

POLICE OUTPOST LOOTING IN BAUFAL

Case against ex-BNP MP being revived after 35 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali



The sensitive Dhulia police outpost looting case against former BNP lawmaker Shahidul Alam Talukder is being revived about 35 years after the incident.

Shahidul, also secretary of Baufal upazila BNP, was elected from Patuakhali-2 (Baufal) constituency in 2001 election. He is in Patuakhali jail, serving a 10-year prison term in an arms case. The verdict was delivered on August 16.

Intelligence officials are collecting information on the police outpost looting incident to revive the case, a high official of intelligence department told this correspondent yesterday.

"We are collecting information on the sensitive Dhulia police outpost looting case and several other cases against Shahidul," he said seeking anonymity.

"Intelligence officials collected records of the police outpost looting case and copies of several GD's filed against Shahidul from Baufal police station on Monday", the official said.

"We will submit a report on the case and alleged corruption by Shahidul this month to higher authorities", he said.

Meanwhile, Shahidul's main aide Kazi Fariduzzaman Tipu was suspended on September 4 from the post of Baufal municipality chairman by local government ministry for his alleged involve-

ment in the police camp looting incident. The ministry decision was taken following a report by law enforcing agencies, the sources said.

An armed gang numbering 25 to 30 allegedly led by Shahidul attacked Dhulia police outpost in Baufal upazila on the night of July 11 in 1973. They killed three policemen including Subedar Khalilur Rahman and looted four out of 22 rifles.

Next day, Constable Solim Uddin of the police camp filed a case (no- 371/73) with Baufal thana, accusing 21 people including Shahidul and Tipu.

Police later recovered all four looted rifles and arrested Shahidul. But Shahidul got bail from a court and joined Jagodal, a political party floated in late 70s by

former president Ziaur Rahman. The police camp looting case was withheld after he joined Jagodal, police and other sources said.

Kamruzzaman Bachu, local correspondent of daily Janakantha, filed a GD (no. 208) with Baufal police station on May 8, 2002 against Shahidul as he threatened him for a report published in the daily.

Shahidul started his life as an alleged pirate leader on Tetulia river in Baufal. He formed an armed gang named Talukder Bachu.

He also faces another case for allegedly keeping relief goods, filed on February 17.

Several GDs (General Diary) were also filed against him with Baufal police station for allegedly assaulting officials, journalists and some members of the minority community, police sources said.

Joint forces demolished Shahidul's three-storied market cum residence at Kalishuri Bazar in Baufal upazila as it was built on 1.5 acres of encroached government land, official sources said.

Joint forces raided his residence at Baufal town on February 16 and recovered two magazines of a pistol, two pistol covers and some relief goods including 19 pieces of Sharee, 18 pieces of T-shirt, 9 blankets and four sacks of sports goods.

SM Mizaur Rahman, OC of Baufal police station, filed two cases, one of them under the Arms Act. Shahidul was given 10 years imprisonment in the arms case.

Fire service officials held in Nilphamari for bribery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Police yesterday arrested the deputy assistant director and senior station officer of Nilphamari Fire Service Department on charge of taking bribe for issuing a certificate to a businessman.

Police said, bicycle shop of trader Abbas Ali was burnt at Tengonmari Bazar few month ago. He had insurance against his shop but needed a certificate from fire service to realise the money.

Abbas alleged that Deputy Assistant Director of Fire Service Noor Hasan and Senior Station Officer Abdul Mannan in Nilphamari demanded Tk 20,000 from him to issue the certificate.

He paid Tk 4,000 earlier and promised to pay the rest yesterday (Tuesday).

Abbas Ali brought the matter to the notice of joint forces in the town.

Plainclothes policemen caught Noor Hasan and Abdul Mannan when the money was being paid, police said.

A case was filed against them under Anti-corruption Act 5/2 of 1974. They were produced before a court, which sent them to jail.

Army exchanges views with journos in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Commander of Nilphamari army camp yesterday exchanged views with local journalists of print and electronic media on various steps taken by the government and sought their cooperation.

At the meeting, Lt. Col. Abu Naser Md Toha Psc said discipline and rule of law have to be established in every sphere of national life and said journalists have a great role to play in this regard.

He said the government has achieved success in the ongoing anti-corruption drive. Discipline has been established in different government offices.

Now, an atmosphere has been created for the people to talk freely against injustice and corruption without any fear, he said.

