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Gunmen storm city market, kill 1

8 others bullet-hit; feud over control of 380 shops might be behind attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gunmen killed a person and injured eight others in an attack on a market in the city's Mirpur area yesterday.

A feud over control is believed to have led to the shooting at the Swadhin Bangla Super Market near Sony Cinema at Mirpur Section-1.

Abdur Rahim alias Mintu, 32, died on the spot. He used to work as a bodyguard for Anwar Hossain Litu, general secretary of the shop-owners association there.

Also former president of Mirpur

Chhatra League, Litu is among those wounded. He might have been the target of the assault, said locals and police.

The other injured are sand trader Mohammad Khokon, 32, tea vendor Bishu, 35, Mehedi Hasan, 32, Solaiman Haji, 65, Kamal, 37, Sekander, 45, and Yunus, 45.

At least three of the eight, admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, were said to be in critical condition.

Witnesses said four armed youths stormed the Islam Tiles and Sanitary shop at the Swadhin Bangla market at around

2:30pm and started shooting at Litu and others sitting inside.

Khokon, the bullet-hit sand trader, said as the attackers opened fire, Mintu shoved Litu aside and took two bullets—one in the chest and the other in the head.

"As they sprayed the shop with bullets, almost everyone inside was shot," he added.

Selim, a cigarette seller, said at least 50 rounds were fired.

Despite a chase by the locals, the four

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PHOTO ON PAGE 16

Ruling party men's backing contributes to crime spree

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Law and order in the country has been deteriorating due to rise in criminal activities, which in many cases are being aided and instigated by elements within the ruling party, according to law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

They also said return of many absconding seasoned criminals from abroad since the election, and a lack of leadership from the home ministry in curbing crime are also reasons for the upward trend in violent crimes.

Highly-placed home ministry sources said unless the

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STRIPPING SIRCAR OF JS MEMBERSHIP

Experts tussle over House's authority

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

The all-party parliamentary probe body's recommendation for stripping Jamiruddin Sircar of his membership in parliament for corruption and contempt of House sparked extensive debate over the House's authority in taking away membership.

Parliamentarians of rival political parties and constitutional experts are divided over the authority of the House to cancel membership of a lawmaker. This issue has been raised for the first time in the country's parliament history.

Internationally acclaimed parliamentary affairs experts of USA, UK and India, however, highlighted the power of the House to this effect as the parliaments of the advanced democracies accrued such power through

years of practice.

According to them, a House has the inherent authority to take action against anybody if he or she through misconduct takes advantage of the parliament's privileges.

Those opposing the parliamentary probe body's recommendation have been arguing that Sircar's membership cannot be cancelled until he is convicted of a crime involving improbity and sentenced to imprisonment for a term no less than two years.

Questions were also raised whether the graft charges raised against Sircar, former deputy speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui and ex-chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain constitute offences involving turpitude. Criminal offences like extortion, theft, misappropriation of

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BURIGANGA SHORE Sand lifting permission suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday suspended the work order allowing sand lifting from the river Buriganga in Basila following a report published in The Daily Star yesterday.

The BIWTA on June 26 permitted Messrs Ali Associates International to extract 10 lakh cubic feet of sand from areas near Basila and Jhaochar with the help of three dredgers over a period of 30 days.

The company, however,

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MK Alamgir's jail sentence scrapped

HC declares illegal his conviction in wealth report case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday scrapped the 13-year jail sentence against Awami League lawmaker Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir in a corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission adjudging the conviction against him illegal.

A special judge's court in Dhaka earlier awarded Alamgir, also former state minister, jail sentence on charge of amassing wealth illegally and concealing information in wealth statement submitted to the ACC.

The HC bench of justices Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Md Rais Uddin delivered the verdict upon Alamgir's appeal

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PM flies to Egypt today

May discuss Tipai with Indian PM on Nam sidelines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hold a series of meetings with the heads of the states and government on the sidelines of Non-Aligned Movement (Nam) Summit to discuss bilateral, regional and international issues.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves for Egypt this morning to attend the 15th summit that begins in the Egyptian resort of Sharm-el-Sheikh tomorrow.

The planned construction

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Truck crash kills 13 day labourers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Thirteen people were killed and 15 others injured in a tragic road accident on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway early yesterday morning when an over loaded truck skidded off the road and fell into a ditch.

Police said, the accident took place at Chelerghat Bagan area in Trishal upazila when the Sherpur bound truck from Dhaka—carrying cement bags and passengers—skidded off the road.

One of the truck's front wheels punctured and the truck fell into a roadside ditch some 10 feet deep killing 13 on the spot and injuring 15 others at around 5 am.

The injured were given first aid at different local clinics in the area. The passengers were all day labourers going to Sherpur for work.

A police team led by the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Trishal Police Station Khandaker Shafiqul Alam rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies.

Eleven of the dead were identified as Phuljan Begum, 35, wife

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AL council now on July 24

Decides party presidium

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League has decided to hold its national council on July 24, a day before the Election Commission set deadline expires.

The council will be held to ratify provisional changes made to its constitution for registration with the commission before the December 29, 2008 elections.

The decision came at an emergency meeting of the AL presidium, the highest policy making body of the party. Earlier, a meeting of the constitution and declaration paper review committee with party president and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair was held in this regard.

"As per the unanimous decision of the Awami League Presidium, the council session of the party will start at 10:00am on July 24 either at Bangabandhu Convention Centre or Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital,"

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