# DOWN TO EARTH WASA offers you half a glass of water

By Khalilur Rahman

A large number of women young, middle-aged and old came out on the streets in a procession and gathered in of the WASA (Water Supply and Sewerage Authority) head office at Kawran Bazar in the city. Each of the protesters was carrying an empty earthen pitcher which they smashed before staging a sit-in demonstration demanding regular water supply to their localities.

The demonstrators, who were suffering badly due to acute scarcity of drinking water came all the way from different sections of Mirpur housing estate, about eight kilometers from the WASA of-

This was, indeed, a novel way of registering protest. The representatives of the women demonstrators later met the WASA officials and submitted a memorandum calling for an early solution to their longdrawn problem.

This was about three years ago that such a demonstration was staged by the citizens. But since then situation has not improved. Rather, scarcity of water has deepened in many areas of the metropolis.

With only 12 crore gallons of water produced daily by WASA through 140 deep tubewells and the lone water works at Chandni Ghat, WASA can hardly meet half the total requirement of water for nearly seven million city dwellers. Then again, out of the total production, about 20 per cent water goes waste ev-

In this column last Friday

ANKARA, Aug 8: Turkish

launched new raids Thursday

aimed at wiping out Turkish

Kurdish guerrilla bases in

northern iraq, the semi-official

The attacks came on the

Anatolia news agency reported,

fourth day of a huge Turkish

offensive that has caused

"heavy losses" to the separatist

guerrillas, according to the

ficials denied reports that

Turkey wanted to reclaim Iraqi

territory. But they defended

Turkey's decision to establish

a narrow "buffer zone" in

controlled by Iraqi Kurds since

an US-led allied humanitarian

force pulled out on July 15.

Turkey fears its rebels will op-

erate unchecked from the

US and allied troops sta-

tioned near the Turkish-Iraqi

border have not been involved

in the operation, officials say.

The allied force is poised to

defend Iraqi Kurds from any

and F-104 fighter-bombers

flew sorties over northern Iraq

on Thursday morning in a 25

Puma and Sikorsky heli-

copters also attacked guerrilla

hideouts, setting them on fire,

Anatolia said. Commando units

then moved into northern Iraq

toward the targets, the agency

Launch owners

threaten strike

By Staff Correspondent

owners associations have given

an ultimatum to the govern-

ment to bring down fuel prices

to the pre-Gulf war level by

Bangladesh Launch Owners

Association, Bangladesh Cargo

Vessel Owners Association and

Bangladesh Inland Water

Transport Association

Thursday said they would stop

operating their vessels from

August 23 if fuel prices were

not reduced by that time.

A joint press release by the

August 26.

Launch and cargo vessel

said, without giving details.

Anatolia reported that F-4

attack by their government.

Turkish Kurdish guerrillas.

were being killed.

hour operation.

Northern Iraq has been

northern Iraq.

In another development, of-

we mentioned that the existing water supply system, based on deep tubewells, is nothing but a temporary measure. The permanent system lies with the river source, experts say. Exclusively based on this concept, WASA was created in 1963 by an ordinance. A vast tract of land was acquired for setting up of a water treatment plant on the bank of the Sitalakhya at Demra. The project was due to be financed by the World Bank. A huge sum of money has already been spent, but the progress so far made was quite negligible.

Of late, the government has taken up the matter with all seriousness and made substantial progress in implementing the water treatment plant. The Ministry of Government has drawn up a plan after a fresh study and recommended shifting of the plant from Demra to Syedabad. Official sources told The Daily Star that the new plan would substantially reduce the cost of the project.

The original water treatment plant at Demra envisaged supply of water to the city through huge pipes called trunk lines. This will involve a huge additional cost and raise the price of water beyond the reach of the commonman, WASA sources said. At present, WASA charges Taka 12.52 for each 1,000 gallons of water for domestic use and Taka 40.70 for commercial or industrial consumption.

The new government plan only proposes shifting of the venue of the plant and all

as incorporated in the original project. The proposed plant has a capacity to produce 20 crore gallons of water per day. The existing canals of Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) Project will be used as substitute for the costly trunk lines for drawing water to the plant at Syedabad. The canal is already extended up to the river Sitalakhya at Demra from Syedabad. This will save money which would otherwise have been needed for digging a new canals for the plant. Moreover, the existing DND canal will shorten the distance from the Sitalakhya to Syedabad compared to the laying of trunk lines, official sources said.

The new plan now awaits final approval of the government. When implemented, the plant will meet the total requirement of water for the fast-expanding city, the WASA source added.

