



CID indicts 824 for Pilkhana carnage

- DAD Towhid prime accused
- Pintu, Torab Ali among 23 civilian accused
- 21 accused still at large
- BDR men, civilians meet before mutiny
- Mutiny staged to realise demands
- No political link found

Lined up bodies of the slain army personnel at Pilkhana after the February 25-26 BDR mutiny in 2009.

PHOTO: FILE



SHARIFUL ISLAM and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

The Criminal Investigation Department indicted 824 Bangladesh Rifles soldiers and civilians on 24 criminal charges yesterday, in connection with last year's mutiny in the border security force's Pilkhana Headquarters.

The charges include murder, arson, looting, hiding of bodies, and sedition. This is the first time so many people are charged in a single case in the country. Investigation officer (IO) of the case,

CID's Special Superintendent Abdul Kahar Akand said the charge of murder was brought against all indictees including former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, former leader of a Dhaka City ward unit of Awami League Torab Ali, and BNP backed former city ward commissioner Suraiya Begum.

"The indictee cooperated among themselves in all the crimes including murder. All of them had common interest in committing the crimes," the IO told a media briefing in the CID headquarters prior to submission of the charge sheet.

After an investigation that took a year and four months, the IO submitted a 132-page charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka in the afternoon, indicting 801 BDR soldiers and 23 civilians including a number of females.

Much talked about BDR Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) Mohammad Towhidul Islam was made the prime indictee.

The indicted are six DADs, 44 subedars, 80 havildars, 60 nayeaks, 68

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Cabinet okays Border Guard Bangladesh Act

Death penalty for mutiny

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved the draft of the Border Guard Bangladesh Act 2010 with a provision of capital punishment for mutiny offences.

The approval came at a weekly meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at the Cabinet Division of the secretariat.

The draft includes a provision of death penalty as

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Towhid played lead role in BDR mutiny

Prosecutor tells special court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Assistant Director Towhidul Islam of BDR Sadar Rifle Battalion at Pilkhana played a leading role in the BDR mutiny and massacre, a prosecutor of a case against 735 alleged mutineers of the battalion told BDR Special Court-6 yesterday.

However, Towhid has not been accused in the case as the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

HASINA'S MEET WITH GRASSROOTS AL BCL, performance of MPs top agenda

HASAN JAHID TUSHER and RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Chhatra League and performance of the ruling Awami League lawmakers may come up for discussion at tomorrow's meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her party's grassroots-level leaders.

The opposition's anti-government movement, law and order situation and price hike of essentials may also be discussed, said AL insiders.

Several presidents and general secretaries of AL district units yesterday said they will urge the prime minister to take steps to bridge the yawning gap between party lawmakers and field-level leaders including upazila chairmen.

Talking to The Daily Star, they said they will also ask the party chief for more sincere measures to make good on electoral pledges including the trial of war criminals.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

CUSTODIAL DEATH 3 cops land in Gaibandha jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A court in Gaibandha yesterday sent three policemen to jail in a case filed on charges of killing a student in custody in 2006.

The District and Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after rejecting bail prayers of the then officer-in-charge of Gaibandha Sadar Police Station, Noor Alam, and constables Dulal Chandra and Mizanur Rahman.

Judge Md Moniruzzaman, however, granted bail to another defendant, Assistant Sub-Inspector Fahima Akhter, on special ground.

In the case statement, the victim's elder brother Abdul Majed Sarker said Gaibandha sadar thana police with the help of a local

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

NATORE CROSSFIRE 7 more sent to jail for aiding police

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A Natore court yesterday sent seven people to jail custody in connection with assisting police in killing a youth named Ansar Ali in 2008 and making it look like he died in crossfire.

The seven people of Singra in Natore surrendered before the Court of Natore District and Sessions Judge Abdul Majid yesterday and pleaded for bail.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Find Chy Alam immediately

Khaleda asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the government to find ward councillor Chowdhury Alam and return him to his family without further delay.

"People of some agencies of the government have picked up Alam and that is why they will have to find him," she said while talking to reporters during her visit to Alam's residence in the city yesterday evening.

Chowdhury Alam, also a member of BNP national executive committee, has been missing from the city's Farmgate area since June 25, two days ahead of BNP's countrywide hartal.

Referring to Alam being missing for 17 days, Khaleda said it seems there is no government in the country.

She said the politics of killing, abduction and secret killings have again started

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

How Alam was 'abducted'

Driver's account

KAILASH SARKAR

Six to seven people on two vehicles stopped the car carrying DCC councillor and BNP leader Chowdhury Alam on Indira Road and took him away in the car leaving the driver behind on June 25.

