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## Cop, 2 criminals die in city shootouts

### Police kill 65-yr-old man with 'ties' to criminal outfit in raid on Rayerbazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police constable and two alleged criminals died in shootouts and police gunned down a 65-year-old man with alleged ties to a criminal outfit after they searched out a criminal from his house at Rayerbazar in Mohammadpur yesterday.

Three police constables -- Wahiduzzaman, Asaduzzaman and Ashraf -- and a 13-year-old boy, Kajal, were wounded in a shootout between police and the gang of "Galakata Mujibar" at a local rickshaw garage at around 3:30pm.

Wahid with bullet wounds in the head and chest died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) minutes after admission.

A couple of hours after the firefight, law enforcers raided the house of deed writer Mohammad Ali and shot him and criminal Liton, 26, whom they found at Ali's house, locals said.

Ali was rushed to the DMCH with bullet wounds in the chest and died a few hours after admission.

Police claimed that Liton and Ali, the landlord, were operatives of

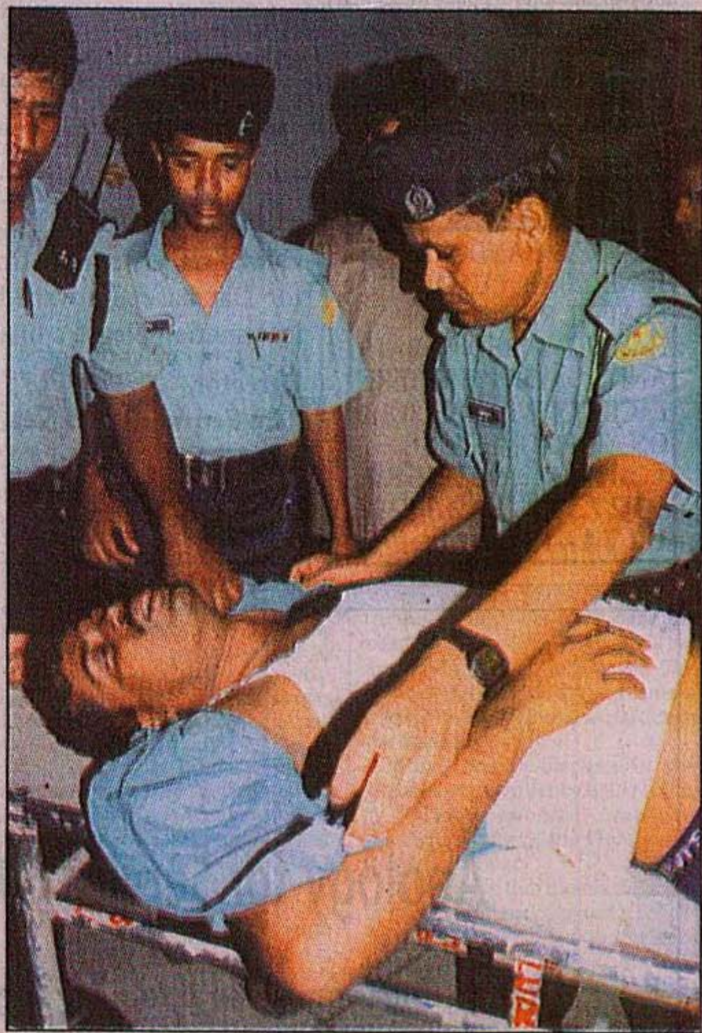


PHOTO: STAR

A policeman injured in a firefight with criminals at Rayerbazar is being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Mujibar's criminal outfit and died in the encounter and that Ali did not tell police that Liton was hiding in his house. Ali's wife Aklima said they did not know when Liton slipped into the house.

Police also said two other operatives of Mujibar -- 'Nakkata' Mostafa and Moti -- were also killed during a gunfight with the law enforcers at a place near Rayerbazar Killing Field around 8:00pm.

Soon after the first firefight, members of the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Detective Branch, Special Branch and Dhaka Metropolitan Police started a house-to-house search in Pabna House Gali and other nearby areas in Rayerbazar to arrest ring leader 'Galakata Mujibar' and his operatives, who shot dead a local businessman on Sunday night on being refused Tk 3 lakh in illegal toll.

