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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.

The 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.

Saquiub 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 Saquiub, 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 Saquiub, demanding formation of a judicial inquiry committee under a retired Supreme Court justice.

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Without any safety gear, a construction worker demolishing an establishment in Aminbazar, on the outskirts of the capital, yesterday. He could fall and badly hurt himself.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

RAPE VICTIMS HC issues rule on 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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MAN KILLED IN 'GUNFIGHT' A trucker, not drug dealer

Says family, rejects Rab claims

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

A man, who was killed in an alleged gunfight with Rab-10 in Dhaka's Keraniganj on Friday, was the driver of a truck that ran over and killed a Rab member in Mymensingh's Bhaluka on February 14.

Four days after the so-called gunfight, family members of the deceased identified the body at the Dhaka Medical College morgue around 1:00am on Tuesday.

The deceased was Shafiq Sheikh, 35, son of Abed Sheikh of a Jamalpur village, his brother-in-law Mohammad Manik told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said Shafiq worked as a technician at the Tongi truck stand and was behind the wheels of the truck that killed the Rab man in Bhaluka.

Manik claimed that Shafiq had been missing since the accident on February 14.

After police informed them that about his death and that the body was kept at the DMC morgue, Shafiq's wife and other family members went there for identification, Manik added.

On February 19, Bachchu Mia, inspector of a police outpost at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said members of Rab-10 took a man with multiple gun wounds to the hospital and that he died soon afterwards.

DMC sources said the man was taken there around 5:20am that day.

Throughout the rest of the day, Rab officials did not disclose how the man died or who he was.

In the evening, they finally spoke and claimed that the deceased was a drug dealer, who was killed in a gunfight with Rab-10 earlier in the day in Keraniganj's Swapnadhara area.

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Shahadat goes to tribunal for cancellation 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 transformed into a mobile shop as it was out of service for a long time due to the nationwide closure of educational institutions over the coronavirus pandemic.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

DETECTION OF SEVERAL VARIANTS India warns states of worsening Covid situation

Expands vaccination programme

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-

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