



Man who altered headline to 'two-wife' policy punished

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese man was detained after he altered an image of a newspaper front page to add a headline declaring the official adoption of a “two-wife” policy, a joke on the country’s new “two-child” policy, the state-owned *Yangjiang Daily* said. The newspaper from the southern province of Guangdong fell victim to the prank and reported the incident to local police. The *Yangjiang Daily* said the altered image spread quickly on social media, causing an “ill impact.” Chinese authorities have been cracking down on rumors and false information circulating online, saying they disrupt the proper flow of information on the internet. The *Yangjiang Daily* said the man, identified only by his family name, Lin, altered the image of the newspaper as a joke with colleagues, but that it was shared online. Lin was detained on the charge of fabricating a rumor, the newspaper said. It did not say how long he would be held. The original headline was about the opening of a city meeting.

Architect of Tokyo 2020 stadium says his design not a copy

TOKYO (AP) — Kengo Kuma, the architect of Japan’s new 2020 Olympics stadium, has refuted allegations by British-Iraqi designer Zaha Hadid that his design borrowed from blueprints she made that organizers dropped last year. “In the design, I would like to say there are no similarities at all,” Kuma told reporters when asked about complaints by London-based Zaha Hadid Architects over apparent similarities between her design and Kuma’s. Kuma noted, however, that both architects had to meet strict specifications for the new, 80,000-seat structure in downtown Tokyo that will replace Japan’s old National Stadium. “The conditions set for the competition mean that automatically some similarities emerge,” he said. He added that “the concept is completely different, so it is absolutely a different building, despite the similarities.” Hadid’s company said the Japan Sport Council was withholding money owed for work on the 2020 Tokyo stadium design, while demanding her company give up claims to copyrights. After her original design was rejected as too costly, Hadid complained the new design chosen by the sport council, made by Kuma in collaboration with two companies that earlier worked with her team, was similar.

Singapore deports 26 Bangladeshis as suspected militants

SINGAPORE (AP) — Singapore says it arrested and deported 26 Bangladeshi construction workers for forming a religious study group that spread the ideology of al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group. The workers were arrested in November and detained without trial under the city-state’s rigorous Internal Security Act, the Ministry of Home Affairs said. It said they held discreet weekly meetings to share *jihadi*-related materials and discuss armed conflicts involving Muslims. It also said its members supported the teachings of U.S.-born radical Islamic cleric Imam Anwar al-Awlaki, who was killed in a drone strike in Yemen in September 2011. The Bangladeshis’ work passes had been revoked, it said. Twenty-six of them have been repatriated to Bangladesh, where authorities were informed of their circumstances. A remaining Bangladeshi is currently serving a jail sentence for attempting to leave Singapore illegally after hearing about the arrests of the others. He will be repatriated once he finishes serving his sentence, the ministry said. While they were not planning attacks in Singapore, an investigation showed several of them had considered carrying out attacks overseas, the ministry said. The announcement of the arrests came after the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for an attack in Jakarta that left four civilians and four attackers dead.

Indonesian telecom provider blocks access to Netflix

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia’s state-owned telecommunications company said it has blocked the internet video service Netflix in a possible setback to the U.S. company’s expansion in Asia. PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia said in a statement it blocked Netflix because it lacks a permit to operate in Indonesia. The statement said PT Telekomunikasi was also protecting its customers from inappropriate content such as pornography and depictions of violence that are illegal in Indonesia. Netflix started operating in Indonesia in January as part of a broad international expansion. It currently has nearly 75 million subscribers, including 30 million outside the U.S. A Netflix statement said “services delivered over the internet present all sorts of novel questions for policymakers,” but did not confirm it was blocked. It noted that only paying customers can watch programs or films on Netflix. Indonesia, with a population of more than 250 million people, is a potentially lucrative market for Netflix. It wants to expand into China, too, but is still looking for a partner in that country, where it will also have to tailor service to satisfy government regulators who ban programming they consider objectionable or politically inflammatory.

Aquino gives red-carpet welcome to Japan emperor

MANILA, The Philippines (AP) — President Benigno Aquino III gave a red-carpet welcome to Japan’s emperor in a sign of the blossoming ties of the Asian nations territorially at odds with China while further moving past painful memories of Japan’s World War II aggression. Aquino and Emperor Akihito held talks at Manila’s Malacanang presidential palace, where Philippine and Japanese flags were displayed side by side and Filipino troops fired cannons in a traditional salute. Aquino also hosted a state banquet for Akihito. Outside the palace, six elderly Filipino women, who have accused Japanese occupation forces of forcing them into wartime sex slavery, led a protest to demand an apology and compensation from Japan.



ADDICTIVE ADDITIVE. A hostess walks through the door of a branch of the Hu Da hot-pot restaurant chain in Beijing. Thirty-five restaurants across China, including the popular hot-pot chain, have been prosecuted or are under investigation for illegally using opium poppies as seasoning, one of the more unusual practices bedeviling the country’s food regulators. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

China busts 35 restaurants using opium poppies as seasoning

BEIJING (AP) — Thirty-five restaurants across China, including a popular Beijing hot-pot chain, have been found illegally using opium poppies as seasoning, one of the more unusual practices bedeviling the country’s food regulators.

Five restaurants are being prosecuted while 30 others, ranging from Shanghai dumpling joints to noodle shops in southwestern Chongqing, are under investigation, according to the China Food and Drug Administration.

Cases of cooks sprinkling ground poppy powder, which contains low amounts of opiates like morphine and codeine, in soup and seafood are not new in China, though it is unclear whether they can effectively hook a customer or deliver a noticeable buzz.

Shaanxi provincial police busted a noodle seller in 2014 after being tipped off by a failed drug test. Seven restaurants were closed in Ningxia province in 2012 for using the additive and Guizhou province shut down 215 restaurants in 2004.

Hu Ling, the general manager of Hu Da, a

popular chain with several adjacent locations on the raucous Beijing nightlife strip known as “Ghost Street,” confirmed the company was under investigation, saying it may have unknowingly sourced seasoning containing opiates. She declined further comment.

Poppy powder, made from capsules and shells that contain higher opiate content than the seeds commonly seen on bagels, can be easily purchased in markets in western China for about \$60 per kilogram, according to a 2014 report by the official Xinhua news agency. The additives were commonly mixed with chili oil and powders, making detection difficult without laboratory equipment.

Despite pledges from the government to improve enforcement, Chinese consumers perennially face high-profile food scares, ranging from tainted baby milk to fake meat and fruits to seafood pumped with gelatin.

The country’s food-safety problems spilled beyond its borders in 2014, when a Shanghai-based supplier to companies including KFC, Starbucks, and MacDonald’s was found selling unsanitary and expired chicken meat.

China confirms missing Hong Kong publisher in mainland

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong authorities say they have received confirmation from Chinese security officials that a bookseller whose disappearance in January raised international concern is in the mainland.

Hong Kong police said they received notice from Guangdong province’s public security department that Lee Bo was “understood” to be in mainland China.

Guangdong officials were replying to a request by Hong Kong police for information

about Lee.

He and four other people linked to a Hong Kong publishing company and its bookshop had gone missing in recent months.

The publishing firm specialized in books banned in mainland China for being critical of its communist leadership.

Lee’s case in particular raised alarm bells because it raised suspicions that Chinese security agents crossed into Hong Kong to abduct him.

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Taiwan Dollar	33.327
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