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### Top Afghan General killed in military chopper crash

HERAT, NOV 30 --/Afghanistan's army said one of its top commanders was killed today when a military helicopter crashed in the western Afghan province of Badghis. General Mohayedin Ghori commanded the 207th Corps and was one of the six regional commanders of the Afghan army, responsible for the country's western zone, defence ministry spokesman Mohammad Radmanish said. "General Ghori was martyred and a number of officers injured in the crash," Radmanish said. He said a "technical fault" caused the Russian-made Mi-17 aircraft to go down in the Murichan area of the Bala Murghab district. Ghori was on a mission to visit a newly estab-

lished army base in the volatile district, where the Afghan army has recently pushed back a major Taliban offensive. Taliban insurgents claimed responsibility for the crash in a statement but Radmanish denied this, saying there were no insurgents operating in the area at the time of the accident. Afghan president Ashraf Ghani described the death of General Mohayedin as a "big loss" for the Afghan security forces and people, according to a statement. The US-led NATO coalition also issued a statement expressing condolence over the death of the top Afghan general. A local official who spoke on condition of anonymity said the pro-

vincial head of the country's spy agency was among those wounded in the crash. He could not give details of exactly how many other people had been injured in the accident. Once a strong flying power thanks to Soviet Union support, Afghanistan's air force was decimated by the civil war of the 1980s and the turbulent period of Taliban-rule. The Afghan air force (AAF) now has around 100 aircraft, including 27 MD-530 attack helicopters, and about 20 small support aircraft, such as the Brazilian built A-29 Super Tucanos -- used against drug traffickers in Latin America. It also has approximately 50 Russian Mi-17 transport choppers. (AFP)



Fishermen place bamboo, where they will later place tree branches and fish food, to catch fish in a river in Dhaka, Bangladesh—REUTERS

### 22 workers trapped after coalmine accident in China

BEIJING, NOV 30 --/At least 22 workers are trapped in a coal mine in China's northeastern Heilongjiang Province, the latest accident to hit the country's mining industry. The accident took place around 9:00 pm yesterday in Qitaihe city and 22 workers are trapped in the mine, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Rescue operations are underway and the cause of the mishap is being investigated, it said. China's mining industry has long been among the world's deadliest with frequent mine accidents. China is the world's largest producer and consumer of coal. An explosion at a mine in the southwestern region of Chongqing on October 31 killed 33 people, just weeks after a gas explosion in another mine in Guizhou province killed seven people. (PTI)

### Nepal moots statute amendment to meet Madhesis demands

KATHMANDU, NOV 30 --/Nepal's government has registered the Constitution amendment bill in Parliament despite opposition from CPN-UML, aimed at carving out a new province to meet the demands of agitating Madhesis and other ethnic groups whose protests last year left more than 50 people dead.

The bill, registered at the Parliament Secretariat after the Council of Ministers passed its draft yesterday, also proposes to address three other key issues -- citizenship, representation in the Upper House and recognition of languages spoken in various parts of the country. The Cabinet meeting was held at the Prime Minister's official residence in Baluwatar in the afternoon yesterday.

The government took the step a day after the 15-day ultimatum served by the Federal Alliance for implementing the three-point deal expired.

Federal Alliance is a grouping of Madhesi parties and ethnic groups that have been launching agitation demanding more rights and representation for the marginalised people. Re-demarcation of the provincial boundary and citizenship issue are the two major demands put forth by the agitating Madhesi parties. Madhesis, mostly Indian-origin, launched a six-month-long agitation from September last year to February this year in which more than 50 people were killed. The agitation had also crippled the landlocked country's economy as supplies from India were

blocked. The government has proposed to include parts of Nawalparasi, Rupandehi, Kapilvastu, Banke, Dang and Bardia in another 'Tara' province that will be known as Province 5.

The Cabinet also decided to form a commission to address concerns about five districts Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Kailali and Kanchanpur.

Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Bimalendra Nidhi said that the government decided to form a commission through an executive order to address all concerns about boundaries. The bill proposes to list all the mother tongues of Nepal in the schedule of the constitution on the recommendation of the Language Commission.

It also states that all languages recommended to be official languages by the Language Commission will be listed in the constitution's schedule. On citizenship, the bill proposes that foreign women married to Nepali men can obtain naturalised citizenship after initiating the process to renounce their citizenship.

The bill does not say anything about the rights of the naturalised citizens and citizens by birth. Opposing the bill, main opposition party CPN-UML Vice Chair Bhim Rawal said the constitution amendment bill was not in the interest of the country and the people. He said the bill would polarise the society further and create conflict between different political groups. (PTI)

## China issues new restrictions on live streaming

BEIJING, NOV 30 --/China has further tightened its grip on the internet by issuing tough new laws on live streaming, making it compulsory for presenters to register with their real names. Despite periodic restrictions, including online pornography. The regulation by the Cyberspace Administration of China bans use of live streams to undermine national security, destabilise society, disturb social order, infringe upon others' rights and interests, or disseminate inappropriate content, including pornography, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. The regulation obliges service providers to censor content and blacklist users who break the rules, prohibiting them from registering again.

