



KNOCKOFFS BLOCKED. Danish Crown Prince Frederik chats with invited guests while looking at the Forbidden City made of LEGO bricks, which is on display at the Royal Modern Household Exhibition at the Danish Cultural Center in the 798 art district in Beijing. Danish toy maker LEGO has won a major legal victory in China, where a court ruled in its favor in a copyright case against companies making knockoffs of its famous colored bricks. (AP Photo/Andy Wong, File)

LEGO wins first China copyright case against imitators

HONG KONG (AP) — Danish toy maker LEGO said it has won a major legal victory in China, where a court ruled in its favor in a copyright case against companies making knockoffs of its famous colored bricks.

The company said it was the first time it has won an unfair competition case against imitators in China.

It said the Shantou Intermediate People's Court ruled that two Chinese

companies selling Bela brand blocks similar to the LEGO Friends line infringed a copyright and ordered them to stop.

The court issued its ruling in September but the decision didn't take effect until November.

Earlier this year, a Beijing court ruled that LEGO's name and logo are well-known trademarks in China, giving the company stronger legal footing for pursuing copyright cases.

Diphtheria deaths in Indonesia spark immunization campaign

By **Ninie Karmini**
The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Indonesia is immunizing millions of children and teenagers against diphtheria after the disease killed at least 38 people, mostly children, since January.

Children in school uniforms and toddlers clinging to their parents received shots at a high school in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, on the first day of the campaign.

Diphtheria is a bacterial disease that can cause breathing difficulties, heart failure, and paralysis. It was more or less eradicated in Indonesia in the 1990s but health officials say it has re-emerged in the past four years because immunization rates have dropped, partly reflecting fears about vaccines.

The first stage of the \$112-million campaign aims to vaccinate 8 million people under the age of 19 in Jakarta and the populous provinces of Banten and West Java.

The outbreak is "likely due to some people refusing immunization, which causes their children's antibodies and resistance to be low," health minister Nila Moeloek said after visiting a hospital where more than 30 diphtheria patients were being treated.

She said there could be a variety of reasons why



DIPHTEHRIA RESURGENCE. A student receives a diphtheria vaccine at a primary school on the first day of a campaign to immunize 8 million children and teenagers against diphtheria, in Tangerang, Indonesia. (AP Photo/Tatan Syuflana)

increased numbers of parents are refusing immunizations.

The disease disappeared during the three-decade rule of Indonesian dictator Suharto when a family education program sent volunteers such as the wives of government officials into villages where they talked to mothers about nutrition and sanitation and reminded them about national immunization days.

The program was abandoned after Suharto's ouster in 1998, and a subsequent decentralization of the government in Indonesia has complicated the work of health officials. Rumors that vaccinations are dangerous and violate Islamic law have also gained currency in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

The result, according to Elizabeth Jane Soepardi, who oversees immunization policy at the Ministry of Health, is that immunization rates dropped in some communities.

"I didn't even know about immunization," said Sadiyah, a 46-year-old mother of three whose adult son is being treated in an isolation ward for diphtheria after developing fever and nausea.

"None of my children has been immunized since birth," said Sadiyah, who goes by one name. She said now that she risks losing her son, she will allow her 15-year-old daughter to be immunized.

Thousands of Indonesians rally at U.S. Embassy over Jerusalem

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — About 10,000 people rallied outside the U.S. Embassy in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta to denounce U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Similar protests, mostly organized by the Islamist Prosperous Justice Party, or PKS, also were held in many other cities in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim country.

The protests were the third and biggest in Indonesia since Trump's decision.

In the capital, protesters carried banners reading "U.S. Embassy, Get Out from Al-Quds," "Free Jerusalem and Palestinians," and "We are with the Palestinians." Al-Quds is the Arabic name for Jerusalem.

Wearing traditional Islamic white robes, the protesters also unfurled Indonesian and Palestinian flags.



