

# DT NEWS

**DAILY TRIBUNE**

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**News of Bahrain**

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**11th Hour**

**Traffic Dept staff to  
resume work today**

**Manama**

The General Directorate of Traffic announced yesterday that the technical checkup section will resume duty at 7 am today. Checkups of vehicles should be carried out three months before the registration date to avoid the rush.



**P  
03**

Hotels report 90 per cent occupancy during Eid



**P  
05**

Challenge starts for Brandt, Lufinha

# N. Korea preparing new ICBM: South



The UN Security Council during an emergency meeting over North Korea's latest nuclear test at UN headquarters in New York yesterday.

**Seoul**

South Korea has detected signs that the North is preparing more missile launches, the defence ministry said yesterday, adding it could involve an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

The ministry said signs that North Korea was "preparing for another ballistic missile launch have consistently been

detected since Sunday's test", referring to Pyongyang's sixth nuclear test.

It did not give details, or indicate when a launch might take place. Sunday's blast had a strength of 50 kilotons, defence ministry officials told a parliamentary briefing.

Pyongyang on Sunday triggered global alarm with by far its most powerful test

to date, after it claimed it had successfully tested a hydrogen bomb that could be mounted onto a long-range missile, which analysts say is a major advancement in its nuclear programme.

"The explosive power of the North's nuclear test is estimated to be 50 kilotons," a senior ministry official told lawmakers at an emergency

parliamentary briefing.

That would make it five times the size of the North's previous test in September last year, and more than three times bigger than the US device that destroyed Hiroshima in 1945.

The official did not confirm whether the tested device was a hydrogen bomb but said "a variety of nuclear material"

appeared to have been used. The North -- which in July carried out two ICBM launches that apparently brought much of the US mainland into range -- has rapidly made progress with its weapons programme in defiance of seven sets of UN sanctions. The South has carried out live-fire exercises in response to the test. - AFP

## Bahrain condemns N. Korea nuke test

**DT News Network  
Manama**

Bahrain has condemned the nuclear test conducted by North Korea, stressing that these repeated tests pose a serious threat to peace in the Korean Peninsula and the world at large posing a clear challenge to the international community.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stresses the need for North Korea to stop all practices that raise tensions, threaten international peace and security, and to abide fully by international resolutions and treaties on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," the ministry said in a statement.

## Trump, Moon agree to end limits on payload

**Seoul,**

US President Donald Trump and South Korea's leader Moon Jae-In agreed yesterday to remove limits on the payload of the South's missiles, Seoul's presidential office said, as the UN Security Council met to discuss a response to Pyongyang's sixth and most powerful nuclear test.

The two leaders in a phone call "agreed to lift the cap on missile payload of South Korea as an effective countermeasure" against Pyongyang's test on Sunday of what it described as a hydrogen bomb designed for a long-range missile, the presidential office said in a statement. - AFP

## US for 'strongest' possible sanctions

**United Nations**

The United States yesterday launched a bid at the UN Security Council to quickly slap the "strongest possible measures" on North Korea in response to its sixth and most powerful nuclear test, but China and Russia argued that diplomatic talks were needed to address the crisis. US Ambassador Nikki Haley said Washington will present a new sanctions resolution to the council to be negotiated in the coming days, with a view of voting on it next Monday. "Only the strongest sanctions will enable us to resolve this problem through diplomacy," Haley told an emergency council meeting. - AFP

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# MP prepares legal action against Qatar

Manama

MP Jamal Bu Hassan is reportedly planning to take legal action against Qatar for its role in 'supporting terror groups against Bahrain.'

Gulf News, citing Arabic daily *Akhbar Al Khaleej*, said that Bu Hassan would file the petition following the Eid Al Adha holidays.

The report quoting the daily also claimed that the parliamentarian would present the request in the name of the people of Bahrain.

"The petition will include the extent of the damage caused to Bahrain and Bahraini citizens as a result of Qatari support for terrorism and extremist groups," the report quoted Bu Hassan as saying.



MP Jamal Bu Hassan

"The focus will be on the victims of terrorism who include martyrs and the wounded, but there will also details about how the Bahraini economy was greatly affected by Qatar's support for terrorism."

"The government of Qatar must be prosecuted, especially with regard to the damage it caused to Bahrain and

Bahrainis and to the economy and businesses which is estimated at billions. We must call on the government of Qatar to compensate for these losses, since this is mainly the legal responsibility of the people's representatives. The actions of the Qatari regime violated all local, regional and international covenants," Bu Hassan told the daily.

In a similar move, First Deputy Speaker MP Ali Al-Aradi earlier urged legal action against the Qatari Government for its direct involvement in supporting radical groups in Bahrain.

Al-Aradi had urged the Government of Bahrain to file an international law suit against Qatar, seeking compensation

for all those affected by the Qatari support for terrorism.

"The radical groups have been involved since 2011 in the acts of violence, terrorism and incitement" Al-Aradi said, calling on the Government of Bahrain to set up a central committee to receive affected people's complaints and to assess the losses inflicted upon the nation and citizens due to Qatar's support for terrorism and extremist groups.

Al-Aradi also urged the establishment of a specialised legal team to file cases and sue Qatar for its blatant interference in Bahrain's internal affairs, breach of good neighbourliness and violation of national, regional and international legal covenants.

## 300 athletes for IMMAF

DT News Network  
Manama

Athletes from around the world have been invited to compete in the International Mixed Martial Arts Federation's 2017 IMMAF World Championships of Amateur MMA to be hosted by the Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation (BMMAF) at Khalifa Sports City Arena from 12 to 19 November, as part of Brave International Combat Week.

The tournament is expected to be IMMAF's biggest yet, drawing around 300 competitors.

Endorsed by the Bahrain Olympic Committee, four preliminary days of IMMAF Amateur MMA action will culminate in professional MMA event, BRAVE, on Friday 17th, followed by the IMMAF World Championship finals and medals ceremony on Saturday 18th.

Registration is currently

open solely to the top 32 ranked national teams in the IMMAF Amateur MMA Rankings. Each is permitted to enter one athlete per weight category up until this Thursday.

On the following day, the remaining places in the tournament brackets will be opened up to application from all IMMAF member federations on a first come first served basis, with a maximum of two entries per weight category permitted per nation. The final deadline for all entries is September 28.

Registration can be followed live by registering for free to MyNextMatch.com, and visiting the 2017 IMMAF World Championships in the Event Finder.

Amateur MMA athletes interested in competing in IMMAF competitions should contact their National Federation. For information about BRAVE visit [bravefights.com](http://bravefights.com)



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# Hotels report 90 per cent occupancy during Eid

DT News Network  
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**T**he occupancy rates of Bahrain hotels during the recent Eid Al Adha holidays reached 90 per cent as confirmed by top hoteliers in the Kingdom.

According to four- and five-stars hotel representatives, the majority of guests during the holidays were from Saudi Arabia and fellow GCC countries.

The high occupancy rate this year is because of the long Eid Al Adha holidays, which was extended to 16 days in some countries such as Saudi Arabia, hotel representatives said in statements to the Bahrain News Agency.

The officials highlighted that the hospitality sector is promising as it continues to attract investors, adding that the public and private sectors in Bahrain should concentrate on supporting this key sector.

They all agreed that the peak of occupancy was reached on the second day of Eid and that Bahrain is currently the favourite destination for tourists from the GCC region.

They also said that occupancy rates hiked by at least 70 per cent this year as many hotels offered attracting packages to GCC tourists with competitive prices, Eid brunch and other offers.

According to the hoteliers, who represent a number of

the leading four and five stars hotels in the Kingdom, hotels and resorts with sea view have taken the lion's share of the guests this year, with many families preferring the sea view and water activities offered by these facilities.

They also said that most reservations were made on the front desks of the hotels, while the remaining were made online using the hotels' websites or international reservations' smartphones applications.

## Bahraini man arrested for murder of Asian woman

DT News Network  
news@dt.bh

Manama

**T**he authorities have arrested the Bahraini man who stabbed an Asian woman to death in Muharraq Governorate on Friday.

Muharraq Governorate Deputy Chief Prosecutor Abdullah Al Dossary confirmed in a statement yesterday that the 28-year-old suspect confessed to the crime during the interrogation.

