



Stop anti-state propaganda

Hasina asks Bangladeshi diplomats, offers Nepal to use Payra Port

UNB, Rome

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked Bangladeshi diplomats abroad to work to stop anti-Bangladesh propaganda so that the international community is not misled.

"I would like to tell the foreign ministry that you should inform our envoys about propaganda. So that confusion can't be created. We should be more active, particularly in the places of international organisations," she said.

The PM issued the directive while addressing the Conference of Bangladesh Envoys in Europe held at her place of residence in Rome.

Some 15 Bangladeshi envoys stationed in European countries participated in the event.

She said after committing crimes in Bangladesh and taking shelter in a foreign land, some people are spreading propaganda against the country.

Hasina said there are some people who could never take the country to a dignified position.

She said they are spreading misinformation against the country while staying abroad. "Everyone should be vigilant against them."

Mentioning that the foreigners often get confused by misinformation, the PM said there are one or two countries that are busy with how to remove the Awami League before every election.

"In addition, we have to hear about human rights from those who shelter the murderers as well as the people

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Relatives look after dengue patients at the DNCC hospital in the capital's Mohakhali. The health directorate has dedicated this hospital for the treatment of dengue patients due to the soaring caseload. Built as a market, the structure had been converted into a Covid-19 dedicated hospital. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Don't disclose sex of foetuses
Expert urges health care providers at event unveiling guideline

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In efforts to prevent gender-biased sex selection, a national guideline based on a study on gender preference and the risks involved was unveiled yesterday.

Titled "National Guideline for Prevention of Son Preference and the Risk of Gender-Biased Sex Selection-2022", it was introduced at an event jointly organised by the health and family welfare ministry, UNFPA, and the Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka at the BICC.

The guideline was adopted as per a High Court directive to prevent sex determination of the foetus.

Preferring a son as a first child is more common among women than men in Bangladesh, according to a study conducted by Dhaka University in 2019.

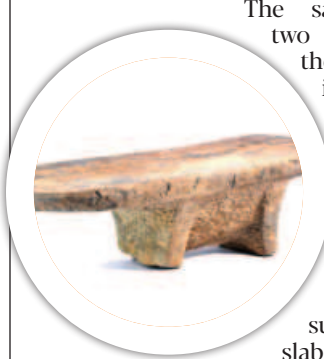
In this context, even

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Scientists decode a 2,000-year-old curry recipe

CNN ONLINE

Traces of spices detected on a grinding slab and other stone tools unearthed in Vietnam reveal that curry was eaten in the region at least 2,000 years ago — and what was in the dish.



The sandstone slab, buried two metres (6.5 feet) below the surface, was dug up in 2018 at the Oc Eo archaeological complex in southern Vietnam. The site was once an overseas trading hub of an ancient Southeast Asian kingdom known as Funan, according to a new study of the substances found on the slab.

"Preparing curry involves not only a diverse range of spices but also the use of grinding tools, considerable time, and human effort," said study author Dr Hsiao-chun Hung, a senior research fellow in the department of archaeology and natural history at Australian National University in Canberra.

"Remarkably, even individuals residing outside of India nearly 2,000 years ago expressed a strong desire to savor the flavors of curry, as evidenced by their diligent preparations," Hung said.

Hung and a team of researchers analysed microscopic remains. Their analysis revealed several culinary spices that originated in different places around the world: turmeric, ginger, fingerroot, sand ginger, galangal, clove, nutmeg and cinnamon.

Free up more beds for dengue patients

Health minister asks directors of hospitals across country; 16 more die from dengue, 2,418 new cases detected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday asked all public hospitals to increase beds for dengue patients.

The instruction came at a time when major public hospitals in Dhaka and other divisional cities are struggling to treat growing number of patients due to shortages of medical staff.

"As the number of patients continue to rise, we have to dedicate more beds for dengue patients at all hospitals proportionately, and everyone [hospital directors] must act accordingly," Zahid said.

The minister was speaking at a virtual meeting with hospital directors, civil surgeons and other health officials.

He talked to the directors of all medical college hospitals in the divisional cities and other major hospitals, particularly in Dhaka city.

Meeting sources said the instruction on raising the number of beds is not the same for all hospitals.

For example, Kurmitola General Hospital in Dhaka has been asked to arrange an additional 200 beds

for dengue patients while Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, and Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery have been instructed to increase 100 beds each.

