



US JUDGE SETS R KELLY'S BAIL AT \$1M AFTER THE R&B SINGER WAS CHARGED WITH SEXUAL ABUSE

KEIRA KNIGHTLEY SAYS SHE'S NO LONGER WILLING TO DO NUDE SCENES IN FILMS NOW THAT SHE HAS A KID



Pope calls for 'all-out battle' to fight scourge of sexual abuse

Compares It To 'Human Sacrifice'; Offers No Concrete Policy Remedies

Jason Horowitz & Elizabeth Dias

Vatican City: Pope Francis ended a landmark Vatican meeting on clerical sexual abuse with an appeal "for an all-out battle against the abuse of minors", which he compared to human sacrifice, but he did not offer concrete policy remedies demanded by many of the faithful.

In a speech at the end of a Mass in the Apostolic Palace's frescoed Sala Reggia hall, Francis argued that "even a single case of abuse" in the Catholic Church — which he said was the work of the devil — must be met "with the utmost seriousness". He said that eradicating the scourge required more than legal processes and "disciplinary measures". "To combat this evil that strikes at the very heart of our mission," the pope said, the church needed to protect children "from ravenous wolves".

Francis called the meeting in September, summoning church leaders from around the world amid a cascade of civil investigations into clerical sexual abuse in the US and accusations from within his own hierarchy that he had covered up the misconduct of a top prelate, Theodore McCarrick, a former cardinal and archbishop of Washington who was defrocked.

Decades after the sexual abuse crisis first exploded in the US, Francis sought to get



Pope Francis attends the fourth and last day of a global child protection summit at the Vatican

the church's leaders on the same page for the first time.

High-profile cases involving the negligence by bishops, the abuse of nuns and other misconduct added to the pressure on Francis to do more than speak about ending the crisis. On Sunday, he compared the abuse of minors to "sacrificing human beings, frequently children, in pagan rites".

"Consecrated persons, chosen by God to guide souls to salvation, let themselves be dominated by their human frailty or sickness and thus become tools of Satan," he added. "In abuse, we see the hand of the evil that does not spare even the innocence of children. No explanations suffice for these abuses involving children."

Francis sought to tamp

down expectations about the meeting, fostered by some of his own bishops, that the conference would deliver concrete remedies to end a scourge that has devastated the church and threatened the legacy of his papacy.

He said the meeting had been intended to educate all the bishops on the gravity of the problem of sexual abuse; many were skeptical about such cases in their home countries. Faithful Catholics — especially those in the US and other countries that had grappled with the problem for years — had demanded more than soothing homilies: They wanted action that would hold their leaders accountable, once and for all.

They did not get it from the pope's speech, but church offi-

cialshavehintedthatconcrete policy changes are on the horizon, especially on issues of transparency and bishop accountability that were discussed during the meeting. Cardinal Daniel N DiNardo, the president of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, said on Saturday that he was "very pleased" with the meeting, even though specific action still needed to be determined.

"This went far better than I think some of us had hoped," he said. "Now you have the bishops all saying it's ubiquitous." He said he also expected that the American church would be asked for resources to assist other dioceses in rolling out reforms. "That's what I think people want," he said. "They want us to take action." NYT NEWS SERVICE

May delays Brexit vote till March 12, risks cabinet discord

Sharm El-Sheikh (Egypt):



British PM Theresa May announced on Sunday that she is delaying a vote on her Brexit deal in Parliament, saying it should now take place by March 12, a little more than two weeks before the UK is due to leave the European Union.

The move has the potential to further sow discord within her Cabinet. Threesenior Cabinet members already had suggested on Saturday that they may break ranks with her and back amendments to delay Britain's departure unless a deal is agreed upon by Parliament over the next week.

But May told reporters as she travelled to Egypt for an EU-Arab League summit and talks with European Council President Donald Tusk that her negotiating team would return to Brussels on Tuesday for negotiations aimed at wringing concessions out of her reluctant EU partners.

"As a result of that we won't bring a meaningful vote to Parliament this week. But we will ensure that that happens by March 12," May said. "It is still within our grasp to leave the EU with a deal on March 29," she added. An EU official said there had been "no tensions" between May and Tusk during their meeting. The official, who isn't permitted to speak publicly, said May informed Tusk about the "work and timeline to find a way forward on Brexit. In particular, the PM's plans in relation to the meaningful vote" meant to take place by March 12.

