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PILKHANA MUTINY ANNIVERSARY

Make probe reports public

Family members want to know who masterminded the 2009 massacre and why

SHARIFUL ISLAM and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The family members of 2009 Pilkhana massacre victims say they are still in the dark about the reasons behind such a bloodshed and who masterminded the killing of so many people.

They also demand the investigation reports over the incident be made public and justice be served making sure no innocent is punished.

"We want the real culprits to be punished, not any innocent," Nehreen Ferdousi, wife of slain Col Mojibul Haque, told The Daily Star.

She also said they want to know the reason behind the massacre.

Saqui Rahman, son of slain Col Kuadrat Elahi Rahman Shafique, said the High Court in its verdict (in 2017) asked the BCB authorities to investigate the failures of its intelligence unit to detect the impending 2009 mutiny.

The HC also advised the authorities to make the probe report public as soon as possible.

"We still don't know whether an



investigation was carried out," said Saquib, who is also a lawyer.

He demanded the investigation reports over the incident -- one by a probe committee of the Bangladesh Army and the other led by a civil servant -- be made public.

"Ultimately the Appellate Division will deliver its verdict and the convicts may be executed. But we hope that we may get to know who conspired and masterminded such a massacre and why," said Saquib, demanding formation of a judicial inquiry committee under a retired Supreme Court justice.

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THINKING LITTLE BEFORE DOING ... Without any safety gear, a construction worker demolishing a building in Aminbazar, on the outskirts of the capital, yesterday. He is unaware that he is trying to get the rods he is standing on out. Many such buildings were recently torn down by their owners besides the Dhaka-Aricha highway to make way for a development project.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

RAPE VICTIMS HC issues rule on the govt for compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain in a week why it should not be directed to outline a scheme to ensure compensation for rape victims to make their constitutional right to life effective and meaningful.

In the rule, the court asked the authorities concerned with the government to show causes why their failure to take appropriate steps for rehabilitation of rape victims should not be declared illegal.

It also asked them to reply why they should not be ordered to give adequate compensation to three children of Dinajpur, Rangpur, and Khulna, who were raped in 2017 and last year in separate incidents, and why police should not be directed to produce the medical and investigation reports in connection with the incidents before the court.

Secretaries to the ministries of home, and women and children affairs, health, finance, chairman of National Legal Aid Services Organisation, inspector general of police, commissioners of

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Why did they kill my son?

Says a stunned father after ID'ing the body of 3-yr-old kidnapped from Gazipur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three-year-old boy whose body was recovered from a rooftop water tank in the capital's Shyampur area on Tuesday was kidnapped by a masked man from Gazipur on Saturday.

The victim was Nihad Islam, only son of Hanif Ali and Nargis Begum, who are workers of a garment factory in the district.

Hanif went to Dhaka Medical College morgue yesterday afternoon after seeing the news of the recovery of a minor boy's body.

He identified the swollen and decomposed body as that of his son's when he saw a key and a small bell tied with a string around the boy's waist.

Talking to The Daily Star, Hanif said Nihad was abducted after the boy went with his mother to her garment factory in Board Bazar area in Gazipur.

A CCTV camera installed in front of the factory showed a masked man taking him away, the father said. The parents filed a complaint with the local police station in this regard.

"My son was killed brutally. We are very poor and we do not have any known enemies. Why did they kill my son? We want justice," he said.

Hanif said no one called him demanding ransom for the return of his child.

Sub-inspector Mahbubur Rahman of Shyampur Police Station said the body was handed over to family members after an autopsy at DMCH.

Police are yet to arrest anyone in this regard, he added.

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Shahadat goes to tribunal for scrapping of polls results

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP mayoral candidate in Chattogram City Corporation polls Shahadat Hossain filed a case with the Election Tribunal yesterday, alleging that the election result was manipulated by EC officials.

He demanded cancellation of the January 27 election result and a re-election.

The case was lodged with the court of First Joint District Judge of Chattogram Khairul Amin. Shahadat told The Daily Star.

"In my appeal, I have said the Election Commission has given the printed copies of results of 20 booths out of 4,885 to my polling agents. They provided the handwritten result sheets of the rest 4,865 booths and the results were manipulated,"

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Dogs came to North America with earliest humans

AFP, Paris



Scientists said yesterday they had discovered the oldest remains of a domestic dog in the Americas dating back more than 10,000 years, suggesting the animals accompanied the first waves of human settlers.

Humans are thought to have migrated to North America from Siberia over what is today the Bering Strait at the end of the last Ice Age -- between 30,000 and 11,000 years ago.

The history of dogs has been intertwined with man since ancient times, and studying canine DNA can provide a good timeline for human

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Bangladesh, US to work together on crucial issues

Momen meets Blinken in Washington DC

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and Washington have agreed to work together to promote democracy, good governance and human rights while further strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation on global issues.

The consensus came during a phone conversation between Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken late Tuesday.

Momen is currently on a visit to Washington DC -- the first one after Joe Biden assumed power and announced that his administration would work on addressing climate change, promoting multilateralism, democracy,

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26.73 lakh vaccinated in 15 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of people vaccinated for Covid-19 rose to 2,673,038 as the vaccination campaign entered the 15th day yesterday.

Yesterday, a total of 181,985 people have vaccinated in around 1,010 vaccination centres across the country, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) press release.

Considering the target to inoculate 13.68 crore citizens in the country, around 1.95 percent have been vaccinated.

The number of people registered for Covid-19 vaccines rose to 3,861,876

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 25

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:20 12:45 4:30 6:03 7:30
JAMAAT 5:55 1:15 4:45 6:07 8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A school van has been transferred into a mobile shop as the van-puller was sitting idle for the last 11 months due to the nationwide closure of all educational institutions over the coronavirus pandemic. The photo was taken in the capital's Moghbazar area.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

DETECTION OF SEVERAL VARIANTS India warns states of worsening Covid situation

REUTERS, New Delhi

India announced an expansion of its vaccination programme yesterday but warned that breaches of coronavirus protocols could worsen an infection surge in many states, particularly after it detected several variants.

Nearly a month after the health minister declared that Covid-19 had been contained, states such as Maharashtra in the west and Kerala in the south have reported a surge in cases, as reluctance grows over mask-wearing and social distancing.

India's infections are the second highest in the world at 11.03 million, swelled in the past 24 hours by 13,742, health ministry data shows. Deaths rose by a two-week high of 104 to 156,567.

"Any laxity in implementing stringent measures to curb the spread, especially in view of new strains of virus ... could compound the situation," the ministry said in a statement singling out nine states and a federal territory.

India has confirmed the long-time presence of two mutant variants - N440K and E484Q - in addition to those first detected in Brazil, Britain and South Africa.

The ministry said that while cases in the states of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab, as well as the federal territory of Jammu and Kashmir, were rising, the proportion of high-accuracy RT-PCR tests in those places was falling. Cases have also risen in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

In the past week, a third of India's 36 states and union territories have reported an average of more than 100 new cases each day, with Kerala and Maharashtra both reporting

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