March 19 was a red-letter day for Indra Kumar Tripura

by Asiuzzaman, back from Khagrachhari

"March 19 was a red-letter day in my life -- it was the day I rejoined my job as a school teacher after nearly a decade of camp life in Tripura state of India." said Indra Kumar Tripura.

Besides initial financial and material support from the Bangladesh authorities, he is now drawing a salary of Tk 2.355 to maintain his sixmember family living at Tailaifang village under Matiranga thana Khagrachhari district.

Indra Kumar returned on February 22 in the first phase of repatriation of the Chakma refugees living in six makeshift camps in Tripura state bordering Bangladesh

He said three of his four children were now studying in local schools.

"I am happy that I have got back my ancestral land and my job." Indra Kumar said. "I am leading a peaceful life."

Indra Kumar and his family members were among the 1.841 refugees belonging to 379 families who returned home between February 15 and 22 last.

from Panchhari, Shantipur, Chata Karmapur, Chengir Purbapar, Shattiya Dhampur, Rabisingpara Kalanal, Surjasenpara and other nearby villages in 1986 because of ethnic violence at Panchhari thana that claimed 42 lives

According to official statistics, some 51,966 tribal refugees of 10,629 families have been living in different camps in Tripura.

Like Indra Kumar Bimalendra Kumar Chakma also has been reinstated as a primary school teacher.

From Page 1 Col 7

Barun and attacker Rakib in

the midfield, Muktijoddha ran

all over the Abahani midfield in

The best striker the coun-

try has produced till this day

Salahuddin, who lost his father

Thursday through protracted

illness, appeared to have or-

ganised his somewhat fitting

defence at last and the young

Masud Rana really revelled as

an overlapping left-back, engi-

the Abahani citadel.

lethal passes.

Abahani bar.

(2-0)

neering relentless forays into

excelled as a defensive medio.

the ball-winning type. Arman

and Rakib, the withdrawn at-

tacker, constantly tested the

Abahani deep defence with

the seventh minute of the

match when Nakib's unchal-

lenged stabbing header on a

Rakib cross from the left gave

Saidul no chance under the

Abahani defenders surfaced 18

minutes later when a panicky

Mantu hit the ball to the cus-

todian in a bid to clear and

Nakib, true to his opportunist

nature, accepted the godsent

Abahani came across a cou-

ple of chances but the

man or two at the right time to

whistle Abahani digested the

third goal when an innocuous

minus from the right by Mizan

was steered in by Imdadul who

could have let the ball alone as

Seconds before the short

Muktijoddha defence had

ward off the danger.

YEAR

1980

1981

1982

1983

1984

1985

1986

1987

1989

1990

1991

1992-93

The nervousness of the raw

Muktijoddha went ahead in

While Barun Bikash Dewan

the first half.

"There is a gulf of differhomeland again," the 60-year ence between the camp life in old school teacher told this Tripura and the present life," correspondent on the bank of Bimalendra told the Daily Star the narrow Feni river which at Tabalchhart on Thursday. He divides the two countries. came there to receive some of his relatives as the second educated returnees out of the phase of repatriation began

32 have been reinstated in that day their jobs and the rest nine will be reinstated soon. For Choza Mogini, 45, who belongs to the Marma tribe and returned in February, it was a pleasant surprise when she got Tk 10,000 in cash and two bundles of CI sheets to rebuild her house at Mohamani village under Ramgarh thana.

Chakma refugees crossing

over to Bangladesh at

Some 3,348 refugees are

"I used to live in a small

scheduled to come back in

eight days till August 5 in the

thatched house, with my fam-

ily, at Karbuk camp and now I

live in a tin-shed in my moth-

erland," Bimalendra Bikash

in the non-local dominated

Panchhari pilot firm area but

he, and two other tribal fami-

lies living there, do not face

He said his house is located

Tabalchhari Thursday.

second phase.

any trouble.

Muktijoddha's title

She also got another Tk 8,000 as government grant to buy two bullocks to cultivate her land.

will never leave my

A competent source said 23

She appealed to the authorities to ensure that she gets back her husband's land grabbed by her relatives. Her husband died in an Indian camp. She returned with her only son Chilao Marma, now a student of Class VI.

"I have no problem now, she said, standing in front of her newly-built house.

About 15 tribal families have been living in the village, three of whom recently returned from the Tripura camps.

Kong Chai, another tribal refugee resettled in Mohamani village, said most of the returnees are happy with the government assistance on their return.

Meanwhile, Kalpa Ranjan Chakma told an Indian TV network that he was fully satisfied with the rehabilitation measures for the refugees.

