

CRITICISM OF MILITARY

Pak journo Hamid Mir taken off screen

REUTERS, Islamabad

Prominent Pakistani political TV talk-show host Hamid Mir was suspended from his regular program on Monday, his media group Geo News network said, following comments he made last week against the powerful military for its role in media censorship.

Mir, who survived an assassination attempt in 2014, is the latest target of an alleged military backed media crackdown that started in the run-up to 2018 election that brought PM Imran Khan to power.

Critics say the crackdown is part of a campaign to coerce Khan's opposition and silence critical voices in the media to prop him up as the military's protege. Both the military and Khan deny the accusation.

"Forcing a popular news talk show host like Hamid Mir off the air after voicing criticism of Pakistan's military, and support for a fellow journalist, only underscores the lack of true



A girl runs through a fountain outside a shopping mall on International Children's Day in Beijing, yesterday. China's decision to allow families to have up to three children was met with scepticism yesterday, with doubts expressed on social media whether it would make much difference, and calls for details on what promised "supportive measures" will include. On Monday, Beijing announced the new plan on Monday, weeks after census data confirmed rapid aging and a decline in fertility that puts China on track to see its population, the world's largest, begin shrinking.

PHOTO: AFP

FORMATION OF ANTI-NETANYAHU COALITION

Israel parties race against the clock

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli politicians battling to unseat veteran Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were racing against the clock yesterday in talks to build a "change" coalition spanning the political spectrum.

They have until a minute before midnight (2059 GMT) to cobble together an alternative governing alliance that would bring down the right-wing leader known as Bibi, who has ruled Israel for the past 12 years.

The high-stakes push is led by former TV presenter Yair Lapid, a secular centrist, who on Sunday won the crucial support of right-wing religious nationalist Naftali Bennett, a tech millionaire.

"The coalition negotiation team sat all night and made progress toward creating a unity government," a Bennett spokesman said in a statement, adding that further talks were scheduled for the afternoon.

In order to gain a 61-seat majority in the 120-seat Knesset, their unlikely alliance would also have to include other left and right-wing parties and likely require the support of Arab-Israeli politicians.

In order to bring down the 71-year-old Netanyahu the fragile grouping would have to unite, despite their deep ideological differences on flashpoint issues such as Jewish settlements in the Israel-occupied West Bank.

Lapid, leader of the Yesh Atid party, was tasked with forming a government by President Reuven Rivlin after Netanyahu again failed to win a majority following Israel's fourth inconclusive election in less than two years.

Likud's lawyers tried to hobble the emerging coalition by challenging Bennett's right to serve first as prime minister, given that it was Lapid who was charged with forming the government. But the legal adviser to Israel's president knocked down the challenge.



press freedom in Pakistan," said Steven Butler, CPJ's Asia program coordinator in a statement.

"I was banned twice in the past. Lost jobs twice. Survived assassination attempts but cannot stop raising voice for the rights given in the constitution," said Mir, who hosts one of the country's highest-rated political talk shows on Geo News, part of the country's largest media group. "Nothing new for me."

Over the weekend, Mir criticised the military during a protest rally that was held against last week's assault on a former TV news producer, Asad Ali Toor, who has been producing video blogs on his YouTube channel, often questioning the army's role in politics. Toor told police he was tortured by three gunmen who broke into his apartment, and that one of them introduced himself as an official from the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) spy agency. The ISI "completely disassociated" itself from the incident, the information ministry has said.

WHO approves Sinovac jab

Southeast Asia battles virus surge; Malaysia imposes strict lockdown

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday said it has approved a Covid-19 vaccine made by drugmaker Sinovac Biotech for emergency use listing, paving the way for a second Chinese shot to be used in poor countries.

A WHO emergency listing is a signal to national regulators on a product's safety and efficacy. It will also allow the shot to be included in Covax, the global programme to provide vaccines mainly for poor countries, which faces major supply problems due to an Indian export suspension.

