Rwandan refugees returning home

GOMA, Zaire, July 24: Rwandan refugees started trickling home after Zaire reopened the border Sunday, and the death toll from cholera, exhaustion and dehydration skyrocketed in the filthy makeshift camps. reports AP.

US food and medical supplies were on the way to the refugees, but aid workers say it won't prevent more deaths

There were estimates that as many as 10,000 people have died since Wednesday.

"Everybody is dying here," Jean de Dieu Kadogo, a farmer from the border near Tanzania said as he led a small boy across the border, "We'd rather go home.

Cholera is spreading rapidly through the camps, the result of critical shortages of clean

Illegal connection taken by damaging gas line

Star Report

A high pressure gas distribution line of the Titas gas company was allegedly damaged and illegal connection was taken by a textile mills in Shafipur area under Gazipur district.

Titas officials said Al Faruk Textile Mills, which had failed to pay gas bill of about Tk 1.56 erore, made three holes in the gas line to take "illegal" connection after the Titas authorities stopped gas supply to the defaulting mills three months ago. The illegal gas connection and the holes in the eight-inch high pressure line had been detected earlier this month, they said.

The gas company has temporarily sealed the holes in the line to avert possible mishaps. Gas supply in the area will be suspended for a day to repair the line, the officials said.

Managing Director of the textile mills KM Islam however denied the allegation of damaging the gas distribution hne and having an illegal connection. The charges are absolutely false and fabricated and these were made to ruin my company's reputation.

The Al Faruk textile mills. Titas officials said, had taken gas connection in January '90. It had paid only Tk 11 lakh as gas bill but refused to pay the rest of the bill saying those were "ghost bills". they added.

The managing director of the mills said "those bills were prepared by some unscrupulous employees of Titas just to pressurise me to bribe them. He said he would pay any dues to Titas if the bills were made rational

Titas authorities have disconnected the "illegal lines' and filed a case with the Kaliakoir thana in this connec-

Repair of the distribution line would cost Titas around Tk 5 lakh, company officials

Earlier, in September '90, the textile mills had obtained an injunction from the Sub-Judge's Court, Gazipur barring Titas from disconnecting the gas line of the mills.

On April 6 last, Titas won the legal battle when the High Court Division of the Supreme Court declared the injunction null and void. It then disconnected the gas line of the

drinking water, while other people are dying of other diseases and malnutrition.

"There are 8,000 corpses from the last 48 hours, Health Minister French Philippe Douste-Blazy said Saturday in Goma in an interview with France-2 television.

Thousands of refugees massed at the Rwandan border, hoping to return home and escape the camps, which are filled with decomposing corpses, the smell of excrement and smoke from cooking fires.

5 Sarbaharamen held in Faridpur

FARIDPUR, July 24: Three top leaders and two activists of the Sarbahara party were arrested by Kotwali police Saturday evening, reports UNB:

yesterday.

on Jahanara

Imam opens

By Staff Correspondent

sation of freedom fighters.

opened a photographic exhibi-

tion on Jahanara Imam at the

Fine Arts Institute. Dhaka

The exhibition of a collec-

tion of 200 photographs

mostly taken after Jahanara

Imam set up "Gono Adalat" for

the trial of Golam Azam and

gurated by poet Begum Sufia

Kamal at the Zainul Gallery of

Photographs taken by

Rashid Talukder, Dr Shahidul

Alam, Pavel Rahman, Shamsul

Haque, Rakib Khan and Yusuf

Saad are on display in the ex

hibition which will remain

open for all from 2:00 pm to

8:00 pm everyday until July 30.

the family album of Jahanara

21 JP men

acquitted

SIRAJGANJ, July 24:

