

# Moslem organizes large food purchase

SEATTLE (AP) — Who is Mohammed Abdul Gafoor?

Does he have the money and skill to pull off a multi-million dollar Arab food buy?

Some say Gafoor is a humanitarian engineering the first big Moslem food-for-the-starving program. But officials and financial organizations in Europe and the Middle East say they have no knowledge of Gafoor or his dealings that so far have stirred up hundreds of Western state farmers.

Gafoor himself is vague about his plans and backing. But his general policy is clear: He purportedly will channel loans from rich Moslem nations to buy millions of tons of food to feed the starving elsewhere.

He claims to operate the Gafoor Foundation and the Universal Moslem Community, both dedicated to helping the needy. The top official of the Moslem mosque in Paris, however, knows of Gafoor but says he doesn't believe the groups exist.

Three leading Paris Arab banks — the sort of institutions with which Gafoor says he deals — said they didn't know Gafoor.

Yet his former agent in the United States, Maxwell Stitts of Mount Vernon, Ky., said Monday he is convinced Gafoor is genuine.

"He wants to do things for the good of the people of the world," said Stitts, a Baptist pastor who writes children's books. "His purpose is to feed, clothe, house and educate the needy of the world. I believe him to be honest and sincere — he has never wavered from his intentions."

Gafoor's new agent, David deMoulin of Olympia, Wash., continued Monday to organize hundreds of farmers to sell their products. DeMoulin said Gafoor can pull off the deals.

"He's dedicated to help those people," deMoulin said. "I'm convinced that he does have access to money."

So far, no one has committed any money to Gafoor or deMoulin, though nine Eastern Washington farmers have organized a company, Agro-Services Inc., to collect and coordinate contracts.

There is also a \$32 million contract proposal from Royal Foods Inc., the marketing agency for 11 Columbia Basin potato growers. DeMoulin says he plans to be in Paris late in the week to tell Gafoor of his work.

On Sunday, Gafoor turned aside efforts by an Associated Press (AP) newsman to visit him at his Paris apartment. He told the reporter to slide his card under the door. Gafoor said on the other side of the door that he represents the Islamic Conference of Islamabad, Pakistan.

However, the Pakistani embassy in Paris, which stays current on activities of the Islamic Conference secretariat, said it had never heard of Gafoor.

In London, a spokesman for the embassy of Saudi Arabia, said his nation had no knowledge of Gafoor, though Gafoor told the AP that he recently has been in contact with the Saudi monarch, King Khalid.

Oregon Daily Emerald

Gafoor told the AP in a telephone interview Saturday that he wants to buy a half-billion tons of foodstuffs such as wheat, soy beans and beef on 10-year contracts.

DeMoulin, an agricultural researcher, said some farmers in Eastern Washington have signed letters of intent which pledge them to sign contracts for their commodities if satisfactory terms are arranged.

DeMoulin says he is trying to induce farmers to sign longterm contracts by offering to pay costs plus 12 per cent. At current prices for many commodities, that would amount to a substantial increase over going rates.

But he stresses that over a 10-year period, such a price structure might not provide results different from normal markets for the farmer.

Royal president Roy Leach said Gafoor appeared to him to be nothing more than an average international broker during their Paris meeting Nov. 16. He said little about his financing or why he wanted food.

Leach said Gafoor plans to take a normal commission on any sale, but declined to say how much the commission would be. "He struck me as being a man of ethics, stature and honor," said Leach, of Bellevue, Wash.

Gafoor told the AP that all Moslem countries, through delegates to the Islamic Congress, had agreed to participate in the food-for-the-poor program. He said it was being launched in accordance with Koranic law.

He claimed to have been responsible for the reopening of the Suez Canal and for U.S. purchase of \$35 billion in foreign oil in 1975.

DeMoulin and Maxwell Stitts said Gafoor travels in the partways of high finance. Neither was surprised that normal government and Moslem officials knew nothing of Gafoor.

Neither man, however, can cite any instance in which Gafoor has carried through with a humanitarian mission.

A North Pacific Grain Growers spokesman at Portland, Ore., said deMoulin and Gafoor had contacted the grain elevator about possible storage of wheat. The matter has not progressed far, the spokesmansaid.

A National Farmers Organization spokesman at Amity, Ore., said the group is unsure of Gafoor's ability to carry through with his plan.

"This country normally exports 30 million metric tons of wheat a year," said regional grain director Ray Jergeson.

"If he tries to export 10 million tons a year like he's talking about, that's a third of our total. We believe we have someone here who doesn't understand the pressures of international movement of grain."

