

MARINE SAFETY NEWS

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AFGHAN CUSTODY TORTURE EXPOSED

KABUL - The United Nations said torture is practised systematically in some Afghan intelligence detention centres and that children under 18 are among those who suffered, according to a report published on Monday.

Electric shock, stress positions including, forced standing, removal of toenails and threatened sexual abuse, were among other forms of torture that detainees reported, it added.

The findings were based on interviews with 379 pre-trial detainees and convicted prisoners at 47 detention centres across the country, conducted from October 2010 to August 2011. (AFP)

FACEBOOK HITS IPAD

SAN FRANCISCO - Facebook on Monday landed on the iPad, releasing a software that lets members of the leading online social network connect on Apple's hot-selling tablet computers.

The release of an iPad application is part of a move by Facebook to stay in synch with modern lifestyles that revolve increasingly around Internet-linked wireless mobile gadgets.

Features added to the Facebook iPad software include being able to chat with friends or watch high-resolution streaming video. Facebook also upgraded its iPhone application to allow faster online searches, simpler navigation of pages, and access to more games and other socially-oriented mini-programmes. (AFP)

Social Democrat's Juholt Faces Criminal Investigation

STOCKHOLM - The investigation involving Social Democrat leader Hakan Juholt was finally handed over by the National Anti-Corruption Unit to the National Police Crimes Unit. The party leader was under inquiry about accusation that he has been getting money from his accommodation reimbursements.

Juholt issued an official statement explaining his side shortly after prosecutor Alf Johansson confirmed that the case will be turned over to the national police.

"I welcome the preliminary investigation. A full inquiry is important," the leader said adding that he will work with full co-operation with the authorities.

"Aftonbladet" newspaper revealed on Friday that the Social Democrat leader already received

a warning from an internal audit in 2009.

Juholt denied the information at a press conference on Friday, saying he had only learned about a month ago that the rental payment should be halved if he's living with someone else.

The social democrat has reportedly been paying his rental dues in full.

"I have erred in not studying the rules with regards to the residences of Ministers of Parliament. I apologise for that. I want to underline that I have not claimed too much remuneration deliberately," Juholt said during the press conference. The leader also expressed his intention to repay the money, which reportedly reached SEK160,000.

Ombudsman Rejects EU Prostitutes Deportation

STOCKHOLM - The Parliamentary Ombudsman has ruled that prostitutes from European Union member-countries should not be deported until their three-month visiting rights expired. The ruling, however, was criticised by the police, who said that foreign prostitutes in the country are threat to the "basic interest of Swedish society."

The court said that EU citizens have the right to visit other EU member-states provided that they will stay there for up to three months.

"The effect is that we broaden the market for EU prostitutes," Stockholm border police Ingemo Melin-Olsson told "Sveriges Radio."

Meanwhile, the Migration Court has expressed support on the police's aim of deporting foreign prostitutes stressing that prostitution is not a legitimate way to earn a living.

Commenting on the ruling, the police said that they will follow the directive and will stop the deportation of EU citizen prostitutes.

However, they will push through with the deportation of prostitutes from non-EU member nations. The border police hope that the deportation case involving an EU-citizen prostitute by the ombudsman will shed light on how both EU-citizen and non-citizen prostitutes should be treated by the police and the courts.

Scania Slashes Production

STOCKHOLM - Truckmaker Scania will cut its production by up to 15% starting next month due to a dent in demand caused by a global economic slowdown.

"Government financial problems in Europe and the United States have now begun to affect economic activity and have led to hesitation among customers," the company explained, adding it was seeing "deceleration in Europe, but also a slower pace of order bookings from the Middle East."

As a result, "starting in November the company will lower its production rate due to falling demand. Compared to the end of the third quarter, at the global level this means that the vehicle production rate will be reduced by ten percent to 15%," the company said.

It stressed though that the production adjustment would be "handled within the framework of existing flexibility agreements between the company and trade union organisations."

Following the news, Scania saw its share price slump 2.81% in midday trading on a Stockholm stock exchange up nearly one percent. Its main competitor Volvo, the world's second-largest lorry maker, was also affected by the announcement, seeing its share price drop three percent. (AFP)

 WEATHER

Gothenburg: 8-12c PM Showers
 Malmo: 9-14c PM Showers
 Stockholm: 2-11c Sunny
 Sundsvall: -1c to 8c Mostly Sunny

US Duo Win Economics Nobel For Macroeconomic Work

STOCKHOLM - Two United States researchers won the 2011 Nobel Economics Prize on Monday for research on how different events affect economies and which could help find answers to the current crisis, the Nobel jury said.

Thomas Sargent and Christopher Sims, both 68, have developed methods that help answer questions "regarding the causal relationship between economic policy and different macroeconomic variables, such as gross domestic product, inflation, employment and investments," the Nobel jury said.

"Their combined work constitutes a solid foundation for modern macroeconomic analysis. It is hard to envisage today's research without this foundation," it added.

Economies are constantly affected by both anticipated events, like long term fiscal policy and shifts in monetary policies, and unanticipated events like sudden hikes in the price of oil or an unexpected drop in household consumption.

The laureates' work in the 1970s and 1980s provides methodologies that facilitate understanding of how both systemic policy shifts and so-called "shocks" affect the macroeconomy in the short and long run. (AFP)

Yellow Bird Gives Up Rights To 'Headhunters' Novel

STOCKHOLM - Yellow Bird production company has sold the English-language movie rights to Norwegian crime writer Jo Nesbo's "Headhunters" novel to Summit Entertainment.

Yellow Bird chief executive officer Mikael Wallen said that if the independent American film studio decides to make a film version of the novel it could hit screens in about three years.

A Norwegian movie of the novel has already attracted more than 600,000 viewers in Norway and Denmark. "Headhunters" tells the story of a rich headhunter who finances his extravagant life through art thefts. The book has been translated into several languages and has sold more than 600,000 copies in 27 countries. (AP)

 SPORTS NEWS

US NHL Results

New York Islander 2-1 Minnesota Wild, Boston Bruins 0-1 Colorado Avalanche, New Jersey Devils, Carolina Hurricanes, St Louis Blues 5-2 Calgary Flames, Dallas Stars 2-1 Phoenix Coyotes, Columbus Blue Jackets 2-3 Vancouver Canucks, Washington Capitals 6-5 Tampa Bay Lightning.

Suspended Ibrahimovic Returns To Milan

ROME - AC Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic was back in training with his club on Monday after leaving the Sweden squad ahead of Tuesday's final Euro 2012 qualifier against the Netherlands. The 30-year-old is suspended for a game, which is crucial for Sweden's chances of qualifying automatically for next year's finals in Poland and Ukraine.

Erik Hamren's men are already certain of finishing second in group E, but a win could allow them to qualify directly as the best runners-up out of all nine European groups.

Hamren wanted his captain to stay with the squad even though he couldn't play.

"My wish was for him to stay. I spoke to Zlatan and he said to me that he also wished to stay," he said.

"Now we must speak to Milan, because the decision is theirs." However, Milan were keen to bring Ibrahimovic back to begin preparations for Saturday's home game with Palermo. The defending Serie A champions have won just one of their five league games to date and lie 15th in the table, six points behind leaders Juventus. (AFP)

Netherlands Face Sweden In Euro 2012 Qualifiers

STOCKHOLM - Sweden will face the Netherlands on Tuesday to seal their play-off spot without star-player Zlatan Ibrahimovic who already returned in AC Milan after being suspended on Friday with a win over Finland.

"Without Zlatan, we will be forced to play a bit differently, but our basic game plan against the Netherlands remains the same," national team coach Erik Hamren said.

Netherlands tops the Group E with a perfect 27 points from nine games and the tournament's highest scorer with 35 goals.

If Netherlands win against the Swedes in Stockholm, they will be assured of automatic qualification as best runners-up. Sweden suffered a 4-1 defeat in Amsterdam last October.

Meanwhile, star-studded France and Portugal face a nail-biting night if they are to fill two of the five remaining automatic qualifying places. Germany, Italy, Netherlands, England and world and European champions Spain are already through, leaving four group winners spots to be decided as well as a best runners-up slot from the nine groups. (AFP)

ATP Shanghai Masters - Roddick Beats Lu

SHANGHAI - Andy Roddick rallied to beat Lu Yen-Hsun of Taiwan, 6-2 3-6 6-2, on Monday in the first round of the Shanghai Masters. The tenth-seeded Roddick won the first set easily, but Lu picked up his game in the second, rushing the net repeatedly and hitting 15 winners to eight for the American.

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 FINANCIAL NEWS

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

EUR 1 = SEK 9.1087

USD 1 = SEK 6.6787

EUR 1 = USD 1.3639

The former US Open champion then broke Lu twice in the third set to close out the match.

Roddick was beaten by Lu in five sets in the fourth round of Wimbledon last year, the last time the two players met. But the Taiwanese player made too many mistakes, committing 50 unforced errors, including seven double-faults.

"He plays so high risk," Roddick said. "Overall, I thought it was pretty good, save four games." The 29-year-old Roddick has struggled to regain his form this season, losing in the third round at Wimbledon and pulling out of the French Open because of injury. His ranking has slipped to No 15. (AP)

Stosur, Zvonareva Qualify For WTA Championships

PARIS - Australia's US Open champion Samantha Stosur and Russia's Vera Zvonareva has become the sixth and seventh players to qualify for the season-ending Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Championships in Istanbul from October 25 to October 30.

They join world no 1 Caroline Wozniacki, three-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova, Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova, world No 4 four Victoria Azarenka and China's Roland Garros champion Li Na in the eight-player field.

Andrea Petkovic, Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska and France's Marion Bartoli are contesting the remaining spot during the final two weeks of the regular season. (AFP)