Twenty-one Jatiya Party mem-

bers, including the Poura

Chairman of Shahjadpur, were

acquitted today of terrorism

Abdul Aziz, general secre-

tary of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra

Dal Shahjadpur Government

College unit, filed a case

against them on November 27

last year under the Anti-

Terrorism Act after a clash be-

tween the supporters of the

21. Among them, Shahjadpur

Poura Chairman and president

of the JP thana unit Hasibur

Rahman Swapan appeared be-

fore the Judge's Court and

and he was sent to jail. The 20

other accused are still ab-

The prayer was rejected

Hartal was observed on July

20 at Shahjadpur in protest

N'ganj market

From Page 1 Col 6

young men aged between 20

and 30 went on the rampage

for half an hour beginning

off. None could apprehend the

youngsters. They damaged

whatever they got in front,'

The wounded people were

admitted to the Narayanganj

General Hospital. They were

Milon, Pompy, Monir and

David. All the three except

David were shop owners. David

is a vice president of the

Narayanganj unit of Jatiyatabadi

Jubo Dal. All the victims suf-

fered splinter and stab

None could say why the

gunmen attacked. Some shop

owners thought it might be the

consequence of a long-running

Police visited the spot after

the gunmen had fled. No arrest

was made. A case was lodged

with the Narayanganj Police

Jamaat, APSU

From Page 1 Col 5

rift between the bullies of

Chashara and Deobhog.

during their operation.

said an eye witness.

Witnesses said eight to ten

against the arrest of Swapan.

prayed for bail on July 19.

Police chargesheeted the

charges, reports UNB.

JCD and JP.

sconding.

Imam are also on display.

Some rare collections from

other collaborators, was inau

University, vesterday

the Institute.

Ekatturer Jatree, an organi

Party leaflets, other important papers like diaries. pocket tape recorders and some audio tapes were recovered from their possession.

In a press briefing this evening Police Superintendent Fazlur Rahman said acting on information OC of Kotwali thana M M Kabir intercepted private microbus at the Daulatdia ghat road-crossing July 23 eventing.

From inside the microbus, three leaders and two active members of the outlawed party were arrested and brought to the thana under strict police guard.

They gave their identities as Atiar Ali Biswas of Goloknagar village in Sailkupa thana of Jhenidah district, Nazar Ahmed of Basandia village in Kotwali thana of Jessore. Badiul Alam of PTI Para, Magura. Zakir Hossain Raja of Berait village in Magura and Mukul Ahmed of Pipalita village in Jhalkathi district.

Bangladesh Bank clarification

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has denied that it had proposed to the Finance Ministry withdrawal of the commercial bank's Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR).

The BB felt that the present level of SLR was justified for prudent and healthy banking. according to a clarification issued by it on a report published in The Daily Star on July

Our sources, however, said the SLR issue was discussed in different bank forums, though it was not formally proposed. The error is regretted.

Abu Hena From Page 1 Col 8

have condemned the arrest of their secretary general alleging it was done as part of the design to harass the members of the professionals' body.

"This is a conspiracy, commented Dr M A Majed chairman of the Prokrichi.

At a meeting, the Council observed that a section of bureaucrats has resorted to "administrative terrorism."

Prokrichi leaders criticised the government for "bowing to the bureaucrats and not taking any action against 'the G-10' members in the administra-

The council also demanded immediate removal of the secretary to the Prime Minister and the Director General of the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

Bangladesh likely to Photo exhibition be warmer, wetter

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh is likely to get warmer and wetter in future. with food and fish production increased, due to the possible impact of the climate change that may take place in the country.

Visitors at the photo exhibition on Jahanara Imam at the Institute of Fine Arts in the city

The boon may, however, turn into a bane if the country's population continues to swell at the present rate, over exploitation of resources goes unchecked and natural disasters show no sign of letting up. a set of books on the impact of the Green House effects and climate change on Bangladesh pointed out.

The books, fruit of a study conducted by a group of scientists from home and abroad. disclosed that the country's average monsoon rainfall might increase by 10 to 15 per cent than at present and the winter rainfall by five to 10 per cent.

The increased rainfall is likely to reduce the period of drought, raise the level of ground water table and meet the demand for irrigation water, the study pointed out. The increased rainfall could, however, increase the frequency and the severity of floods in the country, it added.

