

Actress Felicity Huffman sentenced to jail in US college scandal



NEW YORK: Actress Felicity Huffman, the first parent sentenced in a wide-ranging US college admissions cheating scandal, was given a 14-day prison term and apologised for her actions on late Friday after pleading guilty to paying to rig

her daughter's entrance exam. US District Judge Indira Talwani sentenced Huffman, the 56-year-old former star of the popular television series *Desperate Housewives* and one-time Academy Award nominee, in federal court in Boston. The judge also ordered Huffman to pay a US\$30,000 (S\$41,200) fine and complete 250 hours of community service.

"My first apology is to you," Huffman told the judge immediately before the sentence was issued.

"I realise now as a mother that love and truth must go hand in hand, and love at the expense of truth is not real love," the actress said. "I will deserve whatever punishment you give me," she added. Huffman was released from court after the judge ordered her to report to prison on Oct 25.

Prosecutors had recommended a sentence of one month behind bars after Huffman tearfully entered a guilty plea in May to conspiracy related to her payment of US\$15,000 to have someone secretly correct her daughter's answers on the SAT standardized test used for college admissions.

US Attorney Andrew Lelling had also recommended a US\$20,000 fine and one year of probation.

Huffman's attorneys, calling the actress "remorseful" and

"deeply ashamed", had urged the judge to allow her to remain free on one year's probation, complete 250 hours of community service and pay a US\$20,000 fine.

Huffman and her husband, actor William H Macy, looked sombre when they arrived at the federal courthouse, holding hands, ahead of the sentencing.

Huffman is among 51 people charged in a vast scheme in which wealthy parents were accused of conspiring to use bribery and other forms of fraud to secure for their children admission to prominent US universities. These schools included Yale, Stanford, Georgetown, the University of Southern California, the University of Texas and Wake Forest.

More than 30 parents were charged in the investigation dubbed Operation Varsity Blues, also including actress Lori Loughlin, who starred in the TV series *Full House*, and her designer husband Mossimo Giannulli, as well as a host of corporate executives, financiers and lawyers. Unlike Huffman, Loughlin and Giannulli pleaded not guilty.

The scandal cast a spotlight on the advantages of wealth in college admissions and the lengths to which some rich Americans have gone to get their children into top universities at the expense of other applicants.

Prosecutors said the accused parents acted with the help of William Rick Singer, a California college admissions consultant who pleaded guilty in March to helping bribe university sports coaches to present clients' children as fake athletic recruits. Singer's sentencing is set for later this month.

Huffman, who won an Emmy award for *Desperate Housewives* and was nominated for an Oscar as best actress for her role in the 2005 film *Transamerica*, said the cheating scheme was proposed by Singer. Huffman said her daughter Sophia was unaware of the scheme until the actress was arrested on March 12. The actress said her daughter was 4 years old when Huffman first started trying to help her deal with learning disabilities. "I find Motherhood bewildering," Huffman said in a letter to the judge before sentencing. "My daughter looked at me and asked with tears streaming down her face, 'Why didn't you believe in me? Why didn't you think I could do it on my own?' ... I have compromised my daughter's future, the wholeness of my family and my own integrity," Huffman said in her letter. Macy, 69, said their daughter "certainly paid the dearest price" when her desired school - which remained unnamed in court documents - rescinded its acceptance of her after Huffman's arrest. Macy was not charged.—Reuters

US Justice Gorsuch sees value of immigration through wife's eyes

WASHINGTON: Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch on Saturday extolled the value of immigration and said his wife's experience as a naturalized US citizen from Britain has helped give him a greater appreciation of the American system of government.

Gorsuch made the remarks at a time when President Donald Trump, the Republican who appointed the conservative jurist to a lifetime job on the court in 2017, has made hard-line policies toward immigration a centrepiece of his presidency and 2020 re-election bid.

Attending naturalization ceremonies where new citizens are sworn in as citizens, Gorsuch said, is one of his favourite experiences. Immigrants who apply for citizenship are sworn in, sometimes by federal judges, after passing a test with questions about US government and history.

