



ARNIE SAYS JAMES CAMERON IS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN MAKING OF 'TERMINATOR 6' WHICH THE AVATAR-MAKER HAS CO-WRITTEN

ROTEM, MY SISTER, YOU'RE AN INSPIRATION: GAL GADOT BACKS ISRAELI MODEL WHO REBUKED NETANYAHU IN FIGHT FOR RIGHTS



China, Indonesia & Ethiopia ground Boeing 737 Max 8 fleets after crash

Plane's Flight-Data & Cockpit-Voice Recorder Found From Site

Gara-Bokka: Investigators in Ethiopia found two black box recorders on Monday that will help piece together the final moments of an Ethiopian Airlines plane before it plunged, trailing smoke and debris, and crashed killing 157 people.

China and Indonesia grounded their fleets of Boeing's 737 MAX 8 aircraft on Monday, although most major airlines continued to fly the plane. The disaster came just months after a jet of the same model came down in Indonesia killing 189 people, and prompted a global aviation safety scare.

The Ethiopian Airlines 737 MAX 8 plunged into farmland minutes after take-off from Addis Ababa for Nairobi on Sunday. "The plane was very close to the ground and it made a turn. We looked and saw papers falling off the plane," Malka Galato, the farmer whose land the plane crashed on, said. "Cows that were grazing in the fields ran in panic."

The plane tried to climb but failed, then swerved sharply trailing white smoke and objects including clothes before crashing, said farmer Tamirat Abera. The victims came from more than 30 countries, and the United Nations said they included 21 members of its staff. The UN had earlier said 22 of its staff were on board.

Investigators seeking to find the cause of the crash discovered the black box with both the cockpit voice recorder and digital flight data on Monday, Ethiopian state TV said. Boeing's share price dropped 10% in early trading on Monday at the prospect that two such crashes in such a short time could reveal flaws in its new plane. The 737 line, which has flown for more than 50 years, is the world's best-selling modern passenger aircraft and viewed as one of the industry's most reliable.



Rescue workers sift through the wreckage of a Boeing 737 Max 8 crash near Bishofto, Ethiopia, on Monday

2 minutes late for flight, Greek man survives crash

A Greek man said on Sunday he would have been the 150th passenger on the Nairobi-bound Ethiopian Airlines Boeing plane that crashed killing all on board, except he arrived two minutes late for the flight. "I was mad because nobody helped me to reach the gate on time," Antonis Mavropoulos said in a Facebook post entitled "My lucky day" in which he includes a photo of his ticket. Mavropoulos, president of the International Solid Waste Association, a non-profit organization, was travelling to Nairobi to attend the annual assembly of the UN Environment Programme, according to Athens News Agency. He was supposed to board the plane but he reached the departure gate just two minutes after it was closed. He booked a later flight but was then prevented from boarding by airport staff. "They led me to the police station of the airport. The officer told me not to protest but to pray to God because I was the only passenger that didn't board the ET 302 flight that was lost," Mavropoulos said in his post in which he admits being in shock. The airport authorities explained that they wanted to question him because he was the only passenger booked onto the doomed flight who wasn't on board. "They said they couldn't let me go before cross-checking my identity, the reason I hadn't boarded the plane etc." AFP

The new MAX 8 variant, with bigger engines designed to use less fuel, entered service in 2017. By the end of January this year, Boeing had delivered 350 of the new jets to customers, with another 4,661 on order, and they could become the workhorses for airlines around the globe for decades. Boeing's stock price fell, if maintained through normal trading hours, would be its biggest in nearly two decades, halting a surge that has seen it triple in value in just

over three years to a record high of \$446 last week. Various worried nations took swift action after the crash. Ethiopian Airlines, which has four other 737 MAX 8 jets, said it was grounding them as a precaution. China also ordered its airlines to suspend their 737 MAX 8 jets. Noting that the accidents involving newly delivered planes had both taken place shortly after take-off, the Civil Aviation Administration of China said it would notify airlines when they could resu-

me flying the jet. The crash may scupper a potential commitment by China to buy more Boeing-made aircraft as part of a deal being negotiated to end a months-long trade war between China and the US. Indonesia, where a Lion Air 737 MAX 8 went down in October, said it would temporarily ground the model for inspection. Cayman Airways grounded both of its new 737 MAX 8 jets temporarily. South Africa's Comair also grounded its 737 MAX 8. REUTERS

India issues additional safety rules for flying 737 Max 8 planes

Only highly experienced pilots will operate the Boeing 737 Max 8. Also during long transit stays, the aircraft will be thoroughly checked to ensure systems like autopilot and stall management are perfectly working.

