

Bangladesh allowance

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concern to Pakistan President Yahya Khan over the secret military trial of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Bandarnaik was one of the 32 heads of states and governments who Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had addressed over Bangabandhu's trial.

CHINA PROVES UNWORTHY OF SOCIALIST LEADERSHIP

Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra today derided China for betraying the cause of Bangladesh's liberation struggle. It said, "It is amazing to note the dearth of suggestions from China camp for the 75 million people of Bangladesh. What, these so-called socialists think, should the people of Bangladesh do? They are being massacred without respite, without trial unless they belong to such communal and reactionary hordes as the Jamat-i-Islami and Muslim League or unless they agree to become out-and-out traitors of the people. Their properties

are being looted or expropriated under one pretext or another. Their sisters and wives are being brutally raped. What must they do faced with such a terrible fate? Do these Chinese and the Sinophiles want them to lick Pakistani boots and beg mercy, mercy that they may not be blessed with, just because that would help the Chinese foreign policy? Well, sorry, we refuse to do that. We refuse to do that because history tells us to wage this war. This is a just war because it is a struggle for people's liberation."

The clandestine radio station further said, "We have no doubt that with this act against the people of Bangladesh, China has put herself on the dock of history. She had a great role to play. A role to lead the downtrodden of the world toward a great future. But she has now proved herself unworthy of such noble leadership. This is, indeed, the most shameful phase in China's history."

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Venomous sea snakes

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Lynch, and this was more common in the May-August mating season.

During this period male sea snakes look for females and start courting them as soon as they see them, study co-author Rick Shine, professor of biological sciences at Macquarie University, Sydney, told CNN.

This largely involves flicking the female's body with his tongue to check the chemicals on her skin to make sure she is the right species and sex, added Shine.

"Then aligning his body with hers, maybe wrapping coils around her to hold her in place so he can position himself for copulation," said Shine. "But females often aren't interested, so they zoom away and hide in the coral."

Male sea snakes were more likely than females to approach divers, particularly during mating season, according to the study.

In some cases they would flick their tongue at the diver, and in 13 cases they charged at the diver. When a male sea snake charged the diver it came straight after an unsuccessful chase of a female, or following an interaction with a rival male.

Charges by females were observed after they had been chased by males, or had interacted with the diver before losing sight of him.

In three cases male sea snakes coiled around the diver's fin, which is normally observed during courtship.

"These patterns suggest that 'attacks' by sea snakes on humans result from mistaken identity during sexual interactions," reads the study.

Sea snakes may find it difficult to identify shapes under water, according to previous research.

The team suggests that divers should stay still and let the sea snake investigate them using its tongue.

Homegrown mRNA Covid

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based vaccines yet in its immunisation programme ahead of a potential third coronavirus wave.

"It's too early to get excited about this [Gennova] vaccine as phase-3 trials are yet to be completed. By the time this vaccine reaches the market, India would have vaccinated a majority of its population already," said Prashant Khadayat, a pharma analyst at GlobalData.

Developing an mRNA vaccine would however help India "display its scientific innovation at a global level", Khadayat added.

The technology behind Gennova's vaccine, also used in shots made by US drugmakers Moderna Inc and Pfizer Inc, prompts the human body to make a protein that is part of the virus to trigger an immune response.

Gennova is also investing in scaling up its vaccine manufacturing capacity. Its parent firm, Emure Pharmaceuticals, filed draft papers with the market regulator for an initial public offering last week.

In the last 24 hours, India has recorded 25,467 new cases of Covid-19, taking the total count to 3,24,74,773. The country's death toll has risen by 354 to 4,35,110.

The coronavirus has killed at least 4,439,888 people worldwide since the outbreak emerged in China in December 2019, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP yesterday.

Israel is seeing signs of an impact on the country's high infection and severe illness rates fuelled by the fast-spreading Delta variant less than a month into a vaccine booster drive, officials and scientists said.