The independent panel of experts said in a statement it recommended Sinovac's vaccine for adults over 18, with a second dose 2-4 weeks later. There was no upper age limit as data suggested it is likely to have a protective effect in older people.

Branded CoronaVac in some regions, it is the second Chinese developed vaccine to win such WHO listing to combat COVID-19, after the May 7 approval of a shot developed by state-backed Sinopharm.

Sinovac said that it had supplied more than 600 million doses of its vaccine at home and abroad as of end-May and over 430 million doses have been administered.

Vaccine efficacy studies showed that the vaccine prevented symptomatic disease in 51% of those vaccinated

and prevented severe Covid-19 and hospitalisation in 100% of the studied population, the WHO said.

The pandemic has killed at least 3,551,488 people worldwide since the virus first emerged in December 2019, according to an AFP compilation of official data.

The US is the worst-affected country with 594,568 deaths, followed by Brazil with 462,791, India with



331,895, Mexico with 223,568 and Britain with 127,782.

Meanwhile, Malaysia imposed a tough nationwide lockdown yesterday to battle a worsening coronavirus outbreak, as countries across Southeast Asia struggled with a resurgence in cases driven by infectious variants.

Much of the region escaped the pandemic's first wave last year relatively unscathed by rapidly closing borders and introducing curbs.

But countries from Thailand to Vietnam are being hammered by fresh surges, with efforts to quell outbreaks hampered by slow vaccine rollouts and populations weary of restrictions.

Malaysia is among the worst hit. Of almost 2,800 deaths from Covid-19 recorded in the country of 32 million since the start of the pandemic, over 40 percent were in May alone.

More than 570,000 infections have been reported, with a string of new daily records last week.

Under what authorities have termed a "total lockdown" in force from yesterday, only essential businesses -- such as supermarkets and medical clinics -- can operate, people can only go outside for necessities, and most schools are closed. Travel between most parts of the country had already been banned for months.

Vietnam was praised for keeping infections low last year, but its cases have more than doubled in the past month, prompting officials to suspend foreign arrivals at some airports and implement social distancing in Ho Chi Minh City.

Overcrowded prisons have been at the centre of an escalating outbreak in Thailand, which is recording more than 4,000 infections a day.

Singapore -- which had barely seen any local transmission for months -- tightened curbs in May following an uptick in cases, with authorities citing concerns about variants.

And the Philippines imposed a fresh lockdown in and around Manila in March as hospitals struggled to cope, although the restrictions have been eased as infections fall.

Amid division, Asean leaders plan Myanmar visit this week

REUTERS, Jakarta/Bangkok

The chair and secretary-general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) plan to travel to Myanmar this week even as the 10-nation bloc remains divided on how to respond to the military coup there, four diplomatic sources said.

Asean, a grouping that includes Myanmar and has a policy of non-interference in the affairs of members, has led the main diplomatic effort to resolve the violent turmoil gripping the country following the overthrow of a democratically-elected government four months ago.

The military has detained Myanmar's civilian leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and imprisoned political opponents amid a deadly crackdown on protesters, resulting in a growing refugee crisis and the collapse of the economy.

Erywan Yusof, the second minister for foreign affairs for Brunei, Asean's chair this year, and the bloc's secretary-general Lim Jock Hoi, also from Brunei, are scheduled to meet this week with leaders of the junta, among other stakeholders, the sources, who asked not to be identified, said.

The sources warned that a trip could be

delayed or derailed by last-minute logistical and diplomatic impediments.

It is unclear if the pair plan to meet with opponents of the junta, many of whom are imprisoned or in hiding. The planned trip comes more than five weeks after Asean leaders announced a "five-point consensus" to end violence; promote dialogue; deliver aid; appoint a special envoy; and send a delegation headed by the envoy to Myanmar to meet "with all parties concerned".

However, the special envoy has yet to be appointed amid divisions within Asean.

All diplomatic sources said Indonesia and Thailand, two of Asean's most important members, were at loggerheads over the envoy.