The study, titled "Bangladesh: Green House Effect and Climate Change" was conducted by the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad in cooperation with Centre for Environmental and Resources Studies of the University of Waikato, New Zealand and Climatic Research Unit of the University of East Anglia, UK.

The seven-volume study said that the Kharif crops such as Aus. Aman and jute production would benefit from the higher temperature while the robi crops like wheat, potato and pulse might suffer reduced yield.

due to increased water supply.

"In the long term Bangladesh's vulnerability may depend more on the direction of technological, demographic economic and social trends than on the rates of climatic and sea-level change. This is because the pace of change in society is likely to be much more rapid than that of climate and sea-level change," it

change, the country's urban population might experience more heat stress, urban floodings and urban droughts, the study said, while the coastal population might become more vulnerable than the people living in deep into the mainland.

Speakers at the launching ceremony of the books in the city yesterday called for raising the public awareness of the possible implications of the climate change in the country.

mechanism to face the assortment of problems that may crop up from the climate change. Chaired by Prof Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad Chairman of the BUP, the launching ceremony was addressed by Syed A N M Wahed. Director General of the Department of Environment. Dr Ainun Nishat of the BUET and Ann Doris Capistrano of the Ford Foundation.

a special guest. s

Boro paddy production would go down while fish

- Star photo

would increase in the country

said.

They also suggested evolv-

for Dakar BANJUL, July 24: A US war ship carrying ousted ambian President Sir Dawada Jawara steamed out of Banjul today diplomats said, reports Reuter. They said the US navy tanklanding ship La Moure County carrying Jawara, members of his family and senior officials was believed to be heading for Dakar, capital of neighbouring

Senegal. AFP adds: Gambia remained virtually cut off from the outside world today following an overnight curfew imposed after the military ousted longtime leader Jawafa in a blood

But the tiny West African state appeared calm as life inside the country began to return slowly to normal.

less coup.

Saudi Gazette

nouncements against the Quran are biasphemous and

she cannot claim to speak for

the Muslims, according to an

article published in a Saudi

against the Quran, are doubt-

less blasphemous, but again

her allegations are without

proof," the article published in

the Saudi Gazette on July 22

said. It said 'Taslima and her

likes cannot claim to speak for

the Muslim community, for the

millions of Muslim women

around the world. She cannot

speak even for herself as a

global conspiracy to malign

them involved in one or the

other controversy," the

Radiance" article carried by

the daily said the "Muslims

would do well to remember

that Taslima is just the tip of

not to "allow themselves to be

part of the controversy by

making Taslima a heroine."

Instead energies and efforts

should be directed towards

another factor which has

emerged from the issue - the

misinformation about Islam

amongst non-Muslims, the

Referring to Taslima's re-

cent interview with Australian

television in which she stated

that women were treated as

slaves in Islam, the article said

mere allegations are not

enough. Proof must be fur-

nished for such mindless

Muslim society, women live

like queens, not slaves. Islam

is a religion of equality and

justice, equality not only be-

tween men and women, but

between all men," the article

and utterances the article said

"Her outbursts against Islam is

nothing new, history has seen

far greater attacks and the

humiliation of the attackers

US ship carrying

Jawara heading

against Islam."

As for Taslima's statements

"The fact is that in Islam, in

statements, it stressed.

The article advised Muslims

the ice-berg.

paper said.

slam and Muslims and to keep

Terming her as "part of the

'Taslima's pronouncements

Arabian daily, reports BSS.

Taslima Nasreen's pro-

Businessman From Page 1 Col 8 assistant commissioner Abdus

Salam raided 27, Dilkusha Commercial Area in the city and arrested Hayatullah around 4 in the afternoon. According to police, the

Customs surveillance men had held one Nazmul Haque at Zia International Airport (ZIA) on March 3 this year with dollar, pound, dollar-draft and moneyorder equivalent to Tk 1.5 crore and the arrest of Hayatullah was a follow-up of its investigation. Nazmul disclosed to police

that the money belonged to Hayatullah, a DB source said. · Police said Hayatullah was

also involved in gold-smuggling but did not specify any

Earlier police confiscated the property of Hayatullah following an order of a city magistrate. A case was lodged with Cantonment police. Hayatullah was detained in the city's DB office for further interroga-

ALCWC From Page 1 Col 8

agitation, the AL central committee is expected to discuss the issue of the Jamaat and make its stand on Jamaat clear to remove any confusion among the people.

