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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index 766.77 (-0.17%)
 Market capital Tk 47.23 billion
 Transactions in volume 211523
 Transactions in value Tk 38.50 million

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Educated for Wh? it?
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All from Workers Party, its leaders claim Armed men shoot 7 to death in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, July 7: An armed group killed seven people and injured two at Ibrahimpur cluster village under Dhamurhuda thana of the district in the early hours of today.

The armed group of about 30 forcibly took away the nine people from their houses at about 2:30 am, stabbed and shot them to death, villagers said.

They said that one of the deceased, identified as Uzir, 50, was an activist of the Workers Party. The six others are Ashanur, 35, Murad, 20, Putu, 24, Nasir, 23, Arshad, 50 and Kawsar, 18. All of them died on the spot.

Meanwhile, the Workers Party, in a press release in Dhaka today claimed that all the seven persons murdered were the local leaders and

activists of the party. The injured two — Mujibar, 24, and Shamsur, 50 — were under treatment at the Chuadanga Sadar Hospital. The condition of Shamsur was critical, doctors said.

The cause of the killings and other details could not be known immediately. But some sources alleged that the attackers belonged to the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party.

Dhamurhuda police arrested one Sanwar, 22, in this connection.

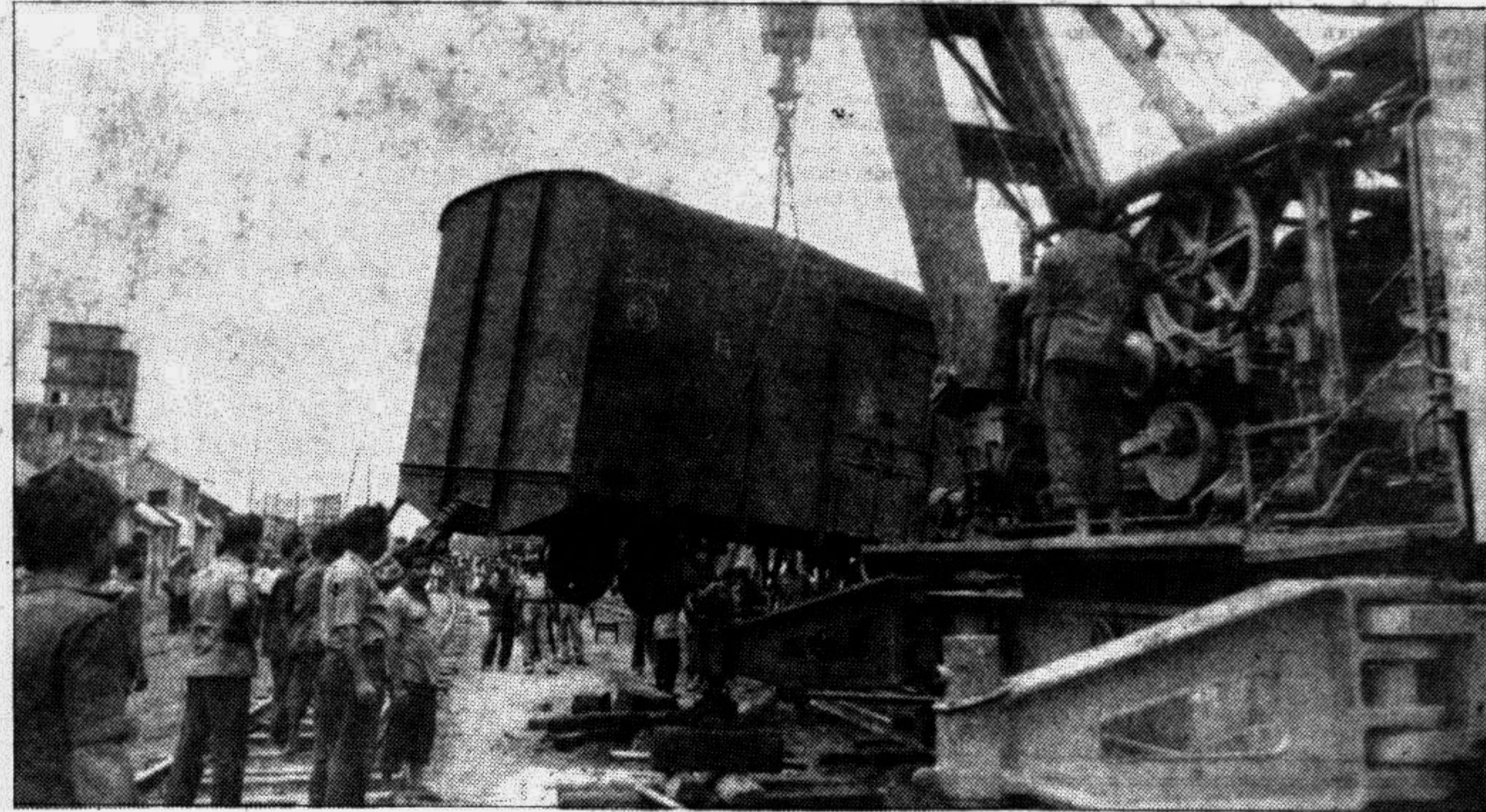
Many young people of the village, fearing further violence, left their houses later, villagers said. A tense situation was prevailing on the village.

