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NOTHING CAN HAVE VALUE WITHOUT BEING AN OBJECT OF UTILITY KARL MARX

News in brief

India declares candidature for **UN Security Council membership**



♦ India has declared its candidature for

non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for the 2028-29 term, **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** said. On December 1, India assumed the monthly rotating Presidency of the Security Council. This is the second time after August 2021 that New Delhi is presiding over the Council during its two year tenure as elected

Castillo jail term extended as

Peru protest death toll hits 15

UNSC member. "I am glad to inform you that we have declared our candidature for our next tenure at the Security Council for 2028-29," Jaishankar said

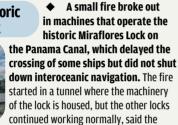
• Peruvian ex-President Pedro Castillo's pre-trial detention in prison was

extended to 18 months, amid a deepening diplomatic spat with left-leaning countries opposed to his removal and as deadly protests extended into a second week. At least 15 people have been killed in the protests, according to statements from authorities. A judicial panel within the



Supreme Court ordered the extended period of pre-trial detention for Castillo as prosecutors continued an investigation into criminal charges against him. The decision did not touch on the merits of accusations faced by Castillo, who has been charged with rebellion and conspiracy, but a Supreme Court judge heading up the panel cited the risk of flight by the deposed president.





Panama Canal Authority. "A fire outbreak was recorded in one of the machinery tunnels in the upper chamber of the Miraflores locks," the Authority said in a statement. "No injuries were reported. However, the transit of ships through this lock has been temporarily suspended as a security measure," it added

٠ Pet retailers are set to be barred from selling dogs, cats and rabbits in the state of

New York to ban animal sales at pet stores in 2024

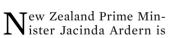
New York come December 2024 under a new law, signed by Governor Kathy Hochul on Thursday, designed to stop the supply of animals from so-called puppy mills. Hochul, a Democrat, said banning pet stores from selling pets will help protect animal welfare and clamp down on abusive, wholesale breeders. New York will join a small group of other states, including California, Illinois and Maryland, that have instituted similar bans on such sales. The law leaves the door open for pet stores to work with animal shelters to encourage adoptions,

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Ardern auctions transcript of parliament insult for charity

AFP | Wellington

including rental space.





Pacifist Japan unveils biggest military build-up since World War Two

Reuters | Tokyo

apan yesterday unveiled its biggest military build-up since World War Two with a \$320 billion plan that will buy missiles capable of striking China and ready it for sustained conflict, as regional tensions and Russia's Ukraine invasion stoke war fears.

The sweeping, five-year plan, once unthinkable in pacifist Japan, will make the country the world's third-biggest military spender after the United States and China, based on current budgets.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who described Japan and its people as being at a "turning point in history", said the ramp-up was "my answer to the various security challenges that we face".

His government worries that Russia has set a precedent that will encourage China to attack Taiwan, threatening nearby Japanese islands, disrupting supplies of advanced semiconductors and putting a potential stranglehold on sea lanes that supply Middle East oil.

This is setting a new heading former Maritime Self Defence for Japan. If appropriately executed, the Self-Defence Forces ed the Japanese fleet in 2008. will be a real, world-class ef-

North Korea has tested a high-thrust solid-fuel en-

gine that experts said would allow quicker and more mobile

launch of ballistic missiles, as it

YOU

NOW WHAT

Reuters | Seoul



Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force's (JMSDF) JS Mogami (FFM-1), a Japanese multi-mission stealth frigate, takes part in the International Fleet Review

heading for Japan. If appropriately executed, the Selfbe a real, world-class effective force

YOJI KODA, A FORMER MARITIME SELF DEFENSE FORCE ADMIRAL

North Korea tests high-thrust solid-fuel

engine for apparent ICBM development

Force admiral, who command-The government said it ruled out using force to bring fective force," said Yoji Koda, a would also stockpile spare parts Taiwan under its control.

and other munitions, expand transport capacity and develop cyber warfare capabilities. In its postwar, American-authored constitution, Japan gave up the right to wage war and means

"Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a serious violation of laws that forbid the use of force and has shaken the foundations of the international order," the strategy paper said.

"The strategic challenge posed by China is the biggest Japan has ever faced," it added, also noting that Beijing had not

Malay

Malaysia rescuers rac

Five children, 12 women among the dead; 12 missing

Hundreds involved in search mission

Reuters | Batang Kali

landslide killed at least 21 people, including children, while they slept in their tents at an unlicensed campsite in Malaysia yesterday, officials said, as search teams scoured thick mud and downed trees for survivors

The landslide in Selangor state bordering the capital, Kuala Lumpur, occurred before 3 a.m. (1900 GMT), tearing down a hillside into an organic farm that officials said was operating the campsite illegally.

