Sunday Band Concerts 2017 #dundeewestend #dundee

The Sunday Band Concerts on Magdalen Green start (for 2017) on Sunday coming — 11th June.

A poster covering all band concerts across the city this summer is below:



6 Chinese technologies win 'Climate Solver' titles

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in China has announced the six winners of this year's Climate Solver Award on June 7 to recognize the country's innovative solutions in tackling the ever-complicated issue of climate change.



WWF's displays climate solutions at the eighth Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM8). [Photo/China.org.cn]

The six award-winners, unveiled at a sideline event during the ongoing eighth Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM8), are involved in solar energy, bio-fuel, motor systems, construction materials and seawater desalination.

Two special prizes were awarded to MetaSpace Corp for its low-carbon air dome technology and bike-sharing company MoBike for its low-carbon transportation model.

If the award-winning technologies can reach their expected market share by 2026, they are expected to cut annual carbon emissions by more than 206 million tons.

"China is the world's largest energy consumer and greenhouse gas emitter, and its actions will significantly affect the global response to climate change," said Chen Xin, WWF's director for climate and energy projects.

"The exciting new technologies we see this year are successful examples of low-carbon technologies, and we believe that they will be able to help the world move from a fossil energy era to a more sustainable future," she said.

The WWF Climate Solver program works in four regions in Northern Europe, China, India and South Africa, focusing on carbon innovation for small and medium-sized enterprises and helping them solve problems, barriers and challenges they face in the promotional process, as well as making them suitable for the market, explained Stefan Henningsson, senior adviser for WWF's Global Climate and Energy Initiative.

Our goal is to promote low-carbon innovation technology to achieve business models sooner and wider, attempting to achieve a more low-carbon future, he said.

The WWF Climate Solver Project was launched by the WWF Swedish office in 2008 and officially landed in China in 2011. As of 2017, a total of 25 Chinese low-carbon innovative technologies have obtained the title of climate solvers in total.

<u>Biggest delivery of Australian alpacas</u> lands in China



The alpacas were selected by Chinese experts from one of the biggest alpaca farms in Australia. [Photo/Chinanews.com]

Seven hundred alpacas have landed in China in the biggest single order of the animals from Australia.

The chartered cargo flight filled with the alpacas worth 10 million yuan (\$1.5 million) landed at the Wusu International Airport in Taiyuan, Shanxi province on Tuesday, chinanews.com reported.

"It's winter in Australia so we had been anxious that the woolen animals may suffer when they come into the sweltering air in Taiyuan. Luckily, the weather has been cooler here the last few days," an employee at the airport said.

The alpacas were selected by Chinese experts from one of the biggest alpaca farms in Australia. All the animals are bred from past champion alpacas and it's hoped they will be able to produce healthy, disease-resistant offspring in China.

These alpacas will be quarantined in Jinzhong for 45 days before settling down in Taiyuan for breeding, farming and scientific research.

Election Day

Now it's your turn. Today voters decide who should represent us in the next Parliament.

I have had my say, so I will write about something unconnected to the UK election this morning.

Last week Mr Trump announced he was pulling the USA out of the Paris climate Agreement of 2015. This met with substantial protest from governments around the world. Mrs Merkel and the EU were especially vocal in condemning his action.

The Paris Agreement laid down two things. It set out voluntary targets for reductions of CO2 by the advanced country signatories, and allowed developing countries more latitude on their targets as growth often comes with more energy consumption. It established a Green Climate Fund for the advanced nations to make substantial payments to the developing world to help fund their investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency. Mr Obama was particularly proud of the decision, and is very critical of his successor.

Mr Trump argued that the USA is expected to pay too much, and the others have not done enough. He argued that far from limiting coal and carbon dioxide it would shift coal production from the USA to China. He argued that the costs were severe on the USA, with large losses in prospect for coal and wider industry, whilst the gain in total carbon dioxide reduced worldwide would be small.

I am giving you the chance to write about Mr Trump and his critics on this important subject, knowing you will write about what you want to.

China rebuffs annual US military report



Senior Colonel Wu Qian, spokesperson of the Ministry of National Defense of China. [File photo by Chen Boyuan / China.org.cn]

China has resolutely opposed the latest U.S. military report that distorts China's legitimate development in military and security sectors and is meant to spread the so-called "military threat from China".

The U.S. Department of Defense recently published its Annual Report to Congress on Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China 2017.

The report summarized the developments in the People's Liberation Army (PLA) organizational reform, highlighted China's new weapon's capabilities, China's regional maritime claims and presented its interpretation of the situation across the Taiwan Strait.

China's Ministry of National Defense (MOD) spokesperson Senior Colonel Wu Qian refuted late on June 6 the allegations in the Pentagon report. He said that China has resolutely adhered to its path of peaceful development and its defensive-orientated national defense policy.

"China will not seek military expansion or sphere of influence; China will remain a resolute power to preserve world peace," Sr. Col. Wu said.

The Pentagon report said that "China has continued construction at its military outposts" in the South China Sea islands. It also highlighted civilian passenger aircraft landings on newly built airfields on a handful of these islands and reefs.

Sr. Col. Wu said that China will resolutely safeguard its national sovereignty and security concerning the East China Sea and South China Sea while preserving regional peace and stability.

In comparison, "the United States wants to enhance military deployment in this region. The U.S. military frequently sends vessels and aircraft to conduct close-in reconnaissance along China's borders, resulting in regional tensions," said the MOD spokesperson.

The U.S. report stated that "China's published military budget omits several major categories of expenditure, such as R&D and the procurement of foreign weapons and equipment". Wu insisted China's defense budget had always been "transparent" and that China's military reform, ordnance development and construction of cyberspace defense capability was "legitimate and reasonable." He rebutted the accusations in the Pentagon report as "pure speculations."

The Pentagon report includes a chapter on "U.S.-China Military-to-Military Contacts", saying the "defense contacts and exchanges provide opportunities to explore and expand cooperation in areas of mutual interest and to manage competition constructively."

Sr. Col. Wu acknowledged that China was aware of the American special attention towards military exchanges between the two countries. He maintained that a healthy military-to-military relationship was in the "common interest" of both countries.

"We hope the United States will reasonably and objectively treat China's development in national defense and military, move toward China to enhance ties, carefully implement the major consensus reached by two heads of state, and facilitate the development of the ties between the two militaries," said the MOD spokesman.