Sources said the first phase of the Awami League's action programmes is expected to be announced by party chief Sheikh Hasina from a public meeting at Pantapath in the city on August 27.

The ruling party is yet to make any headway in resolving the crisis created by the Opposition demand for a caretaker government.

The BNP has set up a three member high powered committee headed by Deputy Leader in Parliament Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury to talk to the Opposition. But the committee is yet to open talks with the Opposition.

for Muslims, says

Al Gore dismisses Clinton-Jong meet

WASHINGTON, July 24: Vice President Al Gore Sunday dismissed suggestions about a possible meeting between President Clinton and Kim Jong-Il, who is believed to have taken control of North Korea after his father's death. "That suggestion is not in prospect in the foresceable future." Gore said on NBC TV's "Meet the Press" programme, reports

Mortar attack on Kabul: 6 die

ISLAMABAD, July 24 Six people were killed and 27 injured in rocket and mortar attacks on the Afghan capital Kabul on Saturday night and teday. Kabul radio said. The broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, said 36 rockets and mortar bombs were fired by militias controlled by Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, both of whom seek to topple President Burhanuddin Rabbani, reports Reuter.

Five killed in road accidents

By DMCH Correspondent

At least five persons were killed and two injured in road accidents in and outside the city during the last two days. An auto-rickshaw driver was

killed and two other were injured when a speeding truck knocked their vehicle at Pagla, Narayanganj at about 4:30 pm Sunday. Driver Mohammed Shams

uddin, 27, died on the spot while Jibon. 35 and Jaynal, 28 were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH)

The victims were going to Narayangani.

A pedestrian was killed when a speeding truck ran over him at Chaidana, Gazipur yesterday morning.

Journalist Abdul Hakim dead Senior journalist Abdul Hakim, who was the Treasurer

of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), died Saturday night at his Rampura residence. He was 60, reports UNB. Late Hakim was suffering

from blood and bone cancer. His namaz-e-janaza was held at the National Press Club premises yesterday afternoon. Later, the body was sent to his

for burial. BFUJ President lqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Secretary General M Shahjahan Mia, DUJ President Abul Kalam Azad and General Secretary Abdul Aziz condoled his death and prayed for the departed

village home at Baufal in Barisal

Amanullah Kabir, vice-president and secretary general respectively of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Zahirul Haq and Ruhul Amin Gazi, president and general secretary respectively of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of Abdul Hakim.

Jainul Abedin Azad and

CHT settlers

From Page 1 Col 4 ing describing how the rebels knifed one of his relatives to death. BKSKP supporters also

blocked, the road at the Nakapa village to inform the newsmen of their hardship. BKSKP president Helal al

leged that 12,500 settler families out of the 38,500 had no ration cards. The settlers who have joined VDP team are given only Tk 450 each per month. Helal said "the settlers

would go for an agitation if the authorities failed to increase facilities, for the settlers." In this connection, he referred to the facilities enjoyed by the Sources concerned admit-

ted that some families had no ration card and that certificate cases were filed as per government rules. They, however, said that

the government had plans to provide the settlers with arable land and other facilities in the cluster villages. "But it is difficult to rehabil-

itate them in their original premises because of security reasons," an official at Ramgarh thana said.

The cluster villages are now guarded by security forces and volunteers.

Saifur

From Page 1 Col 4 growth, in the fisheries, livestock, poultries, and tree plantation sectors.

The Finance Minister said, the government is undertaking targetted poverty alleviation programme to reduce urban poverty.

Referring to the transportation system in the Dhaka city. the Finance Minister sought donors' help to ease out traffic congestion in the city. He said traffic problem in the city as a burning problem. He also sought help from the donors in rural communication and rural

electrification sector. The US and the Netherland ambassadors praised the government's achievements in the macro-economic sectors.

