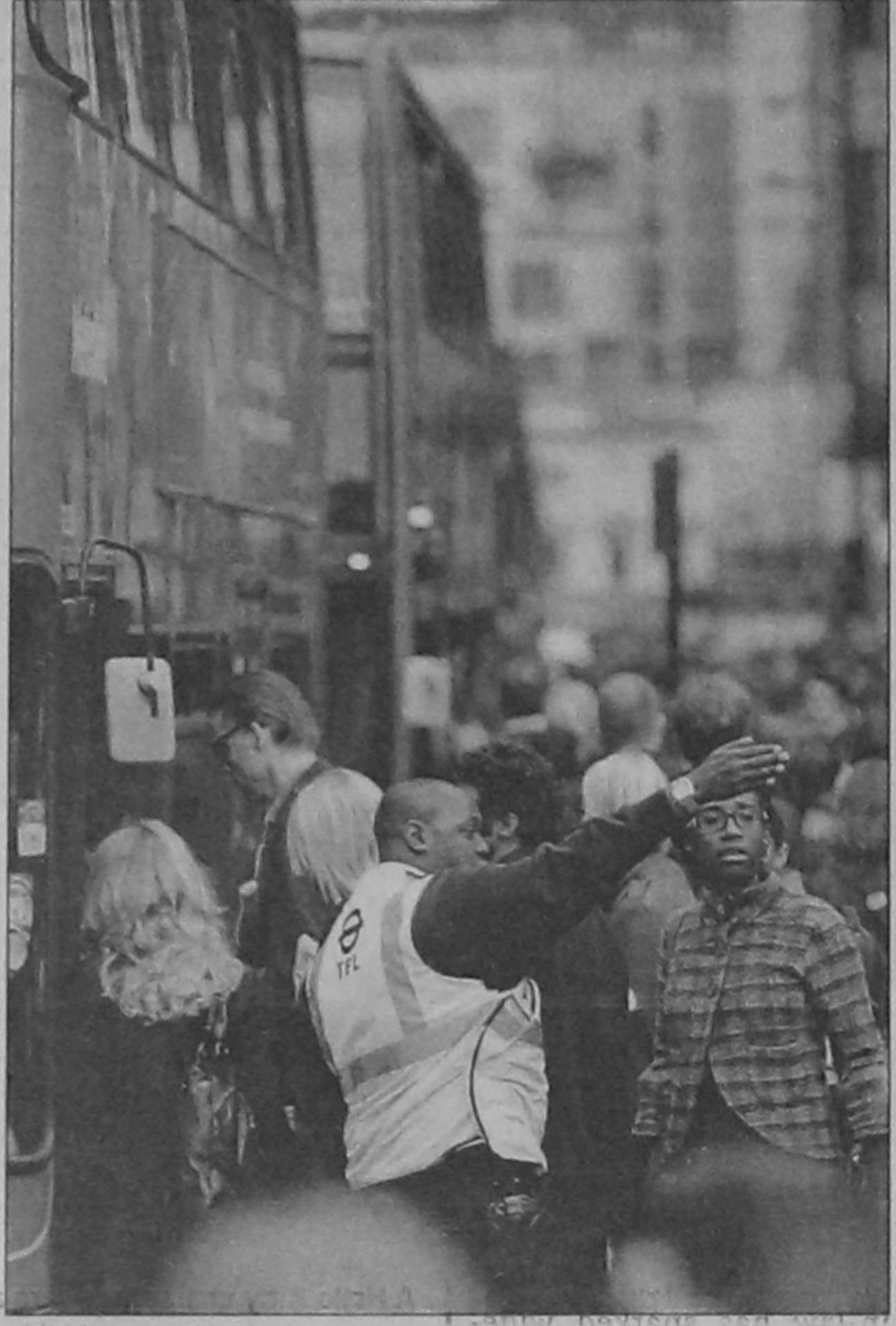


PHOTO: AFP

A Transport for London employee (in yellow) directs commuters as they look for buses at Victoria station in central London, yesterday, as an underground train strike grips the city. Millions of London commuters struggled into work yesterday as the strike completely closed five of London's 11 underground lines and only one is running without any disruption.

Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)
Chowhati, Upazila: Parbatipur, District: Dinajpur

সালভার মুক্ত কয়লা ব্যবহার করুন

বৃক্ষ নির্ধন বৃক্ষ করুন

দেশীয় কয়লার ব্যবহার বাড়ান

পরিবেশ বোচান

Invitation for Tenders

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderer for the following works as per terms and conditions stated below.

1.	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division.			
2.	Agency	Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited.			
3.	Procuring entity name	Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited.			
4.	Procuring entity code	None.			
5.	Procuring entity district	Dinajpur.			
6.	Invitation for	Works			
7.	Invitation Ref No	BCML/05/161/2305.			
8.	Date	07/06/2009.			
9.	Procurement method	Open tendering method.			
10.	Budget and source of funds	Company's revenue budget.			
11.	Project/programme code	Not applicable.			
12.	Project/programme name	Not applicable.			
13.	Tender publication date	10/06/2009.			
14.	Tender last selling date	24/06/2009.			
15.	Tender closing date and time	Date: 25/06/2009 Time: 11:30am			
16.	Tender opening date and time	25/06/2009 11:45am			
17.	Name & address of the office(s)	Selling tender document: Tender documents are available in the following offices during office hours: 1. Accounts Division, Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited, Chowhati, Parbatipur, District: Dinajpur. 2. Accounts Division, Petrocentre 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.			
Receiving document	tender	Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited, Liaison Office, 75/C, Indira Road, Dhaka-1215.			
Opening document	tender	Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited, Liaison Office, 75/C, Indira Road, Dhaka-1215.			
18.	Eligibility of tenderer	1. A reasonable number of service/works shall be completed over a period of 05 (five) years amounting to be Tk. 10 lac. 2. Having a valid trade licence for the current fiscal year 2008-2009. 3. Income Tax clearance certificate for the fiscal year 2007-2008 or received copy of submission for tax year 2008-2009. 4. Valid VAT registration certificate. 5. Annual Turnover: The required average annual turnover shall be greater than Tk. 20 lac over last 5 years. 6. Liquid Assets: The minimum amount of liquid assets and or credit facilities net of other contractual commitments of the tenderer shall be Tk. 5 lac.			
19.	Brief description of goods or works	Two No. of Dump Trucks shall be employed for transferring coal from coal dumping point to specific location of the Coal Yard or other place of BCMCL Head Office, Chowhati, Parbatipur, Dinajpur as per instruction of the BCMCL authority.			
20.	Price of tender document	Tk. 500/- (five hundred) only.			
21.	ID No.	Description of work	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time
N/A	Providing Dump Truck on rental basis for Barapukuria Coal Mine Co. Ltd, Chowhati, Parbatipur, Dinajpur	BCMCL site, Chowhati, Parbatipur, Dinajpur	Tk 60,000/- (sixty thousand) only	01 (one) year	
22.	Name of official inviting tender	Engr. SM Nurul Aurangajeb, PEng.			
23.	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (Surface Operation).			
24.	Address of official inviting tender	Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited, Chowhati, Parbatipur, Dinajpur.			
25.	Contact details of official inviting tender	05327-562000, Ex-8010.			
26.	Special instructions	(a) Rate must be quoted both in figures & in word for each item of works in the attached schedule up to two digits beyond decimal point. The tenderer must fill-up Tender Submission Sheet (Form W-1). (b) If the tenderers submit any false, incorrect or forge certificate, the tender security may be forfeited. (c) Attested copy of receipt of purchasing tender document, TIN & VAT registration certificate, bank solvency certificate etc. must be submitted with the tender. (d) For any unavoidable reason if the office remains closed at the date of receiving & opening, the tender will be received and opened in the next office day at the same time. (e) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.			

Engr. SM Nurul Aurangajeb, PEng.

Deputy General Manager (Surface Operation)

Car bomb kills 19 in Iraq

AFP, Nasiriyah

A car bomb exploded in a market in a southern Iraqi town yesterday, killing 19 people including women and children in the bloodiest attack to hit the country in weeks.

Five-six people were also wounded in the bombing in the town of Batha, 40

kilometres west of Nasiriyah, since November 2003.

