



Second Chinese university starts Rhodes-style program

BEIJING (AP) — An elite Chinese university has announced plans for China's second international program modelled after the Rhodes Scholarship, as the country seeks more influence in global education and greater international prestige befitting its economic rise. Beijing-based Peking University said it will launch the Yenching Academy to recruit top scholars from China and the world to study in a one-year master's degree program. The announcement came a year after the founder of American private equity and financial advisory firm Blackstone, Steve Schwarzman, set up a program at rival Tsinghua University and led a \$350-million endowment campaign. Both schools said the programs are modelled on the Rhodes Scholarship, an elite award for students to study at the University of Oxford.

Indonesia bans video sharing site for nudity

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia has banned the popular video sharing site Vimeo, saying it contains nudity, which officials in the world's most populous Muslim country consider to be pornographic material. Information and communication minister Tiffatul Sembiring said in a statement that he made the decision after receiving complaints from the public. He said the site content was against Indonesia's anti-pornography law and his ministry found nearly 15,000 videos tagged with words related to nudity and ordered all Indonesia-based internet service providers to block the New-York-based site. The controversial law, passed in 2008, says pornography includes displays of nudity or nudity-like features, and that all sites in Indonesia are banned from running such materials. The ban has sparked a public outcry in Indonesia, with Twitter and Facebook exploding with negative comments. Indonesians are one of the world's biggest users of social media.

Myanmar deports Australian journalist

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Authorities in Myanmar say they deported an Australian video journalist for covering a press freedom rally without a proper visa. Agnus Watson, an intern with the *Democratic Voice of Burma*, was covering a protest in Magwe region against a one-year prison sentence given to another broadcast journalist, Zaw Pe, who was found guilty last month of entering an education department office without authorization and interviewing students. Myanmar only recently emerged from a half-century of military rule. A nominally civilian government installed in 2011 has been widely praised for freeing up the press, but media watchdog groups warn the climate is worsening. Several journalists have been arrested, tried, and jailed in recent months, some on criminal charges. Presidential spokesman Ye Htut said on Facebook that Watson was "deported for taking part in a protest, violating the visa regulations."

Interpol, Philippines bust cyber extortion network

MANILA, The Philippines (AP) — Philippine police, backed by Interpol, have arrested dozens of suspected members of an online extortion syndicate who duped hundreds of victims worldwide into exposing themselves in front of webcams or engaging in lewd chats, including a Scottish teenager who committed suicide after being blackmailed, according to officials. At least 58 Filipino suspects in the capital, Manila, and three other regions were arrested after investigators from Interpol, the U.S. Homeland Security Department, and police from three other countries traced online chats from some of the victims' computers, Philippine national police chief Allan Purisima said. More than 260 desktop and laptop computers, mobile phones, pornographic materials, and other pieces of evidence were seized during the raids by 15 police teams, he told a news conference in Manila. "This is just the tip of the iceberg," senior superintendent Gilbert Sosa, director of the Philippine police Anti-Cybercrime Group, said of the arrests, one of the largest hauls by local police in recent years. Many more suspects and extortion gangs remain at large and will be pursued, he said. The syndicates prey on mostly male victims by employing women with fake Facebook accounts who strike up online chats with them. The victims are duped into engaging in lewd talk, exposing themselves before a webcam, or performing a sexual act which are recorded and used to blackmail them, Philippine police said.

China sentences man to 10 years for spying

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese court has convicted a man of spying and sentenced him to 10 years in prison for leaking classified military documents to a foreign spy who also approached more than 50 other people around China, according to state media. The official *China Daily* newspaper said on its website that the man stole secret military documents and transferred photographs and other useful information to the foreign party. It did not say to which foreign governments the information may have been transferred, and didn't cite sources for its report. The *China Daily* and other official media identified the suspect by the surname Li. They said the recipient of the documents was named Feige, but gave no other information about the person. Interest in the aims of China's booming military spending has grown in recent years, particularly among officials in the U.S., the region's primary military power. Taiwan, which China has threatened to use force against to bring it under its control, and Japan, are also close observers of China's defense outlays. China's official defense spending this year grew 12.2 percent to \$132 billion, continuing more than two decades of nearly unbroken double-digit percentage increases.