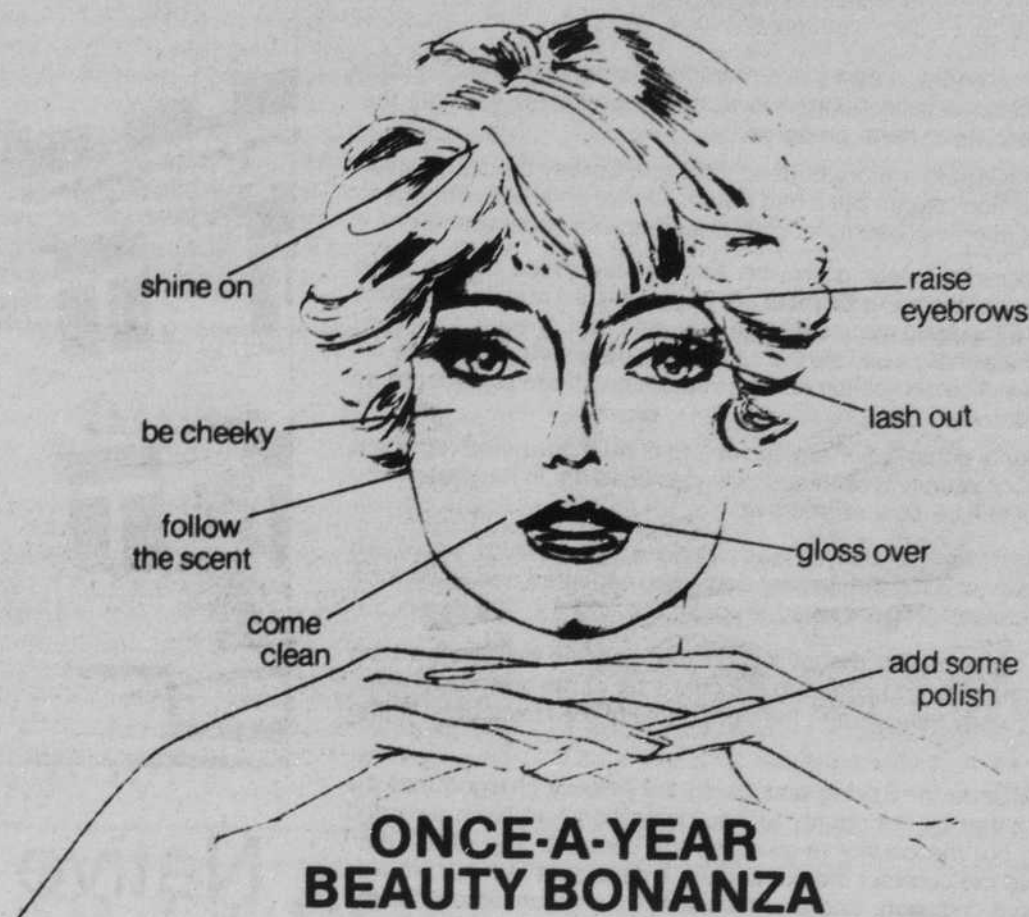
Leach said the proof of Gafoor's intentions will be whether he accepts the potato deal.

"If the potato deal doesn't go through, it's for sure that no one else will believe anything Mr. Gafoor might say," he said.

3 1/2 c COPIES OVERNIGHT NO MINIMUM UNBOUND  
**KINKOS**  
1128 Alder 344-7894  
Also in Corvallis

**Darvish Dancing**  
MONDAYS 7 PM  
WESLEY ART CENTER  
1236 KINCAID  
Sponsored by Multicultural Dance Guild

**1c Banana Split SALE**  
Thurs., Jan. 6th Only  
Buy 1 at the reg. price, get the 2nd for only 1 cent.



## ONCE-A-YEAR BEAUTY BONANZA

### AZIZA eyes

#### Iced Cream Shadow Pots

Soft, sheer, smudgeproof long-lasting color.

by PRINCE MATCHABELLI

\$2.25

### AZIZA eyes

#### Mascara with Sealer

Won't come off 'til you take it off. Available in Regular and Lash Lengthening formulas.

by PRINCE MATCHABELLI

\$2.50

Where beautiful things happen



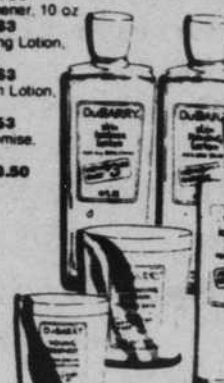
We've got your favorites... so shop us first!

**13th AVE. CLOTHES WORKS & COSMETICS**

880 E. 13th St. (on campus) • 342-2320

### Du Barry

Cleansing Cream, 8 oz. Value \$4.50, \$3  
Skin Freshener, 10 oz. Value \$4.50, \$3  
Skin Firming Lotion, 10 oz. Value \$4.50, \$3  
Foundation Lotion, 10 oz. Value \$4.50, \$3  
Young Promise, 4 1/2 oz. Value \$5.35



### Prince Matchabelli

Fragrance specialties: Wind Song 1.8 oz. spray or Cachet 1.7 oz. cologne Spray Mist, 2.95 ea. Aviance 1/2 oz. Spray Cologne, 2.75. Cachet or Wind Song Moisturizing Lotion 15 oz., 2.75 ea.



### Bonne Bell

Shampoo 2000, 16 oz. Value \$5.35, \$3.95  
Ten-O-Six shampoo, 16 oz. Value \$4.25, \$3.95  
Honest Hair conditioner, 16 oz. Value \$5.35, \$3.95