The victim, Mohammed Abdus Samad, 22, was seri-

ously injured and sent to the

DMCH where he succumbed to

his injuries. Another auto-rickshaw driver died on the spot when a speeding bus knocked his vehicle near Bank Colony Rampura in the city at about 6 am Sunday. The victim, not immediately identified, was about 45.

In another accident, a businessman was killed when a speeding bus knocked an autorickshaw at Rampura Bazar in the city yesterday morning. The victim Nandan Das. 25,

auto-rickshaw passenger, died on the spot. A constable was killed in a tragic accident at Azampur rail

gate in the city at about 9:15

pm Saturday. The victim. Mohammed Jahangir Alam, 28, died when a running Noakhali bound train ran over him.

Police disrupt pro-democracy march in Lagos LAGOS, Nigeria, July 24:

Police disrupted a pro-democracy march led by Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka Sunday as striking oil workers announced an extension of their 2 1/2-week-old protest against Nigeria's military government, reports AP.

Frank Kokori, general secretary of the striking National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers, said industrial action would continue until Mashood K O Abiola, the apparent winner of last year's presidential election, is freed.

Bodos kill 50 From Page 1 Col 4

dominated villages. About 50 people were also killed in ethnic violence in Kokrajhar in October last year. Seven opposition parties in

Assam today urged the state government, controlled by Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's Congress (I) party, to accept responsibility for the deaths and resign.

The massacre is "a result of the total failure of the government in maintaining law and order and it should resign," an opposition leader. Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, told reporters here in Assam's main city. Mahanta, a former Chief

Minister, said it was a shame that the government had failed to save those who had taken shelter in its own refugee camps despite extensive security deployment. "The government should

quit because it has failed to protect the lives of the minorities," said Maulana Abdul Haque, General Secretary of a Muslim group, Jamiat-Ulema-6 gas fields

From Page 1 Col 7 proven fields.

Petrobangla, the country's lone oil and gas exploration

company, was even unable to carry out a 1991 directive by the Prime Minister asking the state-owned company to drill at least one development well each year. An estimated 800 million

US dollar investment is needed in the country's gas sector in the next four years to strike a balance between supply and demand. The six gas-fields are

among the 17 proven fields in the country. Conservative estimates place the total gas reserve at 21 trillion cubic feet of which 12.4 trillion cft is recoverable. Four of the 17 gasfields - Kailashtila, Rashidpur, Titas and Bakhrabad - account for nearly 75 per cent of the known gas reserves.

Natural gas output increased from 11.5 billion cft in 1972 to 210 billion cft in 1993 and it now accounts for nearly 60 per cent of the country's total commercial energy needs. The move to attract private

investment in the gas sector is prompted by Energy Ministry projections that demand would outstrip the supply of natural gas by next year.

Strike in Kathmandu Mahendra Narayan Niddhi sent From Page 1 Col 5

until elections in November after he resigned on July 10 following the defeat of the government's annual plan in parliament. Renegade members of

Communist Party (United Marxists and Leninists) in demanding Koirala's resignation and the restoration of parliament. After the demonstrations. the demonstrators converged

Koirala's Nepali Congress party

joined hands with the Nepal

for a public meeting at the open theatre in the centre of Kathmandu township. Leftist leaders took turns

criticising Koirala's "anticonstitutional" move to get parliament dissolved. A former NCP member of parliament, C P Mainali,

charged that there was an "unholy alliance" between the King and Koirala to eliminate democracy in Nepal, urging quests of the NC President the monarch to immediately dismiss the premier and restore parliament. Another report says: Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala

faced a rebellion from within his Nepali Congress (NC) party today and new demonstrations against his contested government. NC General Secretary strike.

a letter to King Birendra on behalf of the party central committee demanding the Prime Minister be sacked and parliament restored; a party source said.