The new regulation on live streaming also make it compulsory for presenters to register with their real names. Despite periodic restrictions, China's social media being used by millions of Chinese through their mobile phones has emerged as an alternative media challenging the monopoly

on the official media. With the advent of 4G and China bracing for 5G, live streaming has events and incidents of public interest have become common among the net users.

The new regulation was expected to regulate the content especially the spread of pornography. In May this year a new regulation stipulated that live-streaming sites must monitor all their output round-the-clock to weed out "erotic" and "suggestive" content by live streamers like banana-eating. New Express Daily reported. It is not just fruit that's on their radar though but also wearing stockings and suspenders while hosting a live stream is now also forbidden, the paper said. In April, the Ministry of Culture announced it was investigating a number of popular live-streaming platforms for allegedly hosting pornographic or violent content that "harms social morality".

While embracing internet revolution, specially for development of e-commerce, China closely regulate the social media on the net with

firewalls blocking to references to controversial events and individuals. Several other regulations also will come into force on Thursday. Privately owned business will now only require one certificate, instead of the current two -- a business license and a tax certificate -- as part of latest efforts to simplify administrative procedures and encourage startups. Zhang Mao, chief of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce said.

The law on asset appraisal, first drafted in 2006, will also take effect on Thursday. The new law allows certified appraisers who have passed national exams, as well as those who have expertise and hands-on experience in asset evaluation, to practice asset appraisal, the state-media reported. A regulation on special funds for philosophy and social science will allow more who study in these fields to be paid. The new plan on dealing on air pollution in Beijing will be implemented on December 15 further cutting the number and type of vehicles allowed on the roads when an alert is issued. (PTI)

### Pak court stops Nawaz gov't from deporting Turkish expatriates

LAHORE, NOV 30 --/In a setback to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, a Pakistani court today stopped his government from deporting about 400 Turkish expatriates, mostly schoolteachers and their families, which was aimed at appeasing Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Lahore High Court Justice Shama Mahmood Mirza passed an interim order on a writ petition filed by Turkish principal Mehmet Ali Seker and other teachers in the Pak-Turk Educational Foundation. Since the Pak-Turk schools and colleges has alleged links with the US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, who is blamed by Turkish President Erdogan for July's coup attempt, the Pakistani government had ordered 450 Turkish teachers and their family members to leave the country by November 20.

Some of the Turkish families left for other countries (not Turkey) while other filed a petition in different high courts of the country. Mirza stopped the federal government from deporting the Turkish citizens or taking any other action against them. The court also sought a reply from interior ministry on the issue. Known rights activist and advocate Asma Jahangir, a counsel for Turkish teachers, argued before the court that the petitioners had lawfully residing in Pakistan. "They have legal visas and are abiding by the laws of the country having clear and unblemished record," she said. "The interior ministry had refused to extend visas of the petitioners without disclosing any reason. Jahangir said the interior ministry's order to de-

### Parrikar in Bangladesh on maiden visit

DHAKA, NOV 30 --/Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar today arrived here on a two-day visit to Bangladesh during which he will meet the top civil and military leadership to strengthen defence ties between the two countries. Parrikar, the first Indian defence minister to Bangladesh in the last 45 years, was greeted by Bangladesh Defence Forces' Principal Staff Officer Lt Gen Md Mahfuzur Rahman and other government officials. The defence minister is leading an 11-member high-powered delegation. According to an army press release here, Parrikar will meet President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during his stay in the country. He is also scheduled to meet with

the prime minister's defence and security advisor Maj Gen Tarique Ahmed Siddique (red) for bilateral talks. Parrikar, who is accompanied by the Vice Chiefs of the Army and Air Force, Deputy Chief of Navy besides Coast Guard chief, is scheduled to visit the military academy in Chittagong tomorrow.

The Indian military officials will also meet with the heads of Bangladesh's Army, Navy and Air Forces to discuss ways to improve military cooperation. Top Defence Ministry officials in New Delhi had said the focus of the trip was to deepen security ties and firm up a defence cooperation agreement that is likely to be signed when Prime Minister Hasina visits India next month. (PTI)

### Development projects reviewed in India-Nepal meet

KATHMANDU, NOV 30 --/The first meeting of Nepal-India oversight mechanism was held here today with both sides reviewing the progress of economic and developmental projects and discussing ways to expedite them. The Indian side was led by Ambassador Ranjit Rae while the Nepalese delegation was headed by Foreign Secretary Shankar Das Bairagi.

