



China sentences HK journalists to up to five years in prison

BEIJING (AP) — A southern Chinese court has handed down prison terms to four people, including at least two Hong Kong journalists, on charges of running an illegal business after they reportedly sent copies of their sensitive political magazines to mainland China. A court in Shenzhen said the four individuals received prison sentences of up to five years each. The sentencing follows the high-profile disappearance of five Hong Kong booksellers that raised questions about the semiautonomous territory's status as a free press haven for material banned on the mainland. Two of those convicted in Shenzhen included Hong Kong magazine publisher Wang Jianmin and editor Guo Zhongxiao, who were arrested in 2014 in the border city, according to Hong Kong media. The two men published *New Way Monthly* and *Faces*, two journals that often delved into high-level Communist Party power struggles. It's unclear whether the two other convicted people were Hong Kong residents or what role they played at the publications. Reports cited Wang's lawyers as saying their clients were not running a mail-order business and had sent only eight copies of the magazines to friends in China. Wang was also convicted of collusion and bribery charges. Hong Kong has served for decades as a clearing house for information about sensitive mainland topics and publishers once considered themselves beyond Beijing's reach.

Tiger mauls woman to death in Chinese wildlife park

BEIJING (AP) — Siberian tigers at a wildlife park in Beijing mauled a woman to death and wounded another when they stepped out of their car in an enclosure, a Chinese state-run newspaper said. A tiger pounced on one of the women after she got out of a private car in which she was touring Beijing Badaling Wildlife World, the Legal Evening News reported. The second woman was attacked by another tiger that leapt at her after she stepped out of the vehicle to try to help her companion, the report said. The Yanqing district government confirmed in an official microblog post that the tiger attack took place at the park, which is located at the foot of the Great Wall. It offered few details, but said the injured person was being treated. Visitors are allowed to drive their own vehicles around the park, but are forbidden from getting out while in certain enclosures, the report said. A woman who answered the phone at the park refused to comment on the attack, saying only that the park was closed for two days due to forecasts of heavy rain.

Vietnam's rubber-stamp assembly re-elects Quang

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Tran Dai Quang was sworn in as Vietnam's president for the second time in four months after being re-elected by the country's rubber-stamp National Assembly. Quang, who was first elected president in early April by the outgoing assembly, won 485 votes from the 494 deputies of the Communist Party-dominated assembly, the government said on its website. Vietnam's top leaders include the Communist Party chief, the president, and the prime minister, though the position of president is more ceremonial than the other two. In his acceptance speech, which was broadcast live on state television, Quang pledged to "speed up the reform process in a comprehensive and synchronized manner, engage in proactive integration, build a growing, strong, and prosperous nation, and heighten Vietnam's position in the international arena." Vietnam launched the reforms in the mid-1980s, switching from a central command economy to a market economy. This transformed a poor country that had just emerged from long wars against the French and then the Americans into one of the fastest-growing economies in Asia. Quang, who was the minister of public security before becoming president, also vowed to "firmly defend the sacred national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity" and to "maintain political and social stability and create a peaceful environment for national construction."

Japan investigating possible North Korean defector

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese media says a man who turned up in a western city claims he is North Korean and took a boat across the sea to defect. The reports say the man was found in Nagato, a city across the Sea of Japan from the Korean Peninsula. The *Asahi* newspaper cited police as saying the man wants to defect. The man said he left North Korea on a wooden boat and jumped into the sea off Japan, according to *Asahi*. He reached shore holding onto a plastic container. NHK says he told police another man on the boat returned to North Korea. The man on shore was turned over to immigration officials to determine if he is a defector.

Seaplane crashes on inaugural flight in China

BEIJING (AP) — A seaplane making its inaugural flight crashed into a highway bridge outside Shanghai, killing five people on board, state media reported. The Cessna 208B operated by Joy Air General Air was carrying two crew members and eight invited guests, according to the state-run news site The Paper. The other five on board were sent to a hospital for treatment, The Paper said. A woman who answered the phone at Joy Air's offices declined to give any information, saying all company executives were at the crash site. Joy Air, China's largest seaplane operator, did not release an official statement. The cause of the crash is under investigation. The seaplane took off from suburban Shanghai's Jinshan district and was bound for the Zhoushan islands, about 47 miles to the south, The Paper reported. The route is designed for tourists and sightseers who want to escape to the islands from the sprawling financial center. Local media were invited to tour the seaplane before it took off as part of a publicity campaign to promote the airline's new coastal service.



HIP HELP. Reika Oozeki, a Japanese Vine artist, speaks while showing her work on a smartphone during an interview with The Associated Press in Tokyo. Companies attempting to appeal to Japanese youngsters are getting help from teenage stars on Vine, the social network devoted to six-second videos. Oozeki, age 19, became a sensation overnight on Vine when she was just 17 years old, offering snarky sketches of life. (AP Photo/Yuri Kageyama)

Japan companies seek hipness through teens posting to Vine

By Yuri Kageyama
AP Business Writer

TOKYO — What's helping turn Japanese youngsters into stars on Vine, the Twitter-owned social network devoted to looping, six-second video clips, is the stodginess of the nation's business world.

Japan Inc. companies, both big and small, are generally so clueless about appealing to youngsters — especially young women and especially on social networks — they need all the help they can get from teenage Viners for marketing.

Reika Oozeki, age 19, became a sensation overnight on Vine when she was just 17 years old, offering snarky sketches of life.

"I was studying for tests and I was bored," says Oozeki, who started out using her cellphone to shoot videos of herself in pajamas or at school. "I was so surprised it caught on."

Now she has more than 730,000 followers and her videos have looped over viewers' screens nearly 850 million times. Most of her clips are closeups of her face. She might coo pretending to be with a date, and then suddenly switch to a growl when she is supposedly with girlfriends.

She has appeared on television shows, was cast in a movie, and is signed with a production company. She is also training to become a swimming coach for children, who adore her because she is famous on Vine.

When companies approach her to make Vine clips, Oozeki is often given free rein. She is sometimes not even required to say the company name. In the clip she made for Intel Japan, she merely snarls *Interru haitteru*, Japanese for "Intel Inside."

Vine is unique as a social network in that

people post entirely video, much of it taken on cellphones. Each clip is a six-second loop.

There are 200 million people who watch Vine videos every month, and, although Vine does not break down viewers by country, Japan is one of Vine's largest markets outside of the United States.

Kota Furukoshi, chief executive of Tokyo-based web marketing consulting startup Ninoya, says Japanese companies, which still tend to be dominated by old men, are generally resigned to their lack of online savvy. Instead of trying to acquire and build such skills in-house, they tend to turn for outside help for online marketing, he said.

Popular Vine creators in Japan represent a break from old-style Japanese who tend to be shy, inhibited, and inept at self-expression, said Kota Furukoshi, chief executive of Tokyo-based web marketing consulting startup Ninoya.

"They're very creative. They're stylish. They're sharp," Furukoshi said. "They know how to build their personalities online."

Vine translated well in Japan, unlike other companies that had a culture clash.

LinkedIn, for instance, failed, and was even frowned upon in the culture where job hopping is not as common as in the U.S. and is seen as a betrayal by employers, said Furukoshi.

Vine is at a disadvantage compared to YouTube or Facebook as a moneymaker because most Vine users are too young to be big spenders. But some companies — like the Japan unit of Intel and Japanese candy maker Morinaga & Co. — are using Vine, seeing it as a worthwhile investment for brand recognition.

There are signs the Vine craze may have

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