

Charges framed against 44 Sylhet mutineers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The special Court-14, set up at Sylhet sector headquarters, yesterday framed charges against 44 mutineers of 21 Rifles Battalion.

Of the accused, 37 admitted their involvement in the mutiny at the battalion on February 26 last year while the rest claimed innocence. The court then adjourned its proceedings until 8:30am today.

Deputy Attorney General Farhad Ahmed, Public Prosecutor of Sylhet Mstbah Uddin Siraj, and special public prosecutors Gazi Zillur Rahman and Sheikh Md Selim were present.

The then officer-in-charge of Sylhet Kotwali Police Station Syeduzzaman filed three separate cases with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court on May 17 last year against the BDR men as they revolted against their officers at the battalion, expressing solidarity with the

mutineers of BDR headquarters at Pikhana in the capital.

They were later arrested and produced in the court that sent them to the jail hayat.

On October 20, prosecutor Lt Col Khairul Quasim, commanding officer of the battalion, read out the allegations against the 44 BDR rebels at the special court headed by Comilla Sector Commander Col SM Farhan. Two other members are Lt Col Akhtaruzzaman and Major Maksudul Alam.

He alleged that the BDR jawans took control of the battalion headquarters on February 26 and set fire to some vehicles, including three private vehicles of BDR officials. They also blocked the road in front of the battalion headquarters and fired at least 200 blank shots, he added. A BDR jawan named Lance Nayeb Abdus Salam fell sick while trial at the special court was going on. He was immediately taken to

the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College and Hospital.

Our kurigram correspondent reported that the trial proceedings against 50 mutineers of 27 Rifles Battalion at Kurigram under Rangpur sector continued more than an hour from 9:45am yesterday.

All the accused were produced in the special court-14 headed by Dinaipur Sector Commander Col Md Saleh Ahmad. Two other members of the court are Lt Col Mahfuz Alam and Major Didar Al Latif. Lt Col Abdur Razzak commanding officer of the battalion, is the prosecutor.

The court ordered all the accused to appoint their lawyers and adjourned the trial proceedings until January 3 next year. On Monday, Nayeb Subedar Munshi Monwar Hossain of the battalion brought charges against 50 BDR rebels of 27 rifles battalion.

Two outlaws arrested

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two members of outlawed organisations were arrested in Jhenidah and Savar yesterday and the day before.

Police arrested a member of Janajuddha faction of outlawed PBCP from his house under Hariankundu upazila in Jhenidah yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The arrestee is Faruk Sardar, 38, son of Asfar Sardar of Poldanganda village.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Jahangir Alam of Hariankundu police station said, on secret information they raided Poldanganda village and arrested him from his house.

He is accused in five cases including murder filed with Hariankundu, Islamic vartahi police station, Kumarkhali and Alamdanga police stations.

On Monday, police arrested a fugitive outlaw from Ausulia area in Savar.

The arrestee is identified as Harninkundu police station said, on secret information they raided Poldanganda village and arrested him from his house. He was later remanded for further interrogation. Police said he was wanted in a number of cases including murder. Claiming himself as valid principal, Ashraful



HSC candidates on Sunday write answer scripts at the test examinations at the house of Ashraful Islam, suspended principal of Joyopur Adarsha College in Sadullapur upazila of Gaibandha district, as Ashraf, claiming himself as the valid principal, made the peculiar arrangement. The unauthorised act, however, stopped after the test examinations started at the college the day after, as per the schedule earlier announced by the acting principal.

Senseless act of a principal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Some 150 HSC students of Joyopur Adarsha College in Sadullapur Upazila appeared in the test examinations at the residence of the college principal who was earlier suspended on charge of corruption.

Claiming himself as valid principal, Ashraful Islam made the peculiar arrangement for holding test examinations at his house on November 21.

The unauthorised act, however, stopped after the test examinations started at the college the day after as per the schedule earlier announced by the acting principal.

Ashraful termed the action of the college

authorities illegal and said, 'I have no alternative but to taking test examinations at my residence considering the future of students.'

Ashraful Islam took exams at his residence ignoring the rules and system of the college, said principal-in-charge Rafiqul Islam. He will be liable for violating the rules of education curriculum,

he added. The college governing body suspended Ashraful for his alleged involvement in financial irregularities. He has already challenged the action and the matter is still pending with the court.

The college authorities also started holding test examination at the college building from November 22.

PHOTO STAR



Jatiya Adivasi Parishad organises a mass signature campaign in front of Dinaipur Press Club yesterday demanding constitutional recognition to the indigenous people.

Mass signature campaign in two more districts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Hundreds of people of Dinaipur and Joyupur districts yesterday took part in a mass signature campaign demanding constitutional recognition of the indigenous community.

The campaign organised by Jatiya Adibhaski Parishad, was held in front of Dinaipur Press Club and Abul Kashem Maidan (ground) in Joyupur.