British lawmakers will consider various Brexit options this week as May continues to seek concessions from her EU counterparts. REUTERS

Kim on way to Vietnam by train

Seoul/Hanoi: North Korea warned President Donald Trump on Sunday not to listen to US critics who were disrupting efforts to improve ties, as its leader, Kim Jong-un, made his way across China by train to a second summit with Trump in Vietnam.

Few details of Kim's trip have been announced but he left Pyongyang by train on Saturday for the February 27-28 summit accompanied by senior North Korean officials, state media reported.

Trump and Kim will meet in Hanoi eight months after their historic summit in Singapore, the first between a sitting US president and a North Korean leader. REUTERS

Bangla foils hijacking bid on Dubai-bound flight, flyers safe

Dhaka: Bangladesh commandoes shot and killed a purported hijacker who had tried to enter the cockpit of a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight on Sunday, forcing the pilot to make an emergency landing, airline and aviation authority officials said.

The purported hijacker, who told the pilot he had a personal issue with his wife and wanted to speak to Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, died when the commandos stormed the plane at Chittagong's Shah Amanat International Airport, officials said.

"We tried to arrest him or get him to surrender but he refused and then we shot him," said Major General S M Motiur Rahman of the Bangladesh army. Before the commandos moved in, all 142 passengers and most of the crew had been let off the aircraft unharmed. One crew member had been kept as a hostage, the officials said. Bangladesh air force's Chattogram base commander Air Vice Marshal Mufidur Rahman said he kept the purported hijacker



Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight was forced to make an emergency landing at Chittagong airport on Sunday. The purported hijacker, who told the pilot he had a personal issue with his wife and wanted to speak to PM Sheikh Hasina, was killed by Bangladesh commandoes

engaged in talks while special forces prepared for the raid. "The man repeatedly wanted to talk to (the) PM," he said, adding that the purported hijacker allowed the passengers to disembark the plane during the negotiation process.

Air Vice Marshal Nayeem Hasan, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, said the man appeared to have a pistol and had explosives around his body. The suspect appeared to be "mentally imbalanced", he said. "I am saying this because of his behaviour." According to ar-

my Major General Rahman, the suspect, a Bangladesh national identified as Mahadi, refused to surrender when asked to, forcing "the commandos to go for action (firing)", which "lasted eight minutes". The Boeing 737 aircraft was scheduled to go from Dhaka to Dubai via Chittagong. The purported hijacking happened after it had taken off from Dhaka.

"He (hijacker) succumbed to his wounds after the military commandos captured him (with gun shots)," Rahman said. AGENCIES

Af sends first export consignment to India from Chabahar port

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The first consignment of Afghan exports to India through Chabahar port was flagged off by President Ashraf Ghani on Sunday in a ceremony at Zaranj, Nimroz province, Afghanistan.

The ceremony was attended by the ambassadors of India, Iran, Turkey and diplomats of Indonesia and Kazakhstan. The commencement of Afghan exports to India through Chabahar port in Iran has opened a new route to promote trade between India and Afghanistan bypassing Pakistan. The export consignment, loaded in 23 trucks, comprised carpets, dry fruits, cotton, talc, stones and other items weighing 570 tonnes.

India has sent a consignment of 1.1 lakh tonnes of wheat, pulses and other assistance in over 4,800 containers to Afghanistan through Chabahar port since 2017, official sources here said.

In December 2018, India Ports Global Limited had ta-

ken over operations at the Shaheed Behesti port in Chabahar, India, Afghanistan and Iran had earlier agreed on the routes of the trilateral trade and transit corridor through Chabahar. "Last month, direct shipping services were also established between India and Chabahar port," said an official. It will supplement the air freight corridor which was established in June 2017 and now extends between the cities of Kabul, Kandahar and Herat in Afghanistan and Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad in India.

Bilateral trade between India and Afghanistan has seen a jump of over 40% in 2018-19, crossing \$1 billion. On February 26, a 'Chabahar Day' business event will be held at Chabahar port, said an official. "This event will provide an opportunity to India, Afghanistan, Iran and central Asian countries to explore further potential of the port for promoting regional connectivity and trade with landlocked countries through Chabahar port."



