

Sixty mutineers in Kurigram, Rangpur jailed

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Sixty jawans of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) were sentenced to jail yesterday for their involvement in mutiny in Kurigram and Rangpur on February 26 in 2009.

In Kurigram, The special court-13 sentenced 49 mutineers of 27 Battalion to prison terms ranging from four months to five years. The court also fined the convicts Tk 100 each, reports our correspondent.

On November 22, 2010, the court brought mutiny charges against 50 members of the battalion.

Headed by Dinajpur Sector Commander Col Md Saleh Ahmad, the court pronounced the verdict, acquitting one of the accused as mutiny charge brought against him could not be proved.

Two other members of the court are Lt Col Md Mahfuz Alam and Major Muhammad Masud Ul Islam. Deputy Attorney General Sree Biswajit Roy and special public prosecutors advocate Md Rafiqul Islam Mithu and advocate Md Mokhlesur Rahman were present.

Our Rangpur correspon-

dent reported that 11 mutineers of Rangpur sector headquarters were sentenced to jail terms ranging from four months to seven years.

The Special Court-13, headed by Dinajpur Sector Commander Col Md Saleh Ahmad also fined the convicts Tk 100 each. Two other members of the court are Col Saleh Ahmad and Lt Col Mahfuz Alam.

According to the prosecution, the jawans revolted against their officers at the sector headquarters on February 26 in 2009, looted arms and ammunition from armoury and put up barricades on Rangpur-Dinajpur highway.

Nayek Subedar Rafiqul Islam of the sector headquarters filed the mutiny case against 11 jawans.

The special court-13 will deliver judgement in the mutiny case against 13 members of Dinajpur Sector today, according to our correspondent.

The trial of the mutineers started on November 27 last year. All the accused confessed to their involvement in the mutiny at the sector headquarters on February 29 in 2009 and begged for mercy.

During hearing of the

case, the prosecution witnesses gave their statement before the court headed by Dinajpur Sector Commander Col Saleh Ahmad.

Junior Commanding Officer (JCO) Enamul Haque of the BGB sector brought the charges against the accused. Major Tareq Iftekarul Khan is the prosecutor of the case.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent adds: The special court-15 yesterday completed recorded depositions of 42 out of 74 prosecution witnesses against 69 accused in the case for mutiny at 11 Batalian under Ramgarh upazila in Khagrachhari district.

On today 22 witnesses gave deposition in the court. Earlier, 20 witnesses gave statement against the 69 accused jawans in the same court on February-10, 2011.

The three-member special court, headed by Khagrachhari BGB Sector Commander Lt Col Abu Wahab Mohammad Hafizul Haque, adjourned the trial proceedings until 9:00am today.

Two others member of the court are Lt Col Sayedis Sakline and Major AZM Golam Mostafa AL Mamun.



Relatives of Bangladeshis trapped in troubled Libya stage a sit-in and form a human chain in front of Chapainawabganj Press Club yesterday demanding immediate steps to bring the expatriates back home.

'Bring back the trapped expats'

Worried relatives hold procession, rally, human chain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A large number of relatives of Bangladeshis trapped in troubled Libya yesterday brought out a procession, formed human chain and held a rally in the town demanding immediate steps to bring the expats back home.

Speakers at a rally in front of deputy commissioner's office said, more than 500 workers from Chapainawabganj are stranded in Libya due to anti-government protests. Most of them are running short of food and water while their life is in danger, they said.

"Our trapped relatives are living

in human conditions in Libya. Please save them. Please tell the government to do something for our hapless relatives. We are passing sleepless night as their life is at stake," said the speakers.

Earlier the processionists paraded the main streets of the town and formed a human chain in front of Chapainawabganj Press Club.

Over 500 people including women and children took part in the programmes.

In Tangail, family members and relatives of over 100 expatriates who went to Libya from different villages of Kanchanpur union under Basail upazila yesterday demanded safe

return of their near and dear ones.

They placed the demand at a press conference at Tangail Press Club, reports our correspondent.

The family members of the expatriates said they are passing days in grave concern since the expatriates informed them about their condition over mobile phone recently.

Wives and children of many expatriates also burst into tears at the press conference and demanded urgent steps for their safe return.

Later they formed a human chain in front of the press club.

On Saturday, people of Jagannathpur under Bhairab upazila of Kishoreganj put up a

barricade on Dhaka-Sylhet highway demanding government initiatives to bring back the trapped expatriate Bangladeshis living in Libya.

Family members and relatives of the victims said, over 1000 of Bhairab upazila have been working in Libya, reports UNB.

They people said that their expatriate relatives have informed that they have been passing days in great risk since the beginning of the movement against the rule of Gaddafi.

The protesters also threatened to go for tougher agitation if the government did not take immediate steps to bring back the expatriates safely.

SIX-POINT DEMAND

Villagers of Phulbari, Barapukuria block highway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Hundreds of villagers of Phulbari and victims of Barapukuria land subsidence yesterday blocked Dinajpur-Bogra highway protesting government plan for setting up an open pit mine in the region.

The hour-long programme halted the district's road communications with several other districts while about 500 passenger buses and vehicles remained stranded on both sides of the highway.

National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Seaports, Phulbari unit organised the blockade at 11:00am.

Around 2000 villagers of Phulbari upazila and Barapukuria of Parbatipur upazila, along with banners gathered on the highway. They chanted slogans against the move for open pit mining.

At a rally at Dhakamore, the speakers urged the government to implement their 6-point demand signed on August 31, 2006

after the August 26 Phulbari carnage.

