



#PADSFORDADS: MICHAEL SHEEN FRONTS UK CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE DADS TO TALK TO DAUGHTERS ABOUT PERIODS

175 NATIONS IN 5 YEARS: BRITISH SINGER JOSS STONE HOLDS GIG IN N KOREA AS PART OF PROJECT TO SING IN EVERY COUNTRY

Boeing works to manage a crisis with unknown costs

Losses Could Include Pending Orders Of \$550bn For 4,600 Planes, Compensation To Airlines Forced To Ground Jets & Suits Against Co

Natalie Kitroeff



The US has followed countries around the world and has grounded all Boeing 737 MAX aircraft following the crash of an Ethiopia Airlines plane

Boeing black boxes flown to France

The black box flight recorders from the Boeing 737 MAX aircraft that crashed in Ethiopia were flown to France on Thursday. France's BEA air safety agency confirmed it has received the recorders from the plane that crashed shortly after takeoff from Addis Ababa on Sunday, killing all 157 people aboard. BEA investigators will try to remove information from the cockpit voice and flight data recorders, which were damaged in the disaster. On Wednesday, US authorities said new evidence showed similarities between the Ethiopia crash and that of a Lion Air flight in Indonesia in October that claimed the lives of 189 people. AFP

pending on what investigators determine happened in the Ethiopia disaster. The longer it takes to find a solution, the higher the price tag. The battery fix for the Dreamliner jets amounted to \$465,000 per plane, according to Carter Copeland, an analyst at Melius Research. Based on those costs, he estimates that Boeing could spend nearly \$1 billion to resolve is-

sorbs such costs. Boeing, an aerospace giant that builds commercial and military aircraft, makes more than \$100 billion in revenue a year. The bigger challenge for Boeing is how it will handle future orders. If deliveries are delayed because the plane needs to be redesigned, the manufacturer is likely to have to offer discounts to carriers with orders.

There is also a broader risk that, if the passenger backlash to the Max lasts, the manufacturer could lose some corporate customers in the long run. Such a shift would give an advantage to its European rival Airbus, which makes a similar fuel-efficient plane, the A320neo. The most significant fallout may be from the new scrutiny over the manufacturer's relationship to its regulator, the Federal Aviation Administration. On Wednesday, top House Democrats with oversight of the agency said that they would begin a thorough review of the process used to determine the airworthiness of the 737 Max. "There must be a rigorous investigation into why the aircraft, which has critical safety systems that did not exist on prior models, was certified without requiring additional pilot training," said Representatives Peter DeFazio and Rick Larsen. NYT NEWS SERVICE

A company the size of Boeing will probably be able to ab-

UK lawmakers rebuff idea of another Brexit referendum

London: The British Parliament on Thursday rejected a measure calling for a second referendum on Brexit, dashing — for now — some activists' hopes that Britons would reverse themselves and vote to remain in the European Union.

The amendment seemed doomed from the beginning, as the notion of a second referendum has never commanded a majority in Parliament. It was dealt a staggering blow earlier in the day, when the biggest campaigners for a public vote urged members of parliament to vote against the measure, saying that Thursday's focus should be solely on delaying Brexit.

The Labour Party, always leery of a second referendum, quickly announced its opposition, too, though individual lawmakers walked a careful line in trying to maintain they supported a second referendum in other circumstances.

"Today is not about the Labour Party saying it wouldn't support such an amendment," Keir Starmer, Labour's shadow Brexit secretary, said in parliament on Thursday afternoon. "It's about saying today's about extension." The measure failed on a vote of 334 to 85, with more than 200 lawmakers not voting.

After months of bluster and political backstabbing, UK parliament is paralyzed, meaning that MPs are now likely to try to stop the clock before the March 29 deadline. Any delay would require approval from the other 27 member states of the EU. And the big question is what sort of delay would be granted, and what would it accomplish. Experts say the EU is likely to grant an extension, though how long it would last is less certain. NYT NEWS SERVICE

Indians to benefit as UK lifts cap on PhD-level work visas

London: Indians are among the largest group of professionals set to benefit from a new UK government plan to remove any limit on the number of PhD-level work visas to be granted.

