

POLICE OUTPOST LOOTING IN BAUFAL Case against ex-BNP MP being revived after 35 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali



Shahidul Alam Talukder

chairman by local government

ministry for his alleged involvement

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.

When H M Ershad came to power, Shahidul joined Jatiya Party and was elected Baufal upazila chairman. After fall of Ershad, he joined BNP in 1991. Detective Branch officials said showing records.

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

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-storyed 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 Mizur 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.

He also assaulted Kazi Hanif,

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Baufal police station on October 7, 2004 at his office room. The OC filed a GD (no. 205) with Baufal police station but the record was missing from the GD book after Hanif was transferred.

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.

Paris-based international organisation Sans Frontiers (SF) has listed Shahidul as a person who 'tortured' journalists.

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Gang leader escapes from custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtha

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

Tazmuz Alam Tazu, alleged chief of Tazu Bahini, was being taken to Baikunthpur 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 about 3:30am. He is son of Zillurat 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, Sathkhira

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 Kabodak river basin areas in Tala and Kalorao upazilas in Sathkhira and Jhikargachha, Manirampur and Keshabpur upazilas in Jessor district remained marooned as flood water can not be drained out because the river is silted.

Commander of Nilphamari army camp yesterday exchanged views with local journalists of print and electronic media on various steps taken by the government to a business man.

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.

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

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.

The journalists assured him of all possible 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 fear, he said.

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.

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