The suspect admitted that he stabbed the 38-year-old woman in the neck at her residence in Busaiteen after an argument between them went out of control, according to Al Dossary's statement.

The prosecutor also said that wounds indicating the victim's resistance were detected on the killer's right hand.

"The Public Prosecution was notified by the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science in the Interior Ministry, informing that the body of an Asian woman was found inside a residential flat in Busaiteen area and that initial investigations indicate criminal suspicion. The special teams of the prosecution inspected the crime scene, examined the body and reported wounds to the woman's neck and eye. The weapon used in the crime was confiscated from the crime scene," Al Dossary explained in his statement.

"Intensified investigations launched by the police led to the identification and arrest of the suspect within 24 hours after the crime was reported. Investigations showed that the suspect has been repeatedly visiting the location lately," Al Dossary elaborated.

Al Dossary added that a coroner was tasked to examine the suspect who will remain in custody until the case is referred to the criminal court.

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# Team KHK MMA wins 1 gold, 3 silvers at IMMAF Africa Open

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Manama

**B**ahrain's Khalid Hamad Khalifa Mixed Martial Arts (KHK MMA) team member Hamza Zrira (four wins-one loss) picked up a gold medal as he defeated South Africa's Katiso Matime (3-11) in the final of the 61kg bantamweight bout on the main card of the 2017 First IMMAF Africa Open Championships at the Brakpan Indoor Sports Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa, which concluded on Saturday following a triangle choke submission after two minutes 40 minutes of the first round.

The KHK MMA team also picked up three silvers through

Nayef Fikri of Bahrain and fellow Bahraini Hussain Ayyad.

Gitinov (1-1) was beaten on a technical knockout in the third round (1:03) by Democratic Republic of Congo's Eliezer Kubanza (2-0) in the 77kg welterweight division, while South Africa's Nkosi Nedebel (6-1) in the 70kg lightweight division beat Bahrain's Nayef Fikri (2-3) in the second round (2:20) by a technical knockout.

Ayyad (9-6) followed up his bronze medal at the European Open Amateur Championship in the Bulgarian capital Sofia earlier this year, with a silver after being defeated by an unanimous decision over three rounds by South African Wade Kerspuy (5-2) in the 56kg

flyweight division.

The bout for the 66kg featherweight title between KHK MMA Russian team members between Abdulmanap Magomedov (3-0) and Gamzat Magomedov (1-0) was cancelled as the latter failed a medical.

In one other bout for the light heavyweight 93kg title, South African Frikkie Benderman (2-0) defeated compatriot Dmitri Fogg (3-2) on a split decision over three rounds.

The Bahrain team were coached by Renat Abu Ahmad and this is the third participation by the KHK MMA team this year after previously taking part in the European Open Amateur Championship in Bulgaria and Singapore in June.

**Gold for Hamza Zrira; Silver for Ramazan Gitinov of Russia, Nayef Fikri and Hussain Ayyad of Bahrain**



The KHK MMA team which represented Bahrain in the 2017 First IMMAF Africa Open Championships at the Brakpan Indoor Sports Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa

## Rousing reception for MMA team

DT News Network  
Manama

**B**ahrain's Mixed Martial Arts team which made outstanding impact at the First African Open Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Championship concluded in Johannesburg in South Africa was received on return by Supreme Council for Youth and Sports assistant general secretary and Bahrain Olympic Committee general secretary Abdulrahman Askar, Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation president Khalid Al Khayyat as well as other top sports

officials.

Askar congratulated the team on this achievement, which he attributed to the continued support from Bahrain's sport authorities, led by Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, and BOC President.

Askar also noted the significant efforts and contributions of Supreme Council first vice-president and BMMF honorary

president Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa towards mixed martial arts, which achieved major successes in recent competitions.

This was the team's third event this year after previously taking part at the European Open Amateur Championship in Sofia.

Other teams in the fray were hosts South Africa, Russia, India, Congo and Ghana. These teams were represented by 35 fighters in five weights categories for women and nine for men.



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Abdulrahman Askar receiving Bahrain's Mixed Martial Arts team on arrival in Manama

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# Challenge starts for Brandt, Lufinha

## 1,500 kilometres on a kiteboard



Anke Brandt surfed 491 kilometres nonstop from Bahrain to Abu Dhabi in 30 hours.

The long distance world record holders Anke Brandt (GER) and Francisco Lufinha (POR) set out to kite from the Azores to the Portuguese mainland.

They are facing 1,500 kilometres of open ocean and will not be able to spot land for days on end. What would frighten many people, means the feeling of freedom and harmony with nature for the two surfers. They have prepared themselves more than one year for this physical and mental challenge. By now they could hardly wait to get started.

Brandt and Lufinha will take turns every eight hours during the race. One of them will always be on the water - no matter if day or night. The journey

will take at least five days and a of maximum ten days, depending on the wind. To overcome the distance in all kinds of conditions the surfers are equipped with material for a wide range of wind speeds.

Apart from extreme weather and wind conditions, floating containers put the athletes in risk. Big ships frequently loose part of their cargo, which then floats just under the surface of the ocean. It is therefore extremely hard to spot in time and a collision could cause severe damage.

A sailboat accompanies Anke Brandt and

Francisco Lufinha to guarantee their safety as well as to supply them with food and water. The crew of the boat and the surfers are in permanent contact via bluetooth headsets. In addition a GPS system allows to determine the exact position of the two kitesurfers.

Brandt and Lufinha surely have the endurance to conquer the challenge. Both are very experienced kitesurfers and hold world records in long distance kitesurfing. Anke Brandt surfed 491 kilometres nonstop from Bahrain to Abu Dhabi in 30 hours. Lufinha spent 47h 37min on the board when he linked the 874 kilometer long distance between Lisboa and the island of Madeira in 2015.



They are facing 1,500 kilometres of open ocean and will not be able to spot land for days

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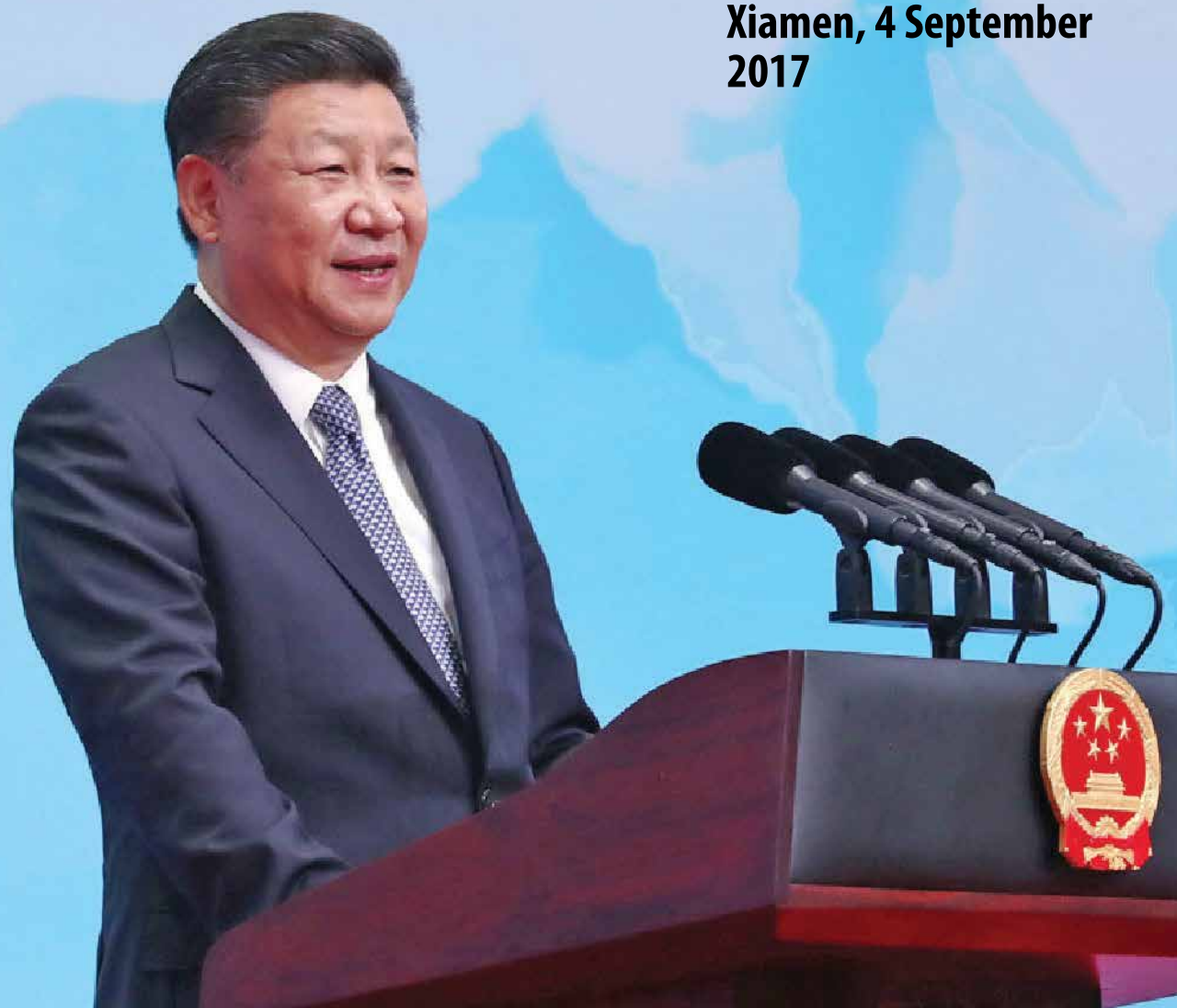
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# Stronger BRICS Partnership for a Brighter Future