Three people were killed as the law enforcers opened fire on the agitating crowds on the day.

The rally also demanded long-term crop compensation for the victims of land subsidence around Barapukuria Coal Mine, their rehabilitation and introduction of rationing system.

The leaders of the committee also announced roads and railways blockade programme in the district for six hours on March 28 if their demands are not met by March 27.

Convener of central committee Engineer Sheikh Md Shahidullah, convener of district committee Altaf Hossain, among others, spoke on the occasion with convener of the Phulbari unit of the committee Saiful Islam Jewel in chair.

Local committee member SM Nuruzzaman said the government committed 6-point Phulbari agreement but it is yet to be implemented fully although four and half years have passed after the agreement.

Strike at Mymensingh medical continues

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Interns and students at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital continued their strike for the fourth consecutive day yesterday protesting the attack on them by outsiders on Thursday night.

They staged a sit-in demonstration and brought out processions on the campus demanding arrest and punishment of the attackers.

Meanwhile, The MMC academic council and district administration sat for a number of times yesterday but failed to make any headway in the deadlock.

The strike caused untold sufferings to the patients of the hospital although the intern doctors claimed that they have formed emergency squad for the treat-

ment of serious patients.

Earlier, interns and people of nearby Charpara area locked in an altercation over harassing a female intern doctor by a local on Thursday night.

Following the incident, a group of people of the area launched an attack on the interns and vandalised different rooms of the hospital.

Later, the intern and students on Saturday went on indefinite strike demanding arrest and punishment of the attackers in 72 hours.

The 72 hour ultimatum for arrest of the attacks will expire today.

Meanwhile police arrested two more alleged attackers yesterday. The first arrest was made on Friday.



In a written statement at a press conference in Rajshahi city yesterday, Serafina Mardi demanded security of her family as they are still being threatened by the community leaders.

SERAFINA MARDI'S SUICIDE

Court rejects bail prayers of ten arrestees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi court yesterday rejected bail prayers of ten people who were arrested on February 23 on charge of provoking Serafina Mardi's suicide through illegal out-of-court settlement.

Gang-raped on April 4 last year, indigenous girl Serafina, 14, daughter of Cornelius Mardi of Amtulipara in Godagari upazila, recently committed suicide following out-of-court settlement by own community leaders who decided her marriage with one of the rapists.

Police produced the accused in the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, seeking a five-day remand of Father Bernard

Follow-up

Tudu of Surshunipara Catholic Church and community leaders Biswanath Tudu and Monir Murmu.

Rejecting the remand prayer, the judicial magistrate Rejaul Karim sent them to jail. Other accused in the case are Amin Murmu, Lobin Hembrom, Samuel Mardi, Jotin Hembrom, Poresh Murmu, Biswanath Tudu, and Sisti Tudu.

Sub Inspector Aatur Rahman lodged the case.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Adivasi Parishad (JAP) at a press conference here yesterday demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the rapists and others responsible for influencing the court verdict following the out-of-

court settlement that led to Serafina's suicide.

In a written statement at the conference, Serafina's sister Sabina Mardi demanded security of her family members at Amtulipara village.

She said her family members are still under pressure of the community leaders who forced them to provide misleading information before the court and Serafina's rape case in arbitration.

Local chapters of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association and Bangladesh Mohila Parishad have started working to provide legal support to the victim's family members who are now facing ill-treatment by their own community.



Primary teachers took out a procession at Santhia upazila headquarters in Pabna yesterday demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the killer of school-teacher Arifa Khatun.

Santhia teachers, students demand punishment of Arifa's killer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Pabna court yesterday placed arrested van driver Robiul on a five day remand in connection with schoolteacher Arifa Khatun murder case.

Meanwhile, teachers and students of all primary schools in Santhia upazila yesterday staged a demonstration at all upazila headquarters demanding arrest and exemplary punishment of the killer.

The primary teachers will abstain from attending classes for three days from today protesting murder of Arifa and demanding immediate arrest of the killer.

Arifa Khatun, assistant teacher of Vainapara Government Primary

School in Santhia upazila, was chopped to death inside a classroom on Sunday noon.

Arifa's killer fled the area on a three-wheeler van immediately after the killing. Atakula police in a drive on Sunday night arrested the van driver, Robiul Islam, at Chowbaria village of Santhia upazila.

Police produced Robiul in the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court, yesterday noon. After hearing, judicial Magistrate Laila Sharmin placed him on a five-day remand.

Santha Upazila Primary Teachers yesterday announced that they would wear black badges and hoist black flags atop all primary schools in the upazila for three days from today.

Villagers beat up teachers as student dies after caning

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Agitated villagers beat up two teachers on Sunday following death of a school-girl who was caned by a teacher in Bauful upazila.

Victim Marium Akter, 10, was a student of class three of Shaheed Jalal Govt. Primary School and daughter of Altaf Akon and Lal Bibi of Chhatrakanda village under the upazila.

Family and police sources said, Marium could not attend classes for some days due to jaundice. When she went to school on Saturday her class teacher Idris Akon allegedly beat her with cane for not preparing home tasks.

After coming home from school she suffered a severe fever at night and died at about 4pm on Sunday.

Hearing the death news of Marium several hundred villagers rushed to the school and beat up the class teacher Idris Akon and headmaster Abu Hanif.

Idris Akon took medical treatment locally while headmaster Abu Hanif was admitted to Barisal Medical College Hospital.

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