Besides, Chattogram Medical College Hospital has been told to add 100 beds to the existing 60 and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital 100 beds to the existing 55.

In reply, hospital directors informed the minister about the shortage of doctors, nurses and other supporting staffers.

Col AKM Johirul Hossain Khan, director of the DNCC Hospital in Dhaka's Mohakhali, which was recently announced a dengue-dedicated healthcare facility, told the minister that they could not admit patients to all 500 beds due to a lack of manpower.

Yesterday, the hospital had 290 dengue patients. With the existing manpower, the hospital can provide healthcare service to 330 beds.

To serve the patients, there are 51 doctors, 64 nurses, 157 ward boys and cleaners, he added.

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Prof Yunus pays Tk 12.47cr in tax as per SC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday paid Tk 12.47 crore tax on the money he donated to his three trusts.

His lawyer Sarder Jinnat Ali told The Daily Star that Prof Yunus paid the money in compliance with the Supreme Court order. "The account officer of Prof Muhammad Yunus has informed me that the money has been paid through South East Bank Ltd to the government exchequer," he said.

Replying to a query, the lawyer said the National Board of Revenue may inform the SC of the matter if it is felt necessary.

On July 23, the Appellate Division of the SC upheld a High Court verdict that justified the tax authorities' decision to impose tax on the money Prof Yunus donated to his



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Russia rejects UN call to rejoin grain deal

AGENCIES

Russia yesterday said it was impossible for it to return to the Black Sea grain export deal until an agreement related to Russian interests was honoured, rebuffing a call by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres for Moscow to rejoin.

Guterres on Monday urged Russia to resume allowing Ukraine to export grain safely from its seaports despite what Russia calls its "special military operation", in line with a proposal he had made to President Vladimir Putin.

But the Kremlin suggested Guterres' proposal did not address its main complaint: that there had been no progress on a related agreement that was designed to facilitate Russian food and fertiliser exports amid Western sanctions imposed in response to the war, according to Reuters.

"Indeed, Mr Guterres' letter again set out some kind of action plan and contained promises that at some point it would be possible to implement the Russian part of these arrangements," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"Unfortunately, at the moment it is impossible to return to the deal because it (the Russia-related agreement) is not being implemented, and de facto it has never been implemented."

Putin will discuss Ukraine with leaders of African countries, who will gather for a Russia-Africa summit hosted in Saint Petersburg later this week, the Kremlin also said.

"On July 28, Vladimir Putin is scheduled to have a working lunch with a group of leaders of African states on Ukraine issues," the Kremlin said in a statement, reports AFP.

Several African leaders including South African President Cyril Ramaphosa are expected at the summit set for Thursday and Friday in Putin's native city.

EC won't hold dialogue with political parties before election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission is not thinking about dialogues with political parties before the elections.

The EC believes political issues should be resolved politically, Election Commissioner Anisur Rahman told reporters at his office at the Nirbachan Bhaban in Agargaon yesterday.

"We are not thinking about dialogues. I don't think we need any more dialogues. Political issues will be resolved politically. The BNP did not come, did not sit with us, and did not speak [with us]," he said.

In response to a question, Anisur said that there was no scope for going beyond the constitution. Political issues are not our jurisdiction. They will be resolved in the field of politics.

"We will proceed with the election process ... Election schedule will be announced on time. As election time approaches, we will be under pressure, political parties will also be under pressure. Competition [in the election] makes our work easier. We expect all parties to join the polls," said the

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An electricity transformer has been installed right next to the Kaptan Bazar Electric Market in Old Dhaka, putting people at risk. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Chinese foreign minister replaced after mysterious absence

REUTERS, Beijing

China named veteran diplomat Wang Yi its new foreign minister yesterday, removing former rising star Qin Gang after a mysterious one-month absence from duties barely half a year into the job.

Qin, 57, a former aide to President Xi Jinping and envoy to the United States, took over the ministry in December but has not been seen in public since June 25 when he met visiting diplomats in Beijing.

The ministry has said he was off work for health reasons but gave no details, sparking speculation and drawing attention to the secrecy often surrounding China's Communist leadership and decision making.

Qin's successor Wang, 69, was also his predecessor, holding the post from 2013-2022 as ties frayed with rival superpower the United States to a point Beijing described as an all-time low.



Qin Gang

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