

DRAMATIC DECLINE IN BIRTHS

China announces three-child policy

AFP, Beijing

China will allow couples to have three children after a census showed its population is rapidly ageing, state media said yesterday, further unwinding four decades of strict family planning controls in the world's most populous nation.

In 2016 China relaxed its "one-child policy" -- one of the world's strictest family planning regulations -- allowing couples to have two children as concerns mounted over an ageing workforce and economic stagnation.

But annual births have continued to plummet to a record low of 12 million in 2020, Beijing's National Bureau of Statistics said this month, as the cost of living rises and women increasingly make their own family planning choices.

China's fertility rate stands at 1.3 -- below the level needed to maintain a stable population, the figures revealed. The slump threatens a demographic crisis which has alarmed President Xi Jinping's ruling Communist Party, risking a shortage of young workers to drive an economy experts say will have to support hundreds of millions of elderly by 2050.

A meeting of the party's powerful Politburo led by Xi yesterday announced a further loosening of the state's control over the size of families.

"To actively respond to the ageing population... a couple can have three children," state media Xinhua reported.

The Politburo meeting promised "accompanying support measures" including improving maternity leave, universal childcare and lowering the costs of education, but without giving firm commitments.



A Palestinian man confronts Israeli security forces near the village of Zif, southeast of Hebron in the occupied West Bank yesterday, during an Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes located within the "Area C" of the West Bank, where Israel retains full control over planning and construction. Inset, a Palestinian woman sits holding a child while behind are seen Israeli security forces and soldiers in the village.

PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gunmen abduct students from school in Nigeria

Gunmen kidnapped scores of children from an Islamic seminary in central Nigeria, officials said, the latest mass abduction to hit Africa's most populous nation. Some 200 children were at the school in Niger state on Sunday during the attack, the local government tweeted, adding "an unconfirmed number" were taken. The abduction came a day after 14 students from a university in northwestern Nigeria were freed after 40 days in captivity, one of a series of kidnappings to target colleges and schools since December. Niger state police spokesman Wasu Abiodun said the attackers arrived on motorbikes and started shooting indiscriminately, killing one resident and injuring another, before kidnapping the children from the Salihu Tanko Islamic school.

HK's 'Grandma Wong' arrested for solo Tiananmen protest

Hong Kong police have arrested an elderly democracy activist as she made a solo demonstration over China's deadly Tiananmen crackdown in a vivid illustration of the zero protest tolerance now wielded by authorities in the financial hub. Alexandra Wong, 65, was detained on Sunday on suspicion of taking part in an unlawful assembly as she walked towards Beijing's Liaison Office in Hong Kong. Wong -- known locally as "Grandma Wong" -- was a regular fixture of the huge democracy protests that swept Hong Kong in 2019. She could often



be seen waving a Union Jack flag, a symbol of her dissatisfaction with Beijing's rule since the city was handed to China by former colonial power Britain in 1997.

WB chief secretary retires, appointed Mamata's adviser

Amid an ongoing tussle between the Centre and West Bengal government, state chief secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay yesterday retired from his post and joined chief minister Mamata Banerjee as her chief adviser. Bandyopadhyay was originally set to retire yesterday but was granted a three-month extension. In a media briefing, Mamata said she has appointed Bandyopadhyay as her chief adviser for the next three years. However, the central government sources warned of stern action against Bandyopadhyay. The rejig comes in the backdrop of a major row between the Centre and state government that was triggered by Mamata's hurried appearance during a cyclone review meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

No news on US journal detained in Myanmar

The employers of an American journalist detained by Myanmar authorities said yesterday they were yet to receive any information on his whereabouts or wellbeing, a week after he was detained. Managing editor of news outlet Frontier Myanmar Danny Fenster, a US citizen, was detained on May 24 as he attempted to board a plane to leave military-ruled Myanmar. "Despite multiple attempts, Frontier has still not been able to confirm with the authorities why Danny has been detained," the outlet said in a statement yesterday. "We have received no information whatsoever from the authorities about his detention."

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

EAVESDROPPING ON DANISH INTERNET CABLES

US spied on Merkel, allies

AFP, Copenhagen

The US spied on top politicians in Europe, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, from 2012 to 2014 with the help of Danish intelligence, Danish and European media reported on Sunday.

Danish public broadcaster Danmarks Radio (DR) said the US National Security Agency (NSA) had eavesdropped on Danish internet cables to spy on top politicians and high-ranking officials in Germany, Sweden, Norway and France.

The NSA had taken advantage of a surveillance collaboration with Denmark's military intelligence unit FE to do so, it said.

Denmark's defence ministry has not responded to AFP's requests for a comment.

