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Call to punish culprits gets louder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political, social and rights organisations have expressed concern over the tense situation in Baghaichhari in Rangamati where two indigenous people have so far been killed during clashes with Bangalee settlers. Gonosanghati Andolan protested against the killings at its extended meeting of the central committee yesterday. They demanded punishment of those responsible and announced a protest rally at Muktangon in the capital at 4:00pm today. Leaders of the movement demanded that the government withdraw army from the hills and establish rights of the ethnic people. Association for Land Reform and Development

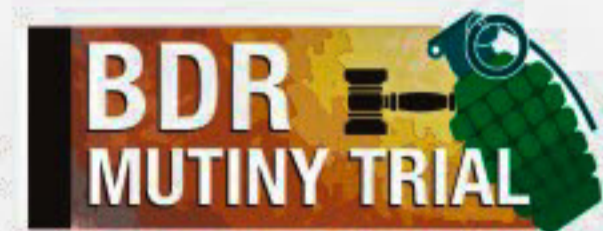


Houses of the ethnic people go up in flames as Bangalee settlers allegedly carried out an arson attack on Mahajonpara village in Khagrachhari yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Horrors of carnage relived at Darbar Hall

Prosecution tells court about the bloodbath as BDR court starts first trial in Pilkhana

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK



Darbar hall of BDR Pilkhana headquarters, where a 33-hour carnage set in just shy of a year ago, turned into a courtroom yesterday with Bangladesh Rifles beginning its first mutiny trial in the capital. On the opening day, the three-member Special Court-5 headed by BDR Director General Major Gen Md Mainul Islam accepted mutiny charges against 86 border troops from Dhaka Sector Rifle headquarters. It also ordered the prosecution to produce the alleged mutineers before the court at 10:00am today. Earlier, Major Matiur Rahman, prosecutor in the case and officer-in-charge of Dhaka Sector Rifle, gave a brief account of the bloodbath that left 74 persons including 57 army officers killed on February 25-26.

As he read out the statement in a courtroom sunk in gloom, tears streamed down his face. In 20 minutes, the prosecutor detailed how the mutiny broke out in the darbar hall and spread through Pilkhana. "The mutineers did not only kill the unarmed officers, they dumped their bodies into mass graves and sewers. They ransacked and looted officers' houses and set fire to vehicles. "Before killing, they abused and bayoneted the army men. After shooting down Col Mujibul Haque and Lt Col Enayet on the third floor of 16 Battalion building, they dropped the bodies on the ground floor. "They also threw away the body of Major Moqbul from the first floor of the same building. "Even the family members of the officers were gruesomely tortured." Major Matiur said the mutineers fanned out

2 crackers explode near Khaleda's office

Delwar's son 'hurt'

Two crackers exploded in front of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office late last night. The leader of the opposition was inside at the time. Minutes after the blasts at 10:10pm, patrol police arrested a youth named Pradip Saha on a nearby alley.

Curfew slapped on Khagrachhari

1 Bangalee settler killed as violence flared up again; 60 houses burnt; journalists assaulted

STAR REPORT

The authorities imposed a 10-hour curfew in Khagrachhari town and its surrounding areas from 9:00pm yesterday in the wake of fresh violence between Bangalee settlers and indigenous people in the area that left a Banglaee settler dead.

Around 50 people were injured and 66 houses reduced to ashes during the clashes yesterday that forced the authorities to roll out the army in the afternoon. Muhammad Abdullah, deputy commissioner of Khagrachhari district, told The Daily Star that he imposed the curfew to avoid any untoward incident during the night.

The dead was identified as Anwar Hossain, 22, a class-IV employee of Khagrachhari municipality office. Shahidur Khan, officer-in-charge of Khagrachhari Police Station, said Anwar was shot in the head. Bangalee settlers set fire to at least 37

Dhaka eyes \$3b aid from Beijing

PM goes to China March 17; connectivity top agenda

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Bangladesh will seek around \$3 billion in assistance from China during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's five-day visit beginning on March 17. Sources at the Prime Minister's Office said that the assistance could be invested in infrastructure development and various power projects. Sheikh Hasina will also focus on strengthening the bilateral relationship and reducing the existing trade imbalance with the emerging economic and military giant. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics June 2009, a

NOTICE

To celebrate the 19th Founding Anniversary of The Daily Star, today's issue contains special supplement (80 pages) on "Economy and Climate Change", the second of a three-part supplement.

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