PROTEST FOR PALESTINE. Muslims hold posters during a rally against U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, outside the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia. Hundreds of people across the most populous Muslim country staged protests against the Trump administration's policy shift to the contested city. (AP Photo/Dita Alangkara)

A written statement from PKS described Trump's decision as "a form of humiliation and provocation against Muslims all over the world."

It said similar and simultaneous protests also were held in at least 10 provincial capitals and cities across Indonesia.

Another group, calling itself Indonesia's Volun-

teers Society, held a similar rally in Jakarta, hundreds of yards from the embassy.

Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo strongly condemned Trump's move, which he described as a violation of U.N. resolutions.

Indonesia has long been a strong supporter of Palestinians and has no diplomatic ties with Israel.

Japanese pitcher-hitter Shohei Ohtani chooses the L.A. Angels

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tweeted, "So pumped right now ..."

Trout, who was getting married over the weekend to his longtime girlfriend, simply sent out the emoji of two bugged-out eyes.

Ohtani's disappointed suitors included Rangers general manager Jon Daniels, who had hoped Ohtani would follow in the footsteps of Yu Darvish, their former Japanese ace, instead of going to one of their American League West rivals.

"We're disappointed we weren't Shohei Ohtani's choice, but wish him the best in Anaheim," Daniels said. "He impressed us on and off the field at every turn. However, had he asked our opinion, we would have suggested the National League."

Ohtani was coveted by every team because of his exceptional pitching talent and powerful bat, but also because he represents an extraordinary bargain due to baseball's rules around international players.

The Angels will have to pay the \$20 million posting fee to Ohtani's previous club, the Nippon Ham Fighters, but Ohtani will not be paid a huge salary for the next three seasons. Ohtani, who will be under the Angels' contractual control for six years, will sign a minor league contract and can receive up to \$2,315,000 in international bonus money from the Angels.

Ohtani likely could have received a deal worth more than \$100 million if he had waited two years to move stateside, but Ohtani wasn't interested in delaying his progress for money.

Ohtani should get an immediate spot in the front of the rotation for the Angels, who have endured brutal injuries to their starting pitchers in recent years.

Los Angeles' ostensible ace is Garrett Richards, but he has been limited to 62 1/3 innings over the past two seasons. The rotation also currently includes Matt Shoemaker, Andrew Heaney, and Tyler Skaggs, who have all dealt with major

injury setbacks.

Ohtani was 3-2 with a 3.20 ERA this year while slowed by thigh and ankle injuries, but those numbers don't indicate the incredible potential seen in a pitcher whose fastball has been clocked above 100 mph. While he has occasionally struggled with control, Ohtani is widely thought to be a surefire big-league pitching prospect.

Scouts are more divided on Ohtani's ability to hit big-league pitching consistently, but the Angels intend to find out. He hit .332 in 65 games with eight homers and 31 RBI last season, occasionally unleashing the tape-measure blasts that had teams salivating.

In 2016, Ohtani hit .322 with 22 home runs and 67 RBI in 104 games. He also was 10-4 with a 1.86 ERA.

The Angels could ease Ohtani's transition to the majors by resting him on the days before and after he pitches, as he did in Japan. Los Angeles also has thought about trying a six-man starting rotation, which would allow Ohtani to have ample arm rest after pitching roughly once a week in Japan.

The Angels have missed the playoffs in seven of the last eight seasons, but Ohtani's arrival is only the latest in a series of big moves for Eppler, who is determined to build a World Series contender during the remaining three years on Trout's contract.

Shortly after the World Series ended, the Angels secured a five-year, \$106-million deal with Upton, their late-season trade acquisition. The veteran slugger is an ideal solution after years of underperformance in left field for the club.

Also this month, Eppler bolstered his much-improved farm system by signing 17-year-old Venezuelan shortstop Kevin Maitan, a prospect considered the best of 13 players recently taken away from the Atlanta Braves for violating international signing rules.

The staff at The Asian Reporter wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday!