

## Top criminal kills 3, mob gets at killer, too

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the most wanted criminals in the country shot three persons including an industrialist and a police official dead in the capital yesterday.

Four hours after, a mob took revenge by beating the criminal and his accomplice to death.

Mohammad Alauddin, who is among the 23 most notorious criminals, killed the three one after another barely within half-an-hour in the city's Kunipara area in the afternoon.

According to police and wit-

nesses, Alauddin first shot the industrialist, Nizamuddin Bhuiyan, dead at his residence after he was refused illegal tolls.

Challenged by police while escaping, the notorious criminal shot an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of police, Dinesh Chandra Sen, point blank, leaving him dead on the spot. Before fleeing, Alauddin also shot a witness, Abdul khandakar Harun, dead.

One source, however, said Harun was killed in police firing.

While fleeing the spot, Alauddin and his accomplice Akkas had a

brief gunfight with the police on patrol duty in the area. The two criminals suffered bullet wounds, but managed to escape, police said.

Alauddin and his accomplices were closely following Nizamuddin since he went out of his residence in the morning. They were waiting for Nizamuddin's return home.

As soon as the industrialist entered his house at 15, Kunipara, at about 4:20 pm, Alauddin and his accomplice started spraying bullets on him. They fired as many as seven shots in his face and head, his family

members said.

Nizamuddin's mother saw the brutal killing as she opened the door and found his son groaning in pain in a pool of blood on the stairs. Others including his father and wife rushed only to find him dead.

Hearing the shots and the family members, neighbours rushed to the spot.

"I cannot describe the scene... I saw my son carrying packets of sweetmeat collapsing on the stairs. Also, I saw the two killers walking out of our house calmly," said the wailing mother in her early sixties.

While leaving the six-storey building that also houses Nizam's fluorescent tube manufacturing factory and a garment factory, the two culprits were challenged by patrol police at Battola, about half-a-kilometre away.

According to witnesses, ASI Dinesh caught hold of Alauddin while his accomplice slipped away by shooting in Dinesh's head and throat. Alauddin also managed to get free as the two cops got busy with their dying colleague.

However, the two cops fired at

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Deadly negligence... Water stagnated on a narrow alley between houses at Mayakanon area of Sabujbag thana in the city provides an ideal breeding ground for aedes mosquito responsible for dengue infection. Both citizens and the DCC are apathetic about keeping the city clean to prevent the deadly disease.

### WHEATGATE SCAM

## Dark side of the deal

REAZ AHMAD

The purchase of a huge volume of wheat, keeping members of local-level procurement committees completely in the dark, points to gross irregularities in this year's internal food grain collection drive. Suspicion has also arisen over upward revision of procurement target at the fag end of the wheat season.

Over the last couple of weeks, many district- and thana-level food officials and also politicians on local-level procurement committees have claimed that they were not informed

as a substantial volume of wheat was purchased at some government silos towards the end of the extended countrywide drive.

For example, the deputy commissioner of Pabna, Ashraf Makkul, told the one-member secretarial probe committee that the district food controller, Fazlur Rahman, consulted neither him nor the other members of the procurement committee about the fresh allocation.

Equally unaware were the opposition lawmaker from the Pabna-4 constituency, Shamsur Rahman, and the Bogra district joint secretary

of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Noor Mohammad, advisor and member of their respective food grain procurement committee. Quota revision was done bypassing the procurement committees, both alleged.

The government rationale for the target revision has also been questioned. Last year the target was four lakh metric tonnes (MT) against overall wheat production of 18 lakh MT. This year, however, the target was raised by one lakh MT when countrywide production recorded two-lakh MT dip.

Moreover, the upward revision was made at a time when supply of homegrown wheat to the market had dried down. According to sources, the two committees, probing the wheat procurement scam, are now believe that late procurement paved the way for imported wheat into the government silos.

"This is quite unnecessary to allocate fresh targets in July when our growers have no wheat to sell to government silos," Shafiqul Islam, who heads the secretarial probe committee, commented last week.

Islam did not rule out irregularities at the higher level of the Ministry

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### DENGUE ALERT

## Fatal DCC inertia 3 more die, 93 hospitalised

STAR REPORT

Dengue fever claimed three more lives since Friday morning while another 93 have been infected with the fatal virus.

With the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) failing to spray adulticide or larvicide to fight the onslaught of the mosquito-borne disease, the dengue situation in the city has assumed a dangerous proportion.

The DCC was supposed to start a 'crash programme' from yesterday to fight the aedes mosquito. But it remained limited to rhetoric and no such actions were witnessed for reasons best known to the city corporation.

And now, entomologists are suggesting citizens to use kerosene in absence of the DCC's fogging programme to fight the disease.

According to the dengue control room, Pushpa, a seven-year-old girl, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital while Renu Das, 60, died at BIRDEM hospital on Friday. Uzzal, 23, died at the Khuna Medical College

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## Indian FM due on Aug 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian Minister for External Affairs Yashwant Sinha arrives in the capital on August 24 on a two-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh.

Sinha will make a courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and hold official talks with his Bangladesh counterpart M Morshed Khan.

Sources in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the visit as "a goodwill and familiarisation trip" by the new Indian external affairs minister.

In a major reshuffle some weeks back, Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee swapped the portfolios of Sinha and Jaswant Singh, the finance and external

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## Magurchhara blowout Unocal's refusal to pay under legal scrutiny

UNB, Dhaka

Petrobangla is now examining legal aspects of Unocal's denial to pay 685 million US dollars in compensation for the damage done in Magurchhara gas blowout five years back.

Officials at Petrobangla and Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry said Unocal's letter had been referred to advocate Khandakar Mahbubuddin Ahmed for his opinion.

They said the government would go for further action as per suggestions, expected shortly, from the lawyer, also a ruling party lawmaker.

The US oil giant on Thursday again in a brief letter told the Petrobangla that the compensation issue was resolved through a supplementary agreement.

The brief response came a day after Petrobangla had asked Unocal

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