A case has been filed with Dhamurhuda thana in this connection.

The Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga, who visited the spot, told The Daily Star that a huge contingent of police force was deployed at the village. Police will be staying in the village for at least a week, he said, adding investigation into the incident was on.

Protesting and condemning the killings, party president Amal Sen and general secretary Rashed Khan Menon alleged that the local administration and the ruling party unit were sheltering Purba Banglar Communist Party activists in that area, the party press release said.

They demanded immediate arrest and punishment to those involved in the killings and also demanded removal of the Home Minister



One of the five wagons of a goods train derailed near Khilgaon level crossing in the city early yesterday being removed by crane. — Star photo

Rail links snapped: Ferry threatened Flood situation in 8 dists worsens

By Staff Correspondent

Flood situation further deteriorated in eight districts yesterday as major rivers continued to swell. Mymensingh — Jaria and Habiganj-Shayestaganj rail links were snapped yesterday morning as tracks went un-

Weavers on strike in 11 CEPZ units

CHITTAGONG, July 7: Production has been suspended in 11 industrial units at the Chittagong Export Processing Zone following a labour unrest despite ban on all kinds of trade union activities.

A total of 658 weavers in 11 textile units went on a strike from July 3 demanding higher wages.

When contacted, a senior official of the CEPZ said that efforts are on to resume production in the textile units.

He said that the authorities would negotiate with the striking weavers tomorrow to break the stalemate.

The industries are: Global Fabrics, Globe Textile, Salam Fabrics, Al-Hamid Textile, Institutional Textile, Bangladesh Towels-1, Bangladesh Towels-2, International Textile, Quality Textile, Sonar Cotton Mill and See Page 12 Col 8

der water. Flood waters swept away four persons in Sherpur while they were going to flood shelters Thursday night.

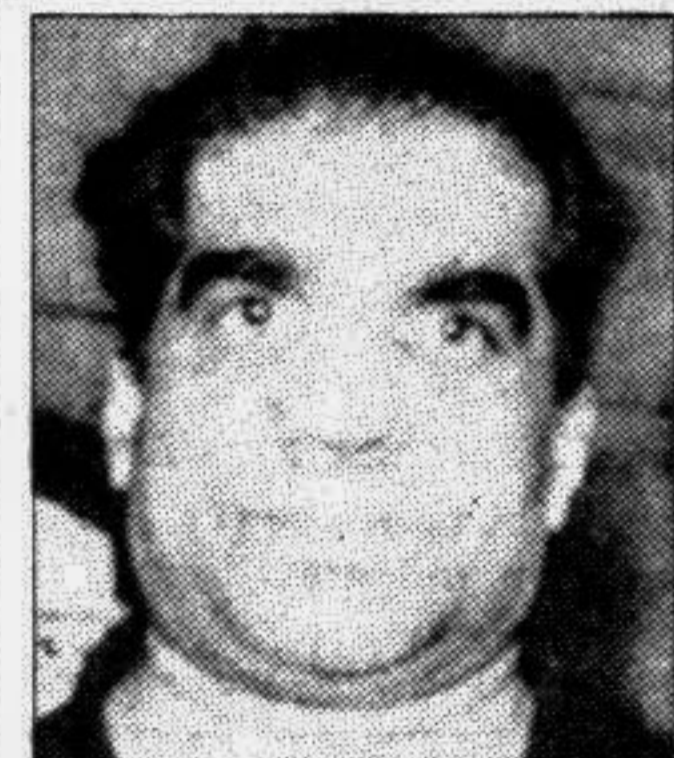
Situation in Gaibandha, Rangpur, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Netrakona, Sherpur, Comilla and Feni worsened with inundation of more areas.

