

Shahidnagar massacre still haunts memory

21 freedom fighters, over 100 villagers killed in the first fight in Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU,Pabna

April 19 is back again with the memory of massacre of innocent villagers by the Pakistani occupation forces in a remote village in the district.

On this day, over 100 people were caught and shot dead at Shahidnagar village in Shanthia upazilla after a frontal fight with freedom fighters. At 21 freedom fighters made supreme sacrifices in the fight for independence.

It is one of the biggest genocides in the country during the Liberation War

The fight began when freedom fighters intercepted a convoy of Pakistani troops at a coconut orchard on their way to Pabna town at about noon.

The occupation forces retreated in the face of strong resistance. With reinforcements, they came again at night and attacked villages. They caught innocent people indiscriminately, shot them dead and burnt the bodies.

Some of the 21 freedom fighters killed in the fight were identified. They included Subedar Gazi Ali Akber of the then East Pakistan Rifles (EPR) who led the freedom fighters, EPR Habildar Momotaz Ali, Habildar Abdur Razzak, Nayek Habibur Rahman, Iman Ali, Ramjan Ali, Abdul Latif, Sheikh Kazem Ali, Khoaz Sheikh, Piar Mondol, Jafar Ali Sheikh, Sayed Ali Mollah and Jog Narayan.

The occupation troops also burnt houses in neighbouring Vadrabati, Kurial, Shatiakola and Baragram villages.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the victims, the people of Shahidnagar built a memorial in the village and named it Bir-Bangali.

Every year, different socio-cultural organisations hold different programmes at the memorial.

The Pabna Mukti Joddha Sangsad will place floral wreaths at the memorial today. Leaders of political parties said they may not hold any programme there as politics is not allowed under the emergency.



PHOTO: STAR

The Shahidnagar Memorial built to commemorate the supreme sacrifices during the Liberation War.

2 Barisal militants to be sent to Dhaka for JIC quizzing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The two arrested alleged Islamist militants belonging to Hijbe Abu Omar-- Maolana Sheikh Akramuzzaman, Imam of Saestabad mosque and Maolana Md Jobaier Sikdar, principal of Dharmadi madrasa in Barisal city-- will be sent to Dhaka for quizzing by the joint interrogation cell (JIC).

Police sources could not specify when they would be sent to Dhaka. They said they are preparing to send them to Dhaka for interrogation by JIC in presence of some other arrested diehard Islamist militants.

Saifur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Detective Branch of Barisal Metropolitan Police, who is investigating the two the cases filed against the two militants, said they should be interrogated by JIC

in presence of other militants to find out links between the banned militant organisations.

The two were arrested on April 4 and 5 with four grenades, explosives and bomb making materials and sharp weapons.

They were placed on seven days' remand for the second time when they were produced before the court of Magistrate Mamun Hassan on Tuesday. Police prayed for 10 days' remand, court sources said.

The two were arrested by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab). Two separate cases were lodged by Abdur Rashid, Deputy Assistant Director of Rab with Barisal Kotwali police station.

Earlier, they were interrogated in Barisal on a five-day remand from April 10 to 14.

Police sources said, during

interrogation, Akramuzzaman and Jobaier Sikdar disclosed names of 11 other militants belonging to Hijbe Abu Omar.

They are Abdur Rouf of Rajoir in Madaripur; Abu Yusuf Sagor of Bakerganj; Abul Bashar of Moheshpur; Hozzaika Babu and Mehdi Hassan Kafi of Sagordi in Barisal; Mustafizur Rahman Bayjid and Mahbub of Kashiani in Gopalganj; Harun of Bijoyising and Emdadul Huq of Sonagaji in Feni of Noakhali; Mustafa of Chouddagram of Comilla and Nazmul Huq alias Rafiqul Islam of Arambug area in Dhaka city.

Nine of the 11 people named by the two militants have so far been arrested in different areas of the country, police sources said yesterday.

2 outlaws hurt while making bomb: 1 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

Two alleged members of an outlawed party were injured while making bombs at Fakirabad village in Bheramara upazila Tuesday night, police said.

Sahabul Alam and Tezab Hossain were injured while a bomb blasted with a big bang during bomb making.

Hearing the blast, local people rushed to the spot and found the two in a critical condition.

On information, police rushed to the spot, raided a house belonging to a local quack named Shamsul where Sahabul was taking treatment. Police arrested him at around 1.30:am but failed to arrest his accomplice Tezab who managed to flee.

