

Verdict in Lalmonirhat mutiny case today

Trial, charge framing against 44 to start in Sylhet

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The special court-13 will deliver judgment in the mutiny case against 24 jawans of 31 Lalmonirhat Rifles Battalion under Rangpur sector today while the special court-14, set up at Sylhet sector headquarters, will resume trial and frame charges against 44 rebels of 21 Rifles Battalion.

According to our Lalmonirhat correspondent, the BDR court headed by Dinajpur Sector Commander Col Muhammad Saleh Ahmad will pronounce the judgment in the mutiny case at noon. Two other members are Lt Col Mahfuz Alam and Major Didar Al Latif.

Of the accused, Nizam Uddin, Samedul Islam, Yusuf Ali, Sirajul Haque, Tosur Rahman, Asaduzzaman, Motiur Rahman, Nazmul Sahadat, Habibur Rahman, Joyal Abedin, Ashraf Huda, Rokon, Dulal Hossain, Abu Bakkar, Shahadat Hossain, Amir Hossain and Abdur Rahman confessed to their

involvement in the mutiny while the rest seven, Parvez Hasan, Kamor Uddin, Abu Siddique, Nazrul Islam, Pronayan Chakma, Mohabbat Ali and Tariqul Islam, claimed innocence, a BDR official said.

The then officer-in-charge of Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station Foyezur Rahman filed two separate cases with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court against 24 mutineers of 31 Rifles Battalion.

The mutineers were later arrested and produced before the court that sent them to jail hajat, the official added.

In the case statement, the complainant alleged that BDR men revolted against their officers and took control of the battalion headquarters on February 26, 2009. They also vandalised doors, windows of the battalion headquarters and fired at least 150 blank shots.

Our staff correspondent from Sylhet reports: The special court-14 will resume trial and frame charges against 44 accused of 21 Rifles Battalion today.

Earlier on October 20,

prosecutor Lt Col Khairul Quadir, also the commanding officer of the battalion, read out the allegations against the accused in the court headed by Comilla Sector Commander Col SM Farhad.

The then officer-in-charge of Sylhet Kotwali Police Station Syeduzzaman filed three separate cases with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, Sylhet, on May 17 last year against the BDR men of Sylhet sector and two battalions under the sector as they took part in mutiny on February 26 last year, expressing solidarity with the mutineers of BDR headquarters at Pilkhana in the capital.

They were later arrested and produced in the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court that sent them to jail hajat.

The complainant alleged that the jawans took control of Sylhet sector headquarters and two battalion headquarters on February 26.

They set fire to three private vehicles of BDR officials, put up barricades on the main road in front of the 21

Battalion headquarters and fired at least 200 blank shots.

Our Kurigram correspondent adds: Trial proceedings against 50 mutineers of 27 Rifles Battalion at Kurigram under Rangpur sector began yesterday.

Headed by Dinajpur Sector Commander Col Md Saleh Ahmad, the court started proceedings at around 11:25am and continued until 2:00pm. Two other members of the court are Lt Col Mahfuz Alam and Major Didar Al Latif.

Nayeb Subedar Munshi Manwar Hossain of the battalion brought allegations against 50 BDR rebels. Commanding Officer of the battalion Lt Col Abdur Razzak is the prosecutor.

The court asked the authorities concerned to arrest 16 of the accused, who were in service till yesterday, and produce all the 50 accused before the court at 9:00am today.

As per court order, the authorities concerned arrested the 16 accused and sent them to Kurigram district jail.



PHOTO: STAR

Grass grown on an incomplete main pillar of Langolerhat bridge over the Ghagot River at Betgari in Gangachara upazila of Rangpur district remains a mockery to the locals, as work of the bridge on Gangachara-Nilphamari road has remained suspended since 1998.

BRIDGE UNFINISHED FOR 12 YEARS

Locals now just hope against hope

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

Langolerhaat Bridge over the river Ghagot at Betgari under Gangachara upazila remains incomplete since 1998 impeding road communication from Gangachara to Nilphamari.

The foundation of the

bridge was laid in late 1998 and one of the main pillars was also constructed.

The Divisional Engineer of Roads and Highways department of Rangpur Md. Shahidunnabi said, "Langolerhaat Bridge could not be completed in 1998 due to shortage of funds."

He added that authorities have sanctioned about Tk. 6.50 crore for the construction of the bridge and tender was given recently.

Shahidunnabi also said that the bridge would be completed by next year.

But people of Gangachara upazila still doubt if the

construction work of bridge would begin at all.

Nurul Amin Shah, union parishad chairman of Betgari seemed to voice their opinion when he said, "This is an eyewash. We don't think the work on the bridge will begin at all."



PHOTO: STAR

People sign on a large banner in Thakurgaon town yesterday as Jatiya Adivasi Parishad arranges a month-long mass signature campaign in support of the constitutional recognition of the indigenous people.

Signature campaign for constitutional rights

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Indigenous people in two northern districts yesterday formed human chains, held rallies and started signature campaign demanding their constitutional rights.

Indigenous people of Chapainawabganj staged their programmes in the town, reports our correspondent.

Jatiya Adivasi Parishad organised the programmes in front of local press club. Several hundred indigenous people of the district including women took part in the human chain and rally.