Indonesia initially favoured a single envoy to lead a task force while Thailand, whose military has close ties to neighbouring Myanmar, pushed for a "friends of the chair" body of multiple representatives, the sources said.

The compromise supported by most Asean states is for three envoys, likely made up of representatives from Indonesia, Thailand and Brunei, two sources said.

POST-COUR CRISIS

Invitation to Bid for Laboratory Equipment

Tender Ref. icddr/b/SCM/OTM/2021/25 Date: 1st June, 2021
icddr.b invites renowned equipment manufacturer and authorized agent to participate in a bidding process for supply and installation of two equipment:

- LOT-1 : Automated Nucleic Acid Extraction System
- LOT-2 : Automated throughput assay setup platform and accessories for NGS

Interested participants can download the RFP Documents from the below web address : <http://www.icddr.org/work-with-us/tender-notices>

Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 07th June 2021 at 3:00 PM through Microsoft Teams. Interested bidders should notify icddr.b about their interest of participating in the pre-bid session through email supplychain@icddr.org within 5th June 2021. Please mention 'Bid reference' and 'Interested in Pre-bid Participation' in the email subject.

Offers shall submit their Technical & Password protected Financial offers through email to supplychain@icddr.org. Offers must be received no later than 15th June 2021; 3:00 PM. Please note, bid opening session will not be conducted as a Public Opening. Please see the bid document for details.

icddr.b reserves the right to accept or reject all/part proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever. This RFP invitation will also form a part of the contract and will be binding upon the tenderer.

icddr,b Senior Manager, Procurement
Email : supplychain@icddr.org

NEWS IN BRIEF

China reports new bird flu strain case

China reported the world's first human infection of the H10N3 bird flu strain yesterday but said the risk of it spreading widely among people was low. A 41-year-old man was admitted to hospital with fever symptoms in the eastern city of Zhenjiang on April 28 and was diagnosed with H10N3 a month later, China's National Health Commission (NHC) said in an online statement. "The risk of large-scale spread is extremely low". The last human epidemic of bird flu in China occurred in late 2016 to 2017, with the H7N9 virus.

Libel case against Maria Ressa dismissed

Veteran Philippine journalist Maria Ressa has a cyber libel charge against her dismissed, lawyers involved in the case said yesterday, in a rare legal win for the key critic of the country's President Rodrigo Duterte. Ressa, the chief executive of news website Rappler, was earlier convicted in another cyber libel case last year, but remains free on bail pending an appeal in a case that could see her handed six years in jail. Ressa, 57, and Rappler have been subjected to at least 11 investigations, complaints, and cases since Duterte was elected president in 2016.

Lanka ship fire extinguished after 13 days

A fire aboard a cargo ship off Sri Lanka carrying hundreds of tonnes of chemicals, plastics and cosmetics was finally extinguished yesterday after a 13-day international operation, the navy said. In Sri Lanka's worst marine ecological disaster, huge volumes of microplastic granules from the ship's containers have inundated beaches, forcing a fishing ban and a major clean-up involving thousands of troops. Sri Lanka began a criminal investigation Monday into the fire and the marine pollution.

Syria death toll jumps to 500,000

A decade of war in Syria has left nearly half a million people dead, a war monitor said yesterday, in a new toll that includes 100,000 recently confirmed deaths. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the conflict has claimed 494,438 lives since it erupted in 2011 with the brutal repression of anti-government protests. The previous tally, issued by the Observatory in March this year, stood at more than 388,000 dead. The war monitor has since confirmed an additional 105,015 deaths following months of documentation efforts supported by its network of sources on the ground.

