

Verdict in Sylhet BDR mutiny case Dec 29

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The special court-14, set up at Sylhet Sector headquarters, yesterday fixed December 29 for judgment in BDR mutiny case.

Meanwhile, Two separate BDR special courts yesterday fixed charge-framing dates against 54 mutineers of Rangpur sector headquarters and 34 Rifles Battalion under the sector and 42 jawans of Khagrachhari sector headquarters.

In Sylhet, the three-member special court, headed by Comilla Sector Commander Col SM Farhad, started proceedings at 8:30am and continued until 10:30am. Two other members are Lt Col Akhtuzzaman and Major Maksudul Alam, according to our staff correspondent.

Deputy Attorney general Farhad Ahmed represented the attorney General while special public prosecutors Gazi Zillur Rahman and Habibur Rahman were present.

Argument was held while the Prosecutor Lt Col Khairul Qadir, also the commanding officer of 21 Rifles Battalion, pleaded for justice for the incident that took place at the battalion on February 26, 2009 as a sequel to Pilkhaha mutiny on the previous day.

During the argument, the prosecution stated that the accused took control of 21 battalion in the city's Akhalia area on Sylhet-Sunamganj Highway in the morning of February 26.

They also set fire to a number of vehicles, including three private vehicles of BDR officials, in front of the battalion headquarters and blocked the main road, he said

Thirty-nine of the 44 accused pleaded guilty during the trial while the rest claimed innocence.

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 of Sylhet sector and two separate battalions under the sector as they revolted, expressing solidarity with the mutineers of BDR headquarters at Pilkhaha in the capital.

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

The charge framing date against 54 mutineers of Rangpur sector headquarters and 34 Rifles Battalion under the sector was fixed on January 24, 2011, reports our Rangpur correspondent.

Of the accused, 11 are from Rangpur sector while the remaining 43 from 34 Rifles Battalion.

The Special Court-13, headed by Dinajpur Sector Commander Col Md Saleh Ahmad, started trial proceedings at around 9:00am and continued until 11:45am. Two other members of the court are Lt Col Mahfuz Alam and Major Didar Al Latif.

Nayek Subedar Rafiqul Islam of the sector and acting Subedar Golam Kibria of 34

Rifles Battalion filed two separate cases after the jawans revolted against their officers on February 26 last year.

A correspondent from Khagrachhari adds: Prosecutor Maj Javad Hasan read out charges in presence of all the 42 accused of the sector headquarters yesterday.

The special court-15, headed by Chittagong Sector Commander Lt Col Zahedur Rahman, then fixed February 22, 2011 for framing charges against the accused. The other members are Lt Col Abdur Nur and Major AZM Golam Mostafa Al Mamun.

Assistant Subedar Md Serajul Islam of the sector filed the case against 42 BDR jawans after the February 26 mutiny.

He alleged that the accused joined the mutiny at Khagrachhari BDR sector on February 26 last year, expressing solidarity with mutineers of BDR headquarters at Pilkhaha in the capital.



PHOTO: STAR

This bridge over Kumer River in Shailokupa upazila of Jhenidah district has remained virtually unusable even after three years of its construction due to lack of an approach road and wing walls.

Bridge not opened in 3 years as approach road incomplete

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

The bridge over Kumar River in Shailokupa has not been opened for the public even three years after the completion of construction work.

Construction authority said the absence of wing walls and connection of the approach roads with the bridge were mainly responsible for the situation.

The earth pilings supposed to serve as connecting roads, were also damaged by rainfall. Many small and large cracks have developed on both sides of the bridge. As the soil from the pillars of the bridge gets eroded, the whole bridge might be damaged,

experts fear.

The bridge would ease traffic jam in Shailokupa town as well as improve the traffic movement on Jhenidah-Magura, Jhenidah-Rajbari and several other routes.

The Local Government Engineering Department constructed the 150metre bridge at a cost of Tk 3.84crore during the 2006-2007 fiscal year. Mizanur Rahman was selected as the contractor under the Shailokupa-Hatfazilpur Connecting Road project.

It is alleged that Mizanur Rahman has influence with the ruling party and he has been delaying the work on

the bridge despite repeatedly urge by the local government.

However, the Upazila Engineer for Shoilokupa Shamsur Rahman said, "Since the connecting roads were not completed, the contractor has not been paid his final bill yet."

Vegetable trader Mokles Ali of Habibpur village said that crossing the bridge becomes especially dangerous during the rainy season, as the wings are still incomplete.

Another villager Aslam Sheikh of the same village said, "Using the bridge inattentively could cause major accidents. It is like a death

trap." Upazila Chairman Nayeb Ali Joarder expressed ignorance in this regard. He added that he would visit the upazila engineer to take necessary action.

