

Did you know? The Oahe Dam is a large man-made dam along the Missouri River in the United States. It creates Lake Oahe, the fourth largest man-made reservoir in the United States, which stretches 231 miles (372 km) up the course of the Missouri to Bismarck, North Dakota.

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Waterbus launched amid scepticism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The much-talked waterbus service was launched yesterday on the Gabtoli-Sadarghat route aiming to ease the city's nagging traffic situation.

However, environmentalists and experts fear that movement of waterbuses on the way would be hampered by bridge and small boats.

Poribesh Bachao Andolon Chairman Abu Naser Khan said that during the rainy season, waterbuses would find it difficult to pass under the Basila Bridge.

But Golam Mostafa Kamal, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) chairman, denied the claim.

Two waterbuses, Turag and Buriganga, will operate every day on the 16-kilometre

long route via Kholamura and Swarighat from 7:00am to 6:00pm every one and a half hours.

Each waterbus with 35 seats cost Tk 55.75 lakh and will be using 28 litres of fuel to move at a maximum speed of 22.8 kilometres per hour, a statement from BIWTC said.

From Sadarghat to Gabtoli, the fare has been fixed at Tk 30 while from Sadarghat to Swarighat, Swarighat to Kholamura and Kholamura to Gabtoli Tk 10.

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan yesterday inaugurated the service.

The minister as the chief guest said Bangladesh and India would work together to construct different types of inland vessels in order to develop the country's river transport system.

"Indian investors have shown interest to work with Bangladeshi ship building companies. If we work jointly, it will be easier to construct better quality vessels and provide better service to passengers," he said.

He also said another 10 waterbuses would be introduced on this route within the next three months to make the project more effective and popular.

Bangladesh's Nitol-Niloy Group and Indian Merolyn Engineering Works Pvt Ltd will jointly construct the waterbuses, he mentioned.

Emphasising the importance of restoring navigability of inland waterways, the minister said the government will procure nine locally assembled dredgers by December.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Halt gas supply to CNG-run vehicles

Urges top business body chief

UNB, Dhaka

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FBCCI) President AK Azad yesterday suggested the government to stop gas supply to CNG stations and new household consumers.

"Gas supply to motor vehicles and household consumers is totally a misuse. Gas should be supplied to only industries. Government should look into the matter," he told a meeting at Bidyt Bhaban drawing the attention of Finance Minister AMA

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Tarique, Khaleda meeting rumour

BNP chairperson going for Umrah tomorrow

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's scheduled visit to Saudi Arabia tomorrow to perform Umrah has started a rumour in the party that she would meet her elder son Tarique Rahman during the trip.

Party top brass said Tarique wouldn't fly to Saudi during Khaleda's tour, as he has to take treatment at a London hospital twice a week.

But many journalists have made preparations to cover the possible reunion of the mother and son.

Tarique, also senior vice chairman of the party, is reportedly under treatment in London. He left the country on Sep 11, 2007 after obtaining bail in all cases.

Khaleda's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko released on parole left for Bangkok on July 19, 2008. He too is reportedly sick. The two haven't met their mother since they went aboard.

Tension heightened among party activists and supporters as the government recently raised questions about the illness of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Trafficker, 8 Rohingyas arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of Police yesterday arrested a trafficker along with eight Rohingya refugees with seven forged Bangladeshi passports yesterday during a raid on a hotel in the city's Segunbagicha area.

The arrestees are Rehana Akhter, 18, Abdul Kader, 32, Mohammad Alam, 40, Mohammad Rafique, 20, Abdul Malek, 30, Mohammad Shafique, 21, Jannat Ullah, 18, Jane Alam, 23 and trafficker Mohammad Yasin, 25.

During interrogation by the police, they confessed that they had gathered at the hotel to go abroad using

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Two water buses -- ML Turag and ML Buriganga -- plying Gabtoli-Sadarghat route after they were pressed into service yesterday to lessen the pressure of traffic on city streets. The photo was taken at Basila.

Biman to bank on experience in air

Moves to extend pilots' retirement age to 62

SOHEL PARVEZ

Biman Bangladesh Airlines is likely to increase the retirement age of pilots to 62 years from existing 57 years to get the services of experienced cockpit crew for a longer period.

The issue of raising the service age limit of pilots was discussed at a meeting of the board of directors of Biman yesterday. Participants said the board discussed the matter "positively" and is expected to give a go-ahead to the matter at its next meeting.

"We plan to increase the retirement age in

line with the civil aviation rules to use the services of experienced pilots for more years," said a member of the board asking not to be named.

The hike in age is set to come at a time when nearly 10-fleet Biman suffers from a shortage of pilots.

The national flag carrier, having 125 pilots, will need more in the days ahead as it will get delivery of 10 planes purchased from Boeing. The delivery will start from next year.

"We will immediately require 16 pilots after we get the delivery of two aircraft next year,"

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

OnlinePoll

Do you think dropping of charges against ex-AL MP HBM Iqbal and MP Mohammad Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon in a killing case shows government's double standard in ensuring justice?

Yes (92.4%)
 No
 No Comments

Total votes: 694

TODAY'S POLL

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INVITATION OF SEALED QUOTATION

Sealed quotations are invited for the following amusement facilities of Jamuna Future Park, the biggest shopping complex in Asia and third of its kind in the world, from the eligible vendors for design, supply, installation, testing, commissioning and handover on Turnkey basis :

1. Theme Park (indoor and outdoor)
2. Health club
3. Gymnasium
4. 22 Lines' Bowling Alley
5. Billiard Centre

Interested vendors are requested to contact with our chief consultant, Archetype Ltd. at Jamuna Future Park site office for detailed information of the works before submission of their quotation for the works.

The Quotation must be submitted on or before 26th September, 2010 to the following address:

Jamuna Group
244, Kuril, Progoti Sarani, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Phone: For Technical Issue: Archetype Ltd. 8416072, Mobile: 01712244130, E-mail: archetypeltd@yahoo.co.in

For Quotation Submission: 8416051 & 8416052, Fax: 8416050, Web: www.jamunafuturepark.com, email: info@jamunafuturepark.com



Governor of Chinese province due today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China's Yunnan province Governor Qin Guangrong will arrive here today on a two-day official visit to discuss with government leaders setting up of Bangladesh-China direct road and rail connectivity.

Governor Qin will tour Bangladesh at Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's invitation extended during her visit to Kunming, capital of Yunnan,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

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Ifar & Sehri timing for Dhaka & neighbouring areas

Today's Ifar: 6:23 pm

Ending time for tomorrow's sehri: 4:18 am

Prayer Timing		
August 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-18	4-28
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-23	6-33
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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