The situation in Sylhet, however, marked a slight improvement with less rains and fall in the flow of waters from the upstream. But Sylhet's road links with Gowainghat, Jaintapur, Kanaighat and Comapaniganj thanas were yet to be restored, said our Staff Correspondent in Sylhet.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports: All 82 unions of the district have been affected by the flood. Sundarganj, Fulchhari, Saghata and Sadar thanas are the worst hit.

Almost all areas of the Gaibandha town have gone under knee to waist deep water. About 3000 families have taken shelter at different educational institutions. A railway bridge near Badarganj Railway Station between Rangpur and Parbatipur has been partially damaged and may collapse any time due to the onrushing flood waters.

One Jamalpur Correspondent reports: Overall flood situation in seven thanas of the district took serious See Page 12 Col 4



'Biscuit King' dies in custody

NEW DELHI, July 7: Former Indian Biscuit King Rajan Pillai, died in a New Delhi hospital today following his arrest by police earlier in the week, doctors said, reports Reuter.

The cause of his death was not immediately known.

Indian-born Pillai, wanted in Singapore for alleged fraud, was arrested on Tuesday and faced an extradition hearing in Delhi.

"He died about half an hour ago. The cause is being investigated," a doctor at the hospital told Reuters. "He was brought in a bad condition to the hospital."

A judge dismissed Pillai's plea for a special medical examination on Thursday.

The judge said Pillai would be allowed only 'normal medication' available in New Delhi's high-security Tihar Jail, where he was held, and his condition was not serious.

Country to move backward if Opposition gets power: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday asked her partymen to intensify party activities across the country to see that the BNP returns to power to lead the country towards self-reliance, reports UNB.

Begum Zia said the Opposition parties do not want development of the country and want to do politics by keeping the people poor. She said the country would be 50 years backward if any of the Opposition parties is voted to power.

"The BNP has to form government after the next elections to carry forward the ongoing development programmes," she told a gathering of newcomers to the BNP at 30 Hare Road here last night.

"If the present trend of development continues, Bangladesh will be self-reliant within next few years,"

See Page 12 Col 6

MQM leader found dead after arrest

KARACHI, July 7: Gunmen took to the streets of the troubled city of Karachi today after a former city councillor loyal to the ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) was found dead following his arrest by police, reports Reuter.

MQM spokesman Shoaib Bukhari said the body of Aslam Sabzwari had been found in the port city's central district.

A senior police officer confirmed that plainclothes police had arrested Sabzwari, who was a suspect in more than 30 cases and had a reward of 1.5 million rupees on his head.

But he denied that Sabzwari had died as a result of police mistreatment. "He already had marks to torture on him when arrested and died of a massive heart attack," he said.

The MQM spokesman said after police arrested Sabzwari on Thursday afternoon MQM officials fearing for See Page 12 Col 4

Four journalists abducted in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, July 7: Militants abducted four journalists in the Kashmir valley last evening while the whereabouts of the four foreign tourists kidnapped earlier was still not known, reports PTI.

Six militants, including a self-styled district chief of a militant outfit, were killed in the state during the period, an official spokesman said here today.

A group of unidentified gunmen raided offices of two newspapers, India-e-Mashriq and Greater Kashmir, See Page 12 Col 7

AAG Khandaker discloses There was plan to seek ref when MPs resigned

By Asiuzzaman

Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khandaker said yesterday that there was a plan to seek a presidential reference to the Supreme Court about the Opposition members' en masse resignation from Parliament.

