

Did you know? The Guri Dam is one of the largest in the world. It is located at Bolivar State, Venezuela on the Caroni River. It is 1300 meters long and 162 m high.

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War crimes probe lacks coordination
Says Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday admitted the lack of coordination between prosecutors and investigators in the trial of war crimes.

The war crimes investigation agency will have its chief appointed soon so that it can carry out probe for the trial smoothly, he said while talking to reporters after a meeting on war crimes trial at his office yesterday.

Abdul Matin, the previous

DHAKA-CHITTAGONG HIGHWAY

4-lane project stuck in consultancy row

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The launch of Dhaka-Chittagong four-lane highway may be delayed by one year as the scheme is stuck in consultancy glitches and frequent changes of project directors.

This unexpected delay might make the highway one of the most impossible roads to negotiate with as the number of

vehicles has already crossed 20,000 a day. With the Eid-ul-Fitr round the corner, more vehicles have clogged the current narrow passage, making the six-hour journey into a 10 to 15-hour one.

The present government revived the Tk 1,655 crore project initiated in 2006 on an urgent basis with a target to complete it in three years. But the project is now in the wilderness as the Pakistani consultant

who was supposed to monitor the work suddenly quit in June after his demand for higher fees was turned down.

This has simply stalled the work that was still in its initial stage.

"The selected firms, who have already built their site offices and accommodations for workers, are now sitting idle due to absence of the consultant," said a

CHEATED, ABUSED IN LIBYA

Workers finally return to work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladeshi workers in Libya finally went back to work for the company yesterday, which they had left a week ago protesting abuse and non-payment of salaries.

"The workers joined work on Wednesday morning," Ahsan Kibria Siddiqui, first secretary of Bangladesh Embassy in Libya, told The Daily Star last evening.

The Libyan labour ministry and the Immigration Department gave assurance of resolving the issues as the workers gathered on the premises of Bangladesh embassy in Tripoli on Tuesday.

At least 197 Bangladeshis, along with 28 Indians had left their



Yunus receives SolarWorld Einstein Award
BSS, Dhaka

SolarWorld this year honoured Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus by presenting him 2010 SolarWorld Einstein Award.

Prof Yunus received the award in Valencia, Spain, in recognition of the work of "Grameen Shakti," a company he founded in 1996 for providing solar energy to rural homes throughout Bangladesh, said a press release yesterday.

Grameen Shakti has brought electricity to more than 400,000 rural homes by installing small solar home systems (SHS).

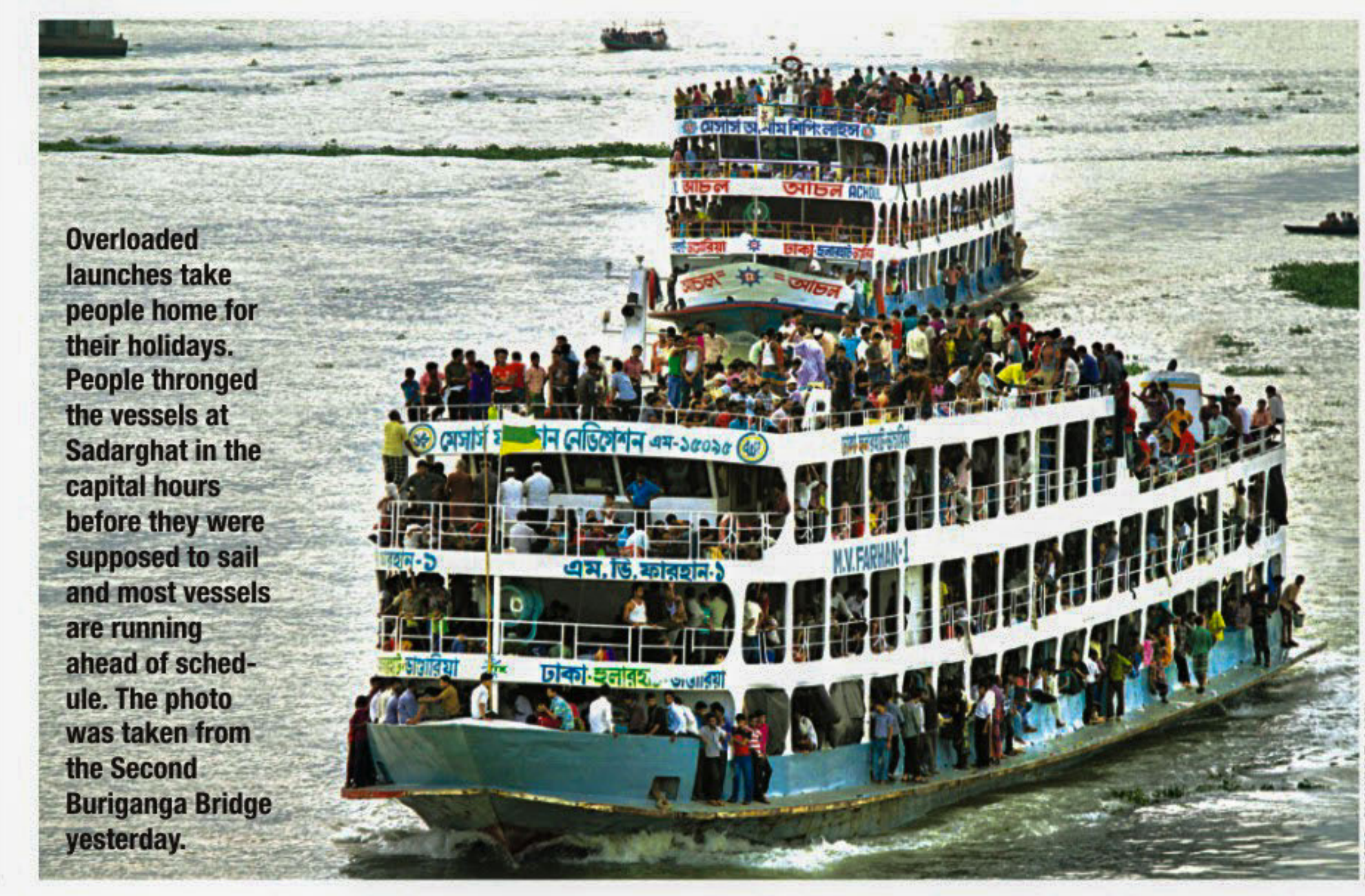
This renewable energy enables rural residents to work after dark, makes it convenient for students study