Police and locals said six policemen of Mohammadpur Police Station, posted near the house of the slain businessman, Haji Sohrab Hossain, were tipped off that 'Galakata' Mujibar and his associates Moti and Liton are at the nearby Hossain Ali's rickshaw garage.

"Mujibar and his associates started firing at police soon after the six policemen, split into two groups, encircled them in front of a scrap metal shop on the garage boundary," said Abdur Rob, a rickshaw mechanic and a witness to the incident.

Constable Wahid took a bullet in the head and one in the chest, constable Asaduzzaman in the left thigh and constable Ashraf in the right.

Asad and Ashraf are being treated at

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### By-POLL RIGGING EU heads of mission for proper probe into complaints

UNB, Dhaka

The EU heads of mission yesterday urged the authorities to take up "seriously" the complaints of election observers about casting of a large number of false votes in an organised way and intimidation of polling agents and voters in the Dhaka 10-by-election.

In a press statement, they observed that without proper investigation by the relevant authorities into the complaints, Bangladesh's reputation as a fair democratic state might be internationally damaged.

Netherlands Ambassador in Dhaka Sjef Ijzeremans, currently holding the presidency of the EU mission chiefs here, issued the statement.

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### Speaker's 'no' to AL demand for debates despite assurance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite previous assurance of allocation of time in the current session, Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar yesterday asked Awami League (AL) lawmakers to debate law and order, foreign policy and price hike of essentials in the next session of parliament.

A five-member delegation of the main opposition led by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid yesterday met Sircar at his chamber and demanded time to discuss the issues, postponing other businesses of the House.

They also demanded a 30-minute discussion on distortion of

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## Floodwater rushing towards Dhaka

### Capital's low-lying areas may be swamped in 48 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Floods swamping fresh areas in northern and northeastern districts by the day are likely to inundate lowlands in and around Dhaka and Narayanganj in 48 hours, a weathercast said yesterday.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre says the floods may turn serious in hours to come, submerging low-lying areas in and around the capital and the port city, as fast-rising floodwaters are rolling

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## 20pc crop loss feared

REAZ AHMAD

Crops and seedbeds on 43,000 hectares of farmland in 14 districts have been inundated in flashfloods, official sources said.

"At least 15 to 20 percent of crops and seedbeds were damaged in 56 flood-hit thanas," said an agriculture information official requesting not to be named.

The districts with substantial crop losses are Sylhet, Sunamganj, Lalmonirhat, Bogra, Joypurhat, Kurigram and Moulvibazar. Less affected districts are Sherpur, Mymensingh, Gaibandha, Naogaon, Netrakona, Rangpur and Nilphamari.

Broadcast Aman on 6,500 hectares and Aman seedbeds on 5,000

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PHOTO: STAR

Railway men try to sandbag Teestamuk Ghat Station at Balashi in Gaibandha to protect it from raging floodwaters.

### ARMY NON-DEPLOYMENT IN BY-POLLS

## Top govt brass asked why they shouldn't face contempt charge

### EC ordered to file report on HC order compliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday asked the four high government officials why they should not be charged with contempt of court for violating its order to deploy army in each polling centre during the July 1 Dhaka-10 by-polls.

The court also directed Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, Home Secretary

Omar Farooque, Defence Secretary KM Ehsanul Haq and Acting Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division at the Prime Minister's Office Brigadier General Ilias Iftakhar Rasul to appear before the HC bench in person on July 24. They are to appear before court to clarify their role during next hearing.

The same bench on June 29 ordered the four officials for army deployment in each of the polling

centres on the election day upon a writ petition filed by Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) candidate Abdul Mannan and three other election candidates.

The army men, however, were not deployed on the election day in line with the court order. The Election Commission (EC) also said the HC order was violated, prompting Mannan to file a contempt

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### LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## Opposition walks out of JS for not allowing talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday staged a stormy walkout of parliament as the chair did not allow it to speak on distortion of history of the Liberation War.

The AL lawmakers left the House failing to get the floor to discuss the issue despite a 20-minute bargain with the deputy speaker who was in the chair, and the treasury bench.

Deputy speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui termed the walkout a violation of the rules of procedure.

AL lawmakers wanted to speak on the issue of the Liberation War history but Akhter Hamid and LGRD

and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan observed there was no scope to debate the issue again as it was already discussed on Sunday.