Defence Minister Trine Bramsen, who took over the defence portfolio in June 2019, was informed of the spying in August 2020, according to DR. She told the broadcaster that "systematic eavesdropping of close allies is unacceptable."

It was not clear whether Denmark authorised the US to use its surveillance system to spy on its neighbours.

DR revealed the information following an investigation it led together with

Swedish broadcaster SVT, Norway's NRK, Germany's NDR, WDR and Sueddeutsche Zeitung, and France's Le Monde.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, then-foreign minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and then-opposition leader Peer Steinbrück were among those the NSA had spied on, DR said. The NSA was able to access SMS text messages, telephone calls, and internet traffic including searches, chats and messaging services, DR said.

The spying was detailed in a secret, internal FE working group report codenamed "Operation Dunhammer" and presented to FE top management in May 2015, DR said. DR said its information came from nine different sources who had access to

classified FE information, and said their revelations were independently confirmed by several sources.

Neither the FE nor its director at the time, Lars Findsen, commented immediately on the revelations. The US spying, if confirmed, was going on during and after the 2013 Snowden affair, which erupted when former NSA contractor Edward Snowden revealed thousands of classified documents exposing the vast US surveillance.



Bundestag/Anzeiger

Netanyahu in the corner

Political rivals move to unseat him by forming 'unity govt'

AFP, Jerusalem

Political rivals of Israel's right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu raced yesterday to forge a diverse coalition to oust the country's longest-serving leader.

The hard-right tech millionaire Naftali Bennett was in talks with the centrist former TV anchor Yair Lapid on the terms of a "change" alliance that would end the Netanyahu era.

Israel -- after reaching a May 21 ceasefire that halted a bloody military conflict with Islamist group Hamas in Gaza -- has been thrown into fresh political turmoil.

After Israel's fourth inconclusive elections in less than two years in March, Lapid has been given a mandate to try and build a new government by midnight Wednesday.

His chances rose when Bennett declared Sunday he would join a multi-party "national unity government" in which he and Lapid would take turns to serve as premier.

Such a coalition would still need the support of other parties and lawmakers to gain a majority of 61 seats in the 120-member Knesset, Israel's legislature.

Netanyahu, in power for the past 12 years following an earlier three-year term, was fighting for his political life, warning of "a left-wing government dangerous to the state of Israel."

The 71-year-old, known as Bibi, is Israel's longest serving prime minister, and the first to face criminal charges while in office -- on fraud, bribery and breach of trust charges, which he denies.

The combative premier lashed out at Bennett, accusing him of "the scam of the century" for running on a right-wing platform but then joining a prospective government that includes liberal parties.

Lapid, 57, is seeking to cobble together a diverse

alliance which would include Bennett, a supporter of Jewish settlements in the Israel-occupied West Bank, as well as Arab-Israeli lawmakers.

In order to build such an anti-Netanyahu bloc, he must sign individual agreements with seven parties, whose members would then vote in parliament to confirm the coalition.

Among them are the centrist Blue and White party of Defence Minister Benny Gantz and the hawkish New Hope party of Netanyahu's former ally Gideon Saar.



Avigdor Lieberman's pro-settlement Yisrael Beiteinu party as well as the historically powerful centre-left Labour party and the dovish Meretz party would also join.

Lapid was set to speak at 2:30 pm (11:30 GMT) from the Knesset, before meeting with his Yesh Atid (There is a Future) party, which has 17 seats. Netanyahu's conservative Likud party won 30 seats in the last election on March 23, the best result of any party, but far short of a majority.

In a last-ditch bid Sunday, Netanyahu offered a three-way power sharing deal to his rivals Bennett and Saar -- but Saar refused.



Members agree to strengthen WHO

Boost global pandemic response

AFP, Geneva

World Health Organization members yesterday agreed to strengthen the global body at the heart of the pandemic response and give it more secure and flexible funding to better deal with future outbreaks.

The 194 member states, in a 14-page resolution on the last day of the virtual annual World Health Assembly, also agreed to "strengthen WHO's capacity to rapidly and appropriately assess disease outbreaks" of possible global concern. Countries and institutions had been woefully unprepared to deal with Covid-19, according to the findings of three independent panels that had reported to the assembly. They called for a total overhaul of the global alarm system, and for a stronger, more independent WHO to help avert future pandemics.

One of the reports found that the UN agency had been too slow in declaring a so-called Public Health Emergency of International Concern. WHO sounded its highest level of alert on January 30, 2020.

After days of discussion, members agreed to create a new working group to study and streamline the numerous recommendations in the reports, and create concrete proposals for next year's assembly to consider.

The text called for member states to "ensure the adequate, flexible, sustainable and predictable financing of WHO's programme budget."

Yesterday's resolution also called on all countries to strengthen their core public health capacities, increase their ability to detect new threats and communicate such threats effectively both at home and internationally.