US to hand over Bagram base in 20 days

The US military will hand over its main Bagram Air Base to Afghan forces in about 20 days, an official said yesterday, as Washington presses on with withdrawing the last of its troops from the country. The vast base, built by the Soviets in the 1980s, is the biggest military facility used by US and Nato forces in Afghanistan, with tens of thousands of troops stationed there during the peak of America's military involvement in the violence-wracked country.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

RFP Ref. No.: LRPS-BAN-2021-9167433

Request for Proposal (RFP): LRPS-9167433: To conduct mapping of services for Children with Disabilities (CwD) together with legal and budget analysis for policy and programme recommendations.

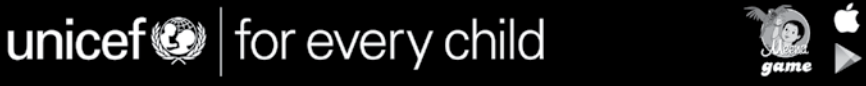
UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong record and credibility of providing the above required service. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to "supplybangladesh@unicef.org"

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

The deadline to submit the proposal is **Wednesday, 16 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



ঢাকা ন্যাশনাল মেডিক্যাল কলেজ
৫৩/১, জনসন রোড, ঢাকা-১১০০।
ফোন: +৮৮-০২-৪১১১৮৬৬-৬৭, ৯৫৭৪৬৯৯, ৯৫৭৪৮২, ৪১১১০০৮৯
Website: www.dnmc.edu.bd E-mail: academic@dnmc.edu.bd, info@dnmc.edu.bd

এমবিবিএস কোর্সে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২০-২০২১ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ১ম বর্ষ এমবিবিএস (২৭তম ব্যাচ) কোর্সে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

প্রার্থীর যোগ্যতা ও স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত ফলাফলের ভিত্তিতে লিখিত পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম ৪০ নম্বর বা তদুর্ধ্ব প্রাপ্ত নম্বরধারীরা আবেদন করতে পারবে।

ঢাকা ন্যাশনাল মেডিক্যাল কলেজে ভর্তির জন্য সাধারণ কোর্সে Online-এ ফরম পূরণের নিয়মাবলী, ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য কলেজের ওয়েব সাইট www.dnmc.edu.bd থেকে জানা যাবে। সাধারণ কোর্সে ও মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোর্সে আবেদন ফরমের মূল্য Online চার্জসহ ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার ত্রিশ) টাকা। অন্তর্ভুক্ত মেধাবী কোর্সে ভর্তির আবেদন ফরম বিনামূল্যে এবং মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোর্সে আবেদন ফরম কলেজের ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত Help Desk থেকে সংগ্রহ করতে হবে। Online-এ আবেদন করতে সমস্যা হলে আগামী ০৫.০৬.২০২১ইং হতে ১৫.০৬.২০২১ইং পর্যন্ত প্রতিদিন সকাল ৮.০০ টা থেকে বেলা ২.০০টা পর্যন্ত (সরকারী ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) কলেজের ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত Help Desk থেকে সহায়তা নিয়ে ভর্তির আবেদন ফরম পূরণ করা যাবে। আবেদন সফলভাবে সম্পন্ন হওয়ার পরে প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই Download Copy Print করে নিজ দায়িত্বে সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে।

ভর্তির আবেদন:

- Online-এ আবেদন শুরু তারিখ: ০৫.০৬.২০২১ইং সকাল ৮.০০ টা হতে।
- প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে ফরম পূরণের পূর্বেই আবেদন কি পরিশোধ নিশ্চিত করুন।
- Online-এ আবেদন জমা দেয়ার শেষ সময়: ১৫.০৬.২০২১ইং রাত ১১.৫৯ মিনিট পর্যন্ত।
- ফলাফল প্রকাশ ও কলেজের নোটিশ বোর্ড ও নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইটে ১৯.০৬.২০২১ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১.০০টায়ে মেধাক্রম অনুযায়ী পূর্ণাঙ্গ তালিকা (Merit A-Z) প্রকাশ করা হবে।
- ছাত্র/ছাত্রী ভর্তির প্রক্রিয়া শুরু: ০১.০৭.২০২১ইং সকাল ৮.০০টা থেকে।
- অন্যান্য কোর্সে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও অন্তর্ভুক্ত মেধাবী কোর্সে ছাত্র-ছাত্রী ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে - সরকারী নিয়ম অনুসরণ করা হবে।