He said because of vigilance of joint forces along with the administration and people, flood-affected people are getting relief and medicines. None died of starvation or disease, he said.

He urged journalists to provide information on irregularities in various sectors in the district so that proper step could be taken.

The journalists assured him of all possible cooperation.

Padma devours 500 acres in 2 weeks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 300 families of five villages in two unions of Pabna Sadar upazila have become homeless due to erosion by the Padma in last two weeks.

The villages are Khaschar Balarampur, Char Madhupur and Char Pirpur in Varara union and Char Raninagar and Rainagar villages in Dogas union.

The Padma also devoured 500 acres of croplands during the period.

During visit to the affected areas, this correspondent saw that Khas Char Balarampur Non-Government Primary School went under the riverbed and Char Madhupur Primary School, Char Raninagar Primary School including several mosques are threatened by the river.

When asked, Pabna Water Development Board (WDB) executive engineer Harunur Rashid said the affected villages are not situated

within the flood control embankment. Erosion affected villagers are now passing their days in misery under open sky.

On contact, Pabna Sadar upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Md Abdul Hakim told this correspondent over telephone they have already distributed relief materials among some of the affected families.

Meanwhile, the Padma and the Jamuna engulfed a vast tract of croplands including many houses in Bera and Sujanagar upazilas, sources informed.

The villages are Raipur, Sagarkandi, Nazirganj in Sujanagar upazila and Badherhat, Kazirhat, Jatsakine, Purana Bhareng, Natoon Bharengader in Bera upazila.

On contact, Bera UNO Md Abdul Hakim said the WDB here has taken a project to repair a flood control embankment in Kaitola under the river.

When asked, Pabna Water Development Board (WDB) executive engineer Harunur Rashid said the affected villages are not situated



Gang leader escapes from custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtha

A gang leader fled with handcuff from police custody in Meherpur early yesterday.

Tazmul Alam Tazu, alleged chief of Tazu Bahini, was being taken to Balkunthpur police outpost in the Sadar upazila after arrest.

According to Meherpur police, Sub-Inspector (SI) Aminul Islam of Baikunthpur police outpost arrested Tazu from his house at 3:30:am. He is son of Zilalur Rahman.

While being taken to the police outpost, the handcuffed gang leader jumped from the police van and escaped.

Police from Sadar police station launched a drive in adjacent areas but could not nab him.

When contacted Meherpur police superintendent said action would be taken against the policemen for their failure.

Army joins people to remove silt from Kobadak riverbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Army personnel joined hands with local people yesterday to remove silt from Kobadak riverbed near Magura Bazar in Tala upazila to remove a persisting water-logging problem in Kobadak basin areas.

Earlier, army demolished illegal structures on Kobadak banks from Patkelghata to Magura in Tala upazila, built by encroachers which obstructed normal flow of the river.

As earlier appeals to government to dredge the river to resolve the water-logging problem went unheeded, local villagers started removing silt from the riverbed earlier this month.

Over 2 lakh people in at least 227 villages in Kobadak river basin areas in Tala and Kalaroa upazilas in Satkhira and Jhikargachha, Manirampur and Keshabpur upazilas in JESSORE district remained marooned as flood water can not be drained out because the river is silted.

Two Hijbut Tawhid suspects held in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Tahirpur police in Sunamganj district on Monday arrested two alleged activists of Islamsit militant outfit Hijbut Tawhid from Binnakuli Bazar.

They are Mujibur Rahman Zehadi and Zahidul Islam Zehadi.

Police also recovered 20 books on Islam, over 100 Zehadi leaflets, two mobile phones and a Simcard phone from their possession.

Police said, Mujibur Rahman Zehadi, a son-in-law of Shukur

Ali of Karimpur village in Tahirpur upazila came to the area from the capital eight days back along with Zahidul Islam Zehadi and his wife.

Police said Khaleque claimed himself to be Amir of Uttara unit of Hijbut Tawhid.

Zahidul Islam Zehadi hails from Shahrabaria in Gangni Upazila in Meherpur district.

However, they claimed themselves innocent and not involved with any unlawful activity or militancy.

The officer-in-charge of Tahirpur police station said, the two alleged militants were arrested under Section 54 of CrPC. Investigation is going on, he added.

6.5X3

12X2

10X4

PHOTO STAR

Helpless people look on as the mighty Padma devours Kachar Balarampur Primary School in Pabna Sadar upazila. The photo was taken on Sunday.