With regard to the existing system of water supply in the city, an official of the Local Government Ministry said, it was too complicated and timeconsuming to instal pumps. In view of the acute scarcity of water at Gopfbagh, Hazaribagh and Madartek, WASA has commissioned three pumps recently, one each in those places. This has increased the strength of deep tubewells to 143. These three pumps can produce 10 lakh gallons of water per day.

The cost of each pump now comes to about Taka 60 lakh. not to speak of other costs. So this is too costly a venture to maintain water supply through deep tubewells.

Nasim Khan off

to Pakistan

Pakistanis in Bangladesh M

Nasim Khan left for Pakistan

Thursday afternoon at the invi-

tation of Pakistan Prime

Minister Nawaz Sharif, reports

last a week, Nasim Khan will

discuss the issue of repatria-

tion of stranded Pakistanis in

Bangladesh with the President,

Prime Minister and high offi-

ation of a schedule for repatri-

ation of the Pakistanis before

August 14, the press release

issued by Shoukat Ali, General

Committee (SPGRC) has

threatened to go on a long

march to Pakistan across India

if a definite time table for their

repatriation is not announced

JS session

9.36 pm to meet again at 11

Tk 76.25 lakh

land development

tax realised

enue department. Bakergani

has realised land development

tax amounting to Tk

76,25,896 from ten upazilas of

91 fiscal year, reports BSS.

Bakerganj district in the 1990-

source, the demand was Tk

1,76,03,880 for the year. The

cyclone and the tornado had

affected the collection of tax

According to an official

BARISAL, Aug 8: The rev-

The House was adjourned at

The Stranded Pakistanis

Repatriation

Secretary SPGRC said.

General

by August 14.

am on August 11.

He will emphasis on the fix-

During his visit, expected to

Leader of stranded

Famous for her "Pratham Bangladesh, Amar Shesh Bangladesh", Shahnaz Rahmatullah is rendering a song at a cultural function of Jatiyatabadi Samajik-Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS), organised to mark the passage of the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill, in front of the National Press Club Thursday. -Star photo

# UN membership for North, South Korea recommended

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 8: The UN Security Council on Thursday unanimously recommended that rivals North and South Korea simultaneously be admitted to the United Nations in September, reports

The membership application of the two Koreas must still be approved by a twothirds vote of the General Assembly when it convenes September 17, but that is con-

sidered a formality. Once approved, North and South Korea will become the 160th and 161st members of the world body. Both states currently hold non-voting observer status.

Cold War tensions and the bitter rivalry between the Communist North and capitalist South had delayed membership for the two Koreas for

But at Thursday's council session, South Korcan Ambassador Roe Chang-hee and North Korean Ambassador Pak Gil Yon sat smiling side by side and later shook hands in what might be their first public handshake here.

This is a giant step toward peace and the reunification of our country," Roe said after the council session.

The council postponed until Friday a vote to recommend the admission of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands. Diplomats said the Soviet Union still was awaiting approval from the Soviet legislature in Moscow and described the delay as a technicality. Security Council President

Jose Alaya of Ecuador read a statement welcoming the two Korean states.

"The aspirations of the peoples and governments of

the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea have harmoniously coincided," making possible a joint vote on their applications, Alaya said.

Alaya, who holds the rotating council presidency for the month of August, added: "I am certain that as new members (they) will contribute positively to efforts to enhance the work of the United Nations."

"In the positive atmosphere resulting from the end of the Cold War, we note with great satisfaction that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea (will) become members of the world organization," he

US Ambassador Thomas R Pickering and British Ambassador Sir David Hannary later welcomed the forthcoming membership of the two Koreas, saying they hoped it would contribute to an inter-Korean dialogue.

# Soviet pilots to join strike of air controllers

MOSCOW, Aug 8: Civilian airline pilots threatened Thursday to join air controllers and be ready to strike beginning Saturday if the government failed to make good on promises of higher wages and better work conditions, reports AP.

The Soviet Civil Aviation Ministry countered Thursday by branding any work stoppage by the country's 12,000 air traffic controllers as "illegal" and said it was seeking a court order to block the walkout.

# promotion angers DFIs' officers Staff Correspondent

Nine JN College

student parties

float new front

of the Jagannath University

College Thursday floated an al-

liance styled Progressive

Students' Unity (PSU) aiming

to restore congenial atmosphere on the violence-torn

The new combine of nine

left-leaning student groups

demanded immediate reopen-

ing of the college and inquiry

into various "irregularities"

PSU, floated at a press con-

ference at the Jatiya Press Club

Thursday afternoon, also de-

manded arrest of all armed

hoodlums and democratic at-

mosphere on the college cam-

It urged the college authori-

ties to convene a meeting of

the Education Atmosphere

Council to discuss and resolve

the present crisis on the cam-

pus shut down after bloody

clashes that left two student

out by BM Shamimul Huq.

