

## Wasa stink to stay

Unable to offer any relief before May

TAWFIQUE ALI

Filthy and smelly Wasa water is causing immense sufferings to people in some parts of the capital with the onset of the dry season.

The worst affected areas include Khilgaon, Shantinagar, Shahidbagh, Mugdapara and Motijheel.

People of different ages, including women and children, carrying plastic jars, aluminium pitchers and discarded bottles through the water pump at Razarbagh Police Lines round the clock.

They come from nearby areas to collect drinking water as water supplied by Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) is not usable.

Even it can't be used for bathing and domestic chores, they said.

"Tap water supplied at our factory is stinky and yellowish, and is not drinkable at all," said Swapna, a garment worker, who came to Razarbagh pump yesterday with discarded plastic bottle.

Rafiqul Islam, a private banker at Motijheel and a resident of Shahidbagh, came by his private car to take drinking water from Razarbagh pump.

When Wasa water is poured into buckets it creates froth and bubbles and rice cooked with it changes its colour, said Islam.

Abul Hossain from Shahidbagh said, "Wasa water supplied in our area has obnoxious odour. When we bathe with it our bodies become stinky."

The rush at the pump is so huge that one has to wait for around two hours to get a pitcher of water, said Rashida Akhtar from Shahidbagh.

Engineer Taksim A Khan, managing director of Wasa, said, "The sufferings will continue throughout the dry season,

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**Shitalakkhya river water in dry season almost beyond treatment**



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

QUEUE AT UNGODLY HOUR...Women collect water around midnight from two pipes that Wasa installed through the wall of its pump house in Rajarbagh Police Lines. Smelly and filthy water supplied by Wasa forces many to collect water from there at night when the queue is not too long.

## PM for direct road, rail links with China

She returns today after 5-day state visit

UNB, Kunming

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her firm conviction in road and rail links being established between Chittagong and Kunming, to boost trade and investment between their respective countries.

"I believe the leaders of Yunnan province can play an important role in establishing the road and rail links," said the premier, while addressing a banquet hosted by the Vice-Governor of Yunnan province, Li Jiang.

Identifying the historically important city of Kunming as a gateway between South and Southeast Asia, the premier expressed her happiness over the formation of a Kunming-based South Asian business forum.

She expressed her hope that the Chinese

people would be able to familiarise themselves with Bangladeshi products through the success of this forum.

The Prime Minister, however, returns today after a five-day state visit to China.

Bangladesh Biman aircraft carrying the PM and her entourage will land at Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) International Airport in Dhaka at about 11:45 am.

During her visit Hasina met with Chinese President Hu Jintao and discussed bilateral, regional and international issues. She had official talks with her Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao at the Great Hall and signed three accords and a MoU to bolster cooperation in the fields of economy and technology, infrastructure and energy.

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## VoIP watch to go on

4 lakh subscribers of three companies left in the lurch

MD HASAN

The BTRC will continue its investigation of illegal VoIP activities by any telephone operator or Internet service provider and shut them down, if found guilty, as it did in cases of three private landline companies and 18 ISPs recently.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission is ignoring the plights of around 4,00,000 subscribers of the three phone companies, saying it does not want any citizen to use telecom services of companies involved in illegal activities.

Some clients of these three landline operators--RanksTel, Dhaka Phone and WorldTel--have accused the BTRC of not

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## PMO-run 20 websites hacked

Move on to detect culprits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hackers yesterday attacked 20 district websites operated by the Prime Minister's Office.

The hackers who claimed to be Indians threatened Bangladesh with a cyber war if any Pakistani terrorist enters India through Bangladesh.

Home Secretary Abdu Sobhan Sikder said they have already restored the websites and cyber-crime experts in Rab and Special Branch of Police are working to detect the hackers.

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## HSBC Export Excellence Awards 2009

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- ▶ **Exporter of the Year - EPZ Enterprises**  
Companies in the Export Processing Zones of Bangladesh
- ▶ **Exporter of the Year - Traditional & Emerging Sectors**  
Companies (Non RMG & Textiles) with an annual export turnover of US\$ 3 Million or more
- ▶ **Exporter of the Year - SMEs**  
SMEs (Non RMG & Textiles) with an annual export turnover less than US\$ 3 Million

Please visit [hsbc.com.bd](http://hsbc.com.bd) website for nomination form and other details. Last date for submission is 31 March 2010. Kindly send completed forms to HSBC's knowledge partner in this programme - **Bangladesh Brand Forum**, House 20/B, Road 79/82, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh.



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