Among the victims were five children and 12 women, according to the fire and rescue department.

The disaster struck about 50 km (30 miles) north of Kuala Lumpur in Batang Kali, just outside the

Residential fire n Lyon kills 10, incl





raising money for a prostate cancer charity by auctioning off a transcript of a parliamentary exchange in which she called a political opponent an "arrogant prick".

Bidding for a framed copy of the document, signed by Ardern and the insult's target, political rival David Sey-(US\$29,000) by yesterday in an to raise money for charity. online auction.

following a heated exchange close on December 22. between the pair at a parliamentary session on Tuesday.

"he's such an arrogant prick" in reference to Seymour as she good cause". retook her seat after answerthe MP.

Seymour, leader of the apology by Ardern, which where," he added. meant her comment was enknown as the Hansard.

ogy to Seymour, who came up character" for Ardern.

Jacinda Ardern and David Seymour sign official parliamentary record

mour, had reached NZ\$45,500 with the idea of joining forces

"We are thrilled it's got such New Zealand's premier was good support," Seymour said overheard muttering the insult yesterday, with bidding due to

In a Facebook post on Thursday, Ardern said she had A microphone picked up signed the official transcript an exasperated Ardern saying with Seymour "in the spirit of good sportsmanship and a

Seymour said the prime ing a barbed question from minister needed little persuasion.

"I suggested we sign a copy right-liberalist ACT party, pe- of the Hansard and auction titioned the speaker of New it off to raise money for the Zealand's parliament for an foundation and pricks every-

Seymour said her insult tered into the official record, "was not significant in terms of the stuff that goes on, people Ardern later texted an apol- were surprised as it's so out of

North Korea has been working to build more solid-fuel missiles that are more stable and can be launched with

almost no warning or

preparation time

rea's Sohae Satellite Launching the country. Ground which has been used

seeks to develop a new strategic

The test, overseen by leader missile (ICBM) given the thrust Kim Jong Un, was conduct- of the engine, which the North ed on Thursday at North Ko- said was "the first of its kind" in

Experts say the test appears

A view of a "high-thrust solid-fuel motor" test in Tongchang-ri, North Korea

weapon and speeds up its nu- aimed at developing a new sol-

clear and missile programmes. id-fuel intercontinental ballistic

North Korea has been workto test missile technologies, ingto build more solid-fuel misincluding rocket engines and siles that are more stable and space launch vehicles, the of- can be launched with almost ficial KCNA reported yesterday. no warning or preparation time.

Twitter suspends accounts of several journalists

Reuters | Los Angeles

Twitter suspended the ac-L counts of several prominent journalists who recently wrote about its new owner Elon Musk, with the billionaire tweeting that rules banning the publishing of personal information applied to all, including iournalists

Responding to a Tweet on the account suspensions, Musk tracking Musk's private jet in tweeted: "Same doxxing rules real time using data available apply to 'journalists' as to in the public domain. Musk had everyone else," a reference to threatened legal action against Twitter rules banning the shar- the account's operator, saying ing of personal information, his son had been mistakenly called doxxing.

On Wednesday, Twitter suspended @elonjet, an account "Criticizing me all day long is ing my family is not."



An image of Elon Musk is seen on a smartphone placed on printed Twitter logos

followed by a "crazy stalker".



The suspensions come after Musk has repeatedly vowed to uphold absolute free speech on the platform he bought for \$44 billion in October

totally fine, but doxxing my re-Musk added on Thursday: al-time location and endanger-

French firefighters work at the scene of a n

Reuters | Lyon

Ten people including five children aged three to 15 were killed in a fire yesterday that engulfed a residential building in an impoverished town near the southeastern French city of Lyon.

Another four people were seriously injured in the blaze in Vaulx-en-Velin, which started around 3am (0200 GMT) on the ground floor before spreading up the seven-storey building, rescue authorities said.

Footage on social media showed a huge, dark cloud billowing above the building at the time of the fire before it was extinguished after davbreak.

Witnesses in nearby buildings said they had been woken up by screams and felt helpless as they stood at the foot of the building on fire, the smoke too thick for them to get in and try to rescue residents before firefighters arrived.

"At around 3.30 am, I heard shouting so I ran out of my home...I saw the building, number 12, on my left burning on the ground floor...and people trying to get out," said Furkan Bag, a neigh-