Ashraf Ghani

A memo about Manafort says he 'brazenly violated' law

Washington: Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort committed crimes that cut to "the heart of the criminal justice system" and over the years deceived everyone from bookkeepers and banks to federal prosecutors and his own lawyers, according to a sentencing memo filed by special counsel Robert Mueller's office.

In the memo, submitted on Saturday in one of two criminal cases Manafort faces, prosecutors do not yet take a position on how much prison time he should serve or whether to stack the punishment on top of a separate sentence he will soon receive in a Virginia prosecution.

But they do depict Manafort as a longtime and unrepentant criminal who committed "bold" crimes, including under the spotlight of his role as campaign chairman and later while on bail, and who does not deserve any leniency.

"For over a decade, Manafort repeatedly and brazenly violated the law," prosecutors wrote. "His crimes continued up through the time he was first indicted in October 2017 and remarkably went unabated even after indictment."

Citing Manafort's lies to the FBI, several government agencies and his own lawyer, prosecutors said that "upon release from jail, Manafort presents a grave risk of recidivism." The 25-page memo is likely the last major filing by prosecutors as Manafort heads into his sentencing hearings next month and as Mueller's investigation approaches a conclusion. AP

Saudi names a princess as first woman ambassador

Ben Hubbard

Istanbul: Saudi Arabia appointed a princess as its new ambassador to the United States on Saturday, the first time the kingdom has named a woman to such a post.

The appointment of Princess Reema bint Bandar bin Sultan by royal decree came amid strained relations between Saudi Arabia and the US over the killing of the Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents in Istanbul in October.

While members of Congress have pursued measures to hold Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman responsible for the killing and to cut military aid to the Saudi war in Yemen, President Trump has stood by the kingdom, se-



Princess Reema bint Bandar bin Sultan was appointed the ambassador to the US

ing it as a valuable west Asian ally and reliable buyer of American weapons.

Princess Reema will replace Prince Khalid bin Salman, a son of King Salman and a younger brother of the crown prince, who took the post in 2017. Also in a royal decree on Saturday Prince Khalid was named deputy defence mini-

ster under the crown prince, who heads the ministry.

Since his father ascended to the throne in 2015, Prince Mohammed has pushed for vast changes in Saudi Arabia. He has called for a more diversified economy, granted women the right to drive, expanded entertainment options and moderated the kingdom's official religious rhetoric, while also spearheading a disastrous military intervention in Yemen and other policies that have raised doubts about his judgment.

The appointment of Princess Reema to Washington appeared aimed at turning a new page after the killing of Khashoggi, while also emphasising the kingdom's social reforms in the capital of its most important ally. NYT

AK-47 maker unveils 'suicide' drone

The Russian company that made the iconic AK-47 rifle, Kalashnikov, has unveiled a new 'suicide' drone that has the potential to revolutionise drone warfare.

Kalashnikov's deadly kamikaze drone, dubbed KUB-BLA, in essence is a small, slow and inexpensive cruise missile. It is a 4-foot wide drone that can fly for 30 minutes at a speed of 128.7 kilometer per hour, and despite its small size, can carry 2.9 kilogram of explosives before detonating when it reaches its target — far more than commercial drones. It can be controlled remotely and can carry out attacks up to 64 kilometer away with pinpoint



LETHAL PUNCH

accuracy. Further, a release from the arms' giant states the KUB-BLA can attack based on uploading image of the target into the guidance system. A miniature model of the precision weapon was put on display this month at a major defense exhibition in Abu Dhabi, where the

world's arms companies gather every two years to show off and market their latest wares. A video shows the unmanned military flying machine exploding after being launched from a machine in a snowy region.

"KUB-BLA is designed to destroy remote ground targets, regardless of its secrecy, terrain, both small and high altitudes. This is a very accurate and most effective weapon that is very difficult to fight with using traditional air defence systems," said Sergey Chemezov, head of Rostec, a Russian state giant in charge of development strategic arms companies.

"The advantages of the system are hidden launch,

high accuracy of the shot, noiselessness and ease of handling," he added.

According to the manufacturer, the KUB-BLA has been successfully tested and is ready for use.

It's unclear whether the Russian air force requested the drone's development, or Kalashnikov developed the type on its own for the domestic and foreign market.