These are part of the interim safety measures for Indian carriers operating the B737 Max 8 issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation on Monday in the wake of the Ethiopian jet crash. At present, SpiceJet has 12 of these planes and is the only Indian carrier operating this type of aircraft. Jet Airways has five of these planes, but they are all grounded due to non-payment to vendors.

A senior DGCA official said that a review of the "daily defect and incident reports" of B737 Max found there was "no significant concern". He, however, said additional measures are being taken. "The minimum experience level of crew operating B737 Max 8 aircraft to fly as pilot-in-command is 1000 hours and co-pilot is 500 hours on Boeing 737 NG aircraft type," a senior DGCA official said.

The DGCA has sent these measures to Boeing and US Federal Aviation Administration for seeking any additional measures and advise.

"The (se) are interim safety measures taken with inputs available at this stage. DGCA will continue to closely monitor the situation and may impose/ take any other operational/ maintenance measures/ restrictions based on the information received from accident investigation agency/ FAA/ Boeing," the DGCA's statement said. Full report on www.toi.in

Mullah Omar lived just 5 km away from US base in Af: Book

Kabul: A biography of one-eyed former Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Omar says he lived near a US base in Afghanistan for years, not in Pakistan as US officials have said, exposing Western failure to track him down, but a spokesman for the Afghan president described the claim as "delusional". In her book "Op Zoek Naar De Vijand (Searching for an Enemy)," Dutch journalist Bette Dam says Omar never hid in neighbouring Pakistan. He lived in hiding just 4.8km from a major US military base in his home Afghan province of Zabul, said Dam, who says she spent five years interviewing Taliban members for the book.

Omar's headline Taliban ruled Afghanistan from 1996 until 2001, and has waged an anti-government insurgency since then. Omar, who delegating effective Taliban leadership after 2001, appears to have acted as more of a spiritual leader, according to the book, and the militant movement kept his death in 2013 secret for two years. He was wanted in the US for providing a safe haven for al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, and Washington had placed a \$10 million bounty on his head. US forces even searched his accommodation on one occasion, but failed to find Omar's hiding place, Dam told Reuters. The US Embassy in Kabul did not immediately respond to a request for comment. REUTERS

Need responsible solution, says China on terrorist tag for Azhar

Beijing: Amid reports that the resolution to declare Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Muhammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist would come up in the UN Security Council on March 13, China on Monday said "a responsible solution" can only come through discussions.

Beijing also said security issues constituted an "important topic" in its talks to ease tensions between Pakistan and India following the Pulwama terror attack.

The US, the UK and France had moved a proposal at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) after the Pulwama terrorist attack to designate JeM chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist.

According to reports the resolution was expected to be taken by the 1267 committee of the UNSC on March 13. China, which has blocked three times such moves by India and other members of the UNSC, is yet to announce its stand.

Asked about India's appeal and China's stand on the issue, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang told media here, "First I would like to say that the UNSC as a main body of the UN has strict standards and rules of procedures. Some reports have knowledge of inside information the UNSC. I don't



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know that can be counted as an evidence," he said. "China's position on the designation of a terrorist by the 1267 Sanctions Committee is consistent and clear. China adopted a responsible attitude, follows the rules of the procedure of the committee and participated in the discussions in a responsible manner. Only through discussions can we come up with a responsible solution," he said. Recently Chinese vice foreign minister Kong Xuanyou travelled to Pakistan and held talks with PM Imran Khan and army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and other officials.

India on Saturday said all the UNSC members were aware of the JeM training camps and the presence of Azhar in Pakistan, and urged the nations to designate him as a global terrorist. PTI

Trump proposes record \$4.75tn budget, rise in military spend

Washington: US President Donald Trump sent Congress on Monday a record \$4.75 trillion budget request that proposes an increase in military spending and sharp cuts to domestic programs like education and environmental protection for the 2020 fiscal year.

Trump's budget, the largest in federal history, called for defence spending to rise by nearly 5% to \$750 billion — which is more than the Pentagon had asked for — and an additional \$8.6 billion for construction of a border wall with Mexico. The budget for wall is more than six times what Congress gave him for border projects in each of the past two fiscal years, and 6% more than he has corralled by invoking emergency powers this year after he failed to get the money he wanted.



Trump's budget has little chance of becoming law because Congress controls spending, and Democrats control the House

White House officials said the budget would include a total of \$1.9 trillion in cuts to mandatory safety net programmes, like Medicaid. The White House also proposed reforms to mandatory spending programs such as food stamps to cut \$22 billion.