**Remarks by H.E. Xi Jinping  
President of the People's  
Republic of China  
At the Plenary Session of  
the BRICS Xiamen Summit  
Xiamen, 4 September  
2017**



I am delighted to meet with my colleagues again. I wish to begin by extending, on behalf of the Chinese government and people, a warm welcome to you all. Welcome to the BRICS Xiamen Summit. With the focus on the theme of the summit: “Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future”, I look forward to working with you to take stock of BRICS cooperation, map out a blueprint for its future development and set sail on a new journey of cooperation.

BRICS cooperation has traversed a glorious journey of one decade. Though separated by mountains and oceans, our five countries have been closely bound by a shared commitment to win-win cooperation.

As an ancient Chinese saying goes, “A partnership forged with the right approach defies geographical distance; it is thicker than glue and stronger than metal and stone.” We owe the rapid development of BRICS cooperation to our adoption of a right approach. Guided by this approach, we have respected and supported each other in following the path of development suited to our respective national conditions; we have pushed forward economic, political and people-to-people cooperation in an open, inclusive and win-win spirit; and we have worked in unison with other emerging market and developing countries to uphold international justice and equity and foster a sound external environment.

Past progress shows that BRICS cooperation has met our common need for development and is in keeping with the trend of history. Though we have different national conditions, we share the commitment to pursuing development and prosperity through partnership. This has enabled us to rise above differences and seek win-win results.

As the world undergoes profound and complex changes, BRICS cooperation has become more important. Our people expect us to jointly boost development and improve their well-being. The international community expects us to make contribution to world peace and common development. We must redouble our efforts to comprehensively deepen BRICS partnership and usher in the second “Golden Decade” of BRICS cooperation.

First, we need to seek practical results in our economic cooperation. Results-oriented cooperation is the foundation of BRICS cooperation, and significant progress has been





# 9th BRICS Summit

— XIAMEN, CHINA Sept. 3-5, 2017 —

made in this regard. However, we have yet to fully tap the potential of BRICS cooperation. Statistics show that of the 197 billion US dollars outbound investment we made in 2016, only 5.7% took place among our five countries. This means BRICS cooperation still has broad space.

I wish to announce here that China will launch the Economic and Technical Cooperation Plan for BRICS Countries with 500 million yuan for the first term to facilitate policy exchange and practical cooperation in the economic and trade fields. China will contribute four million US dollars to the NDB Project Preparation Facility to support the business operation and long-term development of the bank. China will work with all parties to follow through on the outcomes and consensus achieved in the past, and make good use of existing mechanisms. Together, we must seize the historic opportunities of the new industrial revolution,

explore new areas and models of practical cooperation, and enhance our links to ensure sustained and steady progress of the BRICS cooperation mechanism.

Second, we need to strengthen the complementarity of our development strategies. Despite our differences in national conditions, our five countries are in a similar stage of development and share the same development goals. We all face an arduous task in growing the economy. Strengthening the complementarity of our development strategies will help bring out our comparative strengths in resources, market and labor force, and release the growth potential of the five countries and the creativity of our three billion people, opening up huge space for development.

We need to plan well at the macro level and take concrete actions in key areas. Acting in the spirit of extensive consultation, joint contribution and

shared benefits, we need to identify those areas where our development policies and priorities converge, and continue to work toward the goal of connectivity in trade and investment, currency and finance, and infrastructure. With a focus on structural reform and sustainable development, we need to expand our converging interests and share experience on innovation, entrepreneurship, industrial development and production capacity to boost our respective economic development. It is important to strike a balance between the speed of growth and the quality and efficiency of growth. By implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, we have the opportunity to achieve balanced economic, social and environmental progress, and bring about interconnected and inclusive development.

Third, we need to make the international order more just and equitable. Our ever

closer ties with the rest of the world require that we play a more active part in global governance. Without our participation, many pressing global challenges cannot be effectively resolved. We should speak with one voice and jointly present our solutions to issues concerning international peace and development. This meets the expectation of the international community, and will help safeguard our common interests.

We should remain committed to multilateralism and the basic norms governing international relations, work for a new type of international relations, and foster a peaceful and stable environment for the development of all countries. We need to make economic globalization open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all, build an open world economy, support the multilateral trading regime and oppose protectionism. We need to advance the reform of global economic governance,

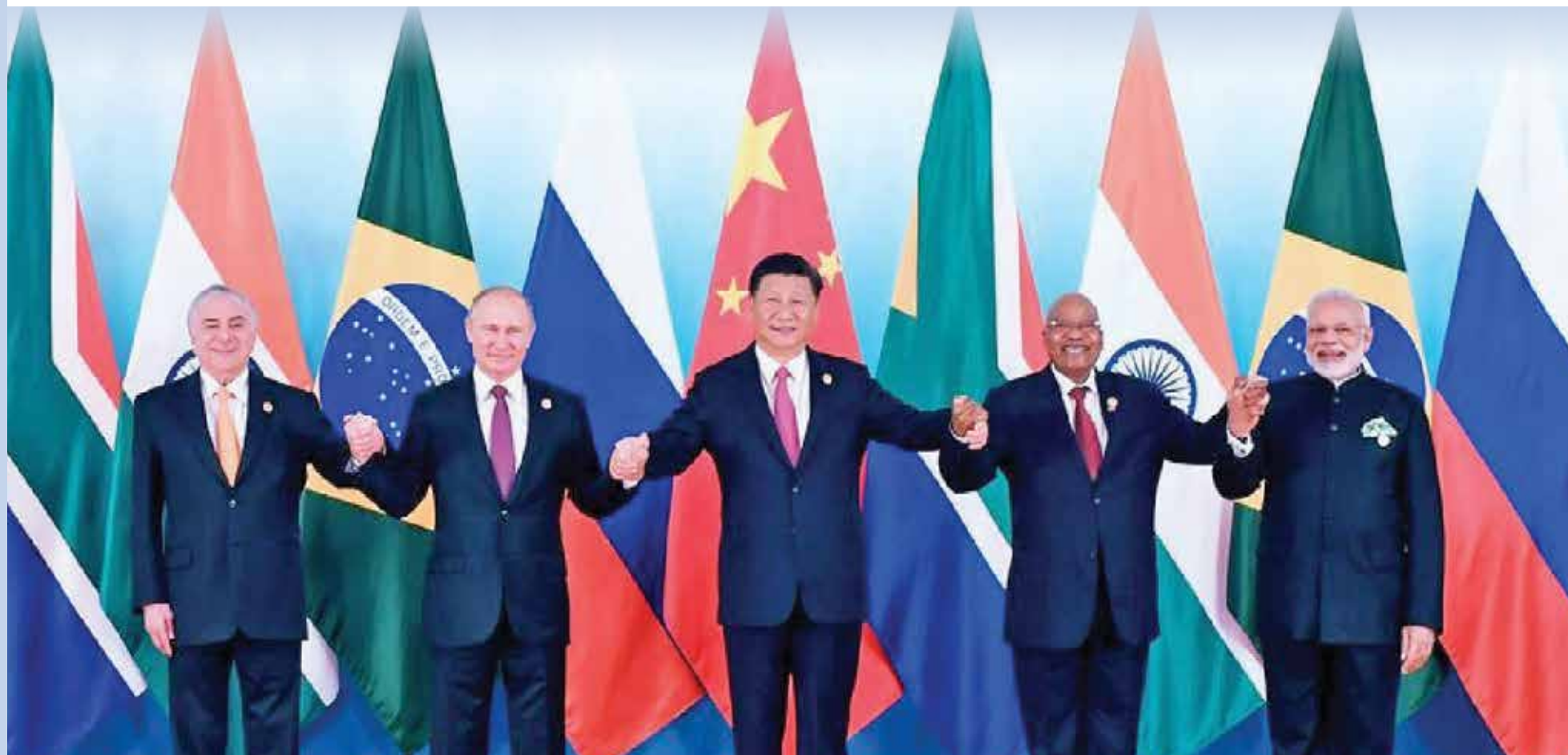
increase the representation and voice of emerging market and developing countries, and inject new impetus into the efforts to address the development gap between the North and South and boost global growth.

