

# Acute water crisis hits city areas

Desa blamed

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) blamed Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Desa) for the frequent disruption in water supply to different parts of the capital city during Ramadan.

The acute water crisis has almost paralysed the normal life in the city recently despite the authorities' assurance about smooth supply of water during the holy month.

Desa is 90 percent responsible for the present water crisis as water supply is being disrupted due to massive load-shedding, a top official of Wasa told UNB when asked about the severe water crisis.

New Eskaton, Sheorapara, Kazipara, Senpara and the old part of Dhaka are the worst-affected areas without any water supply for the last five days.

The official said there would be no water crisis if Wasa is given two percent of electricity that Desa gets for the capital city. So, the main problem behind the water crisis is short

supply of electricity," the Wasa official said over telephone from Panthakunja water pump yesterday. He said Dhaka Wasa now has 232 generators to supply water during the load-shedding. But most of the generators are out of order, as nearly 50 percent of the generators were procured before 1996.

"So, it has become difficult to continue water supply with these obsolete generators. We're operating those through frequent repairs."

He said Wasa is planning to have gas generators, but those will be available from the next season.

The official said water pumps at Hazaribagh, Tejgaon and Shyampur were denied adequate power supply, but nearby industrial units get uninterrupted supply.

A Desa chief engineer, however, refuted the allegations and said, "It's in our nature to often shift the blame onto others by hiding our own weaknesses or shortcomings."

He said the demand for electricity has been increasing while the power generation did not increase at all.

"So, how can we ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity?"

Hasina Begum, a housewife in New Eskaton area, said she could not take bath for the last two days, nor could she wash clothes during this month of Ramadan as they did not get water supply for the last four days.

She said acute water crisis in the area has made the life miserable. "We get some water just before Iftar but then we've to wait for long before we get water again at about 9:00am."

Mustafizur Rahman, a house owner in the area, said he went to the Dhaka Wasa head office to find out the reason behind the water crisis but did not get any cooperation from the Wasa officials.

"It's very tough for the residents of such areas to do fasting during the water crisis. On Wednesday night, I could not even drink a glass of water during Sehri," he said.

Many residents in the water-starved areas said they go to the houses of relatives and friends in other areas to take bath and wash clothes.



Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui hands over the national flag to MA Mohit and Nur Mohammad who will go on an expedition on September 8 to conquer the Manaslu, the eighth highest peak of the world, at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Enam Ul Haque, founder of Bangla Mountaineering and Trekking Club and expeditor to Antarctica and the North Pole, extreme left, and Executive Director of Transcom Beverages Ltd GQ Chowdhury, second from left, were also present.

## Manaslu expedition from Sept 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladeshi youths are going to start an expedition on September 8 to conquer the Manaslu, the eighth highest peak of the world.

This is the first expedition from Bangladesh to any peak over 8000 metres, said MA Mohit, leader of the two-member team of mountaineers at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

Manaslu is 26,758 feet high and considered the fourth most dangerous peak of the world. Only 240 climbers climbed it successfully and 52 were killed in their attempt to climb it until 2003.

Transcom Beverage Ltd and Paragon Group are the sponsors of the expedition.

"We will leave Dhaka for Nepal on September 8 and it will take 50 days to complete our adventure," said Mohit.

"Our dream is very high for which we tolerate small pains in the way of conquering a peak and it is also very important to conquer ourselves before it," said Nur Mohammad, another mountaineer.

Both the mountaineers received training abroad and have climbed

three Himalayan peaks Chulu West, Mera and Singu Chuli, said Enam Ul Haque, founder of Bangla Mountaineering and Trekking Club and expeditor to Antarctica and the North Pole.

He said it will be a huge achievement for Bangladesh if they become successful and an attempt will be made to conquer the Mount Everest, the highest peak of the world, in April 2009, he said.

Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, who attended the press conference as honourable guest, handed over national flag to them to hoist on the top of the Manaslu.

"We could not imagine that any Bangladeshi mountaineer will climb Himalayan peak, even a few years back," he said.

Professor Ajoy Roy, who also attended the press conference as honourable guest, said the Bangladeshi mountaineers have already conquered about eight peaks.

"I wish their success in conquering the Manaslu," he said.

Executive Director of Transcom Beverages Ltd GQ Chowdhury and the managing director of Paragon Group, among others, addressed the press conference.

## Bulu has no link with 'reformist' BNP faction Claims Jubo Dal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Jubo Dal, the youth front of BNP, yesterday claimed that its President Barkat Ullah Bulu, a former commerce adviser, has no link with the pro-reformist faction of BNP.

They demanded legal action against those who assaulted Bulu at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital on September 3.

They also declared a three-day programme including protest meeting on September 8 in the capital to press home their demand.

The leaders announced the programme at a press conference at the Nam flat residence of Moazzem Hossain Alal, general secretary of Jubo Dal.

Alal said the attack on Bulu was part of a conspiracy to undermine the image of BNP.

He alleged that 'a section of conspirators' were involved in this matter.

Bulu had been absconding for long as there were cases against him, they added.

Jubo Dal will also organise protest meeting in all divisional headquarters on September 12 and across the country on September 14.

The Daily Star Coming out on Sunday, 7 September - Star Campus

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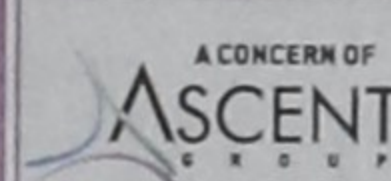
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