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SECOND EDITION



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"If high-rises are built to accommodate thousands of people, roads and other facilities must be ensured."
LGRD MINISTER AND DAP CONVENER TAJUL ISLAM

"In the United States of America, this cannot justify the disenfranchisement of a single voter, let alone all the voters of its sixth most populated state."
JUDGE MATTHEW BRANN AS HE TOSSES OUT TRUMP'S PENNSYLVANIA LAWSUIT ON VOTER FRAUD

"The present world system is certainly unsustainable from a number of points of view and is harming our sister earth."
POPE FRANCIS CALLS FOR A NEW, MORE JUST ECONOMIC MODEL

Govt changes, but his 'magic' goes on

'Golden Monir' worked the system since 2001 to grab 202 plots in city, made Tk 930cr transactions with 25 banks, find investigators

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MUNTAKIM SAAD

The rise of Monir Hossain, also known as Golden Monir, over almost two decades was unaffected by regime change because he knew how to keep high-ups in the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakha and the housing and public works ministry happy.



currently under construction. Besides, he also has a car dealership on Pragati Sarani called Auto Car Selection and, till recently, was one of the owners of ZamZam Tower in Uttara.

Investigators also found that he has property in Keraniganj and Turag areas. In 25 bank accounts including 19 in one private bank, Monir has had transactions totalling over Tk 930 crore -- Tk 412.12 crore in credit and Tk 518.20 crore in debit -- and has loans of about Tk 110 crore with different banks, investigators found.

He is also involved in laundering money and has siphoned huge sums abroad through hundi.

The investigators said although he has wealth and income of over a thousand crore taka, his income tax file says a different story.

According to his 2019-20 income tax file, Monir showed wealth worth Tk 25.82 crore and income of Tk 1.04 crore.

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Black smoke billowing out of a factory in Kadamtali Munshikhola area beside the Dhaka-Narayanganj road. Various factories, including re-rolling mills, have been increasing the air pollution level there for years now, causing locals to suffer immeasurably.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

THE BUSINESS

Denim Expert: a champion in sustainability

Despite facing numerous work order cancellations and suspension of most exports because of the coronavirus pandemic, Denim Expert Ltd did not lay off any of its workers. The 2,000 people employed by the Chattogram-based company did not face any salary reductions either, said the company's Managing Director Mostafiz Uddin.

STORY ON B1

They're enemy of state, nation

Observes HC about those who laundered money abroad, asks authorities to stop it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued an injunction to restrain people from laundering money abroad, observing that those who do so have no patriotism and betray the country.

Issuing a suo moto (voluntary) rule, the HC directed intelligence agencies to take appropriate steps to stop the laundering of money.

The court ordered respondents to submit the details, including names and addresses of the people who launder money abroad, to the court by December 17.

The respondents are the chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, secretaries concerned of the ministries of home and foreign affairs, governor of Bangladesh Bank and its financial intelligence unit, chairman of Board of Revenue, and the deputy commissioner of Dhaka.

The HC also issued a rule asking them to explain in four weeks why their inaction to take appropriate measures against perpetrators involved in illegal money laundering should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Ahmed Sohel also set December 17 for

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Dhaka's air quality getting worse

Raises fresh Covid-19 concern as pollution poses greater risk for people with respiratory problems

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Raziur Rahman has just recovered from Covid-19 after staying a week at a government hospital.

He has asthma and doctors advised him to stay away from dust and try not to catch a cold because these would aggravate his respiratory problems.

But the air in Dhaka deteriorates substantially during winter and so does the health of Raziur and his 7-year-old son Razin Rahman, who suffers from a cold and persistent cough throughout winter.

Their predicament is shared by thousands as the Department of Environment (DoE) found the air quality starting to dip from October.

According to the Air Quality Index monitored by the DoE's Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) project, the average AQI in Dhaka was 117.4 in October and 194 in November.

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Govt to keep all safe from Covid

PM assures people, asks them not to worry if virus situation worsens in winter

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday assured the people that the government has paid special attention to keep them safe from coronavirus amid apprehensions of deterioration of the situation in winter.

She said the government will procure a vaccine as soon as it is available and has already paid in advance to get the vaccine once it is ready.

"We've given special attention to how to secure people [from coronavirus] putting aside other issues ... So, the people of the country don't need to be anxious," she said while opening various development projects, including three bridges, in Magura, Narayanganj, Jashore and Pabna via video conference from the Gono Bhavan.

Hasina said another wave of coronavirus is coming worldwide and the government is taking its preparations from now to face that.

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Badal Roy no more

STAR SPORT DESK

Badal Roy, an iconic footballer of the national team, breathed his last at a hospital in Dhaka yesterday. He was 62.

Roy was suffering from liver cancer as well as a few other ailments. He breathed his last while undergoing treatment at the Bangladesh Medical College at 5:35pm.

Around 11:00am today, his body will be taken to Mohammedan Sporting Club and then to Bangabandhu National Stadium at noon, so that his family, friends, colleagues and loyal supporters can pay their last respects.

He will then be cremated at Sabujbag Kali

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Children joyfully picking water hyacinths from a pond in Kurapur area of Barishal's Sadar upazila. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

WHO envoy fears Covid third wave

Calls Europe's response 'incomplete', lauds Asia

AGENCIES

A World Health Organization (WHO) special Covid-19 envoy has predicted a third wave of the pandemic in Europe in early 2021, if governments repeat what he said was a failure to do what was needed to prevent the second wave of infections.

"They missed building up the necessary infrastructure during the summer months, after they brought the first wave under the control," the WHO's David Nabarro said in an interview with Swiss newspapers.

"Now we have the second wave. If they don't build the necessary infrastructure, we'll have a third wave early next year," said Nabarro, a Briton who campaigned unsuccessfully to become the WHO director general in 2017.

Europe briefly enjoyed sinking infection rates that are now surging again: Germany and France on Saturday saw cases rise by 33,000 combined, Switzerland and Austria have thousands of cases daily, while Turkey reported a record 5,532 new infections.

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 1,381,915 people since the outbreak emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 11:00 GMT yesterday.

At least 58,165,460 cases of coronavirus have been registered. Of these, at least 37,053,500 are now considered recovered.

On Saturday, 9,021 new deaths and 580,396 new cases were recorded worldwide. Based on latest reports, the countries with the most new deaths were United States with 1,503 new deaths, followed by Italy with 692 and

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