BNP leader questions clemency
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The president has become controversial by pardoning the 20 death-row convicted in the Gama killing case, the opposition BNP said yesterday.

Confusion has been created in people's mind whether the killing was encouraged by the clemency, said Rafiqul Islam Mia, a member of the BNP standing committee, at a briefing at party's central office in Nayapaltan.

As per article 49 of the country's constitution, President Zillur Rahman on Monday granted clemency to the 20 convicts in the Gama killing case in Natore. 14, out



Overloaded launches take people home for their holidays. People thronged the vessels at Sadarghat in the capital hours before they were supposed to sail and most vessels are running ahead of schedule. The photo was taken from the Second Buriganga Bridge yesterday.

ARREARS, EXTRA WORK

RMG workers block highways

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Agitating workers of two garment factories blocked the Dhaka-Aricha and Kaliakoir-Nabinagar highways yesterday morning to press home their demands.

The blockades caused immense suffering to the homebound passengers before the Eid-ul-Fitr.

The workers of RK Homes Textile Ltd blocked Kaliakoir-Nabinagar highway at Zirani in Sadar upazila for nearly an hour from 8:00am demanding arrears and Eid bonus, creating a 10-kilometre-long traffic jam on the highway.

Iftakhar, administrative officer of the factory, said the arrears and Eid bonus would be paid by today (yesterday), reports a correspondent from Gazipur quoting Syed Azharul Islam, sub-inspector of Chakrabarti police outpost.

The workers of Monno Attire Ltd at Gilanda in Manikganj Sadar upazila put barricade on Dhaka-Aricha highway for about one hour as the management of the factory asked them to work for more hours without any break.

Prayer Timing
September 9

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-23	4-33
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-12	6-22
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Eid Mubarak

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Unchecked red meat slips through

Jurisdictional mess, inspector shortage jeopardise govt's anti-anthrax fight

PANKAJ KARMAKAR and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Although the government directed livestock department officials to remain on highest alert to prevent spread of anthrax, the efforts seem to be dogged down by a lack of proper coordination among different relevant agencies, and an acute shortage of veterinary inspectors.

According to doctors, anthrax is caused by a spore forming bacterium called Bacillus anthracis. It commonly infects plant-eating mammals which ingest or inhale the spores while grazing. Humans can become infected with gastrointestinal anthrax by eating undercooked meat from infected animals.

Inspection of cattle prior to slaughter is an important way of preventing spread of the disease among humans. But most of the red meat available on the country's markets come from cattle slaughtered at kitchen markets without inspection.

The entire process of authorising slaughter

of animals for consumption lies with either city corporations or municipalities --- not with the livestock department, said officials of the Department of Livestock Services (DLS).

"We are not authorised to inspect cattle for slaughter," said an official of the department on condition of anonymity.

"Officially every municipality or city corporation must assign a veterinary inspector and a sanitary inspector for certifying each cattle before slaughter," he added.

"We are solely responsible for treatment of animals brought to veterinary hospitals, and to create mass awareness about animal diseases including the ones that can be transmitted to humans," said Dr Saiful Islam, district livestock officer in Sirajganj. "We don't monitor slaughterhouses," he added.

And officials of city corporations and municipalities are saying they are not adequately staffed and equipped to inspect all cattle before slaughter.

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you support the presidential pardon to 20 death convicts of the Jubo Dal leader Gama killing case?

Yes (7.3%)
No (91.3%)
No Comments (1.4%)

Total votes: 1137
TODAY'S POLL

Do you think use of the presidential power of clemency should be more judicious?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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Iftar & Sehri timing for Dhaka & neighbouring areas

Today's Iftar 6:12 pm
Ending time for tomorrow's sehri 4:23 am

Car bomb kills 20 near Pak police complex

AFP, Peshawar

A car bomb attack targeting a Pakistan police headquarters on Tuesday killed at least 20 people including women and children and wounded more than 50 people in northwestern city Kohat.

Militants have launched a series of brazen assaults in the past week as Muslims mark the final days of the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

Six policemen were among the dead in the latest blast and police said the other victims were women and children who were breaking their fast in the garrison city, close to the lawless tribal areas of Khyber and Orakzai.

"It was a car bomb blast, we are investigating whether the car was parked or was exploded by a suicide bomber," Khalid Khan, a top administrative official in Kohat, told AFP.

Provincial information minister Mian Iftikhar Hussain told AFP in the regional capital Peshawar: "At least 20 people have died and more than 50 were injured."

Fazal Naeem, a police spokesman in Kohat, confirmed the death toll.

A police residential complex was severely damaged and houses nearby had also collapsed in the sheer force of the explosion, trapping people in the rubble.

Frantic rescue workers were facing difficulties as electricity

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