In Dinaipur, the indigenous people gathered in front

of the press club in the morning. Before start of the mass signature campaign a human chain was formed demanding constitutional right of this community.

In Joyupur, hundreds of people of the district put their signature for constitutional recognition of the indigenous people.

At the rallies, the speakers said positive efforts needed to help the indigenous community. Recognition of indigenous people in the constitution would help improve their

lost, they observed.

The community suffer greatly for high rates of unemployment, mindless imperialism, drug abuse, alcoholism and diseases, all due to sheer negligence, the speakers said.

They urged the prime minister and her government to come to the aid of this disadvantaged community of the country.

The month-long mass signature campaign also started in Chapainawabganj and Thakurgaon on Monday.

One held on charge of smuggling brass coins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

DB police arrested one person on Monday for purchasing brass-made one-taka coins each for Tk 20 to 100 allegedly to smuggle them to India.

The arrestee was identified as Muhammad Manik Mia, 22, son of late Abul Karim of Ishudul Nuapara village in Kishoreganj Sadar upazila.

DB police picked up Manik from Rabiul Awd grocery shop in Ishudul Pakkar Matha area at about 10:00pm of Monday with 9 brass-made one-taka coins, which he bought from the shop each for Tk 20.

SI Syeda Zakia Begum quoting the arrestee said Manik and his accomplice Alam, 23, of Barurchara area in Sadar upazila were purchasing one-taka coins from different places of the district to supply them to India.

However, Alam could not be arrested yet as he absconded.

Manik was sent jail yesterday after filing of a case by DB police SI Samsul Alam Siddiki with Kishoreganj Sadar police station against Manik and Alam.

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Production of aman paddy in greater Sylhet region and Natore district is likely to exceed the target this season as the weather condition has been favourable.

The farmers in four districts of Sylhet region are eyeing the prospect to recoup the losses during the last boro season as they are expecting a bumper harvest from transplanted aman (T-aman) paddy this time, reports our staff correspondent from Sylhet.

"With sufficient rain and relatively favourable weather condition, the target of 9.23 lakh tonnes of T-aman yield may exceed this season when the crop is to be harvested in December," said Dulal Chandra Sarker, additional director of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Sylhet division.

The target of T-aman has been fixed by cultivating 3.85 lakh hectares of land in four districts - 1.52 lakh hectares in Sylhet, 1.04 lakh hectares in Moulvibazar, 68,000 hectares in Habiganj and 60,500 hectares in Sunamganj dis-

trict. "There has been sufficient rain so far. If everything goes well we hope there may be a good crop this time," said Abul Monayem, a farmer of Tikopara village in Golgapanj upazila of Sylhet district.

A total of 5,000 hectares in the districts could not, however, be brought under T-aman cultivation this year due to stagnant water. Farmers could not complete farming due to stagnant water in some areas, the DAE officials admitted.

Most of the crop fields did not need irrigation as yet. Sylhet region has already experienced 15,000mm rainfall this year whereas it was 11,065mm last year, said sources at the DAE office.

During the last boro season, the region suffered a huge loss of Tk 1267 crore due to repeated floods caused by the rolling down of water from the upstream in the Indian state of Meghalaya.

Our Natore correspondent reports: A bumper production of aman is expected in Natore district during the current season as there is no

natural disaster. According to the sources, a congenial climate has been prevailing this year in the district for smooth growth of aman and other vegetables. The pest attack in the aman fields was at a minimal.

This year many low lands have also been brought under aman cultivation, the farmers of Natore districts, said. Easy availability of seeds and low cost of irrigation and fertiliser popularised aman cultivation.

Farmers expect to start harvesting the crop from the next week in full swing.

The DAE sources in Natore said 54,830 hectares of land was brought under the cultivation of ropa (transplanted) aman with production target of 1,26,630 tonnes of rice white bona (planted) aman was cultivated on 27,400 hectares of land with production target of 27,357 tonnes of rice in the district.

Delowar Hossain, deputy director of Natore DAE said favourable climatic condition, adequate supply of necessary fertilisers and pesticides are the reasons behind the bumper produc-

tion. Azadul Haq, a farmer of Bangbaria village under Sadar upazila, said, "Water crisis was the main problem this year. So we have depended on deep tube-well and shallow machines for irrigation. Extra money was spent for irrigation and fertilisers. But price of paddy is so good. Per maund of aman paddy sold at Tk 800 to Tk 900 in the district markets. Farmers are happy at the prices."

Rajshahi Krishi Unmayan Bank and other government and non-government banks had disbursed adequate crop loans to make the paddy cultivation a complete success in the district. Farmers, hopeful about a bumper yield, have demanded that the government takes steps for ensuring fair price of aman paddy this season so that they do not have to face losses due to extra costs for irrigation, fertilisers and pesticides.

DAE officials said the early variety aman paddy fields are ready for harvesting.

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Farmers harvest early variety aman paddy at a profusely yielding field in Natore Sadar upazila.

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