



FISH MARKET’S FUTURE. *This photo shows the site of the former Tsukiji fish market in Tokyo on June 15, 2020. The site of the famed fish market, left empty after it was razed six years ago, will be replaced by a scenic waterfront stadium and glistening skyscrapers, according to plans for its redevelopment that are facing some staunch opposition. (AP Photo/Yuri Kageyama, File)*

Tokyo’s old fish market makes way for skyscrapers, glitzy stadium to woo global spenders

By Yuri Kageyama
The Associated Press

TOKYO — The site of Tokyo’s famed Tsukiji fish market, left empty after it was razed six years ago, will be replaced by a scenic waterfront stadium and glistening skyscrapers, according to plans for its redevelopment that are facing some staunch opposition.

A computer graphic video of plans for the 900 billion yen (\$5.7 billion) project made by property developer Mitsui Fudosan shows air taxis zipping above the Sumida river, famed for its scenic bridges.

It’s the latest vision for what is to replace the old market famous for its tuna auctions and pre-dawn fresher-than-fresh sushi meals in shops nearby.

Mitsui Fudosan says the new development will rival top waterfront spots in places like Sydney and Singapore. The idea is to draw in plenty of people from both Japan and abroad. But some in Tokyo are opposed and would prefer to see the prime site turned into a garden.

The plans include office buildings, event spaces, greenery and residential areas, hotels, and a biotechnology research center. Also, plenty of places to shop and eat out.

“We are entering a new chapter. Over the years of Japan’s modernization, waterfronts were used for warehouses and factories,” said Jiro Ueda, an executive overseeing development planning at major real estate company Mitsui Fudosan, which heads the consortium that won the bid to redevelop the area.

“We want to build facilities for sports and entertainment to move people emotionally. We want to make Japan more economically competitive.”

The consortium includes a powerful lineup including Toyota Motor, Toyota Fudosan, the Kajima, Taisei, Shimizu, and Takenaka construction groups, engineering companies Nikken Sekkei and Pacific Consultants, and media groups Asahi Shimbun and the Yomiuri Shimbun Group, whose baseball team, the Yomiuri Giants, may use the new arena as its home stadium.

For now, the area that used to be the sprawling main fish market is just a vacant 47-acre area of cement about the size of 35 football fields, with a few construction machines and a small area that has been dug up.

The city-owned land beside the Sumida River is within walking distance of the glitzy downtown Ginza and across a small bridge from Hamarikyu, a traditional Japanese garden with sculpted pine trees, a small forest, and a tea house.

What’s left of the old Tsukiji market, a quaint “retro”

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A Chinese military buff inadvertently bought 4 books of military secrets for under \$1

By Ken Moritsugu
The Associated Press

BEIJING — A military history buff in China appears to have made an alarming discovery after picking up four discarded books for less than \$1 at a neighborhood recycling station: They were confidential military documents.

The country’s Ministry of State Security told the story in a social media post in mid-June, praising the retired man for calling a hotline to report the incident. It identified him only by his family name, Zhang, and did not say what the documents were about.

“Mr. Zhang thought to himself that he had ‘bought’ the country’s military secrets and brought them home,” the post reads, “but if someone with ulterior motives were to buy them, the consequences would be unimaginable!”

The post, which was reposted on at least two popular Chinese news websites, was the latest in a series by the powerful state security agency that appears to be trying to draw in new audiences with dramatic stories. Some have been told in comic-book style.

The campaign seems designed to raise awareness of the importance of national security at a time when confrontation with the U.S. is rising and both countries are increasingly worried about the possible theft or transfer of confidential and secret information.

The post describes Zhang as a former employee of a state-owned company who likes to collect military newspapers and periodicals. It says he found two bags of new books at the recycling station and paid 6 yuan (about 85 cents) for four of them.

