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FREE



Apple debuts much awaited iPad tablet

Business P6

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

RECIPE OF THE WEEK: Poppy seed Gugelhupf



At Home

SANDRA SHIELDS/THE EPOCH TIMES

Schwarzenegger wants cheap jails in Mexico for illegal immigrant prisoners

World P4



MICHAL CZERWONKA/GETTY IMAGES

Earthquake demands responsible aid

Haiti's tragic history makes future uncertain

ANALYSIS

By MATTHEW LITTLE
Epoch Times Staff

Haiti's past makes its future uncertain, despite the pledges of support from world leaders in the aftermath of the massive earthquake and aftershocks that levelled the country's capital killing an estimated 200,000 on Jan. 12.

Haiti's history reads like a string of atrocities and tragedies beginning with the death of its native population after Spain claimed the island in 1492. Spain and France dominated the country's earlier history, exploiting its resources with slave labour until the slaves rebelled and claimed the country. That was over 200 years ago.

As the poorest and most corrupt country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti's stability has frequently relied on the help of foreign governments, with its own governments most often being led by democratically elected despots or leaders that took power through short-lived coups. Much of the country's infrastructure was built during a U.S. occupation between 1915 and 1934.

The country is listed as 12th from the bottom of the Failed State Index published annually by Fund for Peace, a U.S. think tank. Haiti is the only country in the Western Hemisphere listed in the "Alert" category. Haiti's governments have often been unable to exercise practical control over much of the country.

PLEASE SEE QUAKE ON P2

PROTESTS AND MILITARY CONTROL IN VENEZUELA



TURMOIL IN VENEZUELA: A student wears a face mask reading 'you are out,' referring to Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, as she participates in a protest against suspension of the signal of private RCTV broadcast network in Caracas on Jan. 25, 2010. RCTV had not broadcasted the compulsory transmission of President Chavez on Friday and Saturday. Some cities in Venezuela have come under military control following the protests. See World P5 for story. JUAN BARRETO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Obama State of the Union Address amid troubled waters

By JACK PHILLIPS
Epoch Times Staff

President Barack Obama gave his first State of the Union Address on Wednesday since taking office more than one year ago. Amid declining approval ratings, the president promised a focus on creating jobs, as America still crawls out of a severe recession.

The president discussed the economy and the health care bills passed in the House and Senate under his administration. But while his speech touted successes, his administration faces increased pressure.

Just one week ago, he lost the 60-seat Democratic super-majority in the Senate after Ted Kennedy's coveted seat was taken by Republican Senator Scott Brown. With the loss, Democrats in the Senate face increased opposition from Republicans in passing financial reform legislation, as well as passing a health-care reform package.

Senate Democrats face further pressure in the form of impending elections in the November primaries as several key senators in the Democratic Caucus, including Connecticut's Chris Dodd, plan to retire rather than seek reelection.

However, Obama waxed optimistic: "I have never been more hopeful about America's future than I am tonight," he said, which drew applause from both sides of the aisle.

Many Democrats could possibly lose seats amid mounting pressure and voter approval losses. Obama's approval rating in recent months has dropped as well. In Feb. 2009, Obama's approval rating hovered around 69 percent in Gallup Polls. In the past six months, his approval rating has steadily declined to where it now stands at 48 percent.

PLEASE SEE OBAMA ON P4

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LEADERSHIP CRISIS: People wait outside their homes along a road in Nigeria's central city of Jos on Jan. 20, 2010. The death toll after four days of clashes between Muslim and Christian gangs in the Nigerian city of Jos and nearby communities has topped 460, according to a mosque official and human rights activists. REUTERS/AKINTUNDE AKINLEYE

Coup threatens Nigeria in president's absence

By ANDRES CORDOVA
Epoch Times Staff

Since Nigerian President Malam Musa Yar'ardua disappeared from sight with an acute heart condition two months ago, the troubled nation has plunged into

turmoil and seems adrift.

Despite mounting pressure on the president to step down from critics including his former mentor and predecessor Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, the Nigerian cabinet on Wednesday announced that the president was fit enough

to perform his functions.

The president, however, was asked by the Senate to provide a "sick letter" so that Vice President Goodluck Jonathan would be entitled to exercise full presidential powers.

"Presently there is a party tussle on how to resolve the president's

absence ... there are no clear directives to the ministries on how to implement certain actions," said Nick Nwolisa, the head of Programs Development and International Relations and columnist at Nigeria World.

PLEASE SEE NIGERIA ON P4

Last-minute Hong Kong visa denials lead to cancelled Shen Yun shows

By PAM MCLENNAN
Epoch Times Staff

OTTAWA—Organizers and fans of Shen Yun Performing Arts' shows held a protest outside the Chinese embassy in Ottawa on Sunday after learning that members of one of the company's touring groups had been denied entry to Hong Kong.

"Shen Yun Performing Arts regrets to inform that seven sold-out shows in Hong Kong have been cancelled due to Hong Kong authorities' last-minute denial of entry visas to several of our key production staff," the company said in a statement.

PLEASE SEE VISA ON P2

THE SHOW THAT'S LEAVING MILLIONS IN AWE.

SHEN YUN

神韻晚會

ALL-NEW 2010 PROGRAM WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA

MAR 25-28

QUEEN ELIZABETH THEATRE

TICKETS:
Ticketmaster: 604-280-4444
Hotline: 1-800-683-0191
3/25-27, 7:30pm | 3/27-28, 2:00pm
Ticketprice: \$39 - \$139
www.ticketmaster.ca/shenyun

ShenYunPerformingArts.org