Fourth, we need to promote people-to-people exchanges. Amity between the people holds the key to sound state-to-state relations. Only with intensive care can the tree of friendship and cooperation grow luxuriant. Enhancing the exchanges among our peoples and seeing the spirit of partnership embraced by all is a worthy cause that deserves our enduring commitment. A job well done in this regard will keep BRICS cooperation vibrant.

We are pleased to note that the important consensus reached at the leadership level on closer people-to-people exchanges is being translated into reality. This year, people-to-people exchanges among our five countries have been in full swing, marked by the diverse

activities of the BRICS Games, the BRICS Film Festival, the BRICS Culture Festival and the High-level Meeting on Traditional Medicine. We hope that through our joint efforts, these activities will take place regularly and be institutionalized. We need to expand our outreach to get the public more involved and encourage more lively exchanges of diverse cultures.

The past decade has seen the unremitting efforts of BRICS countries in pursuing development and deepening partnership. It is but a beginning in the history of BRICS cooperation. As I said in my letters to you early this year, looking ahead, BRICS cooperation is set to achieve greater development and play an even bigger role in international affairs. Let us set sail from Xiamen and join hands to usher in the second "Golden Decade" of BRICS cooperation and deliver greater benefits to the people of our five countries and around the world.





# World equities drop after North Korea's nuclear test

London

**G**lobal stock markets slid yesterday as investors sought safer bets after North Korea claimed to have tested a hydrogen bomb, one week after firing a ballistic missile over Japan.

Pyongyang on Sunday conducted its sixth nuclear test -- sparking further condemnation and a warning from US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis of a "massive military response" if the United States or its allies were attacked.

Asian stock markets slid along with the South Korean won currency, while the haven yen rallied as the news ramped up international tensions. European losses were less acute.

"Fresh North Korean tensions weigh on financial markets as the probability of a serious US military response escalates," VTB Capital analyst Neil MacKinnon said.

US President Donald Trump stands ready to use the country's "full range of diplomatic, conventional, and nuclear capabilities" if North Korea continues to threaten it or its allies, the White House said Sunday.

Trump denounced the test, tweeting that the time for



Kuwaiti traders follow stock market activity as they sit in the main hall at the Kuwait Stock Exchange (Boursa) headquarters in Kuwait City

"appeasement" was over and threatening drastic economic sanctions, including "stopping all trade with any country doing business with North Korea".

"It seems (North Korean leader) Kim Jong-un shows no signs of conciliation," said Greg McKenna, chief market strategist at AxiTrader.

North Korea "seems hell-bent on either goading the United States, and its

president, into a response or what it thinks will be an embarrassing backdown", he added.

### Provocation

On equity markets Seoul shed 1.2 per cent and Japan's Nikkei ended 0.9-percent down as the stronger yen hurt exporters. Hong Kong slipped 0.8pc and Sydney closed down 0.4pc, while Singapore gave up one pc.

"There has been a marked

increase in North Korean provocation in recent weeks with a series of missile tests being carried out in what is quite clearly a deliberate escalation of international tensions," added XTB analyst David Cheetham.

"The latest drill caused a 6.3 magnitude earthquake that shook North Korea following the detonation of the country's strongest nuclear weapon which was almost 10 times more powerful than the

## Key figures

London - FTSE 100: DOWN 0.1pc at 7,428.60 points

Frankfurt - DAX 30: DOWN 0.5pc at 12,086

Paris - CAC 40: DOWN 0.3pc at 5,107.90

EURO STOXX 50: DOWN 0.4pc at 3,431.00

Tokyo - Nikkei 225: DOWN 0.9pc at 19,508.25 (close)

Seoul - Kospi: DOWN 1.2pc at 2,329.65 (close)

Hong Kong - Hang Seng: DOWN 0.8pc at 27,740.26 (close)

Shanghai - Composite: UP 0.4pc at 3,379.58 (close)

New York - Dow: UP 0.2 percent at 21,987.56 (close)

Euro/dollar: UP at \$1.1917 from \$1.1862 at 2100 GMT on Friday

Pound/dollar: DOWN at \$1.2940 from \$1.2955

Dollar/yen: UP at 109.54 yen from 110.28 yen

Oil - Brent North Sea: DOWN 31 cents at \$52.44 per barrel

Oil - West Texas Intermediate: DOWN 11 cents at \$47.40

previous tests."

Sunday's test was of a device that could be mounted on an intercontinental missile capable of reaching the United States, North Korea claimed.

"It's expected this latest North Korea aggression, could further intensify geopolitical

tensions," said Stephen Innes, head of Asia-Pacific trading at OANDA.

"The key now is how the international community will respond given how ineffective the tightened UN sanctions have been at discouraging North Korea's ambitions." (AFP)

## Battling to thwart diesel bans, Merkel throws in the cash

Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday pledged a billion euros to help German cities fight air pollution caused by dirty diesel cars. The public health threat posed by nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions came to the fore after Germany's biggest carmaker Volkswagen admitted in September 2015 to fitting millions of cars worldwide with illegal devices to cheat pollution tests.

### Aid doubled

Following a meeting with 30 mayors whose cities or towns are threatening diesel bans, Merkel said she would double the financial aid from a previously announced 500 million euros (\$600 million) to stave off the threat of an all-out ban against diesel vehicles.

### Election looming

With elections looming on September 24, Merkel and other politicians have a tight-rope to walk between balancing public health safety and securing millions of jobs in the vital automobile sector.

### 'Car chancellor'

Merkel was dubbed the "car chancellor" in 2013 after she went to bat for the sector and argued against an EU cap on emissions. She has also spoken out against costly hardware fixes for diesel engines, and refused to commit to a date by which Germany should phase out fossil fuel-powered cars, as Britain and France have vowed to do by 2040.

"Half of the sum will be at the charge of automobile manufacturers and the other half the federal state."

- Merkel

**Driving bans!**

The immediate priority is to "prevent driving bans", stressed Merkel, mindful she has to protect the crucial industrial sector whose global titans like VW, Audi, Mercedes and BMW earn billions of euros in exports and employ between 800,000 and 900,000 people.

## 'PRETEND-SOLUTIONS'

VW in 2015 admitted having fitted 11 million diesel engines with "defeat devices" to cheat on emissions tests and has agreed to pay \$4.3 billion in penalties and \$17.5bn in civil settlements in the United States.



Cool Trends



## Can bosses snoop on employees?

Strasbourg

Europe's top human rights court is set to rule Tuesday whether bosses have the right to spy on employees who use company messaging systems, in a landmark decision for privacy in the work place. In an initial decision in January last year, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in the French city of Strasbourg ruled against a Romanian software engineer who claimed his rights had been infringed.