"They are moments for me of renewal and commitment," Gorsuch said in an interview with Reuters, adding that "judges often love doing them for just that reason." "I do worry when I read that something like 60 percent of the public would fail that naturalization exam," Gorsuch added.

The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation said in October 2018 that only 36 per cent of Americans surveyed could pass the citizenship test.

Gorsuch said his wife, who he met while studying at the University of Oxford in Britain, had helped engender in him an enhanced respect for the US Constitution. The couple have two daughters.

"Part of my appreciation for our Constitution, our remarkable system of government, undoubtedly comes from seeing it through my wife's eyes," Gorsuch said. "We take some of our rights perhaps too lightly."

Gorsuch has been a reliable conservative vote in high-profile cases including those involving Trump. The court has a 5-4 conservative majority.

He was part of the conservative majority that last year upheld Trump's travel ban on people entering the United States from several Muslim-majority countries. In June, he and three other conservative justices dissented when the court blocked Trump from adding a citizenship question to the 2020 US census that critics said was intended to deter immigrants from taking part in the decennial population count. Trump has taken numerous steps to limit illegal and legal



immigration. Gorsuch on occasion has shown an independent streak, siding with the court's four liberals in 5-4 rulings in favour of immigrants, criminal defendants and Native Americans.

The 52-year-old justice is engaging in a round of media interviews to promote his new book, "A Republic, If You Can Keep It," a selection of his writings including court opinions and speeches. In 2018, Gorsuch received a US\$225,000 payment from his publisher, Penguin Random House, according to his most recent financial disclosure form.

In stressing the need for increased civility in public life, Gorsuch seeks to steer clear of politics. Trump is known for his bare-knuckles approach to taking on political opponents, critics, the news media and judges who rule against him. When asked about Trump's criticism of judges, Gorsuch declined to respond directly, but did defend the judiciary as a whole.

"You are asking me to get involved in something political, and I'm not going to get involved in politics. I'm a judge," Gorsuch said. But he added, "I think the American judiciary is filled with remarkable people, selfless people, men and women who could be making a lot of money and attaining a lot of fame and fortune and who have given that up to serve, mostly anonymously."—AFP



HONG KONG: Scuffles at a Hong Kong shopping mall between pro-China protesters and those denouncing perceived Chinese meddling.

Hong Kong police move in to break up shopping mall protest clashes

HONG KONG: Hong Kong police moved in to break up scuffles on Saturday between pro-China protesters and those denouncing perceived Chinese meddling, in an around a shopping mall.

Videos showed protesters at Amoy Plaza in the densely packed Kowloon district waving Chinese flags and chanting slogans.

They chanted "Support the police" and "China, add oil", adapting a line used by anti-Hong Kong government protesters and loosely meaning: "China, keep your strength up".

"Hong Kong is China," one woman shouted at angry passers-by who shouted obscenities in return in an angry pushing and pulling stand-off.

A protester is detained at Amoy Plaza. A protester is detained by police on Sep 14, 2019 at Amoy Plaza

in the densely packed Kowloon district.

The clashes spilled out on to the streets, with each confrontation captured by dozens of media and on-lookers on their smart phones. Police detained several people.

Protesters complaining about perceived Chinese meddling in the former British colony came out in their hundreds across the territory on Friday, singing and chanting on the Mid-Autumn Festival, in contrast to the violence of many previous weekends when police have responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannon.

Hong Kong hills shine with protest lights in Mid-Autumn Festival.

They have also gathered in malls, with occasional scuffles with flag-carrying China supporters, often denouncing police for perceived

brutality. Anti-government protesters were on Saturday gathering in the downtown Central district and in the northwestern New Territories district of Tin Shui Wai.

On Sunday, they plan to gather outside the British Consulate on Sunday to demand that China honours a Sino-British Joint Declaration that was signed in 1984, laying out the former British colony's future after its return to China in 1997.

The spark for the anti-government protests was a now-withdrawn extradition Bill and concerns that Beijing is eroding civil liberties, but many young protesters are also angry about sky-high living costs and a lack of job prospects.

Carrie Lam regrets foreign interference in Hong Kong's affairs, says more violence will not solve social issues.

