

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 Shantia upazila 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.



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

2 outlaws hurt while making bomb: 1 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

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

Shahbul 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 Shahbul was taking treatment. Police arrested him at around 1:30 am but failed to arrest his accomplice Tezab who managed to flee.

Police said Shahbul was burnt badly in the blast. Now he is undergoing treatment at Kushtia General Hospital under police custody. Shahbul 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.

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 Batighata 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 Batighata 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.

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 Jobair 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 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 Jobair 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 Moheşpur; Hozzaika Babu and Mehdi Hassan Kafi of Sagordi in Barisal; Mustafizur Rahman Bayjid and Mahbub of Kashiani in Gopalganj; Harun of Bijoysing and Emdadul Huq of Sonagaj in Feni of Noakhali; Mustafa of Choudhogram 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.

5X2

9X4

9X4