## EU approves German loan to Air Berlin

Brussels

The European Commission yesterday approved Germany's plans to grant insolvent Air Berlin a \$180 million loan to allow it temporarily to serve passengers while selling off its business. The 28-nation EU executive refuted critics who say Germany is offering state aid for rival airline Lufthansa to build a monopoly with Air Berlin assets.



I said: #Brexit = occasion to explain single market benefits in all countries, incl my own. We do not want to "educate" or "teach lessons."

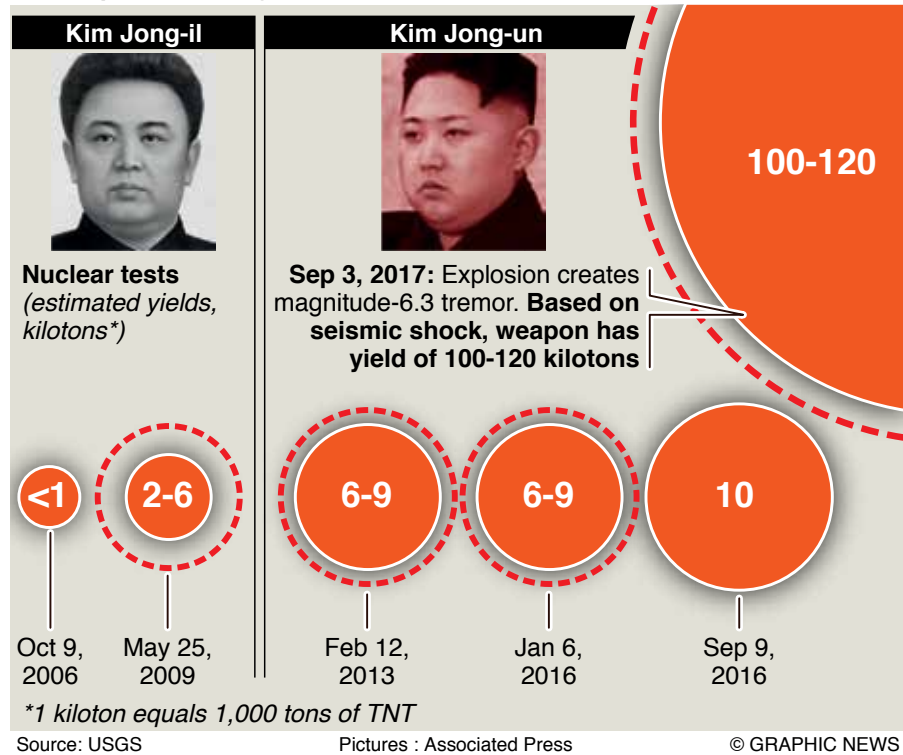
- Michel Barnier,

EU's chief Brexit negotiator



## North Korea's nuclear tests

North Korea carried out its sixth and most powerful nuclear test to date as the country claimed it detonated a hydrogen bomb capable of being mounted on an intercontinental ballistic missile



# Total sells Norwegian assets to Kuwait



Representative picture

Paris

French oil giant Total said yesterday it has agreed to sell its remaining stake in a Norwegian oil field to Kuwait so that it can focus on its recent acquisition of Denmark's Maersk Oil.

"Total has signed an agreement to divest its remaining 15-percent interest in the Gina Krog field in Norway to Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUPPEC)," Total said in a statement.

"In the framework of our

portfolio management and optimization of the allocation of capital, we have decided to fully divest our interest in the Gina Krog project and focus on other opportunities in Norway," said Total's head of exploration and production, Arnaud Breuillac.

"With the recent acquisition of Maersk Oil & Gas, the group's position in the North Sea will be significantly strengthened, in particular in Norway." Total announced on August 21 that it would buy Maersk Oil for \$7.45 billion

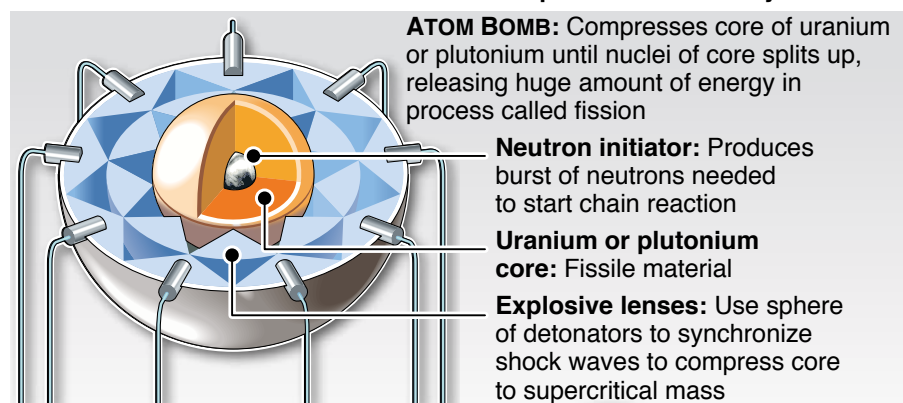
(6.35 billion euros), making it the second-largest operator in the North Sea, with substantial operations in Britain, Norway and Denmark.

For its part, KUPPEC said the deal was valued at \$317 million. Total already sold a 15-percent stake Gina Krog to Kuwait in 2016. It put the combined value of both that deal and the latest one at more than \$600 million.

The Gina Krog field is situated in the North Sea and is controlled by Norwegian giant Statoil. (AFP)

## What is a hydrogen bomb?

A hydrogen bomb, or thermonuclear weapon, uses the energy from a primary fission bomb to ignite a secondary nuclear fusion reaction. The result is the most destructive weapon ever created by man

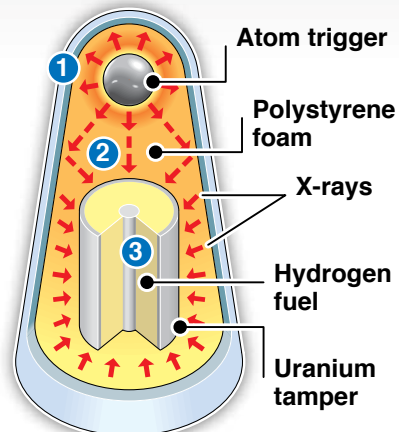


**HYDROGEN BOMB:** Uses energy from primary fission bomb to ignite secondary nuclear fusion reaction

- 1 Small atom bomb explodes, emitting radiation
- 2 X-rays from primary detonation reflect inside casing, heating foam
- 3 Foam becomes plasma and compresses secondary package, igniting fusion fuel

**Miniaturization:** Hydrogen bombs can pack explosive power into smaller, light-weight packages delivered by ballistic missiles

Sources: Federation of American Scientists, Encyclopedia Britannica



© GRAPHIC NEWS

## Washington state's Boeing subsidies are legal: WTO

Geneva

Subsidies given by the US state of Washington to Boeing are legal, the World Trade Organisation appeals body said yesterday, partially overturning a victory by rival Airbus and the European Union last year.

The two aviation giants have been locked for years in a sprawling set of disputes at the Geneva-based WTO.

Monday's ruling concerns the so-called "baby Boeing" case, which relates only to tax breaks

and other incentives provided by Washington State to the American aircraft maker.

Last November WTO judges found that one of the subsidies Washington State offered to support production of Boeing's 777X jet was "prohibited" as they encouraged the use of domestic materials, and thus caused trade distortions.

The United States, acting on behalf of Boeing, appealed the decision and secured an outright victory that is not subject to

further appeal, the WTO ruling said.


"The WTO has rejected yet another of the baseless claims the EU has made," Boeing said in a statement.



Representative picture




### Did You Know?



Seventy-five years ago, in 1940, brothers Richard and Maurice McDonald opened up the first McDonald's restaurant—a BBQ joint—in San Bernardino, California (at left; it's now a museum). Eight years later, they switched to burgers, shakes, potato chips, and pie. The McDonalds purchased several Multi-mixers for use in their establishment, and when Multi-mixer salesman Ray Kroc visited, he was impressed by their success and efficiency. Kroc purchased franchise rights from the brothers. In 1955, he opened his first franchise in Des Plaines, Illinois.