Kalpa Ranjan, who heads the Refugee Rehabilitation Committee, said "besides material help, their security has been ensured."

461 more Chakmas return home

KHAGRACHHARI, July 23: A total of 461 tribal refugees of 89 families returned home today in the 2nd phase of repatriation process that began on Thursday, reports UNB.

The Chakma refugees sheltered at Tripura refugee camps of Karbuk and Pancharampara, returned through Tobolchhari border point in Matiranga thana of the district at 11:00

With today's returnees the figure of repatriated refugees rose to 818 persons of 158 families.

continued non-stop till 1:15 pm during which Kalparanjan Chakma, MP, Special Affairs Director Nasirul Islam, Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachhari A R Mohammad and Joint Secretary of the Home Ministry Mustaq Ahmed were present to welcome the re-

On the Indian side Addi tional District Magistrate of Tripura Lokranjan and Amarpur District Magistrate S K Rakesh bade farewell to the refugees at Tobolchhari bor-

Later, the returnees were taken to their respective transit camps under police protection. The district administration also distributed relief goods and assistance among the returnees as per pledge of the government soon after

Returnees, however, alleged that 'Farias' across the border were harassing the tribals awaiting repatriation when they tried to exchange Indian

of the tribal refugees will begin on July 25 and the process will continue till August five at phases. A total of 2,488 persons of 492 families are expected to be repatriated during the period.

Countrywide rallies mark Prokrichi-BCS token strike

The Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council yesterday began a week-long two-hour token strike demanding the implementation of its 17-point demand including democratisa-

buring the strike, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, protest rallies were held at several places in the capital and also at Chittagong, Feni, Chandpur, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Barisal, Bagerhat, Kushtia, Kurigram, Rajshahi and Pabna districts,

Dr Gazi Abdul Haq, Dr A B Bhuiyan, Dr Mushtaq Hossain, Dr Alauddin and Dr Kazi Sha-



Shenzhen train station, which shares a border with Hong Kong, Friday. Torrential rains wreaked havoc in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, in China, turning major streets into rivers in the urban area and isolating many rural villages — AFP photo

Seminar on caretaker govt

Govt-Opposition dialogue must to resolve crisis

Speakers at a seminar in Dhaka vesterday called for a Government-Opposition dialogue to talk out the issue of a caretaker government and resolve the political crisis arising from it, reports UNB.

The Law Review, an organisation of the Law Department of the Dhaka University, arranged the seminar on the 'Legal Aspect of a Caretaker Government' at the British Council auditorium in the afternoon with its president Dr Mizanur Rahman in the chair.

Participating in the seminar. Amirul Islam, Bar at Law, described Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as a popular leader and urged her to take the challenge of an interim government that could help institutionalise democracy in the country.

He criticised the govern ment for not taking any sincere attempt to hold a dialogue on the interim government and regretted. "We always want to make our own points without listening to anyone else." Islam also stressed that

black money and muscle power should be controlled by law for free and fair elections. "The framework we have given is not the final one. it is only our concept," said Suranof political science at the DU. urged them to join Parliament and solve the problem there.

"You speak of sovereignty of Parliament, but stay away from it while demanding a caretaker government. This will not yield any good result."

K Mujibur Rahman urged the Opposition to return to Parliament, saying, "It's illegal to amend any law without the mandate of the people.'

Selim stressed the need for a constitutional provision for a caretaker government to hold at least three to five general elections for the sake of institutionalising democracy.

Presenting the key-note paper at the seminar, Publicity Secretary of Law Review Hafizur Rahman Curzon called for ending the current impasse to let democracy flourish in the

Cholera claims 1000

Rwanda, Colville said.

Rwandans had gathered at the border post but Zairean soldiers were refusing to let them cross, saying that weapons and grenades littering the area made it unsafe.

UNHCR has said it is satisfied with guarantees from Rwanda's new government, in stalled by the Tutsi rebels, that there will be no reprisals against Hutus who return

In the effort to help refugees, the United States and Germany have said they and storage.

the United States is doing, and we are really pleased with what Germany is doing," said Colville. "But we are very disappointed with the response on other parts of our appeal,

needed for camps across the border in Goma, Zaire, and no government has volunteered any, he said. "With cholera flying around

the area, water is one thing, but sanitation is part and parcel of the attempt to fight the cholera and it's absolutely essential that someone deals with it," Colville said.

awaiting responses to appeals and security from Goma to the and with providing fuel. "There has been absolutely no interest in this. We need all

these things and we need them last week," Colville said. At the moment there are too few air strips, too few delivery trucks from the airport

load each plane because of lack of cargo equipment- while dozens of people are dying for lack of care.

sent a team of army doctors specialised in epidemics to

sioner, Sadako Ogata of Japan, was quoted Saturday as saying that France should keep its troops in Rwanda until a UN force can be assembled to help the refugees.