Hot line : 01757538266
অধ্যাপক ডাঃ এ.কে.এম. আমিনুল হক
অধ্যক্ষ (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)

সিলেট উইমেন্স মেডিকেল কলেজ
সিলেট।
ফোন: (০৮২১) ৭২০২২২ মোবাইল: ০১৭২২০৪৬৮৫৮, ০১৮১৯৬৩৬৫৩, ০১৭২৮৩৭৫৩৮৫
ই-মেইল: info@swmc.edu.bd, ওয়েবসাইট: www.swmc.edu.bd

১ম বর্ষ এম.বি.বি.এস. কোর্সে (১৬তম ব্যাচ) ভর্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সিলেট উইমেন্স মেডিকেল কলেজ গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের স্থায়ী অনুমোদন প্রাপ্ত, বিএমভিডি কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত প্রাপ্ত, সিলেট মেডিকেল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এর অধিভুক্ত একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান, কলেজটি WHO ও IMED এর তালিকাভুক্ত এবং বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিওথেরাপি এন্ড সার্জন্স (বিপিপিএস) কর্তৃক ১২টি বিষয়ের উপর স্নাতকোত্তর প্রশিক্ষণের স্বীকৃতিপ্রাপ্ত।

ভর্তির যোগ্যতা:
২০২০-২০২১ইং শিক্ষাবর্ষে স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় যাহারা ৪০ বা তদুর্ধ্ব নম্বর পেয়েছেন কেবলমাত্র তাদের নিকট হতে অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের নির্ধারিত ফরমে দরখাস্ত আবেদন করা যাবে।

ভর্তির আবেদন ফরম সংগ্রহ ও জমা দান:
ফরম সংগ্রহ ও জমাদান: ০৫.০৬.২০২১ইং থেকে ১৫.০৬.২০২১ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত সকাল ৮ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (সাপ্তাহিক ছুটি ও সরকারী ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত)।
ফরম কি: নগদ ১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা অফেরতযোগ্য।
ফরম সংগ্রহের স্থান: কলেজ হিসাব শাখা, কলেজ ওয়েবসাইট: www.swmc.edu.bd ওয়েবসাইট হতে সংগ্রহীত ফরম জমা দানের ক্ষেত্রে ১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) পে-অর্ডার দাখিল করতে হবে।

নির্বাচিত ও অপেক্ষমান তালিকা প্রকাশ: ১৯.০৬.২০২১ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২ ঘটিকা

ভর্তি কার্যক্রম: ০১.০৭.২০২১ইং হতে ১৫.০৭.২০২১ তারিখ পর্যন্ত

অন্তর্ভুক্ত মেধাবী কোর্সে ভর্তির জন্য:
অন্তর্ভুক্ত মেধাবী কোর্সে সরকারী নীতিমালা অনুসরণ সাপেক্ষে ভর্তি করা হবে এবং পৃথক ফরম সরবরাহ করা হবে। তবে অন্তর্ভুক্ত মেধাবী কোর্সে আবেদনকারীগণ অন্য কোন কোর্সে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন না।

বিদেশী নাগরিকদের জন্য:
বিদেশী ছাত্রী ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে সরকারী নীতিমালা অনুসরণ করা হবে।
বিস্তারিত ভর্তির জন্য যাবতীয় তথ্যাবলী সরাসরি কলেজ অফিস থেকে অথবা কলেজের ওয়েবসাইট (www.swmc.edu.bd) থেকেও জানা যাবে।

অধ্যাপক ডাঃ মোঃ ইসমাইল পাটওয়ারী
অধ্যক্ষ

সিলেট উইমেন্স মেডিকেল কলেজ