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Myanmar retailer ushers in a modern shopping experience

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branch, closed 284 oil wells with annual production of 70,000 metric tons of oil in the Kalamayli Nature Reserve, home to endangered animals including the Przewalski's horse. The annual oil output was valued at more than 300 million yuan (\$43.5 million).

The Przewalski's horse is the last surviving subspecies of wild horse. There are currently 2,000 remaining worldwide.

Zhundong had invested over 800 million yuan in exploration and facilities construction in the reserve over the past few decades, and found proven oil reserves of 12 million tons.

Afghanistan to fight terrorism jointly

Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani met on Dec 16 with visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, with both nations expressing willingness to deepen cooperation and combat terrorism.

Wang said China is willing to work with Afghanistan to implement the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries, and push forward the bilateral strategic cooperative partnership for further development.

Afghanistan is an important partner in jointly implementing the Belt and Road Initiative, and China is willing to expand bilateral trade and investment and help Afghanistan speed up its reconstruction and development process, Wang said.

China appreciates Afghanistan's efforts in fighting the East Turkistan Islamic Movement, and will continue to offer support and help to build Afghanistan's anti-terrorism capacity, he said.

Lancang-Mekong FMs make ties vow

Senior officials from China, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam agreed on Dec 17 to deepen efforts to work together under the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) mechanism to achieve inclusive and sustainable development in the subregion.

At the fourth LMC Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Luang Prabang, Laos, the ministers decided to promote greater cooperation in



The name of a 4-month-old female giant panda is announced as Saihin at Adventure World in Shirahama, Japan, on Dec 17. More than 120,000 names were suggested for the Japan-born panda. In Japanese the character pronounced *sai* means bright and vivid while *hin* is a reading of the second character of Shirahama. ADVENTURE WORLD

new areas and new initiatives for mutual benefit and shared prosperity, featuring high-quality production capacity cooperation and the building of the LMC Economic Development Belt.

LMC is a subregional mechanism jointly established by the six countries in March 2016.

The river, originating in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in China, is called the Lancang in China and the Mekong when it flows through the other five countries before emptying into the sea.

Customers demand refunds from Ofo

Nearly 2,000 people gathered outside the Beijing headquarters of bike-sharing giant Ofo on the morning of Dec 18, anxious to know whether — and when — their deposits for the shared bikes will be returned.

Ofo, one of China's leading bike-sharing companies, said late on Dec 17 that because of the increasing number of claims, applications for refunds will be dealt with in the order received. The company asked people to wait patiently.

The company claimed 200 mil-

lion users in November last year, meaning deposits could amount to as much as 20 billion yuan (\$2.9 billion).

By 5 pm on Dec 18, the refund system of the Ofo app showed that more than 9.7 million users were waiting for refunds, with requests totaling at least 920 million yuan.

Defend free trade, multilateralism: Li

Premier Li Keqiang called for a defense of multilateralism and free trade to tackle challenges arising from the current complicated international situation.

He made the remark during a meeting with participants at the Third Understanding China Conference on Dec 17 in Beijing.

Achievements made by mankind in global peace and poverty relief over the past 70 years have benefited from multilateralism, free trade and a rules-based international order, Li said.

China supports reform and perfecting the rules of the World Trade Organization, which should be in line with trade liberalization and take concerns and interests of all countries into consideration,

the premier said. The interests of developing economies should also be safeguarded to bridge the gap between the countries at varying levels of development, he said.

More access for foreign media

The State Council Information Office intends to raise the quality, efficiency and professionalism of its services to the media to an even higher level to promote mutual understanding between China and the international community, officials said.

Huang Kunming, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, said at a reception hosted by the information office on Dec 20 in Beijing that next year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, and there have been huge changes in China.

Xu Lin, minister of the State Council Information Office, said that in the coming year the office will take a more open stance and work more actively to intensify

exchanges and communication with various circles, including the media.

Farm machinery to gain wider market

China will further open up its agricultural machinery market and offer equal treatment to domestic and foreign makers, which will promote fair competition and bring farmers more benefits, officials said.

Starting this year, all agricultural machinery will be eligible for government subsidies regardless of country of origin, provided the equipment meets certain criteria, said Zhang Xingwang, director of the Department of Agricultural Machinery at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Subsidies for farm equipment purchases were introduced in 2004 to accelerate modernization of the industry and rural areas, said Zhang.

Over the past 14 years, the central government has spent more than 200 billion yuan (\$29 billion) on farm equipment subsidies to help 33 million farmers buy more than 40 million pieces of machinery.

Men fall easier prey to impulses: Study

A new study by Chinese researchers using medical imaging has found differences in the brain activity of men and women addicted to internet gaming.

The study, published in the international journal *Brain Imaging and Behavior*, says addicted men have lower impulse control compared with women, indicating that men are more likely to become addicted to internet gaming.

Researchers from Renji Hospital, which is affiliated with Shanghai Jiaotong University, recruited 105 Chinese participants for the study, which had two groups — one with 32 men and 23 women addicted to gaming, and the other with 30 men and 22 women who were not addicted.

The addicted participants were recruited from the Shanghai Mental Health Center.

All participants underwent resting-state functional magnetic resonance imaging, or fMRI, a widely used medical imaging technique to measure brain activity.

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