Convenor of Jattya Chhatra Dal,

called for ensuring adequate

security before reopening the

the killing of JCD leader Munir

and BCL- (A-A) leader Swapon

and exemplary punishment of

a memorandum to the Director

General of Education Saturday

New condition for

at the outset of its campaign.

Meanwhile, PSU will submit

those involved the killings.

He also demanded trial of

A written statement, read

campus, reports UNB.

prevailing there.

leaders dead.

Nine student organisations

A new service condition for cligibility for appearing before the Promotion Committee of Nationalised Banks (NCBs) and Development Financing Institutions (DFI) have cause resentment among senior offi-

According to NCB and DF sources, the Finance Ministry has issued an order requiring a Deputy General Manager (DGM) at least five years' service in his present post to appear before the Promotion Committee for elevation to the post of General Manager.

The earlier requirement was three years.

This has screened out as many as 90 out of 120 DGMs from facing the interview leaving only 30 in the race for the five vacant posts of GM.

The new condition also automatically negates an earlier selection in 1989 for promotion of 10 DGMs and also a panel of 107 DGMs.

The panel was prepared by a committee formed with the Governor and one Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary of the Finance Ministry.

The selection in 1989 had picked up 26 DGMs from the panel for promotion. First 12 of them were promoted to GM after President's approval, one was dropped due to allegations again him and three were retired.

The ten officers awaiting promotion after the earlier selection, have now to face the Promotion Committee, if they have completed five years' as

The sources said many of the DGMs will retire before fulfilling the new condition for promotion.

## Tamils kill 13 in fresh fighting

COLOMBO, Aug 8 : Tamil militants killed at least 13 soldiers in fresh fighting around a strategic army camp that was liberated from a rebel siege last week, officials said Thursday, reports AP.

## Recent meeting in Thailand and Beijing of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC), which groups all the country's warring factions, have concluded with key agreements on a ceasefire and the nomination as SNC Chairman of Prince Sihanouk, who appears acceptable to

Observers here said the

Also expected to aid in the normalisation of relations is the impending, alreadyagreed-upon resignation of Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, who is widely considered an irritant and "anti-Chinese" by the

Beijing leadership. Finally, as Asia's two most important communist countries, China and Vietnam have

est to stick closer together

# The Midnight File

BEIRUT, Aug 8: An underground group claimed it kidnapped a French intelligence officer in Lebanon, Lt Jerome Liro, on Thursday to protest the release of a British hostage earlier in the day. The claim was made in a phone call to a western news agency in Beirut by a man saying he spoke for the Organisation for the Defense of the Prisoners' Rights. The same group on Wednesday claimed responsibility for a rocket propelled grenade attack on a UN office in Betrut and said that attack was a warning against any unconditional release of Western hostages, reports AP.

# Israel ready for hostage deal

free Lebanese prisoners under its control in exchange for Western hostages in Lebanon if captured Israelis were included. Welcoming the release of British hostage John McCarthy, a government spokesman said that any deal would have to include the seven Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon since 1982, reports AP.

nantly Hindu India, the officials said, reports AP.

## Worst-ever flood in Burma

scribed as the worst flooding in 50 years, and there are fears this season's rice crop will be seriously affected. The flooding. which has hit Burma's "rice bowl," the low-lying southwestern Delta area, has inundated more than 80,000 hectares (200,000 acres) of paddy fields, the official Working People's Daily reported Wednesday, reports AFP.

# **Indemnity Ordinance**

August, 1975; and whereas Par-

liament is not in session and the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render immediate action nec-

of Bangladesh.

mention names of the persons who were killed or did not mention anything regarding the killing. But it was interconnotation of the words "acts and things' covered the act of killing. The experts say interpretation could be sought from court whether there could be

## Bakhtiar

From Page 1 Col. 4 Paris last April.

accused Khomeini supporters

Former Iranian President Abolhassan Bani Sadr, who also lives in extle in Paris, told French radio Tehran authorities had drafted a death

list of opponents and he felt under threat.

month-and-half ago that Tehran was planning to kill

"A few days ago, I received another information- I think Bakhtiar also received itmentioning a list made by the regime of people who must be killed at any cost," he said.

failed to restore normalcy in the campus. He pointed to the situation prevailing in Chittagong University where the VC is being kept hostage in his house by the armed students.

Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim (AL) regretted that 70 to 80 educational institutions were closed following violence. He called for stern action against the armed terrorists "even if they belong to Awami League and BNP\*. He suggested the ministers in charge of Education and Home should resign if they fail to contain terrorism.