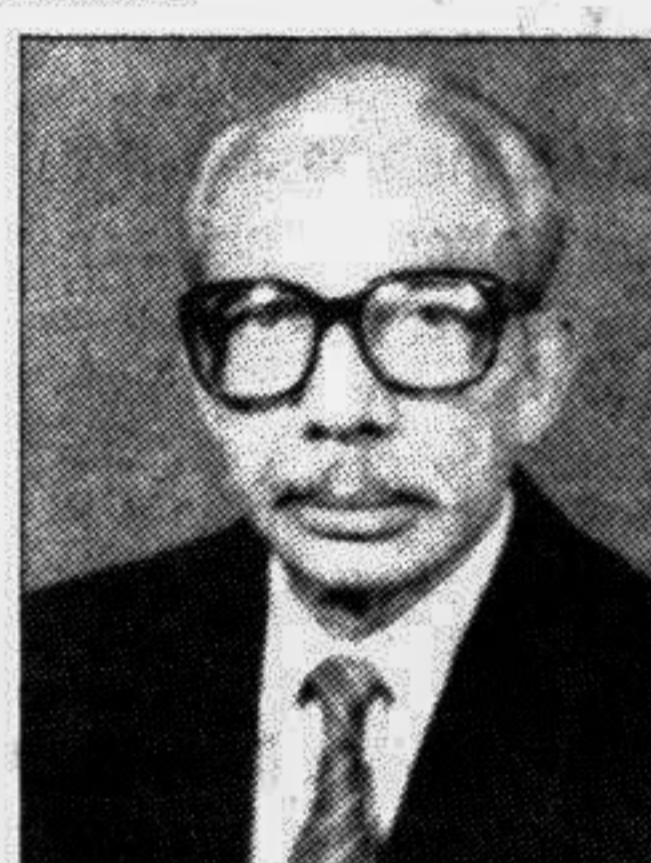
"Frankly speaking, a couple of months back there was a thinking of making a reference on a point relating to this, not exactly on the same point," Khandaker who drafted the first ever presidential reference to the Supreme Court regarding continued absence of MPs, told The Daily Star in an interview.

"That was regarding the resignation which is a related matter and I consulted the Indian references from where I found instances," said the AAG who is also General Secretary of the National Lawyers' Forum.

But the idea was abandoned when Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali rejected all the 147 resignation letters submitted by the opposition MPs. "So when this time I was assigned to draft the reference, it took four and a half hours to prepare the five-page draft," Khandaker said.

There were at least 11 references in India since 1947, he added.

The AAG said "I started from the walkout staged by the opposition members on March 1 last year to formulate the reference."



Abdul Wadud Khandaker

Wadud Khandaker said he was asked to prepare the draft of the reference during a meeting with the Prime Minister on Saturday last (July 1) at her office. Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, Attorney General Aminul Haq and additional attorney generals were present at the meeting.

He said the Berubari case and Babri mosque reference were discussed at the meeting.

After completion of the draft, he showed it to Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed on Monday. Then he went to the Ministry of Law where the Minister, Mirza Golam Hafiz, and Barrister Ashrarul See Page 12 Col 3

Hasina accuses PM, Speaker of violating Constitution

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the Prime Minister and the Speaker of violating the Constitution by keeping an inoperative parliament alive after the Opposition's resignation, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister, who is now talking about the constitutional process, has already violated the Constitution, Hasina told a meeting while inaugurating a Free-Friday medical service at MDC Model High School ground at Pallohi.

The opposition leader's remarks came a day after the Prime Minister's meeting with the Editors of newspapers and news agencies when she reminded that present political crisis could only be settled within the ambit of the constitution.

The Prime Minister herself violated the constitution by making Par-

See Page 12 Col 4

DU Academic Council to take decision on 20 students today

The Academic Council of the Dhaka University will meet today to take decision on the fate of the 20 meritorious students whether they could be admitted or not, reports UNB.

The meeting, scheduled to be held at 11 am, is expected to dispose of the burning issue of the students who could not appear in the first year (Hons) admission test as they attended a reception accorded by the Ministry of Education for the meritorious students on the same date.

Meanwhile, tension has been prevailing on the campus for the last several days as pro-Awami League Chhatra League and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal pointed finger to each other at rallies over the issue.

The Chhatra League has been mounting pressure on the authorities not to admit the students in violation of the admission rules of the university while JCD urged the authorities to consider their case on humanitarian ground.

