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With Fiat at the wheel, Chrysler emerges anew

By ANTONIO PEREZ
Epoch Times Staff

Italian automaker Fiat S.p.A. completed its acquisition of Chrysler LLC's most valuable assets on Wednesday, ensuring the survival of the 84-year old American icon previously on the brink of liquidation.

The deal clears the way for Chrysler to exit bankruptcy and resume operations as a new company.

Tony Clement, Canada's Minister of Industry said the government was confident Chrysler would be more competitive that would produce and sell Canadian-made cars.

"A restructured Chrysler is good news for the Canadian auto parts supply chain and for Canadian consumers. The company can now focus on producing top quality vehicles that consumers want."

'A restructured Chrysler is good news for the Canadian auto parts supply chain and for Canadian consumers.'

—Tony Clement, Canadian Industry Minister

He also promised the Canadian government would exercise "rigorous oversight" over how taxpayer money given to the company in an eleventh-hour bailout was used.

The U.S. Supreme Court denied a last-minute attempt by an Indiana state pension fund to delay Chrysler's bankruptcy proceedings, granting

the asset sale and approving the fast-track bankruptcy reorganization sought by the Obama Administration and company officials.

The new company will begin operations as Chrysler Group LLC, to be led by Fiat CEO Sergio Marchionne. Current CEO Bob Nardelli will step down in the near future, the company said.

Fiat will hold an initial minority stake of 20 percent in Chrysler, which could go up to 35 percent, and take over the day-to-day operations and decision making of the company. The Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Association, a medical benefit trust fund of the United Auto Workers union, will gain majority ownership (55 percent) of the company.

The U.S. Treasury Department and the Canadian government own a combined 10 percent.

"Those Chrysler operations assumed by the new company that were idled during this process will soon be back up and running, and work is already underway on developing new environmentally friendly, fuel-efficient, high-quality vehicles that we intend to become Chrysler's hallmark going forward," Marchionne said in a company statement.

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Green with Mousavi



Dressed in green, a growing number of Iranian voters are backing presidential candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi ahead of Friday's vote. Current President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has called Mr. Mousavi's supporters a "velvet revolution" -- a criticism. Full story on P5. MAJID/GETTY IMAGES

Leaders meet to discuss controversial trade agreement

By MATTHEW LITTLE
Epoch Times Staff

OTTAWA—Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Colombian President Álvaro Uribe held a press conference on Parliament Hill Wednesday afternoon to announce progress on contentious issues related to a free trade agreement between the two countries.

Canada and Colombia signed the trade agreement in November 2008 but legislation to implement it is still making its way through Parliament where it has encountered opposition.

The New Democratic Party (NDP) has vowed to fight the bill because of concerns over human rights—particularly labor rights—in the South American country. Bloc Quebecois and Liberal MPs

have said the bill needs a thorough debate but the Conservatives have placed it quite low on their order sheet of bills to be debated.

At Wednesday's press conference the Prime Minister praised President Uribe and his government for "very important progress toward sustained peace, security and protection of human rights in their country," and said it was important to support that progress by embracing free trade between the two countries.

Mr. Harper also said it was essential to provide other economic opportunities for Colombians who might otherwise turn to drug trafficking or paramilitary activities, and that free trade was particularly important during the global economic downturn.

CONTINUED ON P3 NATION



Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper (R) and Colombian President Álvaro Uribe pause for photographers at the Prime Minister's office before a press conference Wednesday afternoon.

MATTHEW LITTLE/THE EPOCH TIMES

Obama proposes pay-as-go policy

By JOSHUA PHILIPP
Epoch Times Staff

A plan that requires Congress to save a dollar for every dollar they spend was laid out by President Barack Obama on June 9.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and the democratic members of Congress joined Obama in urging the passage of the "pay-as-you-go" legislation during a White House news conference.

Obama said the plan was simple. "Congress can only spend a dollar if it saves a dollar elsewhere. And this principle guides responsible families managing a budget," he said.

Attempts were made to restore the legislation two years ago by the Democratic Congress, yet could not pass without support from the administration.

"I want you all to know you now have that support," Obama said. "The fact is there are few who aren't distressed by deficits. It's a concern that crosses party lines, geographic boundaries, and ideological divides."

Obama originally announced the "pay-as-you go" plan (also called PAYGO) along with the Fiscal Year 2010 budget back in May, yet it was overshadowed by the 121 cuts and reductions that were presented in the budget.

Standing by the plan, Nancy Pelosi said that in the 1990s the plan helped the Clinton administration reverse deficits left from the Reagan-Bush years and created four years of budget surplus.

"But when President George W. Bush came to office, he and congressional republicans abandoned the PAYGO rule," Pelosi said. "A projected surplus of \$5.6 trillion was allowed to collapse into more than \$5.8 trillion in deficits—a turnaround of more than \$11 trillion in the wrong direction."

Pelosi added that that PAYGO will become the "discipline for all future spending and tax policy."

'Congress can only spend a dollar if it saves a dollar elsewhere.'

—U.S. President Obama



'Chinese Gestapo's' decade of brutality

By CHARLOTTE CUTHBERTSON
Epoch Times Staff

A police force with powers extending over all levels of China's security apparatus continues to lead the crackdown on Falun Gong in China.

The 6-10 Office was formed 10 years ago on June 10 by the head of the Chinese Communist Party at the time, Jiang Zemin. He gave the directive to use "every means necessary" to wipe out the spiritual practice of Falun Gong.

"The 6-10 Office is just like Hitler's Gestapo," Guo Guoting, a Chinese human rights lawyer in exile told the Falun Dafa Information Center (FDI). "They are powerful and they got enough financial support from the government so...they secretly control all the Falun Gong practitioners in their local areas."

Former police official of Tianjin State Security Bureau and the 6-10 Office, Hao Fengjun, defected to Australia in 2005 and says that China does indeed have a Gestapo-like agency called the 6-10 Office.

CONTINUED ON P5 WORLD

The 6-10 Office in China is an extra-judicial police force similar to the Gestapo, say experts. PETER PARKS/JAFF/GETTY IMAGES

Popular film skewed France's EU elections, cry politicians

By AURELIEN GIRARD
Epoch Times Staff

PARIS—Several French politicians have bitterly accused a green-awareness movie and the timing of its showing for influencing the local results of European elections in the country.

The green coalition's Europe Ecologie made stirring gains on the June 7 elections by taking 16.3 percent of French votes, tying it with the Socialist for the second largest French political force in the European Parliament. It will have the same number of MPs as the French Socialist Party.

On June 5, two days before the election, French National Television France 2 aired the movie "Home" by world-renowned photographer and environmental activist Yann Arthus-Bertrand. That evening, 8.3 million French, representing one third of all French viewers, watched the movie, which was presented as an ode to life.

"I'd like to say that we are not fools on this manipulation," stated Jean-Marie Le Pen, vice-president of the far-right Front National, in the Le Monde newspaper. "I

think all of this has been well thought out, precisely to push Europe Ecologie."

Yann Arthus-Bertrand and the movie producers, however, explained that the date of the movie's airing—the World Environment Day—was decided more than 2 years ago, before the schedule of the European Elections was known.

"I don't understand... how there can be the slightest problem [about the movie]," French President Nicolas Sarkozy told the media. "If there is one duty our national TV should assume, it is to make clear the environmental challenges we face"

The movie shoots a variety of landscapes from the sky and tells the story of climate change. Meant to display the beauty of Earth and to show how human industrial activity is posing a serious threat to its survival, "Home" has been compared to "An Inconvenient Truth" by former US vice-president Al Gore.

"Home" is now playing in theaters around the world well as on Youtube. Watching it will certainly be a worthwhile occupation for the big losers of the June 7th vote.

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