UK Chancellor Philip Hammond announced on Wednesday in a budget update, referred to as the annual spring statement, that from later this year all such highly-qualified roles will be exempt from any cap on the numbers that can apply and come to work in Britain.

"(A) key pillar of our plan is backing Britain to remain at the forefront of the technology revolution that is transforming our economy. And to support that ambition, from this autumn we will completely exempt PhD-level roles from the visa caps," Hammond said in his speech in the House of Commons.

"From Autumn 2019, PhD-level occupations will be exempt from the Tier 2 (General) cap, and at the same time the government will update the immigration rules on 180-day absences so that researchers conducting fieldwork overseas are not penalised if they apply to settle in the UK," he added in his statement.

The move is seen as the first step toward the complete removal of a cap on visas for skilled workers in 2021, when a new immigration system comes into force

According to the most recent UK home office data, Indians form the largest chunk of highly skilled professionals within the Tier 2 (General) category of work visas, accounting for 54% of all such visas granted in 2018. Indian nationals also marked the largest increase in the grant of Tier 2 visas last year, up by 6% at 3,023 more visas compared to the previous year.

Currently, only a limited number of visas are issued every year under the Tier 2 skilled worker section of the visa system. The government's latest announcement is seen as the first step toward the complete removal of a cap on visas for skilled workers in 2021, when a new immigration system comes into force. "Under the new system, we will be open to the brightest and best from India," immigration minister Caroline Nokes said earlier this year. PTI

Sandy Hook shooting: Court says families can sue gunmaker

The Connecticut Supreme Court on Thursday allowed a lawsuit against Remington Outdoor Co Inc to go ahead, giving families who lost loved ones in the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting the chance to pursue their claims in an effort to hold the gunmaker liable.

The families of nine of the victims and one survivor have said the manufacturer, along with a gun wholesaler and local retailer, are partially responsible for the carnage at the Newtown, Connecticut, school because they marketed the weapon based on its militaristic appeal.

Adam Lanza, 20, used a Remington AR-15 Bushmaster rifle, a semi-automatic civilian version of the US military's M-16, to kill 20 children between the ages of 6 and 7, as well as six adult staff members, at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012. He then killed himself.

Remington did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the firearm industry's trade association, said it was reviewing the decision. Josh Koskoff, one of the lawyers for the victims' families, said families were grateful for the court's rejection of the gun industry's bid for complete immunity. REUTERS

Trump blasts 'fake news' for Melania's 'body double' theory

Washington: US President Trump is not amused by the #FakeMelania conspiracy theories circulating on social media. He spun off a new theory on Wednesday to debunk the idea that there's a body double of his wife who steps in for her at times. The "fake news" did it, he claimed without evidence. Trump alleged on Wednesday in a tweet that photos of his wife had been altered to make them appear as though a look-alike accompanied him to Alabama last week to survey tornado damage.



Trump had recently criticised the negative press coverage of his wife Melania, saying: 'If I were a Democrat instead of a Republican, she'd be Jackie O (Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis) times twenty'

His favourite morning TV programme, "Fox & Friends", reported on the body-double theory on Wednesday as the show's hosts weighed in on a discussion that aired on Monday on ABC's "The View". Hosts of the ABC programme debated whether an impostor had travelled with Trump. "The Fake News photoshopped pictures of Melania, then propelled conspiracy theories that it's actually not her by my

side in Alabama and other places," the president tweeted. "They are only getting more deranged with time!" Hosts of "The View" had commented on how the woman at Trump's side in photos of the trip appeared shorter than usual and had a different facial structure than the first lady's. One host allowed that the first lady might have been

wearing flat shoes. In fact, the 5-foot-11 first lady had ditched her customary stilettos for sneakers to walk around the rough terrain with the 6-foot-3 Trump. Stephanie Grisham, the first lady's spokeswoman, said the episode "went beyond the petty mean-girl spirit that we've grown accustomed to. People died..."