The blast in Batha, 40 kilometres west of Nasiriyah, came three weeks ahead of the planned June 30 withdrawal of US troops from Iraq cities and major towns.

Several cars and market stalls were destroyed by the bomb, and much of the scene was covered in blood.

"We have to be careful of these poisonous snakes that are still hungry for Iraqi blood," said Hussein Ali Gathban, a 35-year-old government employee.

As is common in Iraq, the toll was revised lower from earlier figures which listed as many as 30 dead and 70 wounded, because of confusion in the immediate aftermath of the attack.



PHOTO: AFP
Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas (R) meets with US envoy to the Middle East George Mitchell at the Palestinian Authority's headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah yesterday. Mitchell met Abbas after telling Israeli leaders Washington wants stalled Middle East peace talks to resume soon and wrap up quickly. Mitchell is due to visit Beirut today and Damascus tomorrow.

Barak presses Israeli PM for 2-state solution

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak yesterday urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to accept the principle of a Palestinian state.

"The current government was formed with the commitment to respect the deals reached by preceding governments," Barak told public radio, ahead of speech by Netanyahu on Sunday to lay down his peace policies.

These include "the roadmap which clearly states that the conflict must be

resolved on the principle of two states for two peoples," said the head of centre-left Labour party, the most moderate member of Netanyahu's otherwise right-leaning cabinet.

"If such a solution fails, there will be only one political entity from the Jordan Valley to the Mediterranean -- the state of Israel."

"Under such a scenario, if the Palestinians have the right to vote, it will no longer be a Jewish state, but a bi-national state. And if they don't have the right to vote, it will be an apartheid regime," said the former premier.

Barak spoke a day after meeting US Middle East envoy George Mitchell, who also met Netanyahu for four hours.

Mitchell is due to hold talks with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas on Wednesday.

The hawkish Netanyahu, who is due to present his government's peace plan on Sunday, has yet to publicly embrace the creation of a Palestinian state, the cornerstone of international peace efforts.

62 'political' cases

FROM PAGE 1

Quamrul informed that the deadline for filing application for withdrawal of cases will be extended until June 30. He, however, earlier told reporters that the government would not extend the time beyond May 31.

Of the 62 cases to be withdrawn, 13 are against AL lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder, nine against AL Presidium member Tofail Ahmed, four each against former chief whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah and Awami Sweschchabase League President AFM Bahauddin Nasim, two against AL Presidium member Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, one each against State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan, AL lawmakers Engineer Mosharraf Hossain and Mokbul Hossain.

Quamrul said 36 of these cases are filed under the penal code and 26 under the Anti-Corruption Commission act.

On capital dredging of rivers, the prime minister said the government has already started discussion with the World Bank, the Netherlands and other donor agencies for assistance.

"Fortunately, the donors are now responding to our requirements. I have signed a file today to send a representative to the World Bank to discuss various programmes including dredging rivers," Hasina said in response to a query of AL lawmaker Waresat Hossain Belal.

She said after capital dredging, the rivers will be dredged every year for maintaining their navigability.

Asked if cases are being withdrawn on political consideration, the state minister said, "There is no question of doing so."

He said as per law the government cannot withdraw cases filed by the ACC without its nod. the government will send the ACC its recommendations for withdrawal of the "politically motivated" cases according to the commission's own laws.

Of the 12 cases against Hasina, 10 were filed by the ACC and two by others, including the Paltan killing case by Jamaat-e-Islami. Eight

cases were filed during the previous BNP-led alliance government's rule and the rest during the tenure of the last caretaker government.

Asked if there was any pressure on the ACC, Quamrul said they are not putting any pressure on the ACC or trying to influence it and would not do so.

Quamrul strongly criticised the caretaker government led by Fakhruddin Ahmed, saying the ACC was used to harass political leaders during the rule.

Among the 113 cases reviewed so far, 43 will be reviewed further and eight, including four cases against Abul Hasanat Abdullah, have been rejected, said Quamrul.

Hasina said her government will initiate measures to improve lifestyle of the ultra poor people including rickshaw-pullers, Monga affected people and street children.

Quamrul said they had not yet received the applications filed by leaders of opposition parties. "Once we get their applications, we will review those and make recommendations accordingly," he said.

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