To ensure all nations do their part, it also instructed WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Gebreyesus to consider creating a pilot project for countries to submit to regular peer reviews of their pandemic preparedness by other members, in the same way they undergo reviews of their rights situations before the UN Human Rights Council.

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MBBS Course Admission-inviting application (16th Batch)

Applications are invited for admission in the 1st year MBBS students at Chattogram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital Medical College, Agrabad, Chattogram Session: 2020-2021 (16th Batch) on the basis of centrally held admission test result under the Directorate General of Health Services, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 02/04/2021 (Candidates who obtained at least 40 marks out of 100 marks in admission test are only eligible to apply for admission in private medical colleges of Bangladesh as per rules of the Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).

Total seats 110 (including all Quotas as per government rule). Eligible applicants to apply for poor and meritorious quota, will collect application form from the College Office (Free of cost) prescribed by the Directorate General of Health Services and submit to the college office. One applicant can apply for one quota only.

Application forms will be available at the College Office from 05/06/2021 to 15/06/2021 (9am to 1.30pm, including Friday) on payment of non-refundable Tk 1,000/- (one thousand) in cash by producing copy of admission test result of the Directorate General of Health Services. A complete merit list of the applicants will be published (Merit A-Z) on 19/06/2021 at 1.00pm on the notice board and college website (www.cmshbd.org) as per basis on central admission test result. Admission procedure will start from 01/07/2021 in accordance to merit list.

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Admission Notice for MBBS Course 2020-21

Admission Notice for MBBS Course : Applications are invited for admission to the 1st year MBBS of Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College for the session 2020-2021.

Requirements for Admission : Candidate who obtained at least 40 marks in Medical Admission Test Examination (MCQ) out of 100 marks conducted by Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) are eligible to collect admission Form. Candidate must submit SSC, HSC or equivalent Certificate /Testimonial, Academic Transcript, Citizenship/Birth Certificate, MBBS test exam. Admit card, result download copy & 4 copy of passport size photograph.

Admission Form distribution : Admission Form will be available in the college office from 5th June 2021 to 15th June 2021 (Time: 8:00 am to 2:00 pm except govt. holi day) on payment TK 1500/- which will be non-refundable. And also application form may be collected from college website <https://www.hfrcmc.edu.bd/content.php?F=Admission-Form>. At the time of downloaded form submission applicant has to submit all the above mentioned documents and to deposit TK 1500/- in the college accounts department which will be nonrefundable.

Last Date of Submission : Last date of application submission is 15th June 2021 within 2.30 pm (No Form will be accepted after this time).

Merit list A-Z publication : According to merit position, Merit list will be published on 19th June 2021 in the college notice board & college website www.hfrcmc.edu.bd.

Admission : Admission will be started from 01/07/2021 to 15/07/2021 (Time : 8:00 am to 2:00 pm)

Foreign Students : Foreign students will be admitted in according to the Circulation of Directorate General of Health services (DGHS), Mohakhali, Dhaka.

Professor Dr. Md. Daulatuzaman
Principal

RFP Ref. No.: LRPS-BAN-2021-9167432

Request for Proposal (RFP): To conduct research to assess the local market for hand hygiene products and services.

UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong record and credibility of providing the above required service. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to "supplybangladesh@unicef.org"

Pre-bid Meeting date: **Please see the schedule mentioned in the RFP**

The deadline to submit the proposal is **Tuesday, 15 June 2021; Time: 11:00 Hrs**

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process.

www.unicef.org.bd

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ADMISSION NOTICE

Situated in a well communicated prime location (Dhanmondi) of Dhaka city, approved by the MOHFW, affiliated by the University of Dhaka, Registered with BM&DC and studded with adequate number of highly qualified nationally and internationally reputed dedicated teachers in all subjects and having enormous amount of quality teaching materials in a student friendly academic campus, Popular Medical College invites application for admission into the MBBS course of session 2020-2021 from candidates who have taken the national admission test for admission to medical colleges and have obtained a minimum merit score/mark of 40.

Application forms along with prospectus shall be available in the college office from **05-06-2021 to 15-06-2021** between **8.30am to 4.00pm** everyday including Fridays and government holidays. Correctly filled admission form along with all required papers and requisite fees must be submitted to the college office by **4.00pm on 15-06-2021**.

Online applications are also accepted provided all requisite papers are scanned and attached with the application and due fees are paid through Bikash. Details are available in prospectus and college website (pmch-bd.org/admission/form.php).

Detailed information about successful applications (Merit: A-Z) and admissions will be notified on **19-06-2021**.

Foreign students are eligible to apply as per instructions of Director General of Health Services through agents, directly or online provided all requisite requirements are met (details are available in the prospectus and in the college website).

Principal
Popular Medical College