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factions to settle  
differences soon

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S Africa pushing  
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NEWS BRIEFS

Appointments

By Staff Correspondent  
The services of Muhammad  
Abu Sayeed, a secretary of the  
government now serving on  
deputation to the World Bank  
as Alternate Executive Director  
has been extended on contract  
from February 14 to October  
31, 1994 following his retire-  
ment on February 13 on attaining  
57 years, says a govern-  
ment handout. Badur Rahman  
Chowdhury, Director General of  
NIORT has been appointed  
Additional Secretary in the  
Cabinet Division.

Fishing nets  
recovered

CHITTAGONG, Mar 4: Detec-  
tives of the Chittagong  
Metropolitan Police (CMP) re-  
covered 1150 pieces of foreign  
current fishing nets worth  
about Taka twenty from a fish-  
ing trawler named F B Sha  
Ananat at the river Karnaphuli  
here last night, a CMP press  
release said here tonight. re-  
ports BSS.

UN food convoy fails  
to reach Kabul

ISLAMABAD, Mar 4: A UN  
food convoy has failed to reach  
Kabul despite agreement with  
warring factions that relief  
goods be allowed passage  
without hindrance. UN sources  
said here today. The six-truck  
convoy, carrying about 90  
tonnes of grain for the people  
of war-ravaged Kabul, left for  
the Afghan capital Wednesday  
from the eastern city of  
Jalalabad, reports AFP.

Sehri, Iftar timings

Rmdn	Mar	Sehri	Iftar
21	5	—	6:06 pm
22	6	4:57 am	6:07 pm
23	7	4:56 am	6:07 pm

# The Daily Star

FALGUN 21, 1400 BS,

DHAKA SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1994 RAMADAN 21, 1414 HIJRI

## WASA running at loss

By A Special Correspondent

The Dhaka Water and  
Sewerage Authority (WASA)  
is running at a net loss. WASA's  
own estimate shows it to be a  
profitable operation because  
the estimate does not include  
interest due on loans.

WASA's long term assets are  
financed by the government.  
Most of the money that the  
government has put in WASA  
are from the World Bank. Total  
debt service liability of WASA is  
45 per cent of total annual  
revenue. WASA never fully ser-  
vices this debt leading to ac-  
cumulation of arrears.

After a recent review of  
WASA's financial performance  
upto June 1993, a World Bank  
mission has established that by  
glossing over interest due on  
loans, WASA has been present-  
ing a misleading picture of its  
financial performance. The  
World Bank mission has esti-  
mated that during July 1992 to  
June 1993 WASA incurred a

this water, 392 million litres,  
are not accounted for leading to  
a system loss of 56 per cent.  
Again, of the water use that is  
billed for, 90 per cent is col-  
lected.

In the recent years WASA  
has become increasingly rel-  
iant on groundwater sources.  
One hundred and seventy-nine  
deep-tubewells provide 95.5  
per cent of daily production  
of water by WASA. Consequently,  
power consumption is high  
representing 56 per cent of  
WASA's net operating expendi-  
ture. Staff salaries account for  
about 16 per cent of net oper-  
ating expenditure.

Since 1992 tariff increases  
have helped to keep pace with  
increase in WASA operating  
costs. Water tariff was raised by  
25 per cent in 1992. The gov-  
ernment has authorised WASA  
to raise tariff annually until the  
end of the present financial  
year.



Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala (C) is supported by security guards after he fainted in Parliament in Kathmandu yesterday.

— AFP photo

### Stalemate in JS continues

## Another round of talks today

By Asiuzaaman

The treasury bench negotia-  
tors will hold another round of  
talks today (Saturday) with op-  
position leaders to resolve the  
stalemate in Parliament, aris-  
ing out of a comment by the  
information minister.

The opposition parties  
walked out from the House in  
protest against Nazmul Huda's  
remark which allegedly hurt  
the religious feeling of the  
opposition members on  
Tuesday.

The situation was further  
complicated when Nazmul  
Huda made a number of press  
statements in support of his  
parliament comment.

The source said that  
Nazmul Huda had already said  
that he would accept the deci-  
sion of the negotiators.

"We will try to resolve the  
issue under parliamentary  
norms and hope the opposition  
will be accommodative."

See Page 12 Col 8

Works Minister Rafiqul  
Islam Miah, Labour Minister  
Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and act-

ing chief whip Mahbubul Alam  
Tara have been assigned for  
negotiations.

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will be accommodative."

See Page 12 Col 8

### Ex-Euro Parliament VP tells Daily Star

## Water issue should be resolved internationally

By Masud Hasan Khan

MP from Freiburg called on  
Foreign Minister A S M  
Mostafizur Rahman. Environ-  
ment Minister Akbar Hossain,  
some members of Parliament,  
secretaries of several mini-

The water problems inside  
Bangladesh due to the Farakka  
barrage must be resolved by  
all the countries benefiting  
from the Ganges, he said in an  
interview with The Daily Star

yesterday.

Telkamper, who is now visiting  
Bangladesh, pointed out that  
the industrially developed  
countries also had their share  
in the ecological disasters in  
the developing countries and  
these countries should come  
forward to help resolve the  
environmental problems.

He said the fate of the Flood  
Action Plan (FAP) should be  
decided not only by the policy  
planners of Bangladesh or  
donors. The decisions should  
be taken by the people and  
Parliament. The water man-  
agement projects should be  
implemented with participation  
of the people," he said.

During his visit, the German  
minister and representatives of  
the leading NGOs.

He also visited the Tangail  
Compartmentalised Pilot Pro-  
ject under the FAP.

The Green Party MP said  
that some allegations had  
reached Germany from differ-  
ent quarters in Bangladesh

Pointing out the on-going  
white campaign against the  
fascists, Telkamper hoped that  
they would never be able to  
win Parliament seats in the  
coming German elections.

Many dissidents held in China

## Crackdown follows exit of US human rights envoy

BEIJING, Mar 4: Police have  
detained several prominent  
dissidents in a crackdown at  
the end of a visit by the top US  
human rights envoy, reports AP.

The envoy was in Beijing  
earlier this week to tell the  
communist government that it  
had to improve its human  
rights record to continue en-  
joying most-favoured national  
trade status with the United  
States after June.

"I am disturbed to learn of  
new reports of detentions in  
China," John Shattuck, Assistant  
Secretary of State for  
human rights, said Friday in a

statement from Shanghai be-  
fore leaving for Hong Kong. "I  
again call on the Chinese gov-  
ernment to release those who  
have been incarcerated solely  
for the peaceful expression of  
their views."

Police have previously is-  
sued warnings to Wei, who has  
been outspoken ever since he  
was released from prison last  
September after serving more  
than 14 years for his pro-  
democracy activity. The dissi-  
dent had told Shattuck that  
Washington should take a  
tougher stance against Beijing.

On Thursday, Zhou Guo-  
qiang, a prominent dissident  
who supported a "peace  
charter" calling for non-violent  
political reform, was detained  
by police for "illegal activity,"  
the Beijing-backed Hong Kong  
China News Agency reported.

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