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Six BDR courts to run 50 trials

Around 55 face second trial in Satkhira tomorrow

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK



Six special courts of Bangladesh Rifles will hold 50 trials for the February 25-26 mutiny in as many BDR establishments across the country.

The first of the trials began on November 24 at Rangamati sector headquarters.

The second one will get underway tomorrow at Satkhira battalion headquarters.

The special court-1 there will try some 55 soldiers from 7 Rifle Battalion at Nilidumur under Khulna sector, said sources in the border force.

"All six courts will be composed of three members each and headed by Director General Major General M Mainul Islam. As per the BDR law, they will try around seven thousand border guards on charges of mutiny at 50 rifles establishments," said an official involved in making arrangements for the trials.

Of the places where mutiny broke out, 10 are

at Pilkhana headquarters in Dhaka and the remaining 40 are in 27 other districts, he added.

The 27 districts are Satkhira, Jessore, Chuadanga, Kushtia, Khulna, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Joypurhat, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Netrakona, Sunamganj, Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Narail, Feni, Khagrachhari, Rangamati, Bandarban and Cox's Bazar.

Two of the six courts will be devoted to trial of the ones charged with mutiny at the Pilkhana headquarters.

Dhaka sector headquarters, 24, 36, 13 and 44 Rifle Battalion, headquarters battalion, BDR hospital, Rifle Security Unit (RSU), Signal Sector and Rifles Sports Board are the 10 points at Pilkhana that saw 74 persons including 57 army officers killed in a 33-hour carnage.

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Flashback to Satkhira mutiny

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Under Khulna sector, BDR mutiny took place on February 26 in two of the BDR battalions -- 7 Rifle Battalion also known as Nilidumur Rifle Battalion and 41 Rifle Battalion also known as Satkhira Rifle Battalion.

Some 57 jawans of the two battalions are in jail for their alleged involvement in the mutiny. However, the total number of accused from the two battalions may rise if separate courts of enquiry find involvements of more border guards.

Of the 57 alleged mutineers in jail, 30 are from 7 Rifle Battalion while 27 from 41 Rifle Battalion.

Sources said 25 to 30 more border guards of the 7 Rifle Battalion are likely to come under the trial, which is

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Farmers never say over in climate change war

Try out cope-up measures as cropping seasons shift

REAZ AHMAD

With the saline water from a gradually swelling sea continuously making further inroads into Bangladesh's prime arable lands and late monsoon upsetting the cropping seasons, agronomists reckon her as a virtual climate change laboratory.

Resilient farmers however would not give up. If the pictures taken right from the fields are something to go by, Bangladeshi farmers are taking all sorts of cope-up measures -- locally developed or based on scientific inventions -- to fight back the global warm up.

Agronomists fear sea level rise would induce salinity to intrude further into the main land as salinity-affected arable lands rose from 0.83 million hectares in 1990 to 1.2 million hectares in 2009.

Recipe for changes is all too obvious for farmers in the northern Rangpur



COPING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE: As late monsoon and erratic rain patterns delay the planting and harvesting of winter rice, boro, farmers in the northern region are now opting for short duration aman varieties that can be reaped well in advance paving way for timely boro cultivation.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Mall fire kills one, hurts 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person was killed and 20 others injured after a blaze hit Shahjalal Complex at Malibagh intersection in the capital yesterday afternoon.

The dead, identified as Saiful Islam, 22, was a resident of Badda. He used to work for a bus company, Falgun, at the Badda ticket counter.

Of the injured, 11 were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while the others to different city hospitals and clinics.

The fire originated at a computer shop on the ground floor of the twelve-storey building around 3:30pm that released a thick

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Bilateral relations to turn a new chapter

Roundtable pins high hopes on Hasina-Manmohan talks

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Policymakers, diplomats, educationists and journalists yesterday hoped that the December 19 meeting between Sheikh Hasina and Manmohan Singh in New Delhi would usher in a new chapter in relations between the two countries.

They're speaking at a roundtable discussion

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

There are indications that the ties between the two South Asian neighbours would take a positive turn through the meeting. A change in the mindset of the leaders of the two countries would add a new dimension to their bilateral relations, the discussants observed.

DBH FIRST MUTUAL FUND

Announcement

Schedule of receiving Public Offering (IPO) Units application forms

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Date & Time	December 13, 2009 to December 20, 2009 (10:00 AM to 5:00 PM)	December 13, 2009 to December 20, 2009 (10:00 AM to 5:00 PM)
Venue	Bankers to the Issue as mentioned in the Application Form	Dhaka Zilla Krira Sangstha, Jheelpar Motijheel, Dhaka - 1000 (instead of Company head office)

For Non-Resident Bangladeshis subscription (by post/courier only) closes on December 29, 2009. Application sent by post/courier will be received at L R Global's office only.

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Highlights

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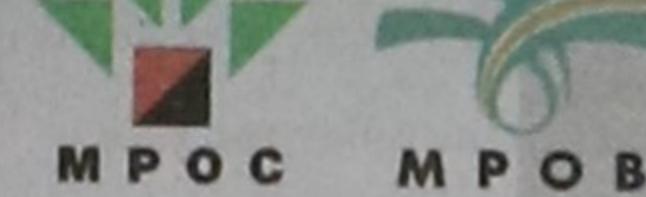
Recent Advances on Palm Products

Utilisation and Innovation in Food Application

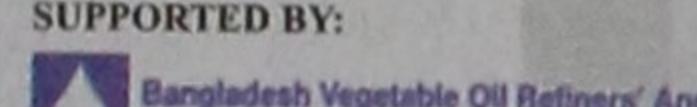
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