

# The Epoch Times

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## 'Curse of the skyscraper'

The opening on Monday of the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, comes at a time when the world is embroiled in a deep recession. Some see this as history repeating itself.

World P4

## 2010 Ford Fusion sport AWD

It's as comfortable as a sedan, dressed in luxury, and handles like a sports car. It is no wonder that 'Motor Trend Magazine' named it Car of the Year.

Autos P15



NETCARSHOW.COM

## Canadian arrest warrant for 'Chinese Warren Buffett'

By JASON LOFTUS  
Epoch Times Staff

TORONTO—Toronto Police on Wednesday issued a Canada-wide arrest warrant for Weizhen Tang, alleging he defrauded investors of roughly \$30 million through a Ponzi scheme.

It is the latest blow for Tang, who previously described himself as the "Chinese Warren Buffett."

Police detective Gail Regan told NTDTV on Wednesday that Tang was supposed to appear before the police on Dec. 29, 2009, but did not show up.

Canada's Globe and Mail newspaper quoted an e-mail exchange with Tang in which he admitted to being in "China and Asia," but denied hiding from authorities. Tang said he would return to Toronto for a hearing in February.

Tang's lawyer said Tang went overseas after securities authorities in Canada and the United States banned him from trading last year. He is said to be trying to earn back the money he lost investors.

Toronto Police now say that between 2006 and 2009, Tang defrauded more than 100 victims in his scheme, which reportedly required investors to shore up a minimum \$150,000.

Police say the victims are spread across the United States, Canada, and China. Previous accounts have said the victims are predominately ethnic Chinese.

Tang was a celebrity of sorts among Chinese overseas. He was hailed in several Chinese-language newspapers in Canada and held close ties with the Chinese consulate in Toronto, boasting of the funds he spent to organize pro-Beijing events.

He presented himself as someone who would help Chinese immigrants succeed in an unfamiliar system.

CONTINUED ON P2 NATION

## The decade that was: 2000-2009

GUTIERREZ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



JOEL SAGET/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

IMAGES OF A DECADE: (Top left) New York City firefighters share in a moment of silence during a prayer service on Oct. 7, 2001, at ground zero, where the World Trade Center twin towers once stood in Manhattan. (Top right) Shen Yun Performing Arts has set out to revive traditional Chinese culture. In 2009 it performed in over 100 cities before more than 800,000 people. (Bottom left) Seven-time Tour de France winner and Kazakh Astana (AST) cycling team's Lance Armstrong poses with his bike. (Bottom right) Residents walk past the ruins of their downtown homes in January 2005 in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

SHEN YUN PERFORMING ARTS



CHINA PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES

The Epoch Times top stories of the decade are less about singular events—although there were plenty of those—and more about trends and patterns that emerged. We've chosen stories that have impact worldwide rather than just nationally. We've also looked beyond which stories earned the most ink on news pages over the last ten years to consider those that are most likely to leave an impact in the future.

### 9/11 AND AFTERMATH

The terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 killed over 2,900 innocents, toppled Manhattan's iconic twin towers, and shocked people around the globe. The attacks were the most destructive act of terror to date by radical Islamic militants and awoke the world to a new threat. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan followed, as did increased security at airports and controversial attempts to monitor terrorists, such as the Patriot Act in the United States. Other large-

scale terrorist attacks—in London, Madrid, and Mumbai—have taken place since, and the war on terror does not seem close to a conclusion.

### ECONOMIC BUBBLES AND BURSTS

The S&P 500 declined more than 23 percent during the 2000s, the worst decade for the U.S. financial markets in history and an index for much of the globe. The decade began during the dot-com fueled economic bubble. The bursting of that bubble along with 9/11 sent markets plummeting. By mid-decade, low interest rates fueled deficit spending worldwide. The resulting real estate bubble crashed in mid-2008, engulfing the world in a financial crisis and leaving a lasting mark on consumer confidence, credit markets, and public policy. The debt that many central banks took on to finance their stimuli and corporate bailouts could take years to resolve.