The Republican president's budget is expected to

be rejected by Congress, where Democratic leaders on Sunday warned Trump against what they called a "repeat performance" of last year's funding war, which led to a five-week partial shutdown of the federal government. This year, the stakes are higher. The October 1 deadline for a funding deal to keep the government running coincides with the deadline to lift the debt limit. Without an increase in the limit, the US government would risk a default, which would shock the world economy.

Even with the cuts, which the White House said would add up to \$2.7 trillion in savings over a decade, the budget office said budget would not balance until 2034, exceeding the traditional 10-year outlook. NYT & AGENCIES

Bilawal visits Sharif, says no deal for ex-PM to leave Pak

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Opposition leader and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met for Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail on Monday and said he got no impression that any secret deal had been made for the former PM to leave the country.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, Bilawal said it was a sort of historical day for him as his grandfather, former PM Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, his father, former President Asif Ali Zardari, as well as various PPP workers had served time as political prisoners in the same jail. "I was very sad that a person who has remained the prime minister of the country three times is incarcerated here. It is 2019, and yet another prime minister is serving a sentence in Kot Lakhpat jail," the PPP chief regretted.

Bilawal said reports about Sharif looking for a deal or wanting to go to London were rumours. He noted that his father had spent 11-and-a-half years in jail and was eventually acquitted by the courts. "However, during his time in jail, there wasn't a single month where there were no reports that he had struck a deal with former President Gen Pervez Musharraf," the PPP chief said.

Brexit crunch looms for PM May as EU talks stall

London/Brussels: British PM Theresa May's Brexit strategy was in meltdown on Monday after her failure to win last-minute concessions from the European Union set the stage for another humiliating defeat of her divorce deal in parliament.

Just 18 days before the UK is due to leave the EU on March 29, there is still no ratified divorce deal and talks with the bloc have stalled as May tries to break the political deadlock in London. May's spokesman said a "meaningful" parliamentary vote on her deal would go ahead on Tuesday, even though



Protesters on Sunday staged a 'Brexit Dogs Dinner' — a play on the idiom that means making a mess of something — in London

talks with the EU are deadlocked, and the motion would be published later on Monday. The exact vote format was not immediately clear.

European officials said there had been no breakthrough in talks over the weekend and expressed frustration with May's attempts to secure concessions just weeks before Britain's exit. "We really want to be over with it now. It's not going anywhere so even an extension is unlikely to break the impasse. There is not much patience or goodwill left on our side," one EU official said. European Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas said it was up to the UK parliament to take important decisions on Brexit this week. REUTERS

Trump admin aims to use FB to find if anyone is misusing disability benefits

Robert Pear

Washington: If you're on federal disability payments and on social media, be careful what you post. Uncle Sam wants to watch. The Trump administration has been quietly working on a proposal to use social media such as Facebook and Twitter to help identify people who claim social security disability benefits without actually being disabled. If, for example, a person claimed benefits because of a

back injury but was shown playing golf in a photograph posted on Facebook, that could be used as evidence that the injury was not disabling. "There is a little bit of a chance that social security may be snooping on your Facebook or your Twitter account," Robert Crowe, a lawyer who has represented social security disability claimants for more than 40 years, said he cautioned new clients. "You don't want anything on there that shows you out playing Frisbee." In its budget request

to Congress last year, social security said it would study whether to expand the use of social media in disability determinations as a way to "increase programme integrity and expedite the identification of fraud." Since then, administration officials said, the White House has been actively working with social security to flesh out the proposal, in the belief that social media could be a treasure trove of information about people who are applying for or receiving disability benefits. REUTERS

AROUND THE WORLD



Revellers play drums during the traditional Morgenstreich parade in Basel, Switzerland, on Monday

Said 'Tim Apple' to save time & words: Trump on his gaffe

Donald Trump has said he just meant to "save time and words" when he referred to Apple boss Tim Cook by the wrong name. The US president was widely mocked last week when he referred to the CEO as "Tim Apple" during a meeting at the White House. "At a recent round table meeting of business executives, & long after formally introducing Tim Cook of Apple, I quickly referred to Tim + Apple as Tim/Apple as an easy way to save time & words," he wrote, five days after the event. "The Fake News was disparagingly all over this, & it became yet another bad Trump story!"