Speakers at the rally said that the indigenous communities belong to this soil like the other mainstream people. So, all the small communities of both hills and plain lands should be given due recognition.

The speakers underlined the need for a concerted efforts to bring the indigenous people to the mainstream of society for their substantial welfare and protection from repression.

They called upon the government to give constitutional recognition to them and ensure their rights to their mother tongue, culture and land.

Abdul Odud, lawmaker of Chapainawabganj Sadar constituency inaugurated the mass signature collection programme.

Indigenous leaders said they will organise a one-kilometer-long human chain in front of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on November 28 and

submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister demanding their constitutional rights.

In Thakurgaon, a mass signature campaign was held at Thakurgaon Deputy Commissioner's Office premises demanding constitutional rights of indigenous people.

Jatiya Adivasi Parishad Thakurgaon unit organised the programme as part of month-long-signature collection programme, reports our correspondent.

People from all walks of life and different professions gave signatures expressing solidarity with the demand.

Apart from the programme a discussion was held at the same venue.

Demanding constitutional rights of indigenous people, the speakers said the communities are victims of discrimination in different fields as the government did not pay proper attention to their causes.

They are always lagging behind as they are being deprived of their rights in all sectors, they said.

The speakers also demanded immediate formation of a separate land commission to protect their rights on the plain lands. They also called to establish a separate ministry for indigenous people to deal with their problems.

The speakers also demanded mother tongue-based primary education for their children and the community's quota in higher education and government service.

Earlier, indigenous people brought out a procession that paraded different streets in the town.

One killed, 80 injured as Habiganj villagers clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A man was killed and 80 others were injured in a clash between rival groups of villagers in Ajmiriganj upazila of Habiganj district yesterday.

Police arrested Sher Ali, 60, and Rabi Hossain, 40 in connection with the killing of Lal Miah, 40.

Police and locals said, Kabir Miah of village Rahela while going to his cropfield with power tiller yesterday morning, one Porosh Ali and aides stood on his way as sequel to a previous incident.

After an exchange of heated words, they locked in a clash while over a hundred villagers joined them with lethal weapons.

Lal Miah succumbed to his injuries at the Ajmiriganj upazila health complex while seven others with serious wounds were sent to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. Thirty-eight including four women were also admitted to upazila health complex and the rest took first aid.

Locals said, the clash was a sequel to an incident that took place in the night following Eid-ul-Azha. Some villagers including Kabir Miah rebuked five young men as they took liquor and were seen walking naked on the village road at night. The unruly youths made yesterday's attack, they said.

Officer-in-charge of the Ajmiriganj PS Enamul Haque also said that yesterday's incident was a sequel to the Eid day's incident. "We have arrested two, more would be rounded up soon," he said.

KILLING OF TWO SCHOOLGIRLS

Acid thrower to die in C'nawabganj, two rapists get life in Chandpur

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A young man was sentenced to death in Chapainawabganj for killing a girl by throwing acid while two youths got life in Chandpur for killing a girl after rape, yesterday.

Arup Kumar Goswami, Judge of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-2, handed down the verdict in Chapainawabganj, reports our correspondent.

Convict Akhtarul Islam alias Tanu, 27, is son of Arshad Ali of Jalmachhmari village under Shibganj municipal area.

According to the prosecution, accused Tanu tried to woo his neighbour Tokiara Khatun, 20, daughter of late Zohiruddin of Jalmachhmari village, but she refused to accept his proposal.

An angry Tanu later entered her house at night and tried to violate her. Locals

rescued Tokiara which followed an arbitration where locals fined Tanu Tk 12,000.

After seven months, Akhtarul threw acid on Tokiara at around 7:00pm on February 16, 1998, when she came out of her house to respond to nature's call.

Locals rushed seriously injured Tokiara to Shibganj health complex and the doctors sent her to Chapainawabganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital.

The same night the doctors of Adhunik hospital sent her to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, where she died on November 11, 1998.

Tokiara's sister Sufiara Begum filed a case accusing Tanu with Shibganj police station on February 17.

In Chandpur, a court yesterday sentenced two youths for life for killing a young girl after rape at Ragoi under Shaharasi upazila of the district in 2002, reports our correspondent.

The court also fined each convict Tk

one lakh, in default, to suffer one more year in jail.

Additional District and Session Judge Mohammad Motahar Hossain handed down the verdict in a crowded court.

Convict Zakir Hossain was taken to jail while convict Monir Hossain is still at large.

According to the prosecution, Zakir, Monir and their accomplices raped Selina Akter, 20, daughter of Harunur Rashid at a field at Ragoi on May 3, 2002 while she was going to her sister's house.

Later, the criminals strangled the girl with her scarf and left her body in the field.

Victim's mother Marjia Khatun filed a case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act accusing Zakir, Monir and Shahjahan alias Boga the next day.

Accused Shahjahan was acquitted of charges.



PHOTO: STAR

A farmer sprays insecticide in his tomato field at Rajbari in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi district, as leaves are shrinking due to an unknown disease even before maturing of the winter vegetable plants.

প্রবাসী প্রিয়জনের পাঠানো টাকা দ্রুত পেতে জনতা ব্যাংকের সেবা নিন

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