



The Daily Star



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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 story of Monir Hossain, also known as "Golden Monir", is one of a salesperson in local malls in the 1990s who ascended the ladder of corruption by smuggling in gold bars and then keeping Rajuk and housing and public works ministry high-ups happy.



2001 and 2006. Blessed by an influential minister of the BNP-led government and Rajuk Chairman Abdur Rahman, Monir became a big player in Badda's DIT project and grabbed a good number of plots.

The ruling party changed, but Monir's march went on. He recently presented a Prado SUV to an incumbent state minister.

The result -- 202 plots worth Tk 200 crore in Dhaka, of which 192 plots are in Badda alone. Seven of his plots are in Purbachal, a 70-katha plot and a school in Nikunja and he is also the owner of Safa Tower in Uttara, which is currently under construction.

Besides, he is one of the owners of ZamZam Tower in Uttara and also has a car business on Pragati Sarani, called Auto Car Selection.

In 25 bank accounts including 19 accounts alone in one private bank, Monir has had transactions totalling over Tk 930 crore -- Tk 412.12 crore in credit and Tk

Golden Monir was arrested by Rapid Action Battalion on Saturday from his six-storey building on Road-11, Merul Badda after a 12-hour raid. The raid was conducted based on information from an intelligence agency.

Rab recovered gold ornaments weighing 8kg, Tk 1.09 crore in cash, Tk 9 lakh in currencies of 10 countries, five SUVs, a pistol, four bullets and four litres foreign liquor.

Monir's climb up the ladder of corruption was not affected by changing regimes. His initial surge, investigators said, in amassing wealth and property was between



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

38 more die from Covid in a day

2,060 test positive

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh reported 38 more Covid-19 deaths in past 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, taking the number of fatalities to 6,388.

The country also recorded 2,060 new cases at that time, pushing the infection number to 447,341. The death rate stood at 1.43 percent, said a press release of the Directorate General of Health Services.

So far, 362,428 patients -- 81.02 percent -- including 2,076 new ones in the last 24 hours have recovered.

Of the 38 deaths, 28 are males and 10 females, the release said.

Bangladesh reported its first Covid-19 cases on March 8. The infection

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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 worsening the virus situation in winter.

She said the government will procure a vaccine as soon as it is available and has already given advance money for booking a vaccine which is about to be invented.

"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 through video conference from the Gono Bhaban.

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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