The White House did not respond to a request for comment on who specifically Trump thought had doctored the photos. The president showed his frustration with press coverage of his wife during an interview this week with a conservative online news organization. "If our first lady, if I were a Democrat instead of a Republican, she'd be Jackie O times twenty. Instead, they go after her," Trump said. He was referring to John F Kennedy's wife, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, who often was referred to as "Jackie O" after she remarried following Kennedy's assassination. AP

FB suffers 24-hour outage worldwide

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

In one of the biggest cases of outage, Facebook was down for about 24 hours across the world between Wednesday and Thursday. At the time of the filing of this report, the website had been restored in many parts of the world. On a live outage chart put out by a technology website, India looked alright but not entirely unaffected.



Facebook subsidiaries — Instagram and WhatsApp — also experienced interruptions across the world

Facebook subsidiaries — Instagram and WhatsApp — also remained down in many parts of the world even on Thursday evening. The global outage led to a flurry of memes on Twitter with #FacebookDown, #WhatsAppDown and #InstagramBlackout2019 trending for several hours.

Facebook confirmed the prolonged disruption. The company also said it was considering whether to refund advertisers for lost exposure due

to the problems, which internet outage trackers showed affected users in Europe, Japan, North and South America. "Yesterday a server configuration issue made it difficult for people to access our apps and services. We are 100% back up and running and apologize for any inconvenience," a Facebook spokesperson said. "We are still investigating the overall impact of this issue, including the possibility of refunds for

FB data deals under criminal probe in US

Federal prosecutors are conducting a criminal investigation into data deals Facebook struck with some of the world's largest tech companies, intensifying scrutiny of the social media giant's business practices. A grand jury in New York has subpoenaed records from at least two prominent makers of smartphones and other devices, according to two people familiar with the requests. The firms were among more than 150, including Amazon, Apple, Microsoft and Sony, that had cut sharing deals with the world's dominant social media platform. The agreements let the companies see users' friends, contact information and other data, sometimes without consent. FB has phased out most of the partnerships. "We are cooperating with investigators," an FB spokesman said. NYT

advertisers." Facebook takes tens of millions of dollars of advertising revenue every day.

According to downdetector.com, a Dutch company which "detects technology failures" real-time, showed the number of people affected by the outage spiked to 12,000 people around 6am, but then reduced considerably in the next 12 hours. At 6pm, number of malfunction reports from users had come down to 196.

For Instagram, too, the worst impacted hour was between 6-7am, when 30,000 people reported that the site was down. Around 10am, the platform tweeted a meme featuring Oprah Winfrey and wrote: "Anddddd... we're back." A Twitter user posted: "Hey everyone! While #InstagramDown, I just found a new social app. It's called 'outside'. With inputs from agencies

11-yr-old sues US gov't over climate change

Washington: Levi Draheim is an 11-year-old kid who lives on a barrier island separating the coast of Florida from the Atlantic Ocean. He is also a plaintiff in a lawsuit against the US government over climate change.

"I don't even know if the Earth is going to be around when I'm older at the rate that we're going," Levi says.

Levi is the youngest of 21 plaintiffs in legal action launched in 2015 by two associations, Our Children's Trust and Earth Guardians, against the US government — a case now stalled in the courts for years. They accuse federal authorities not only of a failure to act in the face of global warming, but also of "affirmative actions that cause climate change," including policies that promote fossil fuels. AFP

Sex tapes, rape chat, bribery and more: Scandals rock K-pop world

Seoul: Police in South Korea questioned two K-pop stars and two other singers resigned on Thursday, as accusations of sex tapes, prostitutes and secret chat about rape rocked the music industry and hit entertainment stocks.



Seungri and Jung Joon-young were in a group chatroom where secret sex tapes were shared, and men joked about drugging and raping women

Singer Lee Seung-hyun, 28, better known by the stage name Seungri, is suspected of paying for prostitutes for foreign businessmen to drum up investment in his business. He denies any wrongdoing and said he would cooperate with a police investigation. "I am sorry to the nation and everyone who has been hurt," Lee told reporters, but did not elaborate.

Police have said Lee, a member of the group BIGBANG, is suspected of what is known as "sexual bribery". On Monday, Lee said he was

leaving the entertainment industry to fight the charges.

Also in trouble is singer and TV celebrity Jung Joon-young. On Wednesday, Jung admitted to having shared videos he took secretly while having sex with women. He appeared at the same police station earlier on Thursday. Jung's agency has terminated his contract and he has been barred from leaving the co-

untry while police question him. Lawyers for Jung could not be reached for comment.