# UAE quiet as Dana soars on Iraqi deal



**BFC**  
CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.3077	0.3041
BANGLADESH	0.00476	0.00467
CANADA	0.3096	0.3045
DENMARK	0.0637	
EGYPT	0.0234	0.0217
EURO	0.4584	0.4542
HONGKONG	0.04968	0.04928
INDIA	0.00601	0.00594
INDONESIA	0.00003054	0.00002893
IRAN TUMAN	0.000323	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000304	
JAPAN	0.00361	0.003540
JORDAN	0.5350	0.5354
KOREA	0.00038739	
KUWAIT	1.249	1.249
MALAYSIA	0.0911	0.0904
NEW ZEALAND	0.2788	0.2774
NORWAY	0.0508	
NEPAL	0.00395	0.00370
OMAN	0.98014	0.98262
PAKISTAN	0.00374	0.00358
PHILIPPINES	0.00761	0.00740
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10058	0.10066
SINGAPORE	0.2827	0.2807
SOUTH AFRICA	0.03030	0.03020
SRI LANKA	0.00272	0.00247
SWEDISH	0.0505	
SWITZERLAND	0.4045	0.4922
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0017
TAIWAN	0.013100	
THAILAND	0.011157	0.011560
TURKEY	0.1155	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.4974	0.4922
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102500	0.102840
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37790	0.37800
YUAN	0.056800	0.056800

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KUWAIT	0.2855	31.1452	0.2991	0.2617
OMAN	0.3849	0.3674	0.4032	0.3528
QATAR	3.6420	3.4763	3.8156	3.3385
UAE	3.6730	3.5059	3.8481	3.3669
SAUDI	3.7500	3.5794	3.9288	3.4375

**Dubai**  
Stock markets in the United Arab Emirates were mostly quiet yesterday as they resumed trading after a long holiday weekend for Eid al-Adha, but Abu Dhabi-listed Dana Gas soared after it agreed on overdue payments from Iraqi Kurdistan's government.

Dana jumped 14.1 per cent to 0.73 dirham, its highest level since early July, and was by far the market's most heavily traded stock, accounting for over half of the day's volume in Abu Dhabi.

Iraqi Kurdistan agreed to immediately pay Dana's gas production consortium \$1 billion, including \$400 million that will be used for investment in the region; Dana will receive 35pc of the money.

In addition, \$1.24

billion will be reclassified from debt owed by the government to outstanding costs to be recovered by the consortium from future revenues.

"Overall, we view this as a major positive development for Dana Gas," said Allen Sandeep, head of research at Cairo-based Naeem Brokerage, predicting the firm's credit rating would leap.

The price of Dana's convertible sukuk due on Oct. 31 climbed to 77.92 cents on the dollar bid after the Kurdistan deal was announced late on Wednesday from 72.88.

The Kurdistan payment will boost Dana's cash balance, which was \$337 million at the end of June. It is not clear that it will make any difference to the dispute over the company's \$700 million

## Closing Bell

**DUBAI** edged down 0.1pc to 3,635 points.  
**ABU DHABI** rose 0.3pc to 4,481 points.

of outstanding sukuk, which Dana is refusing to repay on the grounds that they have become invalid.

The company, which is fighting its case in courts in London and the UAE, declined to comment on whether the Kurdistan deal might affect the case in any way.

But Sandeep said the main benefit of the deal for Dana was that it would allow the consortium to expand its production at the huge Khor Mor and Chemchemal fields. Initial indications are that gas production at Khor Mor will rise by 160pc to 500 million cubic feet per day in two years, he said.

Other Abu Dhabi stocks were much more subdued, with the index rising only 0.3pc.

In Dubai, the index slipped 0.1pc but it closed well off the day's lows and trading volume rose, which were positive technical signs.

DAMAC Properties dropped back 1.5pc but the most heavily traded stock, builder Drake & Scull, added 1.3pc. Stock markets elsewhere in the Gulf and in Egypt remained closed for Eid and will reopen later this week. (Reuters)

# Workers of McDonald's stage first ever pay strike in Britain

**London**  
McDonald's workers staged the first ever strike in Britain yesterday in protest at pay and working conditions at the US fast-food giant.

About 40 workers gathered outside two restaurants in Crayford, southeast London, and in Cambridge before attending a protest outside parliament.

Workers are demanding an hourly wage of £10 (\$13, 11 euros), union recognition and an end to zero-hours contracts, under which employees are required to be



Demonstrators dressed as Ronald McDonald, the mascot of US burger chain McDonalds, pose for a photograph as they participate in a protest over working conditions

available for work but have no guaranteed minimum hours.

"For far too long, workers in fast-food restaurants such as McDonald's have had to deal with poor working conditions, drastic cuts to employee hours, and even bullying in the workplace -- viewed by many as a punishment for joining a union," Ian Hodson, president of the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union, said in Cambridge.

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the main opposition Labour party, lent his support, saying the demands "are just and should be met". McDonald's highlighted that those on strike made up less than 0.01 percent of its workforce.



# Smart previews self-driving city car for sharing

**S**mart is showing its vision for future transport when people needing a vehicle will simply order a fully autonomous car that will drive itself to their location.

The Daimler brand will unveil the Vision EQ autonomous concept based on the ForTwo microcar at the upcoming Frankfurt auto show.

The Vision EQ ForTwo is powered solely by electricity and has no steering wheel and no pedals because it is designed to meet the needs of customers who will ride in, not drive the car.

The Vision EQ includes a number of personalization features that can be tailored to



each customer. A panel where the grille traditionally sits can display a welcome message and even the customer's photo, while panels on the door are coated with a film

that can display information. When the car is not in use, these can be used to advertise products. Inside the dashboard is a single, 24-inch large screen with two smaller

screens at the outer edges

The car is proportioned and detailed to be viewed as a premium transportation device, Daimler said. "It is a radical approach with a cool

## The all-electric, fully autonomous Smart Vision EQ ForTwo concept gives a glimpse into the brand's future

and minimalist design. It embodies the urban luxury of the future," Daimler's head of design, Gorden Wagener, said in a statement.

Design details include doors that pivot over the rear wheels rather than opening outward to both aid access in tight spaces and to avoid collisions with cyclists. Also practical for its car-share role is the man-made leather used to cover the bench-style seat, which can be easily wiped clean.

Smart envisages the car will roam continuously until hailed by a smartphone app, unless the 30kWh battery needs charging, when it will drive to a charge point.

Daimler currently uses Smart cars for its Car2Go car-sharing scheme, and says it currently has 2.6 customers worldwide. It said car-sharing schemes worldwide will grow fivefold to 36.7 million customers by 2025. (autonews)



## Cupra R: Seat's Most Powerful Road Car

**A**fter months of speculation, Seat has officially unveiled the new Leon Cupra R, ahead of its public premiere set for the 2017 Frankfurt Motor Show. Described as the brand's "most powerful road car in history", it's available with 310PS (306hp) with a manual gearbox, and 300PS (296hp) with a DSG automatic. While the output differences between this version of the Leon, and the latest Cupra, aren't impressive at all, the automaker claims that the 'R' gets a few extras.. (carscoops)



## New Renault Symbioz teased

**R**enault is gearing up for this year's Frankfurt Motor Show with a future-thinking concept car called the Symbioz. Teased ahead of its unveiling next week, the new concept is designed to express the French brand's vision of mobility in years to come.

The name 'Symbioz' is said to be derived from 'symbiōsis', the Ancient Greek word for 'living together'. With that in mind the concept will "function harmoniously and in permanent interaction with its environment, road network infrastructure and digital lifestyles of its occupants". (autoexpress)



## Mercedes teases new EQ concept for Frankfurt Show

**M**ercedes has teased a new compact electric car that it will present in concept form at the Frankfurt Motor Show later this month, which could possibly take on the 'EQA' moniker when it is revealed.

When the new concept car arrives at Frankfurt it'll be our second glimpse at a car filed away under Merc's new 'EQ' electric mobility

sub-brand, following on from the Generation EQ concept revealed at the Paris Motor Show last year.

This teaser image hints strongly at the design of the new all-electric concept, which cuts a different character to the Generation EQ concept from last year. The front end of the car appears to be more conventional, with the outline of the grille

and the headlights directly influenced by Merc's next-generation design language. As such, we expect this will be a much more production ready look at a Mercedes-EQ vehicle, though the first EQ car isn't expected until 2019.

