

2009 Audi A4

Noticeably longer and wider, the 2009 A4 is worlds away from the 2008 version.

Autos B4



COURTESY OF NETCARSHOW.COM

Best U.S. Companies for Working Mothers Unveiled

Working Mother magazine named the best U.S. companies for working mothers.

Business A6

SEC to Get Tough With Bank of America

Bank pays \$425M to withdraw from Fed guarantee

By ANTONIO PEREZ
Epoch Times Staff

NEW YORK—The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) plans to widen its investigation into whether Bank of America Corp. misled its investors over more than \$3 billion in bonuses paid to Merrill Lynch employees late last year.

Charlotte, N.C.-based Bank of America (BoFA) was accused of having allowed the bonuses last December while knowing the extent of financial losses at Merrill Lynch & Co. prior to its acquisition of the company. BoFA, according to the SEC, had suggested to its shareholders that the bonuses would not be granted.



ONGOING INVESTIGATION: Pedestrians pass by a Bank of America branch in Chicago, Illinois. TOM DAHLIN/CGETTY IMAGES

The two sides reached a \$33 million settlement last month, but U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff tossed out the settlement, arguing that it would serve to penalize the shareholders, not management.

In a statement, the SEC vowed to "vigorously pursue" the charges against BoFA in court. "As we alleged in our complaint last month, Bank of America did not provide investors with complete and accurate information about the bonuses to be paid by Merrill Lynch to employees," the SEC said in a statement. "We believe that this disclosure failure violated the federal securities laws."

PLEASE SEE BANK OF AMERICA ON A6

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At Least 7 Dead in Georgia Flood



GEORGIA DISASTER: Floodwaters from Sweetwater Creek stream across Veterans Memorial Highway on Sept. 22, in Austell, Georgia. Severe flooding due to heavy rain in north Georgia has prompted Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue to declare a state of emergency for 17 Georgia counties. For more, please see A2. JESSICA MCGOWAN/CGETTY IMAGES

Triad-Affiliated Organization Raised \$70,000 for NYC Politician's Campaign

By JOSHUA PHILIPP
Epoch Times Staff

NEW YORK—The Fukien American Association, identified by experts on gangs as a tong with connections to human trafficking and other organized crime, has given at least \$70,000 to John Liu's campaign for New York City Comptroller, according to the World Journal. Liu has urged the members of the Fukien Association to help elect him.

The term tong is explained in the report "Chinese Transnational Organized Crime: The Fuk Ching" by James O. Finckenaue, Ph.D at the National Institute for Justice, which is a branch of the U.S. Department of Justice: "One of the structural characteristics that makes Chinese organized crime different from other forms is the relationship between some of the street gangs and certain adult organizations. The latter are called tongs."

According to Finckenaue, "Any political influence Chinese gangs have is exerted through the tongs with which they are affiliated."

The Fukien American Association,

'Any political influence Chinese gangs have is exerted through the tongs with which they are affiliated.'

— James O. Finckenaue,
National Institute of Justice

which donated money to Liu's campaign, is also affiliated with the Fuk Ching gang, according to Finckenaue. The Fuk Ching gang is known for its involvement in human trafficking, as well as extortion and protection rackets, also according to Finckenaue.

The report by Finckenaue, which explains the connections between the Fukien American Association and orga-

nized crime, continues that the Fukien American Association also provides the Fuk Ching with a physical place to hang out; helps legitimize them in the community by allowing the gang to operate in their territory; and "provide[s] criminal opportunities (such as protecting gambling operations), as well as supplying money and guns."

In addition to involvement in organized crime, the Fukien American Association maintains close ties with the Chinese Communist Party. They work as the hosts of visiting officials from [China]. "Once that organization, the Fukien American Association, became one of the leading [China]-supported organizations, they became the host of almost all these Chinese officials who are visiting New York," said Ko-lin Chin, a leading expert on Chinese gangs in a phone interview.

There are two kinds of organizations in Chinatown, explained Chin—ones that are pro-Taiwan, and others that are pro-mainland China. "And of course, the Fukien American Association is a pro-China organization," said Chin.

PLEASE SEE TRIADS ON A2

Obama Reviews Options in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (Reuters)—President Barack Obama, under pressure for a swift decision on sending more troops to Afghanistan, has delayed action due to doubts about last month's election there and over the government in Kabul's legitimacy, officials said on Tuesday.

As a prominent Democrat lawmaker warned Obama not to repeat the Bush administration's policy, and Republicans accused him of foot dragging, administration officials said there would be a thorough review of whether their six-month-old war strategy could still be effective. They said the fraud-marred Afghan

vote and its impact on public perception there would be a key to the review.

Even the best counterinsurgency strategy—focused on winning over the Afghan population and sidelining the Taliban—"cannot work" without a legitimate government in place, one White House official said, underscoring the intense debate about how to move forward.

The top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, had planned to submit a request for more soldiers shortly after completing his confidential assessment on the war on Aug. 30.

But questions about Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his post-election standing have thrown that timetable off course, with the White House seeking a clearer strategic picture before considering the request, officials said. McChrystal completed his troop recommendations but has not transmitted them.

Some Pentagon insiders saw Obama's focus on the legitimacy of the Afghan government as little more than a cover for putting off a tough political decision to send more troops, increasingly unpopular within his own Democratic party.

PLEASE SEE AFGHANISTAN ON A5

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."

Obama wants to restart negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians and forge a permanent agreement for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. But the problem lies in the unwillingness or the inability of both the Israelis and the Palestinians to soften their basic demands.

The Palestinians are not willing to consider any negotiations with the Israelis until the Israelis freeze all construction of Jewish settlements, including in east Jerusalem. To make matters more complicated, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu is paralyzed by his right-wing coalition.

Israel for its part will not sway from its position that Palestinians must formally recognize the State of Israel and the State's right to build in the holy city of Jerusalem.

During Prime Minister Netanyahu's meeting with Abbas and Obama in New York, some of his ministers went to support people protesting a settlement freeze. Even if Netanyahu comes up with a formula for a temporary or partial freeze that his government approves, it likely will still be much less than the Palestinians are willing to accept. For now, the two sides are just negotiating the terms under which they will negotiate. It's difficult to predict what concessions they will have to make when, if ever, real negotiations begin.

PLEASE SEE MIDDLE EAST ON A4

Recession Pulls Senior Citizens Back to Work, Says Survey

WASHINGTON (Reuters)—The worst U.S. economic recession in 70 years is forcing senior citizens out of retirement, leaving them fighting for jobs in a weak labor market or risk homelessness, according to a private study.

The study by Experience Works, released Tuesday, showed 46 percent of the 2,000 low income people over 55 years who participated needed to find work to keep their homes. Nearly half of them had been searching for work for more than a year.

Experience Works is the nation's largest nonprofit provider of community service, training, and employment opportunities for older workers. The study was conducted in the past two months and covered 30 states and Puerto Rico. "These people are at the age where they understandably thought their job-searching years were behind them," said Cynthia Metzler, president and CEO of Experience Works.

"But here they are, many in their 60s, 70s, and beyond, desperate to find work so they can keep a roof over their heads and food on the table."

PLEASE SEE SENIORS ON A2