Moudud Ahmed (JP) described the problem as political. He thought that it could be Awami League and Jamaat sit across the table with sincere lem of Chittagong University which remained closed for last

Referring to oft-repeated allegation that Jatiya Party was autocratic. Moudud told his political adversaries that the nation wanted to know who were the autocrats now

nied allegations that Chhatra Shibir is engaged in armed terrorism. He suggested the government should roundup all the armed terrorists from the campus.

Others who supported Tofael Ahmed seeking a statement from the government explaining the situation in Chittagong University were Mohiuddin Ahmed and Abdur Razzak of BKSAL, and Akhtaruzzman Chowdhury and Syed Najibul Bashar of Awami Mustafiz

Law Minister Mirza Golam

Hafiz said that the indemnity

Ordinance was a complex one

and it would require to untie

many knots. However, yester-

day, he gave a hope in the

House that the Special

Committee would be able to

Dacoits kill one,

loot property

at Nalitabari

person was killed and property

worth about Taka 50 thousand

were looted by dacoits in

Naliatabari upazila in Sherpur

district recently, reports BSS.

raided the house of

Rahimuddin (50) at village

Bishgiri in Ramchandrakura

Union killed him and d.

camped with cash and kind

property worth Taka 25 thou-

sand from the house of one

Mojibur Rahman of village

Shidhuli in the same union.

The dacoits also looted

worth Taka 20 thousand.

A group of armed dacoits

JAMALPUR, Aug 8: One

overcome the complexities.

From Page ! Col. 5 The Foreign Minister is expected to call on UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan besides meeting his counterpart

Sheikh Hamdan. The present unhappy situation over the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) is expected to figure prominently at the discussion. The Bank's 77 per cent share

The BCCI Bangladesh branches were suspended on July 6 following the action taken against the bank in different cities across the world. Bangladesh is expected to

is owned by Sheikh Zayed.

place a formal proposal to the highest level to reopen the BCCI branches here. In Tehran, the Bangladesh

Foreign Minister is likely to call on President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. Beside, Mustafiz is scheduled to discuss with his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Belayeti matters of mutual interest.

## Hasina From Page 1 Col. 4 She mentioned that the

ending of the politics of killing and conspiracy was the commitment of three alliances which could be fulfilled through the passage of the Indemnity Bill. Sheikh Hasina said that

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Begum Mujib and a few other members of their family were killed on August 15, 1975. Abdur Rab Serniabat, Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni, Col Jamil and many others were also killed on the same day. Under the same blueprint, four national leaders Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Mansur Ali and Kamaruzzaman were killed on November 3, she added.

The AL chief mentioned that the killers were kept out of the ambit of law through the promulgation of Indemnity Ordinance. So the nation was deprived of the fundamental right of seeking justice for those killings, she said.

gratulated the Speaker for appointing a 15-member special committee to scrutinise and introduce the bill before the House. She appealed to the chairman and other members of the committee for introducing a complete bill to ensure the end of killings by the terrorists.

# Vietnam, China agree to normalise ties

PKK, which has been fighting HANOI, Aug 8: Vietnam and since 1984 for a separate na-China have quietly agreed in principle to normalise their Turkish officials long strained relations. Thursday defended their decidiplomatic and Vietnamese sion to declare a 5-kilometer sources said today, reports (3-mile)-deep buffer zone inside Iraq along the entire 320-

The sources said the agreement was reached during an unannounced visit to Beijing last week by General Le Duc Anh, the No 2 in the Vietnamese power structure.

Relations between the two communist nations have been tense since Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia more than 12 years ago and China's subsequent attack on Vietnam. The visit of Anh, who is also Vietnam's Defence Minister.

has not been officially confirmed. But the sources, who asked not to be identified, said he travelled to the Chinese capital with Vietnamese Communist Party (VCP) Secretary Hong Ha and reported his progress to Vietnam's national assembly. Anh and his Chinese hosts

said a source adding that "normalisation is close." The sources said the normalisation process, which has accelerated in recent

achieved positive results.

progress toward a settlement in Cambodia, would be finalised during an October trip to Beijing by VCP Secretary General Do Muoi, Vietnam's most powerful "A Vietnamese-Sino summit

is now within reach," said one optimistic Vietnamese source. China supports the armed Cambodian resistance to the Phnom Penh government,

which Vietnam put in power in 1979 after ousting the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge government. Anh, a potential Vietnamese head of state, reportedly briefed the national assembly

on his trip last Friday. Although details are not known, one Vietnamese said he had "good sources news". His visit was only the second to China by a top

Vietnamese leader since China launched a brief but bloody invasion of northern Vietnam in February 1979, in retaliation for Hanoi's military occupation of Cambodia a month earlier. The first such visit came

last September, when the then

VCP Secretary General Nguyen

in tandem with Van Linh made a secret trip to Quang Du with Muoi, who was then premier. But that visit was widely seen as a failure for

The fact that Anh was received in Beijing, however, proves a change in attitude toward Vietnam among Chinese leaders, observers said here, noting that Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien is currently in Beijing on a four-day official visit.

