



Rosanne Cash Makes Her Own Mark

This is an album for everyone, even those who profess to have no interest in country music.

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Martinique, the Island of Flowers

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C. W. ELLIS

U.K. bets farm on wind

By DAMIAN ROBIN
Epoch Times Staff

LONDON—The £75 billion (CA \$126 billion) offshore wind farm programme set to provide a quarter of the U.K.'s electricity needs has moved into its next stage with licences awarded for the nine sites around the country.

The U.K. is the leading country in offshore wind capacity and this will be the largest power program for the next 10 years, matching the expanse of North Sea oil in the 1980s.

"This new round of licences provides a substantial new platform for investing in U.K. industrial capacity. The offshore wind industry is at the heart of the U.K. economy's shift to low carbon and could be worth £75 billion and support 70,000 jobs by 2020," Prime Minister Gordon Brown said in a press statement.

However, British business could flounder due to foreign investment and limited subsidy as only five of the nine wind power consortia involve British companies, and only one has a majority holding in a winning contract, according to Guardian energy correspondent Terry Macalister. The rest are all headed by German companies.

The sites are further out than present offshore wind farms, and the exact form that the turbine housing will take is still under debate.

One suggestion is to have a large raft or platform like an oilrig holding several wind turbines. The Carbon Trust has started a competition to find innovative foundation designs suitable for deeper seawater conditions of 30-60 metres on a large scale.

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An injured child receives medical treatment after an earthquake in Port-au-Prince January 13, 2010. The 7.3 magnitude quake rocked Haiti, killing possibly thousands of people as it toppled the presidential palace and hillside shanties alike and leaving the poor Caribbean nation appealing for international help. REUTERS/EDUARDO MUNOZ

Canada offers Haiti earthquake victims outpouring of support

By CINDY CHAN
Epoch Times Staff

OTTAWA—The federal government and Canadians across the country are showing a heartfelt outpouring of support for the victims of a massive earthquake that struck Haiti on Jan. 12.

Canada has pledged \$5 million for immediate humanitarian assistance in response to the 7.3-magnitude earthquake that devastated the Caribbean nation's densely populated capital, Port-au-Prince, and surrounding area.

The Canadian Forces deployed about 20 personnel of the 200-member Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Haiti Wednesday morning for an assessment mission.

A larger deployment of a CC-177

transporter aircraft, along with frigate HMCS Halifax and destroyer HMCS Athabasca, were scheduled to depart early Thursday morning to deliver humanitarian equipment and supplies.

To date, one Canadian has been confirmed dead in the massive quake that has claimed the lives of an estimated 100,000 to half a million.

Yvonne Martin of Elmira, Ontario, a nurse with the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada, died in the collapse of a guesthouse shortly after arriving in Port-au-Prince on Tuesday.

The Foreign Affairs department said it expects more casualties to be reported as search and rescue operations make headway.

A Canadian trapped in the rubble managed to send a text message to the Foreign

Affairs department to seek help.

Canada's mission in Port-au-Prince has confirmed that all 24 Canadian staff are accounted for, as well as 80 of the 82 Canadian police officers in Haiti as part of the United Nations Stabilization Mission to train the country's national police force.

Two RCMP officers, Superintendent Douglas Coates of Ottawa and Sergeant Mark Gallagher of Halifax, remain missing.

In addition, Canada has 7 Corrections Canada officers and 5 Canadian Forces personnel deployed with the same UN mission in Haiti, where an estimated 6,000 Canadians live.

A huge number of buildings have been destroyed including the presidential palace and U.N. headquarters.

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Google says 'no' to Chinese censorship

By SUMAN SRINIVASAN
Epoch Times Staff

NEW YORK—Internet search giant Google stunned industry analysts, market watchers, as well as its critics on Jan. 12 by announcing that it would stop censoring its search results on Google.cn, the mainland Chinese version of Google tailored for a Chinese audience and launched in 2006.

A post on Google's official blog at 3 p.m. said that over the next few weeks the company "will be discussing with

the Chinese [regime] the basis on which we could operate an unfiltered search engine within the law," and that the "decision to review our business operations in China ... will have potentially far-reaching consequences." It was signed by David Drummond, senior vice president of Corporate Development and Chief Legal Officer of Google.

The Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) track record of repressing dissent and censoring the Internet may mean that Google cannot operate an uncensored search engine in China, a possibility acknowledged by Mr. Drummond. "We recognize that this may well mean having to shut down Google.cn, and potentially our offices in China," he wrote.

ATTACKS BY CHINESE HACKERS

Part of what led Google to review its cooperation with the CCP was a series of cyber-attacks, targeting both Google and other U.S.-based tech companies.

In mid-December, Mr. Drummond writes, Google detected a "highly sophisticated and targeted attack on our corporate infrastructure originating from China that resulted in the theft of intellectual property from Google."

After investigation in league with 20 other companies, Google reported that the cyber-attacks were made on a large sector of the industry. The primary goal of the attackers was accessing the Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists. Google stated that "accounts of dozens of U.S., China- and Europe-based Gmail users who are advocates of human rights in China appear to have been routinely accessed by third parties."

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'We recognize that this may well mean having to shut down Google.cn, and potentially our offices in China'

-David Drummond, Chief Legal Officer of Google.

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Girl Guides mark 100 years of girl power

By ANDREA HAYLEY
Epoch Times Staff

Girl Guides in Canada and around the world are celebrating the movement's 100th anniversary this year. Canadian festivities kick off on Saturday.

The girl guiding movement began in London in 1910 when a group of tenacious young women who had been copying the their brothers in scouting—usually in secret—challenged the norms of the day and moved beyond needlework to tracking, stopping runaway horses, and even rescuing people from burning buildings, according to the organization's website.

"Both their mothers and the general public were shocked and horrified at the girls' escapades and appearance—skirts hiked up, wearing Scout hats, carrying stout broomsticks hung about with whistles, knives and enormous haversacks decorated with large red crosses," it continues.

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Girl Guides on a camping trip in 1963. GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA

U.S. Afghan fund to lure farmers from drug trade

By PETER SEDIK
Epoch Times Staff

Washington plans to donate up to \$20 million to Afghanistan's Agriculture Ministry to improve its capacity to deliver services to local farmers.

The intention behind the program is to help the country continue its switch from opium production to the cultivation of legal crops like grapes or corn.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the plan on Tuesday after a three-day visit to Afghanistan.

Afghanistan is the biggest opium exporter in the world, supplying as much as 90 percent of worldwide demand for the drug, which is used in the production of heroine.

Groups like the Taliban use the money from illegal drug trafficking to finance their operations. The groups supply farmers with futures contracts, guaranteed marketing, financing, seeds, and fertilizers.

Vilsack, who has visited Afghanistan six times, told the Associated Press in Kabul that the U.S. has to provide a counter-offer to the Afghans farmers, who are reportedly earning five times more money growing poppies than wheat on fields of the same size.

Before the war, Afghanistan used to export dried fruits, nuts, and pomegranates, but the industry has been largely devastated. Many of the farmers now rely on poppy production for their income.

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THE SHOW THAT'S LEAVING MILLIONS IN AWE.

SHEN YUN

神韻晚會

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