

Entertainment

"Harry Potter" magic with record \$92.1 million

(Reuters) - The eighth and final "Harry Potter" movie sold \$92.1 million worth tickets in the United States and Canada on its first day in theaters to set a single-day box-office record, according to studio estimates released.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows -- Part 2" shattered the single-day record set in 2009 when "The Twilight Saga: New Moon" earned \$72.7 million in theaters, said Paul Dergarabedian, head of tracking firm Hollywood.com Box Office. Hollywood watchers are attributing the high interest in the film from Time Warner Inc's Warner Bros unit to strong critics' reviews and the fact this is both the final film in the "Harry Potter" series and the only one released in 3D.

"Harry Potter," which is already the highest grossing film franchise ever with over \$6.4 billion in global ticket sales, is based on the novels of author J.K. Rowling and it revolves around the adventures of a young wizard, his friends and their battle against evil.

The record-setting \$92.1 million in the United States and Canada was earned at more than 4,300 theaters, including the midnight screenings that extended into the early morning hours of Friday and by themselves earned a record-setting \$43.5 million. Outside the United States and Canada, the film earned an estimated \$75 million in 59 countries, Warner Bros officials said. The movie brought in a record-setting 9.3 million pounds (\$14.8 million) in the United Kingdom

Lifestyle

Handicapped community takes on the Italian mafia

(AFP) - A challenge to the mafia's power in this southern Italian town is coming from an improbable source -- a priest and six handicapped people in a building confiscated from a local crime clan. Father Giacomo Panizza's placid exterior hides an inner tenacity that has helped him face up to death threats from the powerful 'Ndrangheta crime syndicate and become the face of civil society's resistance to the mafia.

The challenge "comes from weak people, some of them in wheelchairs, from unarmed people who have showed themselves stronger than others," Panizza told AFP in an interview in a nondescript block in the town of Lamezia Terme.

The four-storey building, which used to house a gambling arcade that served as a cover for a drug-trafficking operation, has become a symbol of Panizza's struggle ever since a handicapped community he helped set up moved in in 2004.

"We told Don Panizza: 'If you accept this challenge we are behind you,'" said Nunzia Coppede, a paraplegic in a wheelchair who was among the first to move in and is one of six handicapped people now living here.

But she admitted: "At the beginning we were a bit scared."

Panizza said the building was put up illegally on the main road between the centre of Lamezia Terme and the airport but "no-one noticed" because of the code of silence imposed by its powerful owners -- the Torcasio clan.

When he first moved in with his non-governmental organisation "Progetto Sud" he remembers that no builders dared work on the place for fear of reprisals from mafia members -- some of whom still live in a building next door.

"No locksmith ever wanted to come round," Panizza said. The Italian government began confiscating assets from the mafia 30 years ago in Sicily and around

Naples in a bid to cut off financing for organised crime. That process has been more slow-moving in the southern Italian region of Calabria, where the tight-knit structure of the 'Ndrangheta has proved difficult for police to infiltrate.

Panizza's building was seized from the Torcasios in 2002 and handed over to the local administration in this town of 70,000 people near the coast.

Since taking over the building, Panizza has received numerous threats -- some of them brazenly pronounced in front of police officers.

"They told him that they would blow up the house with the 'spastics' inside," said Coppede, adding that community vans had also been vandalised.

Panizza now has police protection.

The priest has written about his experiences in a book, the foreword of which was written by Roberto Saviano, the author of an important work on the Camorra crime syndicate in Naples that was turned into an award-winning film.

"The police supports Don Panizza because it is very important that confiscated assets are used," said Maria-Gaetana Ventriglia, deputy police chief in Lamezia. "This gives a signal to the population that the state is stronger than the mafia," she said. The building now hosts the offices of Panizza's association, Progetto Sud, the apartment for handicapped people, several non-governmental organisations, an ethical bank and a women's farming cooperative.

Despite having "some bad dreams sometimes at night" Panizza said he was proud of having scored an important victory against the 'Ndrangheta that he said had revived the concept of civil society in a mafia-ridden region.

But he warned: "This movement has to be built up and encouraged because many people are still the prisoners of resignation and fear."

Twitter

**George Lopez**

George Lopez Officially Single Again <http://eonli.net/rqdfPD>

**Oprah Winfrey**

So True? So False? Oprah Winfrey Hosting the Oscars?! <http://eonli.net/r4x6Py>

**Charlie Sheen**

Charlie Sheen's New Gig: Fast Food Manager! <http://eonli.net/nxuUOJ>

**Katy Perry**

Katy Perry's Intestinal Woes Shut Down Shows <http://eonli.net/mTC9U9>

**Ashley Greene**

Yep, Ashley Greene is really good at looking pretty. PHOTO: <http://eonli.net/phyoJj>

**LeAnn Rimes**

Of course LeAnn Rimes wears a dress that is so tight on a red carpet. PHOTO: <http://eonli.net/r4DoC6>

**Emma Watson**

Harry Potter's Emma Watson "Pushes the Envelope" in her new film <http://eonli.net/pIG8zQ>

Politics

EU FMS TO DISCUSS SITUATION IN ARAB WORLD

(KUNA) - The EU Foreign Affairs Council will hold its formal, monthly meeting in Brussels on Monday July 18 with an agenda which is focussed on developments in the Arab world including Syria, Libya, Lebanon and the Palestine question.