It's understood that Mercedes is aiming to push out ten new all-electric vehicles under the EQ banner by 2025, while the

firm's compact car line up with expand from five offerings to eight by 2020.

It's thought that the next-generation A-Class will plug one of those gaps with the introduction of a saloon model, while a new compact crossover called the GLB is also expected. The third all-new compact model will be an electric hatchback, possibly called EQA. (carscoops)







Shoukat Ali (M.D Higen Construction) organised its third Eid Tape Ball Cricket Tournament. More than 300 cricket lovers and workers enjoyed the match. Above, Shoukat Ali with the winners.



Mata Amritanandamayi Seva Samiti Bahrain celebrated Onam with various programmes. In pictures, highlights of the event



Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam held various cultural programmes as part of Onam-Eid celebrations. Above, highlights of the event





Syro Malabar Society (SYMS) celebrated Onam with an Onam Feast at the Indian Club





# CELEBS

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 Elizabeth Kemp I celebrate your life and am  
 profoundly grateful to have spent precious time  
 with you.



## ANGELINA JOLIE NOT ENJOYING BEING SINGLE

Los Angeles

**A**ctress Angelina Jolie, who has been in the news for her split with actor Brad Pitt, says she is not enjoying being single.

The actress spoke about being single in an interview with *The Telegraph*, reports *bbc.com*.

"It's been difficult. I don't enjoy being single. It's not something I wanted. There's nothing nice about it. It's just hard," Jolie said.

In another interview with *Sydney Morning Herald*, she said she had spent much of the last year "just taking care of my children".

"I can't pretend this isn't a tough time in my life. But I'm trying to get through it by just moving forward and knowing it's part of being human."  
 (IANS)

## Zayn Malik shaves his head

London

**S**inger-songwriter Zayn Malik, known for making some drastic hair moves, has gone bald.

On September 3, Zayn's mother Trish Malik shared an *Instagram* photo of herself, her son and his girlfriend Gigi Hadid.

The black-and-white image shows the "Pillowtalk" hitmaker with a bald head and stubble, reports *eonline.com*.

The shorn hair comes as quite a surprise since only the previous day, Zayn's mother posted a picture of her son with a short style. (IANS)



## Mila Kunis slips on blonde wig for film

Berlin

**A**ctress Mila Kunis wore a blonde wig while filming "The Spy Who Dumped Me" here.

The mother-of-two wore a short blonde wig. The wife of actor Ashton Kutcher had to kiss co-star Sam Heughan as she filmed the new comedy on September 2, reports *dailymail.co.uk*.

She had on a light purple dress. Later, she was seen in all black with the wig still on. (IANS)



STARRY  
 Birthday  
 Rose McGowan

September 5, 1973

Actress who played Tatum in the horror film *Scream* and played Paige Matthews in the television series *Charmed*.





## When Lady Gaga, Carino 'looked beyond in love'

**Boston**  
**Singer-actress** Lady Gaga and her boyfriend, Christian Carino, "looked beyond in love" during and after her concert. The Grammy-winning singer, 31, performed at the baseball stadium at Fenway Park last week as her beau and agent watched from the

audience and she threw a few winks his way, reports [usmagazine.com](http://usmagazine.com). The couple later headed to the House of Blues after the show where one of her band members was performing that night. And despite a long day and hours on stage, the "Poker face" hitmaker

hung out with Carino and her crew until around 1:30 am. "They looked beyond in love with each other," an onlooker said. "They seem like the real deal. Both Gaga and Christian couldn't have been more down to earth or amazing with her crew." (IANS)



## Lil Wayne hospitalised

**Chicago**  
**Rapper** Lil Wayne has been hospitalised because of epileptic attacks. Multiple sources told [tmz.com](http://tmz.com) that Wayne was taken to a hospital here on Sunday after he was found unconscious in his hotel room after suffering a seizure. At the Northwestern Memorial

hospital, he suffered another seizure. His team tried to have him discharged so that he could make it to his Las Vegas show. However, doctors advised against it, saying he should be grounded for a few days. Wayne has suffered seizures while flying earlier and the doctors felt it was too risky. (IANS)

# MOVIES... COMING SOON... next week



**Home Again**

Director: Hallie Meyers-Shyer  
 Stars: Nat Wolff, Reese Witherspoon, Lake Bell, Michael Sheen



**9/11**

Director: Martin Guigui  
 Stars: Charlie Sheen, Whoopi Goldberg, Gina Gershon, Luis Guzmán



**The Good Catholic**

Director: Paul Shoulberg  
 Stars: Zachary Spicer, Wrenn Schmidt, Danny Glover, John C. McGinley



**The Unknown Girl**

Directors: Jean-Pierre Dardenne | Luc Dardenne  
 Stars: Adèle Haenel, Olivier Bonnaud, Jérémie Renier, Louka Minnella

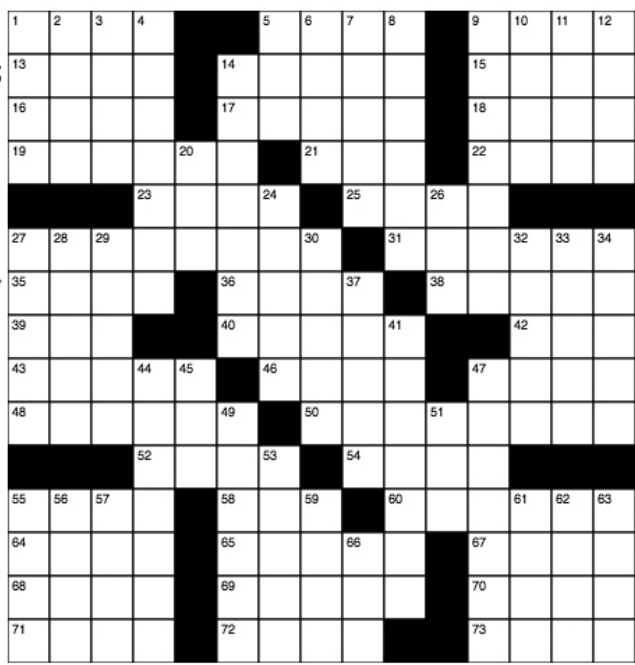


**Mother!**

Director: Darren Aronofsky  
 Stars: Jennifer Lawrence, Javier Bardem, Ed Harris, Michelle Pfeiffer



# CROSSWORD



**Across**

1- Farming prefix; 5- Strong cotton; 9- Recipe amt.; 13- Not kosher; 14- Take \_\_\_ at (try); 15- Expectant desire; 16- Willingly; 17- \_\_\_ Park, Colo.; 18- Intestinal sections; 19- Blue dye; 21- Lacto-\_\_\_ vegetarian; 22- Tiered shelves; 23- Tins; 25- Energy units; 27- Root of Apium graveolens; 31- Conflict; 35- Loud, deep utterance, especially used by lions; 36- Hebrew month; 38- Disinfectant brand; 39- Double curve; 40- Identified; 42- Faulkner's "\_\_\_ Lay Dying"; 43- Beethoven's "\_\_\_ Solemnis"; 46- Head of France; 47- Worry; 48- Adequate; 50- Ball game; 52- Scottish refusals; 54- Film spool; 55- Bahrain bigwig; 58- Sighs of relief; 60- Foreigners; 64- Ricky's portrayer; 65- Portals; 67- Nautically sheltered; 68- LAX guesstimates; 69- Spooky; 70- Elation; 71- Short letter; 72- Historic Scott; 73- Consumes;

**Down**

1- King of the Huns; 2- Broad smile; 3- Oboe, e.g.; 4- Constable; 5- Letter addenda; 6- Sock \_\_\_ me!; 7- "Circle of Friends" author Binchy; 8- Soak up; 9- Parched; 10- Gaucho's weapon; 11- Blueprint detail, for short; 12- Highest point; 14- Eternal; 20- Long-jawed fish; 24- Begin's co-Nobel; 26- Guy's counterpart; 27- \_\_\_ de menthe; 28- Red fluorescent dye; 29- Cow catcher; 30- Humped ruminant; 32- Autocratic Russian rulers; 33- Misplaces; 34- Best of a group; 37- Pave over; 41- Die; 44- Morning; 45- Turkish honorific; 47- Leafage; 49- Directed a course; 51- Fam. reunion attendee; 53- Blacksmith, at times; 55- Utopia; 56- Take \_\_\_ your leader; 57- The wolf \_\_\_ the door; 59- Achy; 61- Fitzgerald of jazz; 62- Nair rival; 63- Goes out with; 66- Purge;

