

New Delhi bans Uber after alleged rape by driver

By Katy Daigle
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — The Indian capital has banned taxi-booking service Uber after a woman accused one of its drivers of raping her.

Transport official Satish Mathur made the announcement as the 32-year-old suspect appeared in a New Delhi court.

The court ordered Shiv Kumar Yadav held for police questioning over allegations that he raped a finance company employee after being hired to ferry her home from a dinner engagement. The court also ordered Yadav's cellphone confiscated, according to the Press Trust of India.

The case, which occurred almost two years after a young woman was fatally gang raped on a bus in the capital, has renewed national anger over sexual violence in India and demands for more effort to ensure women's safety.

The government rushed through legislation last year to double prison terms for rape to 20 years and to criminalize voyeurism, stalking, and the trafficking of women. But activists say much more needs to be done, including better educating youths and adding basic infrastructure such as street lights and public bathrooms.

The CEO of San-Francisco-based Uber, Travis Kalanick, said the company would do "everything to bring the perpetrator to justice and to support the victim and her family in her recovery."

He also sought to deflect some of the



blame on to officials, saying the company would work with the government to establish clear background checks that are "currently absent in their commercial transportation licensing programs."

It was not immediately clear if Uber itself performed any background check, nor was it clear whether Yadav would even have been flagged. Police told the Press Trust of India (PTI) they were working to verify Yadav's claims that he had been acquitted of rape charges in 2011, after spending seven months in jail. PTI did not give any further details or name the police source.

In banning Uber, the New Delhi government also said the company was operating from unregistered premises in the suburb of Gurgaon.

The ban is a blow for Uber, which has courted acclamation and controversy around the world with a service based on hailing taxis from a smartphone app. It has faced restrictions in other countries after licensed taxi operators claimed the service was competing unfairly.

The service, which uses private cars rather than licensed cabs, promises a quicker response time that is often less than 10 minutes. Drivers respond using

UBER OVER. Supporters of the Aam Aadmi (Common Man) Party hold placards during a protest after a woman was allegedly raped by a taxi driver in New Delhi, India. The Indian capital banned taxi-booking service Uber after a woman accused one of its drivers of raping her. (AP Photo/Tsering Topgyal)

their own Uber-provided smartphones mounted on the dashboard and follow a GPS map to an exact location.

Indian home minister Rajnath Singh said the government "strongly condemns this dastardly act" and pledged justice in the case.

He said the 26-year-old victim had fallen asleep during the ride home. When she woke up, she found the car parked in a secluded place. The driver threatened her, raped her, and then took her home around 1:00am.

Police arrested the driver the next night in his hometown of Mathura, about 100 miles from the capital, after he had abandoned the Uber-registered car and fled New Delhi. The car was brought to Delhi for a forensic examination, Singh told parliament.

Dozens of angry protesters rallied outside the home minister's house to demand more action to ensure women's safety. Police detained several people who were part of another anti-violence protest group that burned an effigy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in front of his political party's headquarters.

Associated Press writers Nirmala George and Chonchui Ngashangva contributed to this report.

Made in Japan Godzilla is back after Hollywood hit

By Yuri Kageyama
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Godzilla is stomping back. And this time, it's Made in Japan, like the original.

The announcement this month from Japanese film studio Toho comes after the success earlier this year of the Hollywood *Godzilla*, directed by Gareth Edwards, which grossed more than \$500 million worldwide.

Toho said in 2004 it had made its last *Godzilla* film, the 28th in the series centered on the irradiated monster, which first stomped into the world in 1954.

Over the years, *Godzilla* movies fell out of favor even among Japanese fans.

But the latest Hollywood *Godzilla*, complete with spikes down its back and a terrifying roar, received relatively favorable reviews in Japan, unlike the 1998 Hollywood *Godzilla*, directed by Roland Emmerich, which purist fans hated.

Toho said recent innovations in computer-graphics technology were behind its decision to revive *Godzilla*.

The Toho *Godzilla* is set for release in 2016, before Edwards releases his sequel for Legendary Pictures and Warner Brothers in 2018.

Toho has not yet picked a director for the upcoming reboot.

The Tokyo-based company, which owns the rights for *Godzilla*, declined to say whether it would bring back the man-in-a-rubber suit behind the original *Godzilla* or rely on computer graphics — or have both.

Japanese movies such as Toho's latest, *Parasyte*, about alien creatures taking over human bodies, utilize sophisticated computer-graphics technology although it may be hard for Toho to match Hollywood's dazzle.

The widely praised original black-and-white *Godzilla* was directed by Ishiro Honda.

Other directors took over for the subsequent Japanese works, which at times became absurdly comical, featuring battles with manga-like, or cartoonish, monsters.

Godzilla, or *gojira*, as the Japanese say it — a combination of the words for "whale" and "gorilla" — was a mutation that emerged from the Pacific because of



GOJIRA REBOOT. This photo taken from a scene of the 1954 film *Godzilla* and provided by Toho Co., shows *Godzilla* breathing fire. *Godzilla* is stomping back. And this time, it's Made in Japan, like the original. An announcement from Japanese film studio Toho comes after the success earlier this year of the Hollywood *Godzilla*, directed by Gareth Edwards, which grossed more than \$500 million worldwide. (AP Photo/Toho Co., Ltd.)

nuclear testing.

The giant reptilian creature has crushed just about every famous building in Japan including the Tokyo Tower and the parliament building.

Japan, the only nation in the world to suffer atomic bombings, has a soft spot for the fire-breathing creature as representing the suffering unleashed by nuclear weapons.

PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU
STRENGTH Programs

Stop violence in our communities!

Join our team of violence prevention and self-defense instructors! The Strength Programs, operated through the Portland Police Bureau, are recruiting women and men interested in becoming volunteer violence prevention instructors.

Training starts February 21, 2015. We welcome women and men from all backgrounds, abilities and ages. No experience is necessary.

Application and deadline: February 5, 2015
<www.portlandoregon.gov/police/boystrength>
Contact: (503) 823-0239 or e-mail
<GirlStrength.pb@PortlandOregon.gov>

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

	3		4	7				
6	1		8					
		2	1			8		
				7		9	5	2
2	7	8		9				
		5			1	7		
					6		4	9
			2	3		1		

Difficulty level: Hard #34761

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that the digits 1 through 9 appear one time each in every row, column, and 3x3 box.

Solution to last week's puzzle

Puzzle #34157 (Medium)

All solutions available at <www.sudoku.com>.

3	8	4	6	2	9	1	5	7
5	9	7	4	1	3	8	2	6
6	1	2	7	8	5	3	4	9
1	4	5	3	9	8	7	6	2
2	6	3	5	7	1	4	9	8
9	7	8	2	6	4	5	3	1
7	3	6	8	4	2	9	1	5
8	5	9	1	3	6	2	7	4
4	2	1	9	5	7	6	8	3

The Asian Reporter is published on the first & third Monday each month.

News page advertising deadlines for our next two issues are:

January 5 to 18, 2015 edition:
Space reservations due: Wednesday, December 31 at 1:00pm
Artwork due: **Wednesday**, December 31 at 1:00pm

January 19 to February 1, 2015 edition:
Space reservations due: Wednesday, January 14 at 1:00pm
Artwork due: Thursday, January 15 at 1:00pm