Vietnam has said officially that normalisation of relations would be on the agenda during Nien's trip, the fifth to Beijing by a Vietnamese Vice Minister since 1989, following a 14month freeze caused by an impasse over the Cambodian is-

Cambodia and the opening of the Vietnamese-Sino border are also to be discussed - the Chinese press reported last week after Anh's visit that Chinese officials intended to open certain sections of the frontier. The rapid improvement in

relations between Vietnam and China is strongly linked to progress made in recent months toward a resolution of Cambodia's civil war.

both Vietnam and China.

agreements would never have been possible if Hanoi and Beijing had not softened their positions in recent months.

# tions of Eastern Europe.

## both opposed the fundamental political reforms which have transformed the Soviet Union and the former communist na-Observers said they doubtless consider it in their inter-

French officer kidnapped

JERUSALEM, Aug 8: Israel on Thursday it was ready to

# Seven Kashmir militants killed

SRINAGAR, Aug 8: Paramilitary troops shot and killed seven Kashmir militants Thursday in a gun battle started by a rebel ambush that left two soldiers dead. At least five more people were killed in other parts of Kashmir where Muslim militants are fighting for independence from the predomi-

RANGOON, Aug 8: Burma has been hit by what is being de-

any trial of the killers of From Page 1 Col. 4 proclamation of martial law on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman even the morning of the 15th if the Ordinance was not re-

cssary. The ordinance said the acts and things in the morning of 15th August, 1975 were done as necessary step towards the change of government of the People's Republic

But the Ordinance did not preted by the experts that the

At the time, Bakhtiar of being behind the killing.

He said he was told a

He said Iranian Foreign

Minister Ali Akbar Velayati had asked the French government during a visit to Paris last month to expel Iranian opponents or compel them to keep silent.

CU

From Page 1 Col. 7

who alleged government had

resolved overnight if BNP intention of solving the probeight months.

patronising student violence. Enamul Haq (Jamaat) de-

League.

Sheikh Hasina also con-

## The decision was taken at a meeting of representatives of the three associations on August 6, the press release

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other factors remain the same Ankara wants to establish buffer zone Turkish planes launch

warplanes and helicopters Kurdish guerrillas have suffered "heavy losses," but gave no specifics. Newspapers said only one Turkish soldier died in the operation. Nechervan Barzani, deputy secretary of the Kurdish Democratic Party, told an AP photographer in Sirsenk that at least 15 Iraqi Kurds were

Anatolia said Turkish

new raids into Iraq

wounded in the attacks. He had no information on Turkish Kurds killed. Presidential spokesman Kaya Toperi told an aide to Iraqi Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani on Thursday that the

killed and 48 others had been

Turkish troops were being careful not to harm innocent Iraqi Kurds, Anatolia reported. But Nechervan Barzani said the Turkish bombers attacked Kurdish refugee settlements in Begova village in the former allied 'security zone," as well as

area, even though the Iraqi Khera Zouk village in Sherwan Kurds deny supporting the and near the Khwa Kurk Valley near the Iranian border. Iraqi Kurdish groups have Anatolia said the Kurdish protested the Turkish attack guerrilla camps being targeted and said their own people were in the remote, mountain-

ous area where Iraq, Iran and Turkey converge. The military announced Wednesday that the incursion had concentrated 8-10 kilometers (5-6 miles) inside northern Iraq around the Durji region, where it said

about 600-700 guerrillas were stationed The attack appeared to be the biggest military operation Turkey has ever launched against Turkish Kurdish guerrillas in northern Iraq. It marked at least the fourth time Turkey had made crossborder raids against the separatist Kurdish Labour Party, or

tion in southeastern Turkey. kilometer (200-mile) border

# Sikh bomb kills 7 policemen

AMRITSAR, Aug 8: Sikh militants fighting for independence in Punjab state exploded a remote-controlled bomb under a government patrol jeep Thursday, killing seven policemen, police said. The bomb was hidden in a leaking sewage pipe under a paved road in the village of Tarn Taran, Senior Superintendent Narinder Pal Singh said. The road was swamped with water, forcing the jeep to slow down, reports AP.

Editor : S. M. All