CONTINUED ON P4 WORLD

### Top News Stories of the Decade 2000-2009

- 9/11 and Aftermath
- Economic Bubbles and Bursts
- Shen Yun Revives Traditional Chinese Culture
- Tsunami a Historic International Disaster
- Persecution and Perseverance of Falun Gong
- Pervasiveness of the Internet
- Global Warming
- Decade of the Sports Super Champion
- Fateful U.S. Presidential Elections
- Iran's Bomb and Challenges to Regime

## Proroguing Parliament a political liability, expert says

By MATTHEW LITTLE  
Epoch Times Staff

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's decision to prorogue parliament until March could become a greater political albatross than the Afghan detainee controversy that some suspect prompted the move, says one expert.

"I think most Canadians are not actually much concerned with the

detainees question per se but are more concerned with the government's action in trying to cover up and with prorogation itself. It is after all a maxim of politics that cover-ups are often more punished than the deed itself ever would have been," said Richard Van Loon, ex-president of Carleton University where he taught political studies.

CONTINUED ON P3 NATION

## Obsession with insurgents a hole in U.S. Afghan tack: report

By JOSHUA PHILLIPP  
Epoch Times Staff

A top U.S. military intelligence officer has strongly criticized the work of American spy agencies in Afghanistan, saying the country's "vast intelligence apparatus" is overly focused on gathering information on insurgent groups while remaining disengaged from the local Afghan people.

Major General Michael Flynn's assessment of U.S. intelligence operations in Afghanistan came in a report issued by a Washington-based think tank less than a week after a suicide bomber killed seven CIA operatives at Camp Chapman, a CIA base near Khost in eastern Afghanistan.

CONTINUED ON P4 WORLD

## Shooting in Montreal may spell Mafia turf war

Blatant attack a sign of street gang challenge, warns expert

By MATTHEW LITTLE  
Epoch Times Staff

The daylight shooting of the son of a reputed mob boss has raised fears of a turf war in Montreal as street gangs challenge the Mafia's supremacy, says one of Canada's foremost experts in organized crime who believes Canada has become a favourite destination for criminal groups around the world.

Nick Rizzuto Jr., the eldest son of reputed Canadian mob boss Vito Rizzuto, was shot in the chest four to six times on a busy Montreal street corner in the afternoon of Dec. 28.

His father, Vito Rizzuto, named by police as the Godfather of the Montreal Mafia, is currently serving a 10-year sentence in a Colorado prison for racketeering related to the murders of three men in 1981. He was not at his son's funeral on Saturday.

But Nicolò Rizzuto, Nick Jr.'s grandfather who has reportedly been pinned down by police surveillance because he is on probation for organized criminal activity, was in attendance.

Police have yet to arrest Nick Jr.'s killer, described as a black man wearing a dark jacket, hood, and jeans.

The shooting represents a dramatic shift in Quebec's criminal underworld, says Antonio Nicaso, a journalist and internationally-recognized expert on organized crime.

"Organized crime, the Mafia in particular, is well entrenched in the Quebec society," he says.

But Nicaso believes the Mafia's position at the top of the criminal hierarchy is now being challenged by street gangs who have far greater numbers.

"They used to do the dirty work for the Mafia, now they realize that it is the right moment to flex their muscle."

But how that show of strength will be responded to is uncertain, and some fear a tit-for-tat turf war could be underway as street gangs try to capitalize on their current advantage.

Besides the Mafia, the Quebec branch of the Hells Angels, which has typically taken the second tier in that underworld, is also facing severe constraints.

On April 15 last year, a massive police operation involving about 1,200 officers hit the Quebec and New Brunswick Hells Angels with some 177 early morning raids that led to the arrests of 111 full-patch members. This has disrupted the motorcycle gang's operations in both provinces.

Meanwhile, Nicaso said the street gangs, which have typically functioned as the street-level drug distributors, have become very powerful and sophisticated. They are also discontent with their bottom-tier position.

A similar situation is playing out in Vancouver, he said, but with a difference in that the Mafia does not have a strong presence there.

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Antonio Nicaso. NICASO.COM

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THE SHOW THAT'S LEAVING MILLIONS IN AWE.

# SHEN YUN

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