

# Ireland aborts 'abortion ban'

Politicians on both sides agreed that the referendum had passed by a large margin.

● Voters backed the change by more than two-to-one

● Prohibition on abortion was partly lifted in 2013

● Government plans to bring in legislation by the end of the year

Reuters | Dublin



A woman carries a placard as Ireland holds a referendum on liberalising abortion laws

Ireland has voted by a landslide to liberalise some of the world's most restrictive abortion laws in what its prime minister described as the culmination of a "quiet revolution" in what was one of Europe's most socially conservative countries. Voters were estimated to have backed the change by more than two-to-one, according to two exit polls released on Friday evening, and the government plans to bring in legislation by the end of the year.

"It's incredible. For all the years and years and years we've been trying to look after women and not been able to look after women, this means everything," said Mary Higgins, obstetrician and Together For Yes campaign-

er. After official results began to be announced on Saturday, politicians on both sides agreed that the referendum had passed by a large margin. Final results were due later on Saturday.

"The public have spoken. The result appears to be resounding ... in favour of repealing the 8th Amendment" constitutional ban on abortion, Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, who campaigned for repeal, told journalists in Dublin.

"What we see is the culmination of a quiet revolution that has been taking place in Ireland over the last couple of decades," said Varadkar, who became the



Three years ago, Ireland became the first country in the world to adopt gay marriage by a popular vote

## Abortion policies

(Reuters)

Is abortion permitted when a woman's life is in danger?  
Grounds on which abortion is permitted by country (WHO)

Country	Life	Health	Mental Disability	Rape	On Request
Bahrain	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
China	✓	✗	-	-	✓
Cuba	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Egypt	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Germany	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
India	✓	✗	✓	-	✗
Kuwait	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Saudi	✓	-	✗	✗	✗
Turkey	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Philippines	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

country's first openly gay prime minister last year.

If confirmed, the outcome will be the latest milestone on a path of change for a country which only legalised divorce by a razor thin majority in 1995.

"For him (his son), it's a different Ireland that we're moving onto. It's an Ireland that is more tolerant, more inclusive and where he can be whatever he wants without fear of recrimination," said Colm O'Riain, a 44-year-old teacher with his son Ruairi, who was born 14 weeks premature in November.

A spokesman for an anti-abortion umbrella group Save The

8th John McGuirk conceded there was "no prospect" the country's abortion ban, imposed in a 1983 referendum, would be retained.

"What Irish voters did yesterday is a tragedy of historic proportions," Save The 8th said. "However, a wrong does not become a right simply because a majority support it."

Voters were asked if they wish to scrap the amendment, which gives an unborn child and its mother equal rights to life. The consequent prohibition on abortion was partly lifted in 2013 for cases where the mother's life was in danger.

## 68 dead in Dhaka's anti-drug campaign

IANIS | Dhaka

The number of people killed in an anti-drug campaign in Bangladesh has climbed to 68 in the last 11 days, after the death of another nine suspected drug-traffickers.

In the eastern Comilla district, two suspected traffickers, with 16 and eight cases open against them, respectively, were killed in a clash with the police on Friday night, the head of investigations at the Bramonpara police station, told Efe news.

Another five drug-traffickers and peddlers were killed in clashes with the police in the districts of Mymensingh, Chandpur, Thakurgaon, Pabna and Kurigram.

Apart from this, another two people were killed in the districts of Dinajpur and Joypurhat in separate encounters with the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), two spokespersons from the elite police force said.

According to the RAB, 3,300 people have been arrested during the campaign that was launched beginning of May and 2,795 drug dealers and users have been handed fines or jail terms.

On May 3, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had launched the anti-drug campaign.

# Chinese jets complete night landings on carrier

Shanghai

Chinese fighter pilots have carried out night landings on the country's first aircraft carrier, the official China Daily reported on Saturday, the latest demonstration of military muscle as Beijing's pushes to modernise its armed forces.

Pilots flying J-15 jets landed at night on the Liaoning, the official paper said, citing a video posted by China's navy. It said this was a complex manoeuvre that marked a "huge leap towards gaining full combat capability".

China has ambitious plans to overhaul its armed forces as it ramps up its presence in the disputed South China Sea and around self-ruled Taiwan, an island China considers its own. The official newspaper of the



Chinese J-15 jets complete night landings on carrier in push to modernise (Courtesy The Hindu)

People's Liberation army also said on Saturday that Chinese fighter jets had recently carried out live-fire drills in the South China Sea. Last month, Presi-

dent Xi Jinping presided over the navy's largest-ever military display, with 76 fighter jets and a flotilla of 48 warships and submarines.

# Pakistan Army summons former ISI chief Dulat over claims in new book "Spy Chronicles"

IANIS | Islamabad

The Pakistan Army has summoned former ISI chief Lt. Gen. Asad Durrani (ret'd) to explain his position on views attributed to him in a book of dialogues with former Indian intelligence chief A.S. Dulat, accusing him of violating the "Military Code of Conduct".