A senior EU diplomat told journalists that consultations and discussions are continuing among the 27 EU member states to bridge the differences and adopt a common position on the Palestinian statehood.

"We are in the process of looking together and keep united and find a way through to avoid a clash at the Security Council," said the diplomat speaking on condition of anonymity.

He was referring to the intention of the Palestinians to seek recognition of an independent Palestinian state at the United Nations in September.

The diplomat noted that the EU wants the Palestinians to postpone their recognition move if Israel agrees to return to the peace negotiations.

"Europe can play an honest broker. It is difficult but we will keep trying," said the diplomat.

EU High Representative Catherine Ashton will brief the EU foreign ministers on the Quartet meeting held in Washington on 12 July, which she attended, and the state of play regarding efforts to restart negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians.

On Libya, the Council is expected to reiterate that Gaddafi has lost all legitimacy and to call on him to relinquish power immediately and to appeal to the regime's remaining supporters to dissociate themselves from his crimes.

The Council is expected to look to a post-Gaddafi

era and to the contribution that the EU is committed to making in the reconstruction of Libya.

The Council will discuss the situation in Lebanon following the formation of a new government, which it is expected to welcome.

It will reiterate the EU's full support to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and to voice its expectation that all parties will cooperate with it in full.

The Council will discuss the situation in Syria and is expected to "deplore the Syrian leadership's continued policy of deliberate violent repression of peaceful protestors and to condemn the crackdown by Syrian security forces in a number of cities, including Hama," noted the EU diplomat.

The ministers are to call for a political process that will lead to substantial reforms addressing the legitimate demands

of the Syrian people.

Over lunch, ministers will discuss Pakistan and Afghanistan. They will be joined by the Secretary-General of NATO, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, for the discussion on Afghanistan.

The Council is likely to reiterate its commitment to a strong long-term partnership with Pakistan, and to supporting Pakistan's democratic institutions, civilian government and civil society.

They will discuss the situation in Afghanistan in the light of recent developments and will welcome the beginning of the transition process in Afghanistan this month.

The Council is likely to point to the opportunity that now exists, following the death of Osama bin Laden and stress that there must be an Afghan-led process leading to a political solution to the conflict.

Soccer



Argentine forward Lionel Messi is seen on the ground during their 2011 Copa America quarter-final football match against Uruguay. Uruguay shocked hosts Argentina 5-4 on penalties to win their Copa America quarter-final after they were locked at 1-1 after extra time. (AFP)

Environment

OIL FIRMS IN CHINA COME UNDER FIRE

(AFP) - Chinese netizens and a state press report questioned safety standards at oil firms after a fire erupted at a plant owned by state-run CNPC -- the industry's fourth incident in six weeks.

The country is still grappling with a huge oil spill off its eastern coast that has now contaminated an area around six times the size of Singapore, and another separate slick and fire have also tarnished the industry's image.

In the latest incident, a leak from a piece of oil refining equipment caught fire Saturday at a plant owned by state-run China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC), the country's biggest oil producer.

The company said in a statement Sunday the fire in the northeastern port city of Dalian had been put out, there were no casualties and tests showed the surrounding sea had not been polluted.

The fire came exactly a year after two pipelines exploded at an oil stor-



The oil-soaked feet of a clean-up worker are seen in the port city of Dalian, northeast China.

age depot also owned by CNPC in the same city, triggering a devastating spill.

The government estimated about 1,500 tonnes of oil poured into the Yellow Sea, but Greenpeace said up to 60 times more may have escaped.

The state-run Beijing News on Sunday quoted anonymous people at the CNPC refinery as saying the workshop where the fire broke out had just been serviced.

It added the plant where this weekend's incident happened was close to the depot where the spill happened last year.

"Some observers are pointing out that the fire-

quent incidents to have hit oil firms recently may not be unexpected, and loopholes in the firms' safety and production management need to be seriously examined," the report said.

Netizens -- already incensed about the oil spill off the east coast which was kept secret by authorities for several weeks before being made public this month -- also expressed anger at the latest embarrassing mishap.

"What is this? No doubt the fire erupted to test whether those who inspected the workshop were lazy..." one online user on popular web portal Netease.com said.

CNOOC, the state-owned oil giant accused of covering up the big spill, this month also had to clean up another small slick after a breakdown at one of its rigs.

In a separate incident, a CNOOC refinery in the southern province of Guangdong, located near the Daya Bay nuclear power plant, caught fire earlier this month.