



Ex-Indian President Pranab Mukherjee (right) presents the Padma Shree award to Indian film actress Sridevi (left) during the presentation of the "Padma Awards 2013" in New Delhi on April 5, 2013. AFP-Yonhap

Bollywood superstar Sridevi dies aged 54

NEW DELHI (AP) — Sridevi, Bollywood's leading lady of the 1980s and '90s who redefined stardom for actresses in India, has died at age 54.

The actress was described as the first female superstar in India's male-dominated film industry. She used one name onscreen, like many leading ladies of her generation, and was known for her comic timing and her dancing skills, a great asset in the song-and-dance melodramas that are a staple of mainstream Indian cinema.

Sridevi died Saturday in Dubai due to cardiac arrest, her brother-in-law Sanjay Kapoor confirmed to Indian Express online. She had been in Dubai to attend a wedding in her extended family.

Indian political leaders and entertainers posted condolences and recollections of her work, with many colleagues and fans expressing shock at the sudden news.

"Woken up to this tragic news. Absolute shock. Sad," tweeted Ri-

shi Kapoor, her co-star in the 1989 film "Chandni," or "Moonlight," in which Shrdevi played a woman choosing between two loves.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered condolences too. "Saddened by the untimely demise of noted actor Sridevi. She was a veteran of the film industry, whose long career included diverse roles and memorable performances," he tweeted.

Sridevi began acting as a child in regional cinema in India's south and made her debut in Hindi-language Bollywood films in the late '70s.

Other famous roles included "Mr. India," in which she played a reporter, and "Lamhe," or "Moments," a 1991 film in which she played dual roles of mother and teenage daughter.

Her impeccable comic timing and her dancing skills were front and center in "Chaalbaaz," or "Game Player," in 1989, where she played twins separated at birth.

Keillor: Relationship with accuser simply 'romantic writing'

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Garrison Keillor described several sexually suggestive emails he exchanged with a former researcher who accused him of sexual misconduct as "romantic writing" that never resulted in a physical relationship, and the radio host rejected the idea that because he was her boss — and the driving force of a hugely popular radio program — it could be sexual harassment.

The woman responded, via her attorney, that Keillor's power over her job made her afraid to say no to him.

In one of his first extended interviews since Minnesota Public Radio cut ties over the allegations against the former "A Prairie Home Companion" host in November, Keillor said he never had a sexual relationship with the woman, a freelance contributor to the show at the time.

"No button was unbuttoned and no zipper was unzipped," Keillor told the Associated Press. "I never kissed her. ... This was a flirtation between two writers that took place in writing."

Keillor also downplayed his power over the woman by portraying himself as uninvolved in the mundane operations of the radio show he created nearly a half-century ago and built into a powerhouse that attracted millions of listeners nationwide each Saturday evening, spun off assorted businesses and tours and inspired a movie.

"I was not really the boss around 'Prairie Home Companion,'" Keillor said. "I was a writer sitting in a dim office at a typewriter, back in the old days." He also said, "I had no control over her whatsoever. She worked at home."

The woman said in an emailed response through her attorney that Keillor "had the power to provide or take away job assignments and opportunities. He also acknowledged several times that power imbalance between us, recognizing how his conduct could be offensive when it was coming from the person for whom I work."

She also said she wasn't interested in anything but a "collegial" relationship with Keillor.

"He was my mentor and employer," she said. "As such, he had power over me. Every time I said 'no'



Garrison Keillor AP-Yonhap

or tried to avoid him I feared I was saying 'no' to my future."

The AP does not typically name alleged victims of sexual harassment unless they have chosen to go public.

MPR spokeswoman Angie Andresen said the station stands by its handling of the claims against Keillor. In January, the company said the woman had accused Keillor of dozens of sexually inappropriate incidents over several years, including requests for sexual contact and explicit sexual communications and touching.

"Our decision was not based on flirtations or fantasies, but based on facts confirming unacceptable behavior in the workplace by a person in a position of power over someone who worked for him," Andresen said by email.

Kelly Marinelli, founder of Solve HR Inc., a human resources consulting company in Colorado, said even when a relationship seems reciprocal, there could be problems when one person is the boss.

"In a situation where someone has power over another person and whether or not they continue to receive work ... it's very difficult for that to be a real mutual, consensual relationship," she said.

Prior to the interview, Keillor's attorneys allowed the AP to view hundreds of emails between Keillor and the woman dating from 2004 to 2017, on condition that they could be described but not quoted directly.

Some were work-related, including details from her research and Keillor's critiques. But many were personal, sharing details about their families and emotional struggles from their home email accounts, and some were overtly sexual.

KIS 5th-graders showcase creative works at Eco Trade Show

By Cho Yun-myung

Fifth-graders at the Pangyo Campus of Korea International School showcased inventions for rehabilitating the environment at the Eco Trade Show held at the school located in Seongnam, Gyeonggi Province, on Friday.

Some 70 students in fifth grade had each designed, built and tested prototypes to solve an environmental issue during the past trimester, with help from high school students at the KIS.

The halls where the event took place were abuzz with teachers, parents and students moving from booth to booth, checking out each prototype and asking questions and taking pictures.