Delta hit Israel in June, just as the country began to reap the benefits of one of the world's fastest vaccine roll-

outs.

With an open economy and most curbs scrapped, Israel went from single-digit daily infections and zero deaths to around 7,500 daily cases last week, 600 people hospitalized in serious condition and more than 150 people dying in that week alone.

The country yesterday lowered the age threshold to receive a third booster dose to anyone aged 30 and above.

NZ COVID CASES JUMP
New Zealand has recorded its highest increase in Covid cases since April 2020, as authorities warned this current outbreak of the Delta variant was like dealing with a whole new virus, reports Reuters.

Authorities reported 41 new cases yesterday, taking the total infections in the country to 148, the Director General of Health Ashley Bloomfield said at a news conference.

New York City will require public school teachers and staff to get vaccinated against Covid-19, Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Monday, part of a push to get more residents inoculated and slow the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant.

All 148,000 staff members in the largest US school district must get at least one dose of a vaccine by September 27 as part of the mandate, de Blasio said. In a first for city employees, Department of Education staff will no longer have the option to submit to weekly testing instead.

Greece's government yesterday announced an array of new restrictions and the end of free testing for those who remain unjabbed against Covid-19 in an effort to boost vaccination rates.

Starting from September 13, unvaccinated employees in the private and public sectors will have to be tested at their own expense once or twice a week, depending on their profession.

Millions 'one step away'

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Roughly five million people "are one step away from succumbing to famine and the diseases that go with it", he warned.

An additional 10 million people "are right behind them", added Griffiths.

"Famine isn't just a food problem. It's a symptom of a much deeper collapse. In many ways, it is all of Yemen's problems rolled into one, and it demands a comprehensive response," he said.

Much of the country's starvation is tied to the extreme depreciation of Yemen's national currency and the collapse of the economy, with GDP plummeting 40 percent since 2015 when Iran-backed Houthi rebels seized control of the country.

The Yemeni riyal, meanwhile, is trading at record lows to the US dollar. Khaled Mohamed Khiari, assistant UN secretary-general for the Middle East, raised further alarm over widespread fuel shortages that are worsening in Houthi-controlled territories.

Only three ships carrying oil supplies were allowed to dock at Yemen's strategic port city of Hodeidah since July, while four others

remain in a holding area controlled by the Saudi Arabia-led, anti-Houthi coalition, Khiari said.

The port of Hodeidah - which has remained largely shut over the years - is Yemen's main port and a major lifeline for humanitarian supplies entering the country, which the UN has described as "the world's worst humanitarian disaster".

All but one Yemen Petroleum station in Houthi-controlled territories have closed because of the shortages, and waiting times to refill gas canisters used for cooking have reached one month, according to the UN.

"We reiterate our call on the government of Yemen to urgently allow the entry of all essential commercial supplies, including fuel ships to Hodeidah without delay," said Khiari.

"All parties must prioritise civilian needs and abstain from weaponising the economy, particularly in light of the critical humanitarian situation in the country."

In March, Saudi Arabia offered a nationwide ceasefire in Yemen, but the Houthis rejected the proposal, calling for a complete end to the Saudi-led blockade on the country's ports and Sanaa airport first.



Vietnam soldiers deliver food into strict lockdown areas amid the coronavirus disease pandemic in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

A principal mired in corruption

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monthly pay order (MPO) facilities.

On August 17, Abdul Kader, assistant director (college-3) of DSHE, issued a letter mentioning Wadud's MPO facilities has been withheld as the allegation of fund embezzlement, irregularities and misdeeds were proven against him.

Kader also issued a show-cause notice on Wadud asking him to reply within seven days as to why his MPO will not be cancelled permanently.

In another letter, the officer requested the president of the college governing body to file a criminal case against Wadud and inform the DSHE of updates. The case is yet to be filed.

Sharif Enamul Kabir, the college governing body president, declined to comment on the report.