Iranian couple arrested over public proposal
A young Iranian couple have

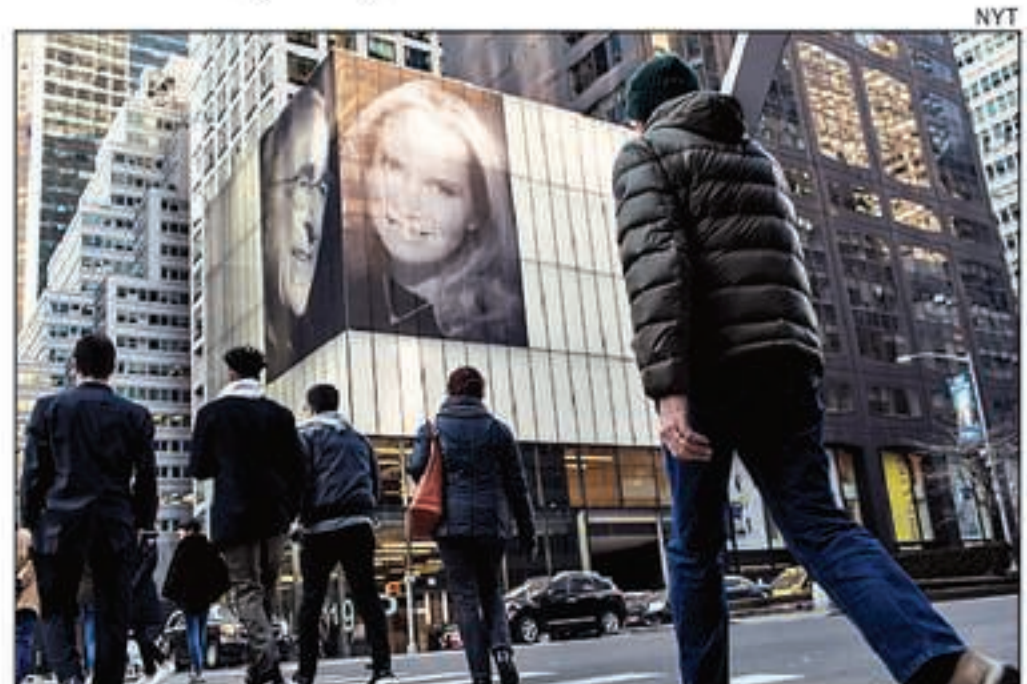
been arrested after a marriage proposal in public that was captured on a video clip that went viral on social media. The police say the pair offended Islamic mores on public decency but were later released on bail. The video, which shows on social media last Friday, spreads the young man standing in a heart-shaped ring of flower petals next to colorful balloons in a mall in the central Iranian city of Arak. He proposes, and after the young woman says "yes", he slips a ring on her finger to cheers from a crowd of onlookers.

Man wins \$273m lottery after stranger returns lost ticket
An unemployed New Jersey man won a \$273 million Mega Millions lottery jackpot last week after a stranger found and returned the winning ticket that he had left behind on a store counter. Michael Weirsky told reporters on

Thursday that he lost two tickets immediately after he bought them at a QuickChek in Phillipsburg on the day before the lottery drawing. Weirsky said he was thankful for the unidentified good Samaritan who found his tickets on the store counter and decided to turn them in.

Austria plans rules for hikers after tourist trampled by cows
Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said on Monday the country would introduce a legally binding "code of conduct" for hikers who visit its picturesque mountain pastures in response to the death of a German tourist who was trampled by cows. The incident took place in Tyrol in 2014. The victim was walking her dog on a leash. Cows can charge to protect their calves when they see dogs, and hikers are advised to release their dogs in such cases, which she did not do.

Realty tycoon taunts ex-wife with 42-ft-tall pic of new one



Pedestrians walk past photos of a real estate developer and his new wife

New York: They measure 24 feet wide and 42 feet high, which makes them taller than a telephone pole but 3 feet shorter than the letters in the Hollywood sign. The two photos, according to the recently divorced and newly remarried man who had them installed last week on one of the tallest residential buildings in the Western Hemisphere, are "a proclamation of love."

That man is real estate developer Harry Macklowe, who is pictured in one of the photos and was married for the second time on Thursday after a contentious 14-week divorce trial. His new wife, the woman in the other photograph, is Patricia Landeau, president of the French Friends of the Israel Museum. Macklowe built the building where the images appear, 432 Park Avenue. "My wife looks gorgeous, and I love the picture of me," Macklowe, 81, said on Saturday — and began thinking about ways to show them off. "Since I wasn't getting married during the summer in the Hamptons," he said, "I wasn't able to hire an airplane with a banner to go up

and down the shoreline. I thought: 'I own a building. Why don't I just hang a banner from my own building?'" It did not take long for the tabloids to notice. "Macklowe puts new wife's pic on Park Avenue bldg, where ex nixed apt," the New York Post wrote. "Ex" was a reference to Macklowe's first wife, Linda. They were married for more than 50 years before a public breakup in 2016. Linda has a contract to buy an apartment in the building that is now adorned by the images of Macklowe and his new wife. NYT NEWS SERVICE