

PILKHANA MUTINY TRIAL

Two give depositions against 23 jawans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two witnesses gave depositions at the BDR Special Court-10 as it started recording statements of witnesses yesterday against 337 accused of Rifle Sports Board (RSB) and Directorates of Pilkhana.

Moreover, three defence witnesses gave depositions in favour of three accused of Record Wing before Special Court-9 set up at the 13 rifle battalion at the BDR headquarters the same day.

On the first day, the two witnesses placed their statements against 23 accused jawans of RSB and Directorates and 13 of them later cross-examined one of the witnesses.

The special court set up at the Darbar Hall of Pilkhana framed charges against the suspected accused on October 26.

Prosecutor of the case Maj Mokaid Mohammad Ali had described 11 kinds of

charges against the accused, including illegal use of armoured personnel carrier.

Chief judge of the court Col Khandaker Obaidul Ahsan adjourned the court till 9:00 am today.

At the Special Court-9, prosecutor of the case Lt Col Mizanur Rahman cross-examined three defence witnesses after they placed their depositions in favour of as many accused of Record Wing having 111 accused.

Allegations against suspects of the unit include abandoning the Darbar Hall and expressing solidarity with the mutineers, staging rebellion with firearms, instigation, distributing leaflets and taking no measure to control mutiny.

However, Tasrifia Sultana, wife of accused lance nayek Imdadul Haque, Shilpi Aktar wife of accused nayek assistant Mohammad Ali and Abdul Kader, tenant of sepoy assistant Abdul Kader gave their depositions for the jawans.

The wives denied the allegations brought against their husbands and told the court their husbands were with them at home during the mutiny.

On the other hand, tenant Abdul Kader told the court that he saw accused Abdul Kader run into his home in the morning on February 25 and that the accused remained at home for next two days.

BDR Dhaka Sector Commander Col Habibul Karim presided over the court that was set up at 13 Rifle Battalion.

Charges against 111 BDR personnel were framed on October 25 while depositions and cross-examination of all 48 witnesses were completed on December 23.

The court has been adjourned till 10:00am today. Lt Col Mizanur Rahman will present argument before the court today.

INT'L CRIMES TRIBUNAL

Rana Dasgupta appointed prosecutor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court lawyer and human rights activist Advocate Rana Dasgupta has been appointed as a prosecutor at the International Crimes Tribunal.

He was appointed under section 7 (1) of International Crimes Tribunal Act, 1973, says a press release.

Rana is the eighth prosecutor of the tribunal, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed told the Daily Star.

"We intend to appoint even more prosecutors in the future to reinforce the tribunal," said the law minister.

Fakhrul urges govt not to harass TIB officials

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday urged the government not to harass the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) officials and take effective steps to remove corruption from the country.

Making the call from a protest rally, he said the picture of corruption in judiciary, administration and various sectors of the government that came out in the TIB report is "quite alarming" for the nation.

Dhaka City south unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), associate student wing of BNP, organised the rally at the city's Muktangon protesting the arrest of JCD south unit Senior Joint Convenor Ishaq

Sarker and demanding his immediate release.

Addressing the rally as chief guest, Fakhrul accused the government of being oppressive, saying that it does not abide by law.

"The government arrests the opposition leaders and workers when they come to court for seeking bail," he said.

The BNP leader demanded midterm election and asked the government to resign immediately as it "failed in every sector."

JCD city south unit Convenor Habibur Rashid Habib presided over the rally while Fazlul Huq Milon, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie MP, Moazzem Hossain Alal, Shirin Sultana and Sultan Salahuddin, among others, addressed the rally.



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