WHAT THE DIA REPORT SAYS
The teachers alleged that Wadud started embezzling college funds soon after he was appointed the acting principal in February 2012 by late local MP Aslamul Haque, who was the college's governing body president.

Haque, the governing body president, appointed Wadud, then a lecturer, as the acting principal bypassing the then vice-principal and several senior teachers and his appointment as the principal afterwards did not follow due procedure, found the DIA investigation.

Since he had the blessings of the lawmaker, no one dared to speak up against his corruption, the teachers said.

Along the way, Wadud enriched himself rather well.

The DIA investigation found Wadud took two personal loans with the amount never returned, owns two flats and paid a big amount for another 2,100 square feet flat in the capital that he booked and has an investment of Tk 10 lakh in the stock market and fixed deposit receipts.

The investigation also found a mismatch of Tk 5.66 core between the cash book income and the register of collection.

The four-member DIA audit team in their report mentioned 34 specific cases of irregularities, corruption and misappropriation of college funds

against Wadud.

He took Tk 5 lakh from the college fund for his father-in-law's medical treatment, Tk 3 lakh for construction of a three-storey building at his village home and Tk 2 lakh for purchasing floor tiles for one of his flats.

None of the amounts was returned, the DIA report said.

He embezzled Tk 6.8 lakh producing fictitious vouchers on purchase of construction materials for extension of the fifth and sixth floors of a college building in 2013 and another Tk 9.93 lakh producing a fake bill for making uniforms of college students.

Another Tk 15.04 lakh was spent for 'repairing benches' just 10 months after those were purchased from Lipi Furniture Mart.

Several teachers told The Daily Star Lipi Furniture Mart is owned by an Awami League leader and was a close associate of the lawmaker.

The furniture shop also got the commission to paint and renovate a college building, they said.

Lipi Furniture Mart getting work orders at different times without any tender was a violation of rules and ill-intended, the DIA report said.

The investigation also found Tk 10.80 lakh paid against a bill from Lipi Furniture Mart where no voucher was attached.

Spending more than Tk 10.17 lakh for constructing college boundary walls without any tender and disbursement of Tk 12.33 lakh as honorarium to members of the development sub-committee are against the rules, the report said.

During Wadud's tenure as the principal, Tk 18.49 lakh was spent for a street rally against drugs, terrorism and militancy and another Tk 6.45 lakh on education tours, which are unacceptable and tantamount to misappropriation.

The college did not give any money receipt to students it charged for testimonial, fees book and coaching fees, the DIA investigation found.

Since Wadud was appointed as the principal, 19 full-time teachers and 19 part-time teachers were recruited without following the rules and

regulations.

Several college teachers alleged that he took huge sums as bribes from those recruited in connivance with lawmaker Aslam, the former governing body president.

The DIA report also found that about Tk 24.25 crore were not deposited to banks, which it said was tantamount to temporary misappropriation.

Each students' ID card was priced between Tk 80 and Tk 90, but the investigation could not ascertain how much each of those actually cost.

The Daily Star contacted Arman Chowdhury, owner of Identity Source that supplied the ID cards, who said he charged much less than Tk 60 for each piece.

The college teachers said such ID cards are actually available in the market at Tk 35 per piece.

WHAT WADUD HAS TO SAY
The findings in the DIA report are false and he will apply for reinvestigation, Wadud said.

"It was not possible for me to provide all vouchers and documents of nine years to the committee in just three days," he told the correspondent on July 8.

He said he has all documents in hand and will appeal for reinvestigation after getting the DIA report.

Regarding the three flats mentioned in the DIA report, Wadud said he purchased the flat (at Janata Housing in Mirpur) by taking a bank loan of Tk 20 lakh and got a government flat at Swapanagar project through a lottery in 2014-2015.

He also admitted to having booked another flat at AK Udayan Development.

Wadud, who joined the college as a lecturer in the marketing department, said he purchased the flats with his savings and family support.