"The high school students, who were their mentors, are coming in to see the final process and asking hard questions, (like) 'how can you get the cost down, because I really like your product but it's too expensive?' Kids will have to answer all those questions on their own," said Danielle Rich, Pangyo elementary principal at the KIS.

According to Rich, the idea of the Eco Trade Show is that students are presenting their prototypes to investors or nongovernmental organizations that can make the prototypes into actual products. Fifth-graders were required to select relevant NGOs as their marketing targets, as well as specific regions across the globe to focus on.

One fifth-grade student, Esther Winklehner, chose to reduce the amount of water wasted when cooking food or making jeans, which purportedly requires around 6,800 liters per pair. Her product will be able to obtain clean, reusable water by distillation and targets Chile, where one of the driest places on Earth, the Atacama Desert, is located.

Esther had chosen Water for Cambodia as her NGO. "Water for Cambodia is an organization that collects water and gives it to people in Cambodia, but I thought that maybe if we work together, we could accomplish much more than that. They want to give water; I



Aashna Anand (far right), a fifth-grader at Korea International School, explains the prototype of her invention titled "Recycled Farming" to her peers and Pangyo Elementary principal Danielle Rich (second from right), at the Eco Trade Show held at the school compound in Seongnam, Gyeonggi Province, on Friday. Korea International School

want to create opportunities to give water to people."

Another fifth-grade student, Aashna Anand, devised a product to solve farming environmental problems by recycling mud. Mixing mud with dead plants, she said it could be used as a fertilizer for crops.

The "transdisciplinary" aspect is what makes the Eco Trade Show different from science fairs in other schools, according to school principal Rich.

For students to showcase their final inventions at the Eco Trade Show, they had to incorporate what they had learned from social studies, science, math, reading and writing classes. What the students learned connected to the single project each student worked on

during the trimester.

"My goal is for any adult to be able to come in (to a classroom) and say to any child, grade kindergarten through fifth grade, 'what problem are you solving right now?' And I want them to be able to (answer)," Rich said.

Based on what they had learned in math, students knew how much their products would cost and changed their product or target area when the target of their product lacked necessary resources. What students had learned in reading classes was helpful when conducting research for their projects.

Collaboration among teachers was also a significant part, says David Lee, a teacher who helped the fifth-graders in the designing stage of their prototypes.

For all classes to point to a single driving question of how each student will "design, build and market a product as environmental engineers," teachers all "sat down together, thought about these projects together," said Lee.

All the while, fifth-graders were the main actors at the Eco Trade Show. High school mentors were not there to help them, and the fifth-grade inventors had to answer some challenging questions on their own, hoping to make their ideas appeal to the adults.

"I think one thing I'm really proud of is how hard our teachers work in terms of giving the students opportunities to really just be in charge of their own learning," said Rich.

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OLYMPIC VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers celebrate after the speedskating mass start finals at the PyeongChang Olympics in Gangneung, Gangwon Province, on Saturday, the eve of the sporting event's closing ceremony. Yonhap

Private birthday party for Mugabe

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AFP) — Zimbabwe's former President Robert Mugabe celebrated his 94th birthday Saturday with a private black-tie party hosted by his family, three months after he was ousted from power.

Mugabe's birthday was previously a major public event in Zimbabwe, marked by an outpouring of fawning congratulations and tributes in official media from regime loyalists, government ministries and agencies.

His actual birthday Wednesday was declared an annual public holiday for the first time this year, but the occasion was greeted without fanfare.

"The party is only for close family members and friends. It is

not for the public and it is strictly by invite," Louisa Nyanhongo, a member of Mugabe's close circle, told Agence France-Presse.

An invitation card that appeared on social media said guests would be "celebrating our hero," alongside a smiling photograph of Mugabe.

The card said the party was at "Blue Roof" — the lavish private residence where Mugabe and his wife Grace, 52, have been living in apparent seclusion since he was forced to resign after a military intervention.

Nyanhongo's telephone number appeared on the invitation, but she declined to comment further.

While president, Mugabe typically celebrated his birthday with

a long speech while wearing a suit decorated with images of his own face at a party that included a multicourse feast.

Vast birthday cakes were a regular feature, with the biggest cake said to weigh the same number of kilograms as Mugabe's age. It took several men to carry it into the marquee.

Mugabe, whose 37-year rule was criticized for brutal repression of dissent and economic collapse, has not appeared in public since his abrupt ousting.

This week, he was photographed with Grace meeting the new African Union Commission Chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat in Harare.

The photographs were the first of the couple since his ousting.

At Flag Day ceremony, Mexico's 'tri-color' flies upside down

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A Flag Day ceremony in Mexico has gone awry, with troops flying the country's red, white and green "tri-color" upside down.

Local media show images of the giant flag fluttering over Mexico City's Campo Marte parade ground Saturday with its iconic eagle inverted.

President Enrique Pena Nieto acknowledged the gaffe, but he added that, "Upside down or right side up, backward or forward, the flag is a symbol that gives us a sense of identity, of belonging, of pride in being Mexicans."

In some countries flying a flag upside down can be considered a desecration, a distress signal or a form of protest. Some Mexicans took to social media to mock it as emblematic of Pena Nieto's unpopular government.



Military personnel participate in a ceremony to mark the National Day with the Mexican flag in Mexico on Saturday. EPA-Yonhap