Lee and Jung were both members of online chat groups where secret sex tapes were shared, and men joked about drugging and raping women, the broadcaster SBS said. A third performer, Yong Jun-hyung, expressed remorse in a post on Instagram about watching a sex video shared by Jung, and making inappropriate comments on it. "I was stupid," he said. "My agency said he would quit the boyband Highlight."

FNC Entertainment said singer Choi Jong-hoon would leave the band FT Island after chat messages suggested a police official helped hide the fact that Choi had been caught drunk driving. Choi apologised on Instagram. REUTERS

Attack on minister rattles NZ's friendly politics

Charlotte Graham-McLay

Wellington: In New Zealand, members of the public are accustomed to seeing their top government officials at the grocery store or on the street, unencumbered by security guards as is more common in other parts of the world. The country's prime minister, Jacinda Ardern, once jokingly recounted about being approached by chatty strangers while she shopped for maternity bras. But on Thursday morning,

a government minister was attacked while walking to work alone, leading Ardern to warn that New Zealanders' unusual level of access to the country's lawmakers should not be taken for granted. "We have an environment where politicians are accessible, and that's something we should feel proud of," Ardern said. "We are, after all, here to serve people. But today's events really show we cannot take that for granted."

The victim, James Shaw, 45, a co-leader of the left-lea-



PM Jacinda Ardern, who once jokingly recounted about being approached by strangers while shopping for maternity bras, said the unusual level of access to MPs should not be taken for granted

ning Green Party and the minister for climate change, told the police that he was grabbed and hit in the Thursday morning attack, leaving him with a black eye and cuts on his face. After being treated at the scene, he went on to attend a meeting at Parliament before admitting himself for examination in a hospital.

A Green Party spokesman said Shaw had told the police that his assailant knew his name, although officers have not said whether they believe the

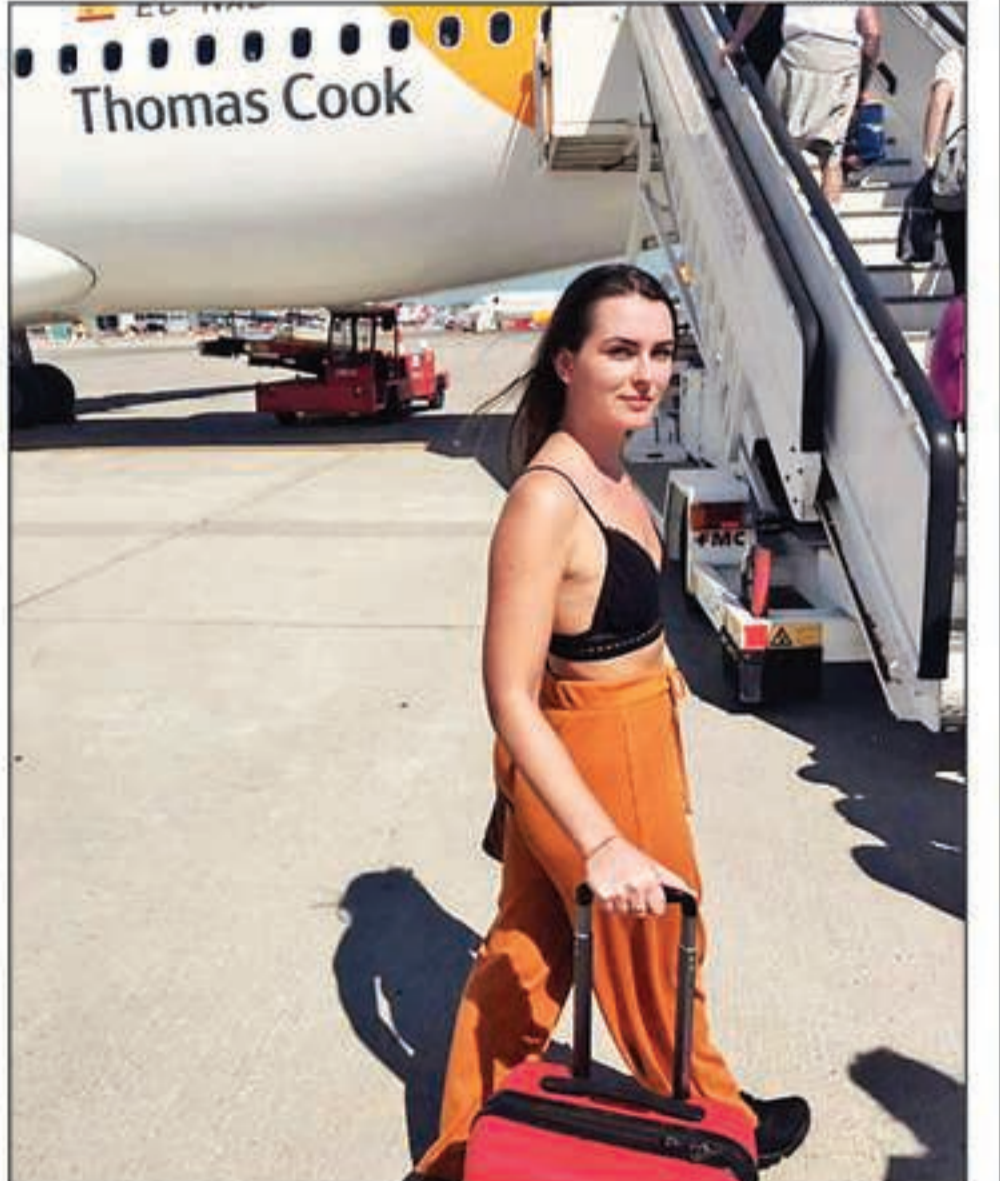
attack was planned, or what motivated it. The police have arrested and charged a 47-year-old man in the attack on Shaw.

