



## Vietnam state-run paper fined for critical article

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Vietnam's government has fined a state-run newspaper 40 million dong (\$1,900) for an article that said four of history's most famous communist leaders were also among the "most notorious dictators," according to state media. The online version of *Law and Society* was fined last month for "untrue information" in the January 11 article, the *Journalists and Public Opinion* newspaper reported. Among the "most notorious dictators in history" mentioned in the article were former Soviet leaders Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin, Cuba's Fidel Castro, and China's Mao Zedong. Vietnam — a communist, one-party country — adopted Marxism and Leninism as its official ideology. Lenin was described in the article as sending those who opposed communist rule to labor camps where a "series of executions" took place. "Most of Cuba's people consider Fidel as a monster that destroyed Cuba," the article said. It also said that Mao's policies caused the deaths of millions of Chinese. "Some of the most famous figures in history were remembered for their bad acts and the dictatorship they created during their rule," it said. "We have known many brutal leaders who conducted the most brutal acts that mankind has ever witnessed." The other dictators included in the article were Germany's Adolf Hitler, Italy's Benito Mussolini, Spain's Francisco Franco, Cambodia's Pol Pot, Uganda's Idi Amin, and Mexico's Porfirio Diaz. The article was removed from *Law and Society's* online version, but is still available on some dissident blogs. All media outlets in Vietnam are state-controlled.

## Myanmar's first census in decades bars name Rohingya

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Enumerators fanned out across Myanmar last month for a census that has been widely criticized for stoking religious and ethnic tensions after the government denied members of a long-persecuted Muslim minority the right to identify themselves as "Rohingya." And administrators in some parts of the country — including rebel controlled areas in Kachin and Wa states — said they were barring census takers because they worry it will be used for political purposes. Myanmar only recently emerged from a half-century of military rule and self-imposed isolation. No one knows how many people live in the predominantly Buddhist nation. The most accepted estimate, around 60 million, is based on extrapolations from the last count in 1983 that experts say was hugely flawed, leaving out many religious and ethnic minorities. More than 100,000 enumerators — most of them school teachers wearing white blouses, green traditional lounge, and khaki waistcoats — are going door-to-door hoping to reach 12 million households by the time they finish their job on April 10.

## South Korea filing complaint over Olympic judging

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean sports officials are preparing to file a formal complaint with the International Skating Union over the judging of the women's figure skating competitions at the Sochi Olympics. Many South Koreans allege that questionable judging denied Yuna Kim a second straight figure-skating gold medal. Kim, the 2010 Olympic champion, settled for silver behind Russian teenager Adelina Sotnikova. Officials at the Korean Olympic Committee and the Korea Skating Union say the complaint will be filed with the International Skating Union's disciplinary committee. They say the Korea Skating Union is gathering necessary documents. A joint statement by the two organizations says the judging was "unreadable and unfair." Kim's office has said she respects the decision.

## ANA orders jets worth \$17B from Airbus and Boeing

TOKYO (AP) — ANA is ordering 70 aircraft with a list price of \$17 billion from Boeing Co. and Airbus, in the largest order in the Japanese carrier's history. The orders underline ANA's ambition to become one of the world's leading airlines as well as Japan's tourism drive leading up to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The country is aiming to boost overseas visitors to 20 million a year. Boeing is the major beneficiary of the deal, but Airbus said the latest orders show it is making inroads in an important market. The Japanese government and manufacturers have historically had a close relationship with Boeing, and Europe's Airbus did not score a major order with ANA rival Japan Airlines until last year. ANA ordered 40 new Boeing jets that will be used mostly for international flights, while 30 new Airbus planes will be for domestic routes. Boeing welcomed its orders, which total about \$13 billion at list prices. The jets, being delivered over 11 years from 2016, will increase the ANA fleet to 250 aircraft.

## Myanmar bans export of logs

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Myanmar has banned the export of logs to reduce deforestation and boost its wood-based industry by exporting only value-added products. A statement from the state Myanma Timber Enterprise said the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry prohibited the export of logs starting April 1. According to the most recent available official data, Myanmar's forest cover shrank from 57.9 percent of its total land area in 1990 to 47.6 percent in 2005. The sale of teak and hardwood logs has climbed since a nominally civilian government succeeded military rule in 2011 and liberalized the economy. The government says it earned about \$569 million from export of 1.24 million cubic ton of wood in the 2012-2013 fiscal year, with China, India, and Thailand as major buyers. Chinese demand for wood has been driven by its prosperity and growth as a global manufacturer. China banned the felling of its own old-growth trees in 1998, fuelling the illegal export of wood from Myanmar to China, especially high-end varieties such as rosewood and teak. However, efforts in recent years to curb the smuggling are believed to have succeeded in reducing the volume.