Jute, textile workers' rally Aug 7

Jute and textile workers and employees will hold a grand national rally in Dhaka on August 7 to announce their next course of action, reports UNB.

This was decided yesterday at a joint convention of the Patkal Sramik Karmachari Sangram Federation, Private Sector Jute Mills CBA Coordination Committee, Suta-Bastarak Karmachari Federation, Bastra Shilpa Sramik League and Private Sector Textile Mills CBA Coordination Committee.

They enforced a 120-hour strike from July 1-5 to press for implementation of the accords signed between the government and the trade unions and of the wages commission award in the private sector jute, cotton and textile mills.

Labour leader Abul Basher presided over the joint convention at the Colonel Taher auditorium. It was See Page 12 Col 3

Wimbledon Result HIGHLIGHTS
 Courtesy

 Royal Dutch Airlines

Men's singles (semifinals)
 Pete Sampras (USA) def Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia)
 Women's doubles (semifinals)
 Gigi Fernandez (USA) and Natasha Zvereva (Belarus) def Meredith McGrath (USA) and Larisa Neiland (Latvia)

Wife murder Phoolan demands death penalty for Cong leader

NEW DELHI, July 7: Former Indian "bandit queen" Phoolan Devi led a noisy protest here today to demand the death penalty for a politician suspected of murdering his wife, whose body was found burning in the oven of a hotel, reports AFP.

Devi, who spent 11 years in prison for the massacre of 22 men in 1981, shouted anti-government slogans along with nearly 100 supporters at a downtown monument, witnesses said.

Naina Sahni, 29, was found burning in the tandoori oven of an open-air restaurant of the state-run Ashoka Yatri Niwas Hotel in the heart of New Delhi on Sunday.

Her husband, Sushil Sharma, a former leader of the youth wing of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's Congress (I) Party, has been the subject of a nationwide manhunt following the discovery of the body.

The murder sent shock waves through the ruling party. There has been one arrest — the restaurant manager, a partner in the restaurant See Page 12 Col 8



Reformed bandit queen Phoolan Devi (C) leads a protest march to the Prime Minister's office in New Delhi yesterday demanding the arrest of a politician who allegedly shot his wife and tried to burn the body in a restaurant tandoori oven. — AFP photo

City's eco-system : Part I Reckless earth filling continues

By Morshed A Khan and Krishna P Roy

If you want to go for digging in the land you possess you need to apply to the RAJUK for permission. But if your low-lying land needs to be elevated, you may fill it up as you wish. No law will bar you from doing so.

Absence of any law regarding earth filling has started taking its toll — especially in the ever growing city of Dhaka. Vital requirements for a city such as drains, canals, lakes and open low-lying spaces are being filled up at an alarming rate.

Environmentalists, architects, engineers, sociologists and others concerned predict adverse consequences due to this rapid disappearance of open spaces and low-lying areas in the city.

The city's ground water level which is already falling rapidly, will fall at a faster rate. Water logging prob-

lem will be more acute as there will be no water-retention places left.

The RAJUK (Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha) is filling up a portion of the Gulshan lake, a major water-retention place. Along road no. 104 at Gulshan, the RAJUK has filled up a vast area of the lake to make plots. These plots have already been allotted to influential persons including politicians and government officials, according to sources.

"We are only doing development work on the site. The lake needed to be reshaped with cleaner banks," Humayun Khadem, Chairman of RAJUK said.

Most recently, Bangladesh Army has come up with a project proposal. New Dhaka Development Programme. The proposal envisages construction of a satellite town in an area

of approximately 40 square miles from Goranchabari to the Botanical Garden in Mirpur and up to the Biswa Ezema site in Tongi.

A senior architect of the Dhaka Metropolitan Development Project (DMDP) observed that this low-lying area helped maintenance of ecological balance in the whole city.

The RAJUK chairman also said experts thought that the New Dhaka Development Programme would not be viable in line with the idea of sustainable development of the city.

Beside, real estate developers are active in elevating different low-lying areas of the city. "Since law does not forbid them to do so, they fill up the sites and sell those as plots. But we have recently asked for enactment of law regarding land-filling," said the See Page 12 Col 7



Earth filling in Gulshan area of the city. — Star photo