



SHEN YUN PERFORMING ARTS

Shen Yun en route to Toronto, earns praise in Geneva

Previous performances in Canada were praised by David Suzuki, Elvis Stojko, and celebrated ballet dancer and Officer of the Order of Canada, Vanessa Harwood, who said, "The show is really amazing. [The dancers] looked very light, and they brought me a kind of visual and spiritual joy." ... **for more see P9 Entertainment**

Sculpture on wheels

Have you ever driven a car that just looked good and made you personally feel even better? Well, that is what the 2009 Eclipse did for me. ... **For more see P15**



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Photo captures words that lead to trouble for Chinese newspaper

By FANG XIAO
Epoch Times Staff

Editors at the Jinzhou Evening News surely intended their front-page photo this Sunday to depict a mood of festivity and anticipation leading up to the Oct. 1 ceremonies marking 60 years of communist rule.

Taken outside a market in the northeastern Chinese port city of three million, the picture shows locals amid a swath of red flags and lanterns.

That would appear to make it inline with directions reportedly sent to editors by the Central Propaganda Department regarding coverage of the sensitive anniversary.

But what editors appear to have missed has led the paper to be pulled from shelves and has made it the subject of investigation by local party officials.

In the bottom left of the photo, on a gate post lining a bicycle parking lot are several unmistakable, handwritten Chinese characters: "Heaven is eliminating the Chinese Communist Party; Withdraw from the party to gain peace."

The newspaper is affiliated with the Jinzhou City Party Committee in China's Liaoning Province.

A sales agent of the Jinzhou Evening News told Hong Kong's Ming Pao newspaper that the next day authorities ordered the newspaper to stop publication on grounds of "violating advertisement laws" and that it was unclear when the newspaper could resume publication.

The Epoch Times reached a person in the newspaper's editorial department this week.

"Our newspaper did make a small mistake. But I cannot issue any comment to the public," he said. "I'm not sure about what happened and I cannot answer your question. I'm busy working right now. Don't call me anymore."

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A slogan proclaiming "Heaven is eliminating the Chinese Communist Party; Withdraw from the party to gain peace" appears at the lower left corner of the front page photo in the Sunday edition of the Jinzhou nightly newspaper. The photo has landed the paper in trouble with China's censors. Similar slogans have appeared on currency and walls across China.



Politicians should think twice before embarking on an election: report

By JOAN DELANEY
Epoch Times Staff

Voter fatigue. Could it result in an even lower turnout at the next federal election which, given the goings on in Ottawa, could happen any day?

According to The Economics of Elections, a policy brief by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, before another election gets underway politicians of all stripes need to think about how many Canadians will actually turn out to vote.

Voter turnout has been falling in Canada since 1988, reaching a historic low in the last election when only 58.8 percent of registered voters cast a ballot.

Unless this decline is reversed, the Canadian Chamber says the leaders that get elected and the policy positions they adopt will be determined by an ever smaller percentage of the population, thereby hurting the democratic process.

"Canada must make many vital decisions in the coming years, yet growing numbers of citizens feel that their votes don't matter," says Canadian Chamber president and CEO Perrin Beatty.

"If we are truly interested in the health of our democracy, all of our political parties have to do more to earn Canadians' respect."

As well as possible voter fatigue from three federal elections in the last five years, the report cites the usual suspects in low voter turnout: apathy, especially in young voters; lack of appealing candidates, parties, and/or issues; lack of confidence in the candidates and/or issues; and, in older voters, health concerns or being away from their riding on election day.

Rather than merely an election issue, Marc Chalifoux, executive vice president of the Historica Dominion Institute, believes that low voter turnout is linked to the state of a country's democratic engagement.

"There's a real democratic legitimacy that comes from being elected by a wide section of the population," he says.

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...all of our political parties have to do more to earn Canadians' respect'

Iranians 'recruited as U.S. spies' in Dubai

By STEPHEN JONES
Epoch Times Staff

DUBAI—Thousands of Iranians who travel to Dubai every year to gain visas for the United States are being questioned about sensitive political issues in their home country, a new book claims.

Iranians seeking to travel to the United States are allegedly being sounded out as potential informants by U.S. consular officials in Dubai. Diplomatic sources are quoted in the new book, "Dubai: The Story of the World's Fastest City," as saying that the consulate was being used for intelligence gathering since there hasn't been a formal U.S. Embassy in Tehran since 1979.

According to author Jim Krane, the information gathered from the consulate has been so important that the CIA allegedly vetoed efforts by the State Department to close the mission for budgetary reasons.

"The CIA wanted to keep it open because of the value of the intelligence they were getting... It is important for them because they do not have operatives in Tehran who are under diplomatic immunity," Krane said.

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A woman takes a sunbath off the Italian side of the Adriatic Sea last summer. Sunken ships of toxic waste have raised the ire of Italian politicians. ANDREAS SOLARO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Dumping of toxic waste in Mediterranean worries southern Italy

By DANA BETLEVY
Epoch Times Staff

ROME—Recent revelations over the alleged dumping of radioactive waste and other waste material by the Italian mafia in the Mediterranean Sea have alarmed southern Italy, especially the Calabria region.

Francesco Fonti, a former member of the Calabrese mafia Ndrangheta, told prosecutors earlier this month that he was personally involved in sinking two ships containing radioactive waste, the Yvonne A and Voriais, according to Italian media reports.

According to Fonti, the vessels contained toxic waste from pharmaceutical companies who paid the mafia between 1.5 and 15 million euro (CA\$2.36 and CA\$23.6 million) per ship to sink them.

Fonti says at least 30 ships containing radioactive waste have been sunk over the last 20 years.

Italian authorities have discovered one of the ships, which has 120 containers, around 30 km off the coast of Calabria. They are now investigating whether the containers hold toxic waste.

Calabrian mayors have

threatened protests if the government doesn't clear up the issue soon.

"We want to know if there is toxic waste. We cannot live with this terror," said Aurelio Garritano, deputy mayor of Longobardi, to Ansa Agency. "If the government won't send us money to clean up, Calabrian deputies and senators should resign because they clearly aren't capable of making their voices heard."

Past investigations into the alleged dumping of toxic waste were closed without much scrutiny.

Journalist languishes in prison at command of former friend

By BARBRO PLOGANDER and ARON LAMM
Epoch Times Staff

GOTHENBURG, Sweden—Dawit Isaaq, a Swedish-Eritrean journalist and author, passed his eighth year imprisoned without trial in Eritrea last week. The Swedish citizen, who has become an international symbol for the struggle for a free press and freedom of speech, has been nominated for

the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize. Last year's recipient was Chinese human rights activist Hu Jia.

Isaaq, who suffers from diabetes, has not been allowed to see his family or any representative of the Swedish government over the entire eight years. Many in Sweden are worried for his health, especially after rumors that he has been transferred to the notorious Eiaicro prison.

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