When AL lawmakers protested this, the deputy speaker said the House had fixed half an hour to discuss the matter but the opposition lawmakers did not take part. "The House cannot allow debate for days on the same event," he said.

Mannan Bhuiyan, also secretary general of the ruling BNP, echoed the deputy speaker.

Trouble began as AL lawmaker Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim rose on a

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## AL finally places MPs on JS committees

### Sends mails to diplomatic missions explaining its stand on the issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) yesterday submitted names of its lawmakers for incorporation in 45 parliamentary standing committees over two and a half years into the Jatiya Sangsad's five-year term and explained its stand on the bodies to diplomatic missions.

Chief Whip of the Opposition Abdul Shahid sent a list to the office of Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain with a forwarding letter, reiterating the party's call to give it at least 10 chairmanships of the com-

mittees in the 300-seat parliament.

The sending of the list followed a meeting between Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar and a delegation of the main opposition led by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid where the AL urged the speaker to incorporate their nominees into the committees in the current session slated for prorogation tomorrow.

AL's list came almost a year after formation of the vital committees during the budget session last year.

On the sidelines of the list submission, the AL sent letters to 43

foreign missions in Dhaka, accusing the key ruling party of non-cooperation in the participation of its deputies to the committees.

In the letters sent by the opposition chief whip, the AL accused the BNP of not replying to its letters sent several times asking 10 chairmanships for the opposition.

"As the ruling party leaders complained to the foreign missions that we are not participating in the standing committees, we explained our position refuting the allegation," Shahid told The Daily Star.

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### Robbers kill one, loot goods worth Tk 3.5 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Robbers in separate incidents killed one night guard and looted cash and valuables said to be worth Tk 3.5 lakh in the early hours of yesterday.

Police and witnesses said a group of robbers attacked a market in Charia in Hathazari upazila at around 1:00am and chopped Ilias, 50, to death as he tried to resist them.

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### Bank co bill tabled dropping action provision against TUs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bill seeking amendments to the Bank Company Act, 1991, was tabled in parliament yesterday without provisions for making union activists more accountable

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## Lifestyle statement now must for all taxpayers

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

From this fiscal year, all the seven lakh individual taxpayers in the country, including government officials, will have to fill up a new form stating particulars of their lifestyle.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has also decided to assess, monitor and collect advance income tax (AIT) through designated representatives or 'agents' of the taxpaying organisations. This move is aimed to eliminate corruption of tax officials in collecting it.

The new form -- IT 10BB -- will have to be filled in and submitted to the NBR along with the annual tax return. The NBR has already started printing it.

The form will ask individuals to provide information about their residences, vehicles, utility bills, children's schools and foreign visits. A taxpayer will have to state whether he or she lives in their own house or

rented house, whether he or she pays the rent and in case of a house provided by employer whether it is self-furnished or furnished by employer.

A taxpayer will have to state whether he or she owns a vehicle or if a vehicle is provided by employer, who bears its maintenance cost, what type of vehicle it is and the annual expenses for its maintenance and fuel.

Taxpayers will also mention their annual expenses for electricity and telephone.

The form will also ask taxpayers the number of their children studying in school, college or university both at home and abroad, the names of institutions and the annual expenditure.

Taxpayers again will have to give information about their foreign visits during the year stating the expenses, name of the countries visited and who bore the expenses.

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### 5 to die for killing student

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday awarded death penalty to five people and life imprisonment to five others for killing an SSC examinee in Munshiganj on February 13, 2001.

Judge Abu Hanif of the Speedy trial Tribunal-3 gave the verdict at a jam-packed courtroom.

Of the convicts, Asad Majhi, Solim Majhi, Aman Majhi, Rahamat Majhi and Rubel Radhi were given death penalty, while Abul Majhi, Khalil Majhi, Habu Majhi, Nazrul Majhi and Sana Majhi life imprisonment.

Asad, Aman and Sana were in the dock during the delivery of the verdict. The rest were tried in absentia.

The court also fined the convicts with life imprisonment Tk10, 000 each, in default, they will have to suffer another year in jail.

The court also acquitted eight others of the murder charge. They are Nazu Bepari, Amir Bepari, Jewel Mollah, Firoj Sarker, Sumon Sarker, Ahsan Majhi, Jony and Abul Halim Majhi.

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