MONSTER MAKEOVER. A large-size figure of Godzilla in a diorama is on display at Cheepa's gallery in Tokyo. Haruo Nakajima, the stunt actor who was the first Godzilla back in 1954, says a true Godzilla must be a figure of pathos as it destroys buildings and bridges in its path. Nakajima had to invent the character from scratch, and went to the zoo to study the way elephants and bears moved. (AP Photo/Junji Kurokawa)

Loyal to zip-up Godzilla, Japan wary of U.S. remake

By Yuri Kageyama
AP Business Writer

TOKYO — The big-screen Godzilla that scared and thrilled viewers in 1954 was an actor in a rubber suit with a zipper up its back. And many Japanese fans still prefer that monster over a Hollywood version made in terrifying, full 3-D computer-graphics glory.

"American Godzilla is just a giant iguana freaking out," says Mudai Nozaki, 30, who believes Godzilla is Japan's greatest contribution to cinematic history next to *Seven Samurai* and *Kagemusha* director Akira Kurosawa.

His reaction is surprisingly typical among Japanese who watched the trailer of the film, titled simply *Godzilla*, which premiered May 16 in the U.S. and will debut in July in Japan. They wonder if the Warner Bros. remake will be a tribute or an embarrassment for Japan's monstrous legacy.

Japanese Godzilla-lovers say their iconic hero falls into a special phantasmal category called *kaiju*, which have more imaginary, far-fetched traits than what they see as more mundane monsters like King Kong or Frankenstein.

And the Hollywood version is no *kaiju*, said Kazuya Haraguchi, who collects Godzilla goods, including a 100,000 yen (\$1,000) complete DVD collection from Toho Studios, which came with a huge fangs-baring Godzilla head.

The 45-year-old technician for reel films says Hollywood already botched it once with a 1998 remake, directed by Roland Emmerich.

And almost everything about the new Godzilla is wrong again, from head to toe —

how its arms are limp at its sides, how the scales on its back are too regular, even the shape of its head.

"The head is too small," said Haraguchi. "The voice is all wrong. It has to be much higher."

He shrugs off the creature in the new film as depicting what he pronounced as "Gadzilla," imitating an American accent — instead of *Gojira* (Go-jeeh-ruh), the way Japanese say it, a word that combines "gorilla" and *kujira*, or whale.

"I hope the day will come when a Japanese director can make a Godzilla movie again for the world," he said.

In the original story, Godzilla emerged from the Pacific Ocean, a mutation awakened by nuclear-weapons testing on the Bikini Atoll, underlining Japan's emotional trauma from the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II.

The story from Hollywood departs a bit from that script by having Godzilla stomping into San Francisco, instead of Tokyo, and confronting a flying monster that's not in the original. But the film stays true to the spirit of the original in many ways.

All director Gareth Edwards says he has done is produce an improved, more realistic Godzilla.

"In our film, for the first time, we will really see the actual animal again," he told The Associated Press.

"I think if you went around the world, and showed the silhouette of Godzilla, he'd probably be the most recognized character from movie history," he said. "Yet, as an adult,

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Fijian Dollar	1.8307
Hong Kong Dollar	7.752
Indian Rupee	58.782
Indonesian Rupiah	11413
Iranian Rial	25383
Japanese Yen	101.56
Laos New Kip	8040.1
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2335
Nepal Rupee	94.803
Pakistani Rupee	98.537
Papua N.G. Kina	2.7393
Philippine Peso	43.78
Russian Ruble	34.78
Saudi Riyal	3.7504
Singapore Dollar	1.2507
South Korean Won	1024.2
Sri Lankan Rupee	130.35
Taiwan Dollar	30.163
Thai Baht	32.502
Vietnam Dong	21165