Executive Engineer of the LGED Tamjid Sarwar said, "The contractor has already handed over the bridge to us. But it could not be opened as the connecting road and the wing wall of the bridge were not complete".

He added that his department was trying to open the bridge for the public within a month or two, and complete the wing wall by December this year.



PHOTO: STAR

This fishing cat, caught at Joneshur village in Kashiani upazila of Gopalganj district, was taken to the district veterinary hospital after the forest department staff rescued it yesterday.

DASHBAL SHISHU SADAN IN RANGAMATI

A beacon of hope for poor children

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

"I got a safe shelter and can study here. I feel fine. I can live and eat enough," Sobinoy Chakma, a class seven student of Kharangipara High School, said expressing his happy feelings at Dashbal Shishu Sadan, a children's home at remote Chelchhara in Ghagra union under Kaukhali upazila.

Sobinoy, hailing from Shrinagar of Barahorina union under Barkal upazila, is one of the 30 helpless boys who have found the children's home a safe and happy abode.

Nanda Basu Sthabir, a Buddhist monk of Chelchhara Boudha Bihar established the 'Shishu Sadan' in 2001 on ten decimals of land beside Chelchhara Boudha Bihar.

"Monk Nandu Basu got me admitted to the school last

year after an UP member handed me over to him. The monk pays my school fee every month. Everything including paper, pen, pencil and books are also provided by him," said Sobinoy.

Like Sobinoy, many other children from different inaccessible villages have got shelter at the Shishu Sadan.

"I want the poor boys in rural areas to get chance to study through my institution. So, I always think for them," Nanda Basu said.

Social Welfare Department provides Tk 700 for a student every month. Ten students of the sadan receive help from the department. The rest are provided by Nanda Basu.

Bangladesh Army from Rangamati region has extended its helping hand to the Shishu Sadan.

The then commander of

Ghagra zone, Lt Col Joglu built the house, said Nanda Basu.

As the house became unfit for living for the school-going boys due to its dilapidated condition earlier this year, Bangladesh Army from Sadar zone of Rangamati Brigade recently renovated it with money from their funds, sources said.

"Basically, we ensure the infrastructural facilities. We make arrangement for repair work whenever necessary. We are also going to start financial assistance to the Sadan," said Lt Col Tareque, commander of Sadar zone.

Moti Lal Chakma, vice president of the managing committee of Shishu Sadan, said they are very happy that many poor boys from different areas can stay there and get chance to study.

One more Shibir cadre held at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

Motihar police yesterday arrested one more Islami Chhatra Shibir cadre in connection with February 9 violence on Rajshahi University (RU) campus.

The arrestee is Abu Saleh Mamun, a master's student of Arabic department and also a resident of Sher-e-Bangla Hall of the university.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of the university unit caught Mamun on the premises of Shahidullah Arts Building at around 11:00am and then handed him over to the police.

On information of Mamun's arrival on the campus, a group of BCL men led by Arshad Ali, Imran Ali and Nazmul Hossain went there and caught him.

RU BCL leaders alleged that Mamun took part in February 9 violence that left BCL worker Faruk Hossain dead. Mamun had gone into hiding soon after the incident.

Contacted, RU Proctor Prof Chowdhury Muhammad Zakaria said the Shibir man was arrested for his alleged involvement in February 9 violence.

Abul Khair, officer-in-charge (OC) of Motihar Police Station told this correspondent that they would take steps after interrogating the Shibir man.

Snatched tender documents recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police yesterday recovered all the 41 tender documents snatched on Wednesday from a nearby place of Shibganj upazila municipality office.

The officer-in-charge of Shibganj police station, Abu Mokaddem Ali said, acting Mayor Ruhul Amin filed a case accusing 5 to 6 people including previously arrested Shiul, 25.

Locals said, applications were invited from listed contractors to construct the 150-meter sewage in the municipality area with a minimum cost of Tk 8.42 lakh, but BNP leader Ibrahim Ali's men snatched the tender box after failing to get the work on Wednesday.

When asked, Ibrahim Ali said the allegation made against him is not true and he does not have licence of Shibganj municipality.

Acting Mayor Ruhul Amin said party identity of any of the accused is yet to be identified but Shiul claimed himself to be a BNP worker.



PHOTO: STAR

Indigenous people form a human chain in Pabna town yesterday demanding their constitutional rights.



PHOTO: STAR

Majeda Begum standing at the land of her late husband Prof Abdul Ali, former principal of Patuakhali Government Women's College, at Sabujbagh in Patuakhali town. A few local influential people are paving a brick way to grab the land, defying a court order.