

NEW REGULATIONS

China considers turning tutoring cos into non-profits

BLOOMBERG July 23

CHINA IS CONSIDERING asking companies that offer tutoring on the school curriculum to go non-profit...

In rules currently being mulled, the platforms will likely no longer be allowed to raise capital or go public...

Local regulators will stop approving newer-school education firms seeking to offer tutoring on China's compulsory syllabus...

New Oriental Education & Technology Group sank a record 41% in Hong Kong Friday...

The new set of regulations, devised and overseen by a dedicated branch set up just last month to regulate the indus-

try, could wipe out the enormous growth that made stock market darlings of TAL Education Group and Gaotu Techedu.

"Making the sector non-profit is just as good as eradicating the industry all together," said Wu Yuefeng, a fund manager at Funding Capital Management (Beijing).

Beijing is coming down hard on the sector as excessive tutoring anguishes young pupils and burdens parents with expensive tutoring fees.

Making the whole sector non-profit "would make being a listed entity meaningless," said Justin Tang, head of Asian research at United First Partners.

Education technology had emerged as one of the hottest investment plays in China in recent years, with \$10 billion of venture capital money pouring into the sector last year alone.

capitalise on Chinese parents' desires to give their children every academic advantage. A spokesman from the educa-

tion ministry said relevant policies are still being formulated and declined to provide more details.

Indian-American entrepreneur enters Congressional race from California: An Indian-American engineer and entrepreneur has announced that she will be running for the US House of Representatives from a Congressional District in California.

Shrina Kurani, born to Indian immigrant parents in Riverside, will be challenging 15-term Republican incumbent Ken Calvert for the mid-term elections in November 2022.

"I'm running for Congress in CA-42! It's time for fact-based solutions and bold action," Kurani said on Thursday. Kurani described herself as "an engineer, entrepreneur, and a fact-based problem solver and not a politician". Kurani graduated from La Sierra High School at the age of 16 and earned her degree in mechanical engineering from UC Riverside. — PTI

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US seeks to drop Chinese researcher's visa fraud case

ASSOCIATED PRESS California, July 23

US PROSECUTORS SOUGHT Thursday to drop their case against a Chinese researcher accused of concealing her ties to the Chinese military on a visa application so she could work in the US.

In documents filed in federal court in Sacramento, prosecutors asked a judge to dismiss a charge of visa fraud against Juan Tang but gave no reason why. The trial was set to begin on Monday. A message seeking comment from the US Attorney's office in Sacramento was not returned.

Tang's attorneys told the Sacramento Bee they provided "ample reason" to the government for dismissing the case.

"We hope Dr. Tang is allowed to return to her daughter and husband on her own," Malcolm Segal and Tom Johnson said in a statement. The Justice Department announced charges against Tang and three other scientists living in the US last July, saying they lied about their status as members of a China's People's Liberation Army.

Prosecutors said Tang lied about her military ties in a visa application last October as she made plans to work at the University of California, Davis and



again during an FBI interview months later. Agents found photos of Tang dressed in military uniform and reviewed articles in China identifying her military affiliation.

Agents said they believe Tang sought refuge at the Chinese consulate in San Francisco after they interviewed her at her home in Davis, and they accused the consulate of harbouring a known fugitive. She was taken into custody after emerging from the consulate for a doctor's appointment, the Bee reported.

Tang's attorneys had argued that the doctor was not a member of the Chinese military but had worked as a civilian at a Chinese military facility. They said the charge of lying on her visa application likely would have resulted in a six-month sentence, less than the 10 months she has already spent in jail and under house arrest.

Russians suspected of doping stopped from going to Olympics

ASSOCIATED PRESS Tokyo, July 23

SOME RUSSIAN ATHLETES were denied places on the country's Olympic team of 335 athletes for the Tokyo Games because they are under suspicion of doping.

The World Anti-Doping Agency said Friday it intervened to stop several Russians from competing based on evidence from the Moscow testing laboratory that was shut down in 2015.

The database and samples from the long-sealed lab were finally given in 2019 to WADA, which prepared and shared about 300 potential cases for governing bodies of Olympic sports.

"It was not particularly complicated," WADA director General Olivier Niggli told The Associated Press.

"There was not many but there was a handful, I would say, of athletes who would still potentially be at the Games which we would qualify as strong (database) cases." And none of them are here," Niggli said. "They will not be competing."

Fallout from the database case led to a ban on Russia's national identity at the Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 Beijing Winter Games.

The 335 athletes accredited for Tokyo are officially competing for ROC, the acronym for the Russian Olympic Committee. The word 'Russia' is banned from their uniforms.