The car was found abandoned in West Tejgurbazar, around one kilometre off the scene, after around 11 hours but the Dhaka City Corporation councillor still remains missing.

The Daily Star in its investigation found Alam was picked up when he was travelling on his sister's car and driver Asim Bhowmik is the only witness of the incident.

Asim said from the attitude and physical structure of the men he had assumed Alam was picked up by plainclothes policemen. Alam's family and BNP leaders claim plainclothes law enforcers picked up Alam which is being rejected by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and Detective Branch (DB).

Police and Rab say they have yet to trace the BNP leader or recover his cellphone.

"As soon as we entered Indira Road around 8:45pm, a yellow taxicab intentionally knocked and obstructed our car. I got out of the car and within a few seconds a white microbus appeared on the scene and three to four people got into our car," driver



Chowdhury Alam

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

BG Press staff used fake uniform to leak questions

Tk 28 lakh more recovered from another staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladesh Government Press employee got the question paper of the recruitment test for assistant teachers at public high schools out of the press hiding a copy inside a fake press uniform.

Meanwhile, another employee of BG Press was arrested yesterday with Tk 28 lakh at his BG Press office. He was arrested following information gleaned from detained BG Press employees. With his arrest six government employees have been arrested so far.

The arrestees are ATM Mostafa, compositor of BG Press; Hamdul Islam, binder of BG Press; Mostafa's wife Laboni Begum, also binder at BG Press; Khandaker Mohammad Ali, an assistant director of BG Press; and MA Rauf, administrative officer of the Public Service Commission (PSC).

Police sources said the arrested employees of BG Press yesterday disclosed important information and their

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Arrestee Abdul Jalil and Tk 28 lakh recovered from him shown to the media at Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Check price hike of rice

PM asks ministries to take steps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the commerce and food ministries to take necessary measures so that the price of rice cannot be increased in the coming months.

She made the directives in separate meetings with Food Secretary Barun Dev Mitra

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Shab-e-Barat on July 27

BSS, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Barat will be observed on the night of July 27 as the Shaban moon was not sighted anywhere in the country.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee at the Islamic Foundation yesterday evening.

Vice President of the Committee and Secretary of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Rapturous welcome for WC heroes

BBC ONLINE

Spain's victorious World Cup squad have returned to Madrid amid scenes of joyous celebration in the capital city.

Team captain Iker Casillas, carrying the trophy, led the team down the steps of the plane as they made their triumphant return from South Africa.

The players then went on to meet Spain's royal family and Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

And more than one million fans were set to line the streets for an open-top bus parade that began at 1800 BST.

MORE ON STAR SPORT

Bidding war over Paul

TELEGRAPH

Paul the psychic octopus has become the centre of an international bidding war, after Spanish businessmen offered 38,000 euros to bring him to Spain, following their World Cup success. Now, Spanish businessmen

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Procurement law passed dropping experience clause

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed a bill dropping from the Public Procurement Act 2006 the provision of past experience as a condition for getting contracts for public work involving up to Tk2 crore.

It also passed another bill for setting up a tourism board for development of tourism industry.

Planning Minister AK Khandker proposed passage of the bill for bringing a few amendments to the PPA which include dropping the provision of past experience.

Earlier last year, the planning minister had placed a bill in parliament with the same purposes.

But during scrutiny of the bill, the parliamentary standing committee on the planning ministry changed the proposal for dropping from the PPA the provision of past experience. The House later passed the bill in November in line with the committee recommendations.

Finally, the minister came up with the new bill on June 7 seeking amendments to the PPA, and it was passed yesterday. When the government first moved to get the

PPA amended last year, the opposition BNP and some donor agencies strongly criticised the move.

They alleged the amendment would lead to corruption, and quality of government work will fall.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader yesterday proposed in the House passage of the Bangladesh Tourism Board Bill for setting up a tourism board for development of tourism industry.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, who is also in charge of the cabinet division, yesterday placed a bill seeking to amend the Bangladesh National Anthem, Flag and Emblem Order 1972 for punishing anyone violating the order.

"Whoever contravenes any provision of this order or of any rules made thereunder shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to taka ten thousand or with both," says the bill.

The bill was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry for scrutiny.

Today July 13
Grand Opening
of our Islampur Branch

We are at your side
with the promise to serve...

Islampur Branch
Mabud Tower, 105 Islampur Road
(Opposite of Nawabbari Gate), Dhaka-1100
Mobile: 01911385416
www.fsibld.com

ফার্স্ট সিকিউরিটি ইসলামী ব্যাংক লি:
FIRST SECURITY ISLAMI BANK LTD.