**DOGGONE EXPENSIVE.** A Chinese man working for a dog breeder bids farewell to two Tibetan mastiffs he had been caring for, outside a hotel in Tongxiang city in east China's Zhejiang province. A Chinese dog breeder said a property developer paid him 18 million yuan (\$3 million) for the Tibetan mastiff twins, highlighting how the breed has become a status symbol for China's rich. (AP Photo)

## Chinese breeder sells two Tibetan mastiffs for \$3M

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese dog breeder said a property developer paid him 18 million yuan (\$3 million) for Tibetan mastiff twins, highlighting how the breed has become a status symbol for China's rich.

The large, slobbery dog with massive amounts of hair used to be best known for herding sheep in Tibet, but has now become a luxury for the ultra-rich who want to spread their wealth beyond stocks and real estate.

Breeder Zhang Gengyun said he sold the one-year-old twin male dogs to a single buyer at a luxury dog fair in wealthy Zhejiang province, located on China's east coast. The sales were reported by the local Qianjiang Evening News.

One of the twins — a golden-haired Tibetan mastiff — was sold for \$12 million yuan, and his red-haired brother went for \$6 million yuan.

Zhang said the buyer, from eastern Shandong province, paid him the 18 million yuan with his credit card.

Zhang denied the sale was a ploy by breeders to hype the price of Tibetan mastiffs and said

he was reluctant to sell the twins. "It's a real deal," he said.

The more expensive golden-haired dog was 31.5 inches tall and weighed 200 pounds.

"His hair is bright and he has a dead-drop gorgeous face," said the breeder. "Usually he's quiet and gentle, but when a stranger shows up, he could bark endlessly and bite."

Zhang said the unnamed buyer might start breeding Tibetan mastiffs himself.

"The Tibetan mastiff is as treasured in China as the giant panda, so people consider it a symbol of higher social status," he said.

Liu Na, organizer of a Tibetan mastiff fair in Beijing, said the average price for one of the dogs is several hundreds of thousands of dollars. The price tag usually depends on the breeder's expectations, the buyer's appreciation of the dog, and the bargaining between the two, she said.

"It's just like deals done when buying antiques," Liu said. "But it isn't uncommon for a breeder to hype a price in order to raise his profile in the industry, just like a celebrity can inflate his or her appearance fee."

## Disaster film about jet crash at sea put on hold

HONG KONG (AP) — A disaster movie about a jet that crashes into the ocean on its way to Beijing has been put on hold because of its similarities to the missing Malaysian Airlines plane. Arlight Films, the company behind *Deep Water*, said the pre-production has been halted for the time being.

"We're delaying it out of respect for what's going on," managing director Gary Hamilton said.

An international search effort is scouring part of the southern Indian Ocean for the jet

that disappeared March 8 en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. Malaysian officials last month said the jet likely crashed in the sea, taking the lives of all 239 people on board.

The film is about a flight from Sydney to Beijing that goes down in the ocean, leaving an air marshal and a handful of surviving passengers and crew to fight off giant tiger sharks and other dangers. The movie is a loose follow-up to the 2012 film *Bait*, about a shark terrorizing shoppers in an Australian supermarket flooded by a tsunami.

### Affordable Quality Retirement Living for Seniors 62 years and older

#### Alberta Simmons Plaza

6611 NE Martin Luther King Blvd  
Portland, Oregon 97211

503-240-4198

- One-Bedroom Apartments with Full Sized Kitchens and Living Areas
- Planned Activities, Laundry Facility, Conference & Meeting Room, Elevator and Library
- Conveniently Located to Shopping, Restaurants, Pharmacy and Medical Offices



### Asian Currency Exchange Rates

Units per U.S. dollar as of 4/05

Bangladesh Taka	77.6
Cambodian Riel	4011.1
China Renminbi	6.2123
Fijian Dollar	1.8501
Hong Kong Dollar	7.757
Indian Rupee	60.085
Indonesian Rupiah	11317
Iranian Rial	24897
Japanese Yen	103.3
Laos New Kip	8046.5
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2802
Nepal Rupee	95.85
Pakistani Rupee	98.195
Papua N.G. Kina	2.6663
Philippine Peso	44.935
Russian Ruble	35.272
Saudi Riyal	3.7515
Singapore Dollar	1.2588
South Korean Won	1053.7
Sri Lankan Rupee	130.59
Taiwan Dollar	30.287
Thai Baht	32.47
Vietnam Dong	21093