He told the correspondent that their village home in Natore was a two-storey building and now they are renovating it to a three-storey one.

During a recent visit at Wadud's ancestral home at Dorihasmari in Gurudaspur, our Natore correspondent found a newly constructed three-storey building beside the old two-storey one.

Court sets Oct 20

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Two other cases filed over undermining the national flag and celebrating "fake birthday" on August 15 also remain pending with the Second Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

Moreover, several other cases, including three arson cases filed with Cumilla's Chaudagram Police Station, are also now pending with Cumilla courts.

Khaleida, who is now out of jail following an executive order from the government, is staying at her Gulshan residence.

She was earlier released from the capital's Evercare Hospital after 54 days of treatment for Covid-19 and other complications.

Probe reports

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the official.

"No matter where they collected the liquor from, stockpiling or collecting such narcotics without any authorisation is illegal.

"Chemical and forensic tests are underway to find out whether all the seized products are narcotics. Subject to the report, the investigation report will be submitted before court within a month and half."

About the three phases of remand for Pori Moni, he said, "We did not interrogate her the first time. When we did in the second phase, there were some inconsistencies in the information she gave."

"Another remand prayer was submitted to verify those information."

About the arrestees' financial crimes, Mahbubur said, "We have asked the central bank for detailed information about any suspect [linked to the accused] involved in financial crimes."

"The money laundering cases have two stages -- one for verification and another for enquiry. We are now at the enquiry stage," he said, adding, "We have obtained reports from around 22 places. Once we receive all the reports, we will investigate whether money laundering has taken place... But we do not want to say everything right now as the issues are still under investigation."

Rab arrested Helena Jahangir, who had earlier lost her AL post, in her residence on July 29.

Two cases were filed against her with the Gulshan Police Station and one with Pallabi Police Station.

The next day, detectives arrested two models -- Faria Mahbub Piasha and Moriom Akter Mou -- in drug cases filed with Mohammadpur and Gulshan police stations.

On August 4, Rab has arrested Pori Moni in her Banani residence. Producer Nazrul Islam Raj was arrested the same day.

All the accused were charged under the Narcotics Control Act, Special Powers Act, Pornography Control Act and Arms Control Act.

Piasha and Helena have already given confessional statements in court.

Complainant

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deposition, lawyers of 12 accused out of 15 on Monday cross-examined her. Lawyers of the rest three accused cross-examined her yesterday, said the court's Public Prosecutor Faridul Alam.

The court's Judge Ismail Hossain on Monday started recording deposition of witnesses in the murder case. Sharmin was the first to testify.

There are a total of 83 witnesses mentioned in charge sheet. The court earlier summoned 15 of them to appear before the court and place their depositions in the first phase between August 23 and August 25.

Complying with the court directive, Sinha's associate Shahedul Islam Sifat yesterday appeared before the court that began recording her deposition at 5:00pm.

All the 15 accused of the case were produced before the court amid tight security at 9:45am yesterday.

Journalists were taking photos of the accused while they were getting down from the prison van. At that time the case prime accused Pradeep Kumar Das told journalists, "Why you are taking so many photos. Don't you know me?"

On June 27, the court framed charges against 15 accused.

Of them, 12 are policemen, including suspended OC Pradeep Kumar Das, police inspector Liaquat Ali, sub-inspector Md Shahjahan and assistant sub-inspector Liton Mia.

The others accused are suspended police sub-inspector Nandadul Rakshit, and suspended constables Sagar Deb, Kamal Hossain, Abdullah Al Mamun, Safanur Karim, Rubel Sharma, Mohammad Abdullah and Mohammad Rajib.

The remaining three accused are Nurul Amin, Nezam Uddin and Ayaz Uddin, close aides of the accused policemen. All the accused are now in jail.

On December 13, the investigators submitted the charge sheet of the case against the 15, about five months after Sinha was killed in police firing at a check post in Cox's Bazar's Teknaf upazila on July 31 last year.