Durrani, who was ISI's Director General between 1990 and 1991, has been summoned to General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi on May 28.

He will be asked to explain

his position on views attributed to him in the book "Spy Chronicles", Pakistan Army spokesperson Maj. Gen Asif Ghafoor said in a tweet. "Attribution (is being) taken as (a) violation of Military Code of Conduct applicable on all serving and retired military personnel," he added.

Durrani and former Secretary of India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), Dulat have participated in a book of dialogues, moderated by journalist Aditya Sinha.

"Spy Chronicles," throws

light on the perspectives, assumptions and observations of the two spymasters on Kashmir; Hafiz Saeed and 26/11; Kulbhushan Jadhav; surgical strikes; the deal for Osama bin Laden; how the US and Russia feature in the India-Pakistan relationship; and how terror undermines the two countries' attempts at talks.

In the book Durrani makes an assessment that "the ISI probably learnt about" Osama bin Laden and "he was handed over to the US according to a mutually agreed process".

# Hilarious corrections made to Donald Trump's letter go viral

Daily Mail | London

Corrections made to Donald Trump's letter to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un have started going viral - with the President landing an F grade for his writing skills.

Social media users took Trump to task over the letter he sent to North Korea's leader this week informing him that their planned summit was now canceled.

Various versions of the letter have since surfaced online showing them completely covered in red pen markings.

The amended letters all provide Trump with a number of corrections, ranging from grammatical errors to factual inaccuracies.

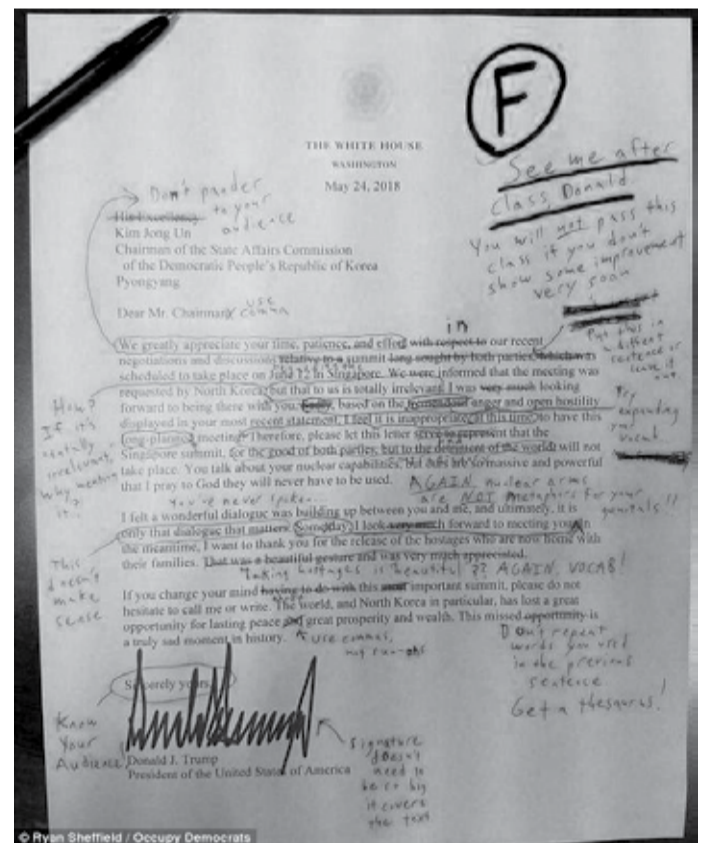
"See me after class Donald. You will not pass this class if you don't show some improvement very soon," read one note left on his letter.

That letter, which was given a F grade, also provided various pieces of advice including 'this doesn't make sense' and 'get a thesaurus'.

The notes also urged Trump to work on his vocabulary, particularly pointing to a section where he used the word 'beautiful' to describe Kim Jong-un releasing American hostages.

Trump had written: 'I want to thank you for the release of the hostages who are now home with their families. That was a beautiful gesture and very much appreciated.'

The person marking the letter offered up this piece of advice about Trump's vocabulary: 'Taking hostages is 'beautiful'?? AGAIN, VOCAB!'



Social media users took Trump to task over the letter he sent to North Korea's Kim Jong-Un



The amended letters all provide Trump with a number of corrections, ranging from grammatical errors to factual inaccuracies.

Another version of the letter, which was given a D grade, noted that Trump had specifically mentioned something was irrelevant but still included it anyway.

'If it's irrelevant, why mention it at all?' a note on the letter read. The amended letters surfaced after Trump abruptly pulled the plug on Thursday on the high-stakes summit with North Korea.

He canceled the summit that was due to take place in Singapore next month.