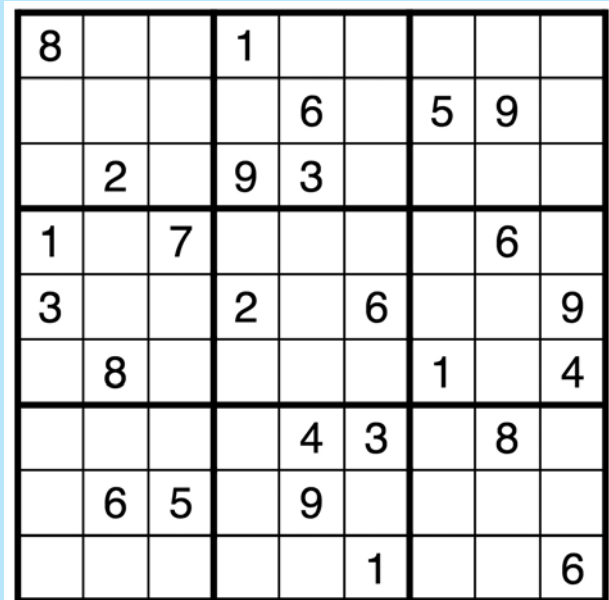
## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



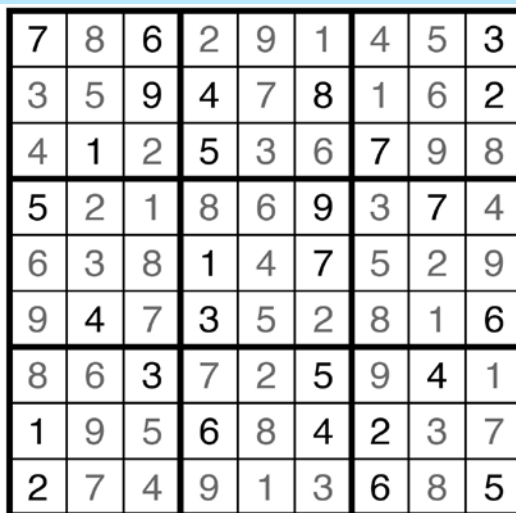
## BEETLE BAILEY



## SUDOKU



## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



**How to play:**

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

## Your star today

(Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Learning about things that interest you most is something you may want to do today. At work and home, there's a schedule to tend to. On your own time, you're free to learn about anything your heart desires. Whether you delve into cooking, astrophysics, or genealogy, you'll find something new.

(Apr 21st - May 21st)



If you meet new people today, be careful. Some can appear interesting because they're bold or dangerous. Perhaps they do things you'd never dream of doing. While this may be intriguing, it can lead to trouble and hurt you if you aren't careful. Stick to your usual standards. If danger excites you too much, it may be time for some changes in your life.

(May 22nd - Jun 21st)



You might have to make a choice between telling the truth and a lie. Sometimes this can be a difficult choice, especially if you're afraid you'll hurt someone's feelings. However, a lie can take far more energy than the truth. Consider what you'd want the other person to do in your place. Stick to your ethics, even if it's tough.

(June 22nd - July 23rd)



Kindheartedness is wonderful, but being taken advantage of can be a danger. You really need to trust your instincts to keep this from happening. If what you hear doesn't match what you feel, trust your feeling. In the event that you get used, move past it. It would be a shame if resentment permanently dampened your giving nature.

(July 24th - Aug 23rd)



You have an intense nature. You probably feel things deeply and spend time lost in thought. Too much intensity can take a toll on your well-being. It might be time you got out and enjoyed yourself. Get up from your chair and take a walk. Meet someone for lunch or do a little shopping. Find something active to do to break the monotony of your routine.

(Aug 24th - Sep 23rd)



Feed your mind today. While you enjoy being active and social, you do get bored quickly. You'll need to give yourself a constant supply of intriguing, fresh material in order to feel your best. Explore an interesting subject or learn a new hobby. Stimulate your mind and your body will become more energetic. Go online if you can't get away.

(Sep 24th - Oct 23rd)



If you're trying to prove you have something valuable to offer, think this through. You're naturally friendly and can get along with almost anyone. This may already be your strength, and you probably have something great to bring to a crowd. Consider just being you and not always trying to feel a part of things. Start by looking at your good qualities to prove your worth to yourself.

(Oct 24th - Nov 22nd)



Consider putting your problem-solving skills to the test today. You have a real flair for investigating situations and figuring out what happened. If something comes your way that seems mysterious, deal with the problem directly and wrestle out the truth. If you're baffled, use the process of elimination. Stick with it and you'll learn what's what in no time.

(Nov 23rd - Dec 21st)



Try not to be fooled by others. If you don't know a person well and you aren't sure about him or her, trust your instincts. You tend to care about others, so it can be easy for you to feel sorry for someone and bend over backward to help. Make sure that the person you help really deserves it and you know the whole story. This can save you problems down the road.

(Dec 22nd - Jan 20th)



It can be very easy to get carried away today. You might get caught up in some excitement. You need to use your head on a day like this. Double-check everything and moderate your activities. Keep your limitations in mind. There's nothing saying you can't do whatever it is that catches your eye. Just use caution and keep yourself safe.

(Jan 21st - Feb 19th)



The energy you feel today may have you so jittery that others don't know what to do. The day's aspects can really bring a boost and you'd be wise to plan to do things so you have an avenue to spend it all. Get busy with physical chores. Pull things out, organize, move around - whatever it takes. It's better to be productive than drive everyone crazy.

(Feb 20th - Mar 20th)



Venturing into something completely new and different may be what you need. You have a solid practical side, but the need for excitement and adventure is likely just as strong. If you've been putting your nose to the grindstone a lot lately, take time off for some fun. Visit a friend or drive to a place you haven't been to before and explore.



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Tuesday, September 5, 2017 17

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# Voice assistants promise a light-fingered future

## Berlin

**T**omorrow's digital interface may be even more revolutionary than the pinching, tapping and scrolling heralded by the smartphone: voice commands promise to unify and tame our digital lives.

Tiny speakers visible at every stand at Berlin's IFA electronics fair, most of them endowed with a feminine voice, are the ears and mouths of the new artificial intelligences.

Things haven't quite reached the fever pitch of 2013's "Her", Spike Jonze's film in which Joaquin Phoenix falls in love with an operating system voiced by Scarlett Johansson.

But industry experts and salespeople paint a glowing picture of a future home in which an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered butler will cater to consumers' every need via networked appliances.

"This technology is about to play a huge role in our lives. The main question

for manufacturers is what technical solution will make it as intuitive as possible," said Martin Boerner, vice-president of Germany's information technology industry federation Bitkom.

Industry giants like Google, Amazon, Samsung and Microsoft are battling it out to produce the most responsive voice-controlled AIs, aiming to reduce the amount of time we spend tapping buttons or swiping through lists on our smartphones.

Many users check their phones 200 or even 300 times a day, Sony Mobile France chief executive Jean Raoul de Gelis pointed out, meaning that "above all, voice controls free up our hands" for other tasks.

As well as giving our thumbs a break, the new interfaces will, their makers hope, take the load off our brains as well, learning our habits and routines and working out what we want and need from them.

"The ultimate goal is

that you are unaware of the technology. Nobody wants to programme the floor cleaner robot's duty schedule for the week. Automation needs to become as tactful and perceptive as a butler," said Paul Gray of consultancy IHS.

## AI has landed

Google and Amazon overshadow IFA despite their absence, with exhibitors of TVs, home appliances or sound systems proudly declaring partnerships with one or the other.

Research firm Gartner expects the connected speaker market to grow to 3.5 billion dollars worldwide by 2021, from 360 million in 2015.

As the