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'Can you tell me how to get...'

Legendary children's television program, "Sesame Street," celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

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FLOWERS FOR FALL WEDDINGS

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Oligarchic capitalism may take hold in India

India, seemingly on track to become the next Asian economic power, is at risk of shifting from capitalism to oligarchic capitalism, a new report suggests.

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2009 SESAME WORKSHOP/ COURTESY OF VEE CORPORATION

SHARON MCGUKIN

Behind military show, Chinese regime grapples with dissent

By MATTHEW LITTLE
Epoch Times Staff

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is nearing the 60th anniversary of its rise to power next week, and ruling cadres are promising a massive military display. A host of new Chinese arsenal, most of it never seen in public, will line Beijing's streets on October 1 as part of a "National Day" parade, according to a party spokesperson.

But while state-run media will no doubt be awash with such images of strength, the party is also showing signs of strain as it grapples behind the scenes with rising tensions and unrest.

An article published recently in the state-run Outlook Weekly, a magazine published by the party's official mouthpiece, Xinhua, gave a rare glimpse at these strains.

"Recently, mass incidents in some areas have exposed the indifference and weak governing abilities of a few leading officials," said a commentary on the regime's recent Central Committee plenum.

"If a ruling party's members cannot correctly handle the power in their hands, become high-handed and divorced from the masses, this ruling party will ultimately be rejected by the people," continued the Outlook Weekly.

For a party that has always proclaimed itself as "great, glorious, and correct," such a startling admission of vulnerability by one of its own magazines should sound the alarm for the party faithful.

Although the regime stopped collecting statistics about the number of "mass incidents" taking place in China after the annual number grew by more than seven times over ten years to 74,000 in 2004, many suspect the number has only continued to rise.

CONTINUED ON P5 WORLD



RED SKY: A photographer takes a shot of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Severe wind storms from the dry interior of the Australian continent have engulfed Sydney and surrounding areas. CAMERON SPENCER/GETTY IMAGES

Sydney hunkers down under red dust storms

By SHAR ADAMS
Epoch Times Staff

SYDNEY—The early morning light, combined with the millions of tons of red dust, put Sydney, Australia in a thick orange shroud when an unusual dust storm hit on Wednesday Sept. 23, making visibility almost nil and causing havoc for transport and emergency services.

Over 20 international flights were diverted or cancelled during the

morning, the Sydney harbor ferry service was forced to halt, and state emergency services were running scarce, called out to fix alarms which had been triggered by the dust.

Air pollution levels jumped to 1,500 times their normal level, the highest on record, and warnings were sent out to those with asthma or respiratory problems to stay indoors. Local radio stations ran hot with calls from residents, many saying it was the eeriest morning they had ever experienced.

"It did feel like Armageddon," said one caller to a local radio station who said she could see little except for "a red glow coming through."

Dr. Blair Trewin from the Bureau of Meteorology says dust storms are not unusual for this time of year but the extent of this storm was what had made it a stand out.

"Normally if you've got storm winds they would be a bit more localized and the dust would not be carried quite as far," he said. "You would certainly

have to go back many years for the last time we saw dust covering such a wide area as this."

The storm—which blew at over 100 kilometers an hour (62 mph) in some areas—dumped red dirt from Broken Hill in the west of New South Wales, through Canberra and the Southern Highlands, into Sydney and then continued up the Hunter Valley and the north coast to hit Brisbane later in the day.

CONTINUED ON P5 WORLD



SPLENDOUR: Chinese dance at its finest. SHEN YUN PERFORMING ARTS

Shen Yun returns to Toronto

By RYAN MOFFAT
Epoch Times Staff

Shen Yun Performing Arts will be returning to Toronto in early October for the Mid Autumn Festival. The acclaimed New York-based performance company will bring its unique blend of traditional Chinese dance and culture to Canon Theatre from October 9 to 11.

In what has become a yearly tradition, Torontonians will have a chance to celebrate the popular Chinese holiday with a dose of authentic Chinese culture. Backed by a full orchestra, Shen Yun dancers give dramatic portrayal to the cherished stories of the Middle Kingdom's 5,000-year civilization.

In Chinese classical dance, elements of movement have been preserved through generations; they are reflected in martial arts and ethnic dances and permeate the entire culture.

Shen Yun choreographer and principal dancer Vina Lee, a graduate of the Beijing Academy of Dance—China's top dance school—has performed classical dance both inside and outside China.

"The mission of our performance is to revive traditional Chinese culture and the values of pure grace, kindness, sincerity, and human dignity," Lee says.

"The ancients lived by these values and their essence is embodied in the show. Shen Yun strives to make every aspect of the production as true to history as possible, from the finest details of the handmade costumes to the depiction of the ancient myths and legends."

The physical feats of the dancers are complimentary to the cultural substance conveyed in the story-based dances. Each dance expresses a cultural essence beyond what is found in the pages of a history book.

"I believe that as artists, we have the responsibility to bring people not just a show but to provide meaning behind it—to uplift morality, loyalty, and filial piety as in the story of Yue Fei, where the audience is almost always in tears. These virtues and principles apply to any society."

For more information visit www.shenyunperformingarts.org.

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Mosquito-borne virus poses new health threat

Chikungunya spreads beyond Africa, coming to North American, warns doctors

By HELENA ZHU
Epoch Times Staff

VANCOUVER—Just weeks after British Columbia confirmed its first locally acquired human cases of West Nile virus, North America and Europe face a new health threat from another mosquito-borne disease.

The Chikungunya virus, which first appeared in southern Tanzania in 1952, has spread beyond Africa and since 2005 has caused outbreaks and numerous fatalities in India and the French island of Reunion. It has also surfaced in France and Italy.

"Unlike West Nile virus, where nine out of 10 people are going to be totally asymptomatic or may have a mild headache or a stiff neck, if you get Chikungunya you're going to be sick," said Dr. James Diaz of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center.

Speaking at a meeting on airlines, airports, and disease transmission in Washington D.C. on Friday, Diaz said the virus is already "hyper-endemic"

in the islands of the Indian Ocean—a popular tourist destination.

"Travel by air will import the infected mosquitoes and humans," he said. "Chikungunya is coming."

Cities with large impoverished

'If you get Chikungunya you're going to be sick'

—Dr. James Diaz

populations and badly maintained water systems, such as Mexico City and Mumbai, could serve as breeding grounds for the disease, Diaz said.

Carried by the Asian tiger mosquito, Chikungunya causes an abrupt onset of fever frequently accompanied by joint and muscle pain,

nausea, fatigue, rash, and headache.

Most patients recover fully, but in some cases joint pain can last for several months or even years. The disease can lead to death in older individuals.

"At present there is no cause for alarm regarding Chikungunya in Canada, but we are aware of outbreaks in Asia and Europe," said Caroline Grondin, a spokesperson for the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).

Grondin said that while the Asian tiger mosquito is not currently in Canada, the pest can be found in some southern U.S. states. The mosquito becomes infected by feeding on a person who has the virus.

"The spread of the virus to Canada would depend on the establishment of the vector as well as the import of the virus in an infected person during a period warm enough for transmission from that infected person, via mosquitoes, to other people," she said.

Since the mosquito also carries dengue fever and malaria, Diaz warned of possible double-infections involving Chikungunya and these diseases.

CONTINUED ON P3 NATION

No ground gained in talk with U.S. and Middle East leaders

By GIDON BELMAKER
Epoch Times Staff

JERUSALEM—U.S. President Barack Obama finally got his wish for a meeting with the leaders of Palestine and Israel on Tuesday. After months of high-level diplomatic pressure, he hosted a highly anticipated meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in New York.

The meeting did not bear much in the way of results. It ended with a short remark made by President Obama urging the two sides to come together.

"We have to summon the will to break the deadlock that has trapped generations of Israelis and Palestinians in an endless cycle of conflict and suffering," said Obama in televised comments after the three-way meeting. "We cannot continue the same pattern of taking tentative steps forward and then stepping back. Success depends on all sides acting with a sense of urgency."

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