

# Japan med school to admit dozens of unfairly rejected women

By Mari Yamaguchi  
The Associated Press

**T**OKYO — A Japanese medical university that acknowledged systematically discriminating against female applicants has announced plans to accept more than 60 who were unfairly rejected over the past two years.

The discriminatory policy at Tokyo Medical University surfaced earlier this year, triggering national outrage. The school acknowledged in August that it had been reducing female applicants' entrance exam scores for years to keep the numbers of female students low. They said women tend to quit as doctors after starting families, causing staffing shortages at a school-affiliated hospital.

The university said it will offer to enroll 67 female applicants who were eliminated due to the exam manipulation.

University president Yukiko Hayashi apologized for the school's discriminatory policy.

"We will conduct fair entrance exams and never let the inappropriate practice be repeated," she said. "Nobody should be discriminated against because of gender."

In Japan, women are still considered



responsible for homemaking, childrearing, and elderly care, while men are expected to work long hours and outside care services are limited.

The scandal prompted speculation that other medical schools may also follow

similar practices.

Hayashi, who became university president in September following her predecessor's resignation over a bribery allegation that led to the exposure of the exam manipulation, said she was shocked

**SEXIST SCREENING.** Tokyo Medical University president Yukiko Hayashi, right, speaks during a press conference in Tokyo. The Japanese medical university that has acknowledged systematically discriminating against female applicants announced plans to accept more than 60 who had been unfairly rejected in the past two years. (Kyodo News via AP)

by the large number of women who were denied entry.

It isn't clear how many women will accept the school's offer and enroll. Hayashi declined to comment on what the school will do about dozens of male students who were wrongfully given additional points and accepted instead of the women.

The manipulation came to light during an investigation into allegations that the school accepted the son of an education ministry official in exchange for favorable treatment for the school in obtaining research funds. The bureaucrat and the former head of the school have been charged with bribery.

The investigation found that the school reduced all applicants' first-stage test scores by 20 percent this year and then added at least 20 points for male applicants, unless they had failed at least four times previously.

## Pakistani woman sentenced to life for family poisonings

**MULTAN, Pakistan (AP)** — A Pakistani court has found a woman and her friend guilty of poisoning to death 17 family members and sentenced them each to multiple life sentences in prison.

Police officer Zafar Iqbal said anti-terrorism court judge Shakir Hasan also fined Aasia Bibi and Shahid Lashari 3 million rupees (\$23,000) each. The court ordered the 15 life terms to run concurrently.

Bibi was married against her will in September last year to Amjad Hussain in the central city of Rajan Pur. A month later, investigators say, Bibi conspired with Lashari to poison a container of milk that was consumed by the whole family of 27. The poison killed 17 family members, but Bibi's husband and nine others survived.

Many parents in Pakistan arrange marriages for their daughters.

## Hard-hitting Philippine news site faces tax evasion charge

**MANILA, The Philippines (AP)** — Philippine prosecutors say they will file charges of tax evasion against a news website that has been critical of President Rodrigo Duterte. The Justice Department said in a statement it found probable cause to indict Rappler Holdings Corp. and its president, journalist Maria Ressa.

Rappler called it "a clear form of continuing intimidation and harassment" and an attempt to "silence reporting that

does not please the administration."

Duterte had already banned a Rappler reporter from news briefings after the government's corporate watchdog found that the organization violated a constitutional prohibition on foreign ownership when it received money from an international investment firm. Rappler rejects it.

Duterte has accused several independent media groups in the Philippines of biased reporting.

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