Unlike in many countries, including the US and Britain, the PM is the only lawmaker accompanied round-the-clock by security personnel. Residents of Wellington, New Zealand's capital, regularly see elected officials walking or cycling the streets alone, and some politicians opt to take public transportation rather than using government vehicles. NYT

AROUND THE WORLD

Hit by an arrow, mobile phone dies saving Australian

An Australian man had a lucky escape while confronting a man armed with a bow outside his home, as a loosed arrow pierced the mobile telephone he was holding to take a photograph of the incident, Australian police said on Thursday. The 43-year old man had returned on Wednesday to find the man, who was known to him, waiting outside his home in Nimbin, near Brisbane. "The resident held up his mobile phone to take a photo of the armed man who then engaged the bow and was ready to fire," a police statement said. "It's alleged the man fired the arrow at the resident which pierced through the man's mobile phone causing the phone to hit him in the chin. It left a small laceration that didn't require medical treatment." A 39-year old man was arrested at the scene and charged, police said.



A 21-year-old woman was threatened with being offloaded from a flight at Birmingham airport for wearing 'inappropriate' attire. Emily O'Connor, who was travelling on a Thomas Cook Airlines flight to Tenerife in the Canary Islands on March 2, said the cabin crew told her that her clothing was 'causing offence'. A Thomas Cook spokesman said on Wednesday: "We are sorry that we upset Ms O'Connor. It's clear we could have handled the situation better. In common with most airlines we have an appropriate clothing policy. This applies equally to men and women..."

Chinese school slammed for expired, mouldy food

One of China's high schools has been slammed after piles of expired mouldy food were found in its canteen kitchen. Mouldy bread, rotting meat and seafood were discovered at the Chengdu No 7 Experimental High School, the BBC reported on Thursday. The scandal first emerged when a small group of parents were invited on Monday to attend a tree planting event at the private high school in Chengdu, the capital city of Sichuan province. While at the

school, a group of parents discovered mouldy bread, rotting meat and seafood items in the canteen kitchen. According to the parent, the private school costs 39,000 yuan (\$5,800) a year — about 20 times the amount a public school would cost.

Lion on the lam locked-up in South African jail

A young lion captured after being on the run for almost a month spent the night in a South African police cell before being moved back to its national park home. The juvenile male apparently escaped from the Karoo National Park through a hole in a perimeter fence. He was eventually tracked and darted on Wednesday before being moved by helicopter to the Sutherland police station where he ended up alone in a holding cell.