KUB-BLA apparently is similar in design to Israel's truck-launched Harpy drone, which has been on the market for at least 25 years. The jet-propelled Harpy however is much heavier than KUB-BLA is, and carries a 31 kilogram warhead and costs \$70,000. AGENCIES

Dickens tried to banish wife to asylum, letters show

Palko Karasz

London: As a great novelist and a master journalist, Charles Dickens maintained tight control over what the public learned about his 1858 separation from his wife, perhaps the most scandalous story in his eventful life. But letters revealed this past week cast the episode in a new and cruel light. Dickens, they suggest, not only sought to banish Catherine, his companion of two decades and the mother of his 10 children, while pursuing an affair with a young actress, Ellen Ternan. He also tried to have his wife

A decade after Dickens death, his wife confided in Edward Dutton Cook, a theatre critic and her neighbour in London. Dickens fell out of love with his wife, Cook wrote in a letter, adding, "She had borne 10 children and had lost her looks... He even tried to shut her up in a lunatic asylum...!"

imprisoned in an asylum.

"This is a stronger and more damning account of Dickens's behaviour than any other," John Bowen, a professor of 19th-century English literature at the University of York in England, wrote in The Times Literary Supplement on Tuesday. Dickens was careful

of his image and legacy. In the 1860s, he burned the letters and papers of 20 years in his back yard. Mrs Dickens herself rarely spoke of the separation. Nearly a decade after her husband's death, she confided in Edward Dutton Cook, a theatre critic and her neighbour in London. The letters

Professor Bowen analysed were based on those conversations and, according to the professor, are some of the first documents discovered that present her perspective.

Dickens fell out of love with his wife, Dutton Cook wrote in a letter: "She had borne 10 children and had lost many of her good looks, was growing old, in fact." "He even tried to shut her up in a lunatic asylum, poor thing!" he continued. "But bad as the law is in regard to proof of insanity he could not quite wrest it to his purpose." Dickens may well have been in a position to sideline his wife in

this way. Many Victorian physicians, Professor Bowen wrote, would have considered assertions about his wife's "languor" and "excitability" sufficient basis to draw up a certificate of "moral insanity".

According to other letters, Dickens also had what might have seemed an ideal connection: a friendship with Dr Thomas Harrington Tuke, a psychiatrist who ran a private lunatic asylum near London. But correspondence suggests that Dr Tuke rebuffed Dickens. After 1864, the novelist was calling the doctor a "wretched being" and a "Medical Donkey". NYT

AROUND THE WORLD

Hungary power plant workers get half a hog as bonus

One of Hungary's richest businessmen is passing his employees a few morsels of the fortune he built with the help of his close ally, PM Viktor Orban. Lorinc Meszaros, a former mayor of Orban's hometown, bought the Matrai power plant last year in an acquisition spree. Now he's decided to give each of the plant's 2,100 workers half of a hog to "improve their lifestyle" and support their Easter preparations, the Index news website reported. Matrai's press officials were not reachable by phone on Friday. The free 50kg of pork comes as Orban dishes out increased benefits for middle-class families while tightening his grip on Hungary's institutions.



Unclaimed \$1.5bn jackpot: Winner dead? Ticket lost?

The winner of last October's \$1.5 billion Mega Millions drawing in South Carolina remains a mystery. With less than two months to go, the winning ticket has not been claimed. People have many theories. Maybe the winner was so overwhelmed, he or she died on the spot. Maybe the winner is on the run from police. Or maybe the ticket accidentally ended up in the trash. If the ticket isn't claimed by April 19 there will be other losers. The owner of the store that sold the ticket loses a \$50,000 prize. Every taxpayer in the state may lose a \$50 rebate possibly tied to the \$61 million the winner would pay in income taxes on the jackpot.

People boycott game over Winnie-Xi comparison

A Taiwanese games firm whose latest offering contained a hidden comparison of President Xi Jinping to Winnie the Pooh apologised on Sunday after gamers in China boycotted the product. "Devotion" was unveiled by Red Candle Games earlier this month. In one scene, a wall contained the characters "Xi Jinping, Little Bear Winnie" — Winnie's Chinese name. Red Candle said players who had paid for access will be refunded.

Wyoming district to open 1-student school next fall

A Wyoming school district plans to re-open an isolated school to serve a single student entering kindergarten this fall. The Laramie Boomerang reports Cozy Hollow School already has a modular classroom but it hasn't been used for a decade. It will be the second one-student school in the Albany County school district. District officials say it will cost about \$150,000 combined to educate the two students next school year.