The Nepali Congress is even to join the Communist opposition to campaign against Koirala. Seventy extreme left wingers were arrested Saturday night in new protests against the dissolution of par-

King Birendra ordered elections for November after Koirala's government programme was voted down on July 11. Koirala now leads a bitterly contested caretaker

Minister is one of 27 member of the NC central committee that agreed the letter blaming him for the current crisis. "Despite the humble re-

Niddhi added. The six main Communist factions have meanwhile changed their call for a 72hour general strike to a twelve-hour dawn -to-dusk

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government. The beleaguered Prime

Krishna Prasad Bhattarai and In the back-drop of such a the NC supreme leader Ganesh tense situation, the law-enforc-Man Singh, Koirala has repeating authorities today held sepedly refused to step down, arate meetings with the leaders of Jamaat, APSU and other political parties to persuade them to withdraw their programme of public meeting at the same venue. But the negotiations failed as the rival

relent.

wounds.

Station.

are planning to deploy BDR and Riot Police in the city from tomorrow evening to prevent any outbreak of violence, administration sources said.

groups reportedly refused to

Meanwhile, the authorities

Seminar on SAPTA Rahman, President of Karachi-From Page 1 Col 7 based SAARC Chamber of

The press briefing was also

around 9:30 at night at Khwaja seminar. Super Market. They exploded The seminar earlier sugsome 40 crackers and fired 10 rounds of shot into the air "The electric supply was cut

> that joint ventures in air, rail and sea transport could benefit all the countries concerned. The seminar said that in-

by the SAPTA.

The seminar is the fourth of its kind being organised under the banner of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the member countries to create awareness of the arrangement and elicit support from the business communities. Similar seminars were already held in Kathmandu, Karachi and New Delhi and are due to be held in Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Kathmandu in November this The inaugural session of the seminar was also addressed by FBCCI President Mahbubur

suggestions emerging out of

the national seminars will be

pooled together at the con-

cluding regional seminar

which will be held in

Commerce and Industry S M Inam, Director of SAARC Secretariat R M Roy and regional representative of the

FNST Mukesh Gulati. President of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry S M Inam said his organisation was posted to play a pivotal and positive role in translating the SAPTA agree-

ment into a reality. He said proposals for organising single country exhibitions of trade items in the SAARC states, mobile exhibition on train from Khyber Pass to Chittagong and establishing a regional financial institution were under active considera-

tion of the SAARC Chamber. Inam also called for removing the political hindrances in the way of undertaking effective cooperation by the SAARC member states in the eco-

nomic arena. FBCCI President Mahbubu Rahman said it was unfortunate that the SAPTA agreement signed in April 1993 to promote intra-regional trade among South Asian countries through instruments of tariff and non-tariff preferences was

members states were yet to be given due considerations. Mukesh Gulati of FNST said NAFTA could act as good

in SAARC," he added.

modest beginning, R M Roy of the SAARC secretariat said it would lay the foundation for integration of the SAARC economies.

As a result of the climate

ing indigenous adaptive

Renowned economist Prof Nurul Islam attended the function as chief guest and Moshfigur Rahman, Member of the Planning Commission, was

tion, we are making a political commitment towards each

attended by Mukesh Gulati, regional representative of Friedrich Naumann Stiftung FNST, the German organisation that jointly organised the

gested preparation of request list for the items which each of the SAARC countries wants to The seminar maintained

vestments in the energy sector also could be initiated and service sectors should be covered

BSS adds: Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam in his inaugural speech said the success of the SAPTA would depend on how best the governments and trade and industries of the member nations strived to translate it into a re-

SAPTA has immense potentials to foster closer economic ties and trade relations and to gradually integrate and transform the economies of the South Asian countries into dynamic ones, the Minister said.

The recommendations and

vet to take off the ground. He said most of the members states had already exchanged product lists of export interest and information on trade control measures governing the products in the lists. But the FBCCI chief pointed out that the proposals for trade concessions among

model for SAARC since it (NAFTA) has a giant economy in the centre pitted against smaller economies of Mexico and Canada. "So why should we worry so much about India being a bigger economic power Describing SAPTA as a