The meeting reviewed progress of bilateral cooperation projects and discussed bottlenecks in the ongoing Nepal-India economic and development projects being implemented in the country, according to Nepalese Foreign Ministry sources. Joint secretaries from concerned ministries including finance, commerce, physical infrastructure and transport, planning, home affairs, energy and irrigation took part in the meeting from the Nepalese side.

From the Indian side, deputy chief of mission, economic cooperation counselor and reconstruction counselor attended the meeting. Nepal and India had agreed to set up the oversight mechanism to review the progress of economic and development projects on a regular basis during Prime Minister Prachanda's visit to India in mid-September in the wake of delay in the execution of projects funded or pledged by the Indian government in Nepal. (PTI)

### US wants India-Pak dialogue for better cooperation

WASHINGTON, NOV 30 --/The US today said that it wants to see dialogue and discussions between India and Pakistan to improve cooperation and bring peace in the region. "We continue to want to see dialogue and discussion between India and Pakistan to improve cooperation, to improve communication, and improve shared efforts against a common threat," State Department Spokesman John Kirby told reporters at his daily news conference. "We have talked about the threat of extremism there in the region. It affects everybody on both sides," he said in response to a question. (PTI)

### China's 'missing girls' theory appears overblown: Study

BEIJING, NOV 30 --/The theory that China's one-child policy has led to about 30 to 60 million "missing girls" which has created a gender imbalance in the world's most populous country is likely far overblown, a new study claims. Researchers from University of Kansas (KU) in the US found those numbers are likely overblown and that a large number of those girls are not missing at all.

"People think 30 million girls are missing from the population. That's the population of California, and they think they are just gone," said John Kennedy, a KU associate professor of political science.

"Most people are using a demographic explanation to say that abortion or infanticide are the reasons they do not show up in the census, and that they do not exist. But we find there is a political explanation," said Kennedy.

The 2010 Chinese census found the sex ratio at birth was 118 males for every 100 females. Globally the average is about 105 males to females, researchers said. In 2015, Chinese state media announced all couples would be allowed to have two children, signalling the end of the controversial 35-year-old policy,

but scholars and policymakers are examining how the ban could have lasting social influence in China on everything from elderly care to political stability, they said. Kennedy and Shi Yaoliang, from Shaanxi Normal University in China, analysed statistics and found that a combination of late registration and unreported births explain a larger portion of the "missing girls" than previously reported in Chinese sex ratio-at-birth statistics. The researchers believe local government officials informally worked with farmers and acknowledged that they could not fully enforce the one-child policy.

Instead they made tacit agreements in allowing families to have extra children in exchange for social stability in their communities. The cadres, or local governments, would then under-report "out of plan" births that ultimately influenced the national population statistics, researchers said.

"There is no coordination between cadres saying 'we're all in agreement,'" Kennedy said. "Actually it's just very local. The people who are implementing these policies work for the government in a sense. They are officials, but they

are also villagers, and they have to live in the village where they are implementing policies," he said. The work by Kennedy and his co-researchers began in 1996 when they interviewed a villager in the northern Shaanxi province and discovered that he had two daughters and a son.

The farmer referred to the middle daughter as "the non-existent one," Kennedy said since the mid-1980s, villagers could legally have a second child if the firstborn was a girl. "We noticed that qualitatively when we interviewed villagers and higher and lower level officials everybody had a tacit understanding that yes, millions of girls and some boys, too, were allowed to be unregistered, and then these children appear in the population statistics as older cohorts at junior high school age and marriage age," said Kennedy.

To supplement the qualitative data, the researchers then examined Chinese population data by cohort, and they compared number of children born in 1990 with the number of 20-year-old Chinese men and women in 2010. In that cohort, they discovered four million additional people, and of those there

were about one million more women than men.

"If we go over a course of 25 years, it is possible there are about 25 million women in the statistics that were not there at birth," Kennedy said.

Much media coverage has focused on potential social problems stemming from a "marriage squeeze" where men sizably outnumber women, researchers said. "If 30 million women are truly missing, then there is going to be more males than females of marriageable age, and as they start looking for wives, there is nothing more socially unstable than a bunch of testosterone with nowhere to go," Kennedy said. However, he said his findings about under-reported births at the local level seem to explain why the marriage squeeze may not be as pronounced as previous scholars suggest. Their study provides more insight into how local villages and cadres operated. Diplomatically people have likely been telling the Chinese negatively thinking villagers would be willing to kill their daughters to comply with the law, but Kennedy said this explanation about under-reported births would make more sense. (PTI)



A woman waits to release her lantern during a floating lights gathering in Islamabad—REUTERS