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PAKISTAN'S TOP DIPLOMAT TO VISIT INDIA AMID BORDER TENSIONS

NEW DELHI Pakistan on Wednesday officially confirmed to India that its top diplomat will attend a global conference on Afghanistan in Amritsar early next month amid intensifying deadly military tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad. External affairs ministry spokesperson Vikas Swarup said Islamabad confirmed that Sartaj Aziz, foreign policy advisor to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, would visit India for the December 3-4 Heart of Asia Istanbul Process event. The conference on development and security in Afghanistan is likely to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. Aziz said last week that he would go to India. But Swarup pointed out then that India had received no official confirmation from Pakistan about it.

SC PULLS UP GOVERNMENT FOR DRAGGING FEET ON LOKPAL

NEW DELHI The Supreme Court on Wednesday hauled up the government for not amending the Lokpal Act to recognise the leader of the single largest opposition party in Parliament as the leader of the opposition for constituting the Selection Committee for Lokpal. "For last two-and-a-half years there is no leader of opposition. This position is likely to continue for next two-and-a-half years. There would be no leader of opposition. Will you allow the law to become redundant just because there is no leader of opposition?" asked the bench of Chief Justice TS Thakur, Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice L Nageswara Rao.



Tragic fall

An elephant and its calf were injured after they fell into a pit dug for construction of Patanjali Foods at Balipara in Assam on Wednesday

TN MEDICOS TORTURE, KILL BONNET MACAQUE ON CAMPUS

CHENNAI The Christian Medical College (CMC) in Vellore suspended four medics who allegedly tortured and killed a female bonnet macaque recently. After the monkey reportedly strayed into the hostel room on November 19, the four students caught the monkey with a blanket, took it to the terrace, tied it up, beat the primate with sticks and belts then thrust a rod into its anus and killed it. "They brutally attacked the monkey after tying its neck. They inserted a rod through the anus and tore out the entire digestive system. An eye was also gouged out," a wildlife conservationist Nishanth Ravi told Mirror. It has been stated that other students contacted a Mumbai-based animal activist who tipped off activists in Chennai on November 21. The carcass of the monkey was exhumed from behind the canteen of the men's hostel.

ZEE GROUP BUYS OUT RELIANCE CAPITAL STAKES IN TV, FM

NEW DELHI Reliance Capital on Wednesday announced that it will be selling 49 per cent stake in its radio business and 100 per cent interest in the TV arena to Zee Group that will not just cut Rs 1,900 crore in debt but also unlock shareholder value. The deal pegs the enterprise value of the radio and general entertainment TV business at Rs 1,900 crore, the company said in a filing with the stock exchange. The deal involved the popular 92.7 BIG FM radio channel. "The entire proceeds from the stake sale will be used to reduce Reliance Capital's debt by Rs 1,900 crore (\$283 million) upon final completion of stake sale transactions. Both these transactions have been approved by the boards of respective companies and are expected to be completed by next year, subject to applicable approvals," the company said.