Police said Sahabul was burnt badly in the blast. Now he is undergoing treatment at Kusthia General Hospital under police custody. Sahabul was an accused in several cases including murder, police said adding, he will be interrogated after treatment.

Extortion case against seven Satkhira BNP, Jubo Dal men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

An extortion case has been filed against Satkhira Jubo Dal secretary Nasim Faroque Khan Mithu, former president of Satkhira town BNP Sheikh Nizam Uddin and five other leaders of the parties.

Mithu, who was a close aide to central Juba Dal president and former commerce ministry advisor Barkat Ullah Bhulu, is on the run to evade arrest since declaration of emergency. Barkat Ullah was minister-in-charge of Satkhira district during the tenure of immediate past alliance government.

Sheikh Nizam Uddin, also former secretary of district Red Crescent secretary, is father-in-law of Mithu.

Samsul Huda of Palashpole in the Satkhira town filed the case with Sadar police station Tuesday night against the seven for realising a toll of Tk one lakh from him, police said yesterday.

yesterday.

The other accused are Amir Kumar Dey, Anwar Dhali, Tutul, Mamun, and Sumon.

In his complaint, Samsul Huda, a cosmetics shop owner in Satkhira New Market, stated that the BNP and Jubo Dal leaders led by Mithu demanded a tool of Tk 2 lakh from him. He filed a general diary (GD) with Sadar police station in this connection on August 8 last year.

After filing of the GD, Mithu called him to his house through Samir Kumar Dey on August 16 and threatened him of dire consequences for non-payment of Tk 2 lakh and filing the GD, Huda said in his complaint. Mithu also threatened him of harassment by filing cases, Huda alleged.

On August 18, Huda handed over Tk one lakh to Mithu in presence of the six others at his house at Palashpole, he said in the complaint.

On contact over cell phone, main accused Mithu told this correspondent from an undisclosed place that the allegation was baseless and the case was filed only to harass him.

Sadar thana officer-in-charge (OC) Safiqur Rahman confirmed filing of the case.

Sources in security forces said Mithu is on their arrest list and they raided his house several times for his alleged involvement in corruption and for sheltering listed criminals.

Allegations also have it Mithu amassed fortune by using the party influence and the name of Barkat Ullah Bhulu. His main source of income was toll collection from shrimp farms and other traders, tender manipulation and 'commission' from different government projects.

He earned from transfer and promotion of officials, sources claimed.

UP Chairman held while giving bribe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Joint forces on Tuesday arrested a Union Parishad (UP) chairman and two others while they were offering Tk 20,000 as bribe to complainant of a criminal case of which they are FIR-named accused.

The arrestees are chairman of Bhandarkot UP in Batiaghata upazila Ismail Hossain Babu, its member Moazzem Hossain and Golam Mostafa Munshi, husband of woman UP member Sultana Begum.

According to joint forces, another member of the same UP, Manju Munshi, lodged an FIR with Batiaghata police station in Khulna on April 2 naming Ismail Hossain Babu and two others as accused allegedly for misappropriating rice and wheat allocated by government for implementation of development projects.

The UP chairman was caught red-handed while he was offering Tk 20,000 as bribe to the complainant for withdrawing the case.

In another incident, Akhter Hossain Bipu, general secretary of Rickshaw Sramik Dal in ward No-21 in Khulna city was arrested on Tuesday from rail colony area in connection with a criminal case.

Woman's body exhumed in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Guimara police on Tuesday exhumed body of a woman from grave after seven days of burial at remote Member Para under Guimara union in Matiranga upazila, police said.

Police said, Shahena Begum, 24, mother of a child, was allegedly killed by her husband Shahidullah at dead of night on April 9. She was buried on April 10 without post-mortem.

Police recovered the body in presence of magistrate Barun Kumar Mondol after a complaint lodged by her father Abu Taher. The body was sent to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

When contacted, Abu Taher said he got the sad news of daughter's death in the early morning on April 10. Immediately, he rushed to Member Para village. Taher alleged that Shahidullah's family members forcibly took his signature on white paper in presence of local influentials stating that his daughter had natural death. They also promised to give him Tk 30,000 if he did not file any case with the police station.

'Before her burial, I saw the body of my daughter. She bore marks of torture on her neck, he said.

5X2

9X4

9X4