The Bill would have allowed people to be sent to mainland China for trial in Communist Party-controlled courts, but the protests have now broadened into calls for greater democracy.

Hong Kong returned to China under a "one country, two systems" formula that guarantees freedoms not enjoyed on the mainland - including a much-cherished independent legal system.

China says Hong Kong is now its internal affair. It says it is committed to the "one country, two systems" arrangement and denies meddling in Hong Kong's affairs.

China is eager to quell the unrest before the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China on Oct 1. It has accused foreign powers, particularly the United States and Britain, of fomenting the unrest.—AFP

COURT NOTICE

In the court of Ghulam Murtaza Virk family judge Wazirabad
Suit for dissolution of marriage

Title Nafisa Naz Versus Naveed Ahmed son of Shamshad Hussain Caste Jutt Ghatti R/O Garhi Dongar Teh Wazirabad Distt Gujranwala Where as service of defendants/respondents is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, service of defendants / respondents is effected through proclamation in the newspaper. You defendants/ respondents are directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 18-9-19 at 8:00am failing which exparte proceedings shall be initiated against you family Judge Wazirabad

COURT NOTICE

In the Court Of Judge, Banking Court No. III Old State Bank Building Opp. G.P.O Shahr-e-Quaid-E-Azam Lahore

Suit No.181/2019. MCB VERSUS Muhammad Moeen

Summons U/S 9(5) of the Financial Institution (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance 2001. (Ordinance No: SL VI of 2001)

Summons to: Muhammad Mo'in S/O Zahoor Ahmad Awan R/O House No. 23-B Street No. I Baitul Raza Colony Samanabad Lahore

Whereas the aforesaid plaintiff has instituted a suit against you and others for the recovery of Rs. 7,68,915/- along with mark up/ interest and cost etc, claimed to be payable by you. Summon u/s 10 of Ordinance no SL VI of 2001 referred to above is hereby issued requiring you to make within 30 days of the service of this summon an application for leave to defend the suit u/s 10 ibid. Take notice that on your failure to file such application within time specified above, the Banking Court shall pass a decree as prayed for in the plaint, in favour of the plaintiff Banking Company. Next date for further proceeding in the case has been fixed on 27-09-2019. Given order my hand and seal of the Court this 11-09-19



WASHINGTON: Swedish teen climate activist Greta Thunberg and other environmental advocates join Washington DC-area students at a rally on the Ellipse near the White House.

More than ever, Mike Pompeo at helm of Trump foreign policy

WASHINGTON: Speaking at the White House after John Bolton's surprise exit as national security adviser, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo couldn't hide a smile of satisfaction.

With the departure of Bolton, Pompeo has become the undisputed king of President Donald Trump's foreign policy - with the exception, that is, of Trump himself.

The former soldier, lawyer and businessman has made a quick ascent in Washington since arriving as a Kansas congressman elected in the 2010 right-wing populist "Tea Party" movement.

But many speculate that Pompeo will choose not to stay long in his newly powerful position, enticed by an opening to represent Kansas in the Senate next year - perhaps with an eye on running for the top prize in the 2024 presidential election.—AFP

Correction of Father's name

I, Muhammad Zinnoorain Rafi S/O Rafi Ullah Khan have passed the secondary School Certificate Annual Examination 2018 under Roll No.121791 from F.B.I.S.E, Islamabad. My Father's name is Rafi Ullah Khan whereas on certificate my father's name has been mentioned as Rafi Ullah which is incorrect. I want to get changed my father's name from Rafi Ullah To Rafi Ullah Khan. If any person/ Organization/ agency has any object, then the same may be intimated in writing to the secretary, F.B.I.S.E Islamabad.

Correction of Father's name

I, Muhammad Usama Rafi S/O Rafi Ullah Khan have passed the secondary School Certificate Annual Examination 2018 under Roll No.126075 from F.B.I.S.E, Islamabad. My Father's name is Rafi Ullah Khan whereas on certificate my father's name has been mentioned as Rafi Ullah which is incorrect. I want to get changed my father's name from Rafi Ullah To Rafi Ullah Khan. If any person/ Organization/ agency has any object, then the same may be intimated in writing to the secretary, F.B.I.S.E Islamabad.