State security agents rushed to the station after Zhang reported what had happened, the post says. After an investigation, they found that two military employees



TREACHEROUS TOMES. *A municipal worker collects scrap cardboard near a mural calling for Military and Civilian Unity in Beijing. Chinese state media say that a military history buff found a collection of confidential documents related to the country’s military in a pile of old papers he bought for less than \$1. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)*

charged with shredding more than 200 books instead got rid of them by selling them to a recycling center as paper waste — 30 kilograms (65 pounds) in all — for about 20 yuan (\$2.75).

The agents seized the books and the military has closed loopholes in the handling of such material, the post says.

China’s opaque state security bodies and legal system often make it difficult to tell what is considered a state secret.

Chinese and foreign consultancies operating within the country have been placed under investigation for possessing or sharing information about the economy in an apparent broadening of the definition of a state secret in recent years.

Associated Press video producer Penny Wang in Bangkok and researcher Wanqing Chen in Beijing contributed.

A vocational school student stuns China by besting university competitors in a math contest

By Fu Ting
The Associated Press

A 17-year-old vocational school student from rural China became a celebrity on social media after reaching the final round of a math competition, beating many others from top universities and raising questions about the education system.

Jiang Ping, who is studying fashion design, finished 12th in the Alibaba Global Math Competition, one of 802 who made it to the final round — an eight-hour test.

A video that included an interview with Jiang got more than 800,000 likes and 90,000 comments after it was posted on social media by Damo Academy, the organizer of the contest. Most expressed their amazement, while some questioned if it was real.

Jiang said in the video interview that she didn’t think she deserved to join the competition, even though she enjoys working on advanced math as it “brings out my desire to explore.”

Congratulations poured in. People visited her parents’ home in a village in Jiangsu province on China’s east coast with alcohol and money to show support. Her pictures were shown on the walls of shopping malls in her hometown, Lianshui. Zhejiang University and Jiangsu University praised her on their Weibo accounts.

While it was unclear how Jiang ended up in vocational school, her story still reminded some in China of the inequality between rural and urban areas and how that can make it harder for even talented students to climb the economic ladder.

“While Jiang Ping is openly celebrated, many Chinese feel deep down inside that her story highlights the hopelessness of Chinese education,” said Jiang Xueqin, a China-based education researcher. “The odds are fundamentally stacked against ordinary Chinese, without power, wealth, or ‘guanxi,’” the

Chinese term for connections.

Inequality in education appears to have worsened in recent years. Spending on education in rural areas was 17% less than in cities in 2019 for the nine years of compulsory education in China, which does not include high school. It was only 2% lower in 2013, based on calculations from data in a Peking University report on the urban-rural gap in per capita expenditure.

Ministry of Education data show that 70% of students in China’s vocational schools are from rural areas. The high percentage suggests that the education system works like a caste system, Jiang, the researcher said.

Jiang, the math whiz, was the only vocational school student among all the finalists. The others, who are mostly Chinese, were mainly from top-tier universities such as Cambridge, MIT, and Caltech, as well as China’s top two, Tsinghua and Peking University. Winners will be awarded \$2,000 to \$30,000 in prize money.

The competition was started six

Seoul says N. Korea has resumed trash balloon launches

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea last week resumed launches of balloons likely carrying trash toward South Korea, South Korea’s military said, in the latest round of a Cold War-style campaign on the Korean Peninsula.

The launches came days after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a major defense deal that observers worry could embolden Kim to direct more provocations at South Korea.

The statement asked South Korean citizens not to touch North Korean balloons and report them to military and police authorities. The military didn’t say how it would respond to new balloon launches.

Separately, Seoul’s city government sent text messages telling citi-

zens to beware of any falling object as the balloons were flying above the capital, an hour drive from the border.

Starting in late May, North Korea launched more than 1,000 balloons that dropped manure, cigarette butts, scraps of cloth, waste batteries, and vinyl in various parts of South Korea. No highly dangerous materials were found.

North Korea said its balloon campaign was a tit-for-tat action against South Korean activists who used balloons to fly political leaflets critical of its leadership across the border.

North Korea views frontline South Korean broadcasts and civilian leaflet campaigns as a grave provocation because it bans access to foreign news for most of its 26 million people.

North Korea has reacted to past

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