In an interview with Liberation newspaper, Ogata said she asked French premier Edouard Balladur "that the French army stay as long as necessary for a relief force to be put into place, whatever it is. And the date hardly mat-

"If there's a vacuum between the departure of the French and the other contingent, there will be a new disas-

clash in Dhamrai

From Our Correspondent

SAVAR, July 23: At least twenty persons were injured ten of them seriously, in a clash between some local youths and artistes of a folk theatre group at Jatrabari under Dhamrai thana.

The clash occurred today afternoon when a group of young people tried to enter the folk theatre show forcefully without tickets. The theatre artistes refused to allow the youths to watch the show free

Ten of the injured persons were taken to the nearby Dhamrai Health Complex for treatment.

Dhamrai police arrested two persons from the spot. Their identity was not available immediately.

AL's joint meet held

A joint meeting of presidents and general secretaries of Awami League's Dhaka and its adjacent districts units held vesterday discussed means to make its July 27 public meet ing at Panthapath a success, reports UNB.

The meeting on July 27 has been designed to press for resignation of 'corrupt, terrorist and vote dacoit' govern ment of the BNP and parliamentary polls under a neutral caretaker government, said a press release.

Yesterday's joint meeting held at the Awami League central office was presided over by presidium member Begum Sajeda Chowdhury. Representatives of Dhaka City, Dhaka district, Tangail, Comilla South, Sherpur, Munshiganj. Mymensingh, the Sramik League, Mahila League and Juba League attended it.

Taslima Nasreen From Page 1 Col 8

Muslims (girls) to wear veil at school, that is your law and we respect that.

"Taslima Nasreen violated the secular laws of Bangladesh. but that did not prevent us from condemning the illegal fatwa given against her by the fundamentalists," the Foreign Minister told the daily.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Ambassador to France K M Shehabuddin, in a letter to the editor of the International Herald Tribune, has said Taslima Nasreen is not being subjected to political persecu tion; rather the government is extending the protection of law to her.

In the letter published in the prestigious international daily on July 22, he also referred to the threats against Nasreen and said the government issued stern warnings against those who had made such threats.

3 die in separate incidents

By Staff Correspondent

Three persons died in the city yesterday in separate inci-

Motijheel police recovered the body of a youngman near the Islam Chamber in Motijheel at around 12:30 Noon.

The victim, identified as Ashraful Islam, 22, is an M Com student of the Jagannath University College and he hails from Magura, according to the identity card found in his pocket.

The police suspect that Ashraf fell from one of the floors of the 16-storey build-His body was taken to the

Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with the Motiiheel thana. Meanwhile, in another inci-

dent, a minibus (Dhaka-Ja 2974) ran over two persons on the Rokeya Sarani in Mirpur Kazipara at around 3:15 pm. They were crossing the

road when the minibus ran over them killing on the spot. The victims could not be

identified. Police seized the minibus.

Dissolution of interim govt in Nepal demanded KATHMANDU, July 23:

Nepali political leaders have demanded the dissolution of the caretaker government headed by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and the restoration of the dissolved parliament, reports Xinhua.

The demand was raised in a joint statement signed by General Secretary of the former ruling Nepali Congress (NC) Mahandra Narayan Nidhi, General Secretary of the former main opposition Communist party (UML) Madhav Kumar Nepal and leaders from other five left parties. The left parties are now

conducting a nationwide movement together with UML to press for the dissolution of the caretaker government and the setting up of an all-party unite once again.

20 hurt as theatre | The Midnight Wile

Indian troops kill 5 Muslim militants in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, India, July 23: Indian paramilitary troops burst into a home here Saturday and shot dead five Muslim militants in a basement hideout built under a kitchen, a spokesman of the border guards said. Whispering among themselves gave away the five armed guerillas who had taken shelter inside the specially built hideout during an anti-rebel crackdown in Srinagar's Sonurkul residential district, the official said, reports AFP.

Latin America Parliament opposes US invasion of Haiti

CARACAS, Venezuela, July 23: The president of the Latin America Parliament urged the United States not to invade Haiti and called for new presidential elections to resolve the crisis on the island. I believe we should avoid an invasion. We should suggest a political solution: The convocation of new elections to permit peace to return to a nation extremely shaken up and currently controlled by Gen Raoul Cedras. whom we condemn." Humberto Celli said Friday in a speech to delegates from 22 Latin American and Caribbean nations gathered for a three-day conference, reports AP.

Coup in Gambia

LONDON, July 23. Mutinous Gambian soldiers claimed Saturday that they have overthrown the elected government, the BBC reported, says

Broadcasts on state radio and a private station claimed that the President, Sir Dawda Jawara, had fled the country, the BBC said. The broadcasts described the coup as blood

A spokesman at the Foreign Office in London said he could not confirm the claims of a coup in the former British colony Mutinous Gambian soldiers

apparently protesting lack of

pay, seized the airport and a nearby power station in Banjul, the national capital, on Friday. The broadcast said the coup was not directed against any former power. That apparently was a reference to Senegal

Meanwhile AFP adds: Gambian President Dawda Jawara

has taken refuge aboard a US

Gambia's 'neighbour, which in-

tervened to suppress an at-

tempted coup in Gambia in

navy ship, the US Lamoure County, the State Department confirmed today.

State Department spokeswoman Sondra McCarty said Jawara boarded the ship Friday as tensions mounted between soldiers and the government.

During a courtesy call by the commanding officer of the US Lamoure County, tensions between the soldiers and the government built up and the president asked if he could go on board," McCarty said.

The spokeswoman said the Gambian leader was still aboard the Lamoure County, which was on a port visit to Banjul, but she was unable to confirm whether members of his family and government were with him. The 800-strong Gambian

army is led by a Nigerian colonel under a 1992 agreement between the two former British colonies. A British Foreign Office

spokesman said the government 'strongly deplored' the events in Gambia.

SAARC ministers' meet

From Page 1 Col 4 already been established to define the size, structure, resources and operational modalities of the proposed fund. The consultant appointed by the SAARC Secretary-General is expected to present his feasibility study, along with the recommendations, for the proposed SADF.

The agreement on SAPTA, signed by the ministers of the member-states on April 11. 1993 during the Dhaka Summit, will also come up for a review of the progress made in exchanging request-lists of products for trade conces-

The SAPTA agreement is an umbrella framework of rules providing for step-by step liberalisation of intra-regional trade. It envisages periodic rounds of trade negotiations for exchange of trade concessions on tariff, para-tariff and non-tariff lines and the agreement is due to be implemented by the end of 1995 after ratification by the seven member states.

The council of ministers will review and also make new recommendations on the 12 areas of cooperation. These areas are agriculture, communication, education and culture, environment, health & population, meteorology, drugs, rural development, science & technology, tourism, transport and women in development.

The meetings will review the progress report of the technical committees on these 12 spheres. All the technical committee normally meet

Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman, as Chairman of the council, will also place the report on his consultations with two other regional groups, the ASEAN and the European Union (EU) relating to common matters of cooperation. He was given this responsibil-

ity at the last meeting of foreign ministers. Another item on the agenda of the coming meeting will be the official sanction to start the SAARC Meteorological Research Centre (SMRC) in Dhaka. The Dhaka centre will function as the region's meteorological watch-house for weather forecast and collect-

ing climatological information. The council meet will be inaugurated by SAARC Chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the International Conference Centre on July 30 at 10.30 am. The one-hour inaugural session will be followed by two formal meetings of the foreign ministers, spread over two days.

The visiting delegates will also be taken for a river cruise on board the MV-Ostrich on July 31 when they will also hold-informal consultations. The council meet will adopt the final report on its proceedings same day in the evening.

All the business sessions will be held at the Sheraton Hotel where the delegates will be lodged during their stay. Mostafizur Rahman is to

brief the press on the outcome of the meeting on July 31 at 8



QUL KHWANI

The Qul Khwani of late captain Raza Ahmad (Murad)

will be held today after Asr prayers at his residence at 65, Road no 7A Dhanmondi Residential area. All his relations, friends and admirers are requested to attend.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Kamal Chowdhury, chief reporter, BSS and president, BFUJ, is showing overall improvement, according to a medical bulletin issued here yesterday by Combined Military Hospital (CMH). A medical board found his cardio-respiratory status stable

Gias Kamal

improving

General condition of Gias

and nutritional status well maintained. ' 6 killed in Bihar

PATNA, India, July 23: At least six people were killed in the eastern Indian state of Bihar in violence triggered by Maoist rebels early today, reports Reuter.

began to hum in the second half with the introduction of Jassim Mehdi, the other Iraqi instead of an ineffective Zakir. Nazar Ali Hossain. the useful Iraqi recruit for the sky-

blues, scored the best goal of the day to restore some semblance of sense. He got a little square pass from Gaus at the edge of the box, sent his marker swaying with a dummy, then shifted

the ball from his left to right

foot before unleashing a superb drive that eluded a flying Mohsin to nestle the ball into the side netting. Muktijoddha's search for a quartet of goals was foiled by lady luck when Masud Rana's shot hit the sidepost. Immediately after this Jassim

Mehdi missed a sitter for Abahani when he hung on too long after having cleared past the Muktijoddha defence, including custodian Mohsin. Nazar Ali got his second goal at the fag end of the

match, cashing in on a defence

lapse, but it came too late to

shape out a long day of dingdong drama. Yellow cards: Munna and Sohel Reza (Abahani KC); Masud Rana, Mamun Joardar

and Arman (Muktijoddha

TEAMS MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD: Mohsin, Titu, Jewel Rana, Ataur Rahman, Masud Rana, Barun, Rakib, Mamun, Nakib

and Mizan (Mizan jr). ABAHANI KC: Saidul Imdadul, Munna, Sohel Reza, Mantu (Mansur), Zakir(Jassim Mehdi). Swapan, Mintu, Gaus,

Abahani KC

Mohammedan SC

Abahani KC

no Muktijoddha forward was Aslam and Nazar Ali. lurking near to tap it in. Referee: Manirul Islam. Abahani's sleepy midfield

ROLL OF HONOUR CHAMPION RUNNERS-UP (Joint champions) Mohammedan SC Brothers Union

Mohammedan SC

Abahani KC

Muktijoddha KC

Sangsad).

(Joint champions) Mohammedan SC Abahani KC Mohammedan SC Abahani KC (Abandoned) Mohammedan SC Abahani KC Abahani KC Brothers Union Abahani KC Brothers Union Mohammedan SC Wanderers Club

Mohammedan SC Abahani KC Not held Brothers Union Mohammedan SC Not held

> Columbia returns to earth CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. July 23: The space shuttle Columbia returned to earth Saturday with seven astronauts and a laboratory full of animals after a delay that made it the longest US space flight in more than

20 years, reports AP. The shuttle landed at Kennedy Space Centre at 1038 GMT, shortly after sunrise and 15 days after blasting off on its

science mission. Offshore storms prevented a landing Friday and gave Columbia the space shuttle endurance record — 14 days, 17 hours and 55 minutes. The previous record was 14 days. 13 minutes set by another Columbia crew last fall.

The repatriation process

their return.

rupees for Bangladeshi takas. The 3rd phase repatriation

By Staff Correspondent tion of the administration and protesting repressive measures against the council lead-

according to the central control room of the council.

hidul Alam addressed a rally at the Dhaka Medical College while Nurul Huda, Zahidul Islam and Abdullah Zahid spoke at a gathering at the Directorate of Fisheries and A K Khalil Ahmed, MA Hamid and Nurul Huda addressed another rally at the GPO during the token strike.

or Sheikh Hasina. We are struggling to build a democratic culture to facilitate free and fair elections," said he. Criticising the Opposition,

government could discuss the

matter with the Opposition to

tions under either Khaleda Zia

"We do not want any elec-

find an acceptable formula.

Dr Hasan-uz-Zaman, a teacher

Deputy Attorney General A

CPB leader Mujahidul Islam

jit Sengupta who felt that the

From Page 1 Col 5

camps and road links. At least three refugees were killed Saturday when a grenade accidentally exploded while they were waiting to cross back from Zaire into

He said about 2,000

will improve drinking water supplies, transport logistics "We are delighted with what

particularly on the sanitation." At least 60,000 latrines are

He said UNHCR was also for help with building better camps, with improving roads camps at the edge of the city,

to the camp, and poor roads. It takes at least four hours to unFrance announced it has

The UN refugee commis-

France wants its troops to leave the security zone they have established in southwest Rwanda by August 21.

government to look over the fresh mid-term polls declared

by King Birendra.

NC general secretary to sign a joint statement with left parties openly opposing Prime Minister Koirala. The statement, which was issued her this evening, said that the dissolution of the par-

This is the first time for the

liament was unconstitutional as, firstly, it was exactly going with its 7th session and, secondly, the recommendation for the dissolution was made on July 11 after Koirala's resignation was already accepted by King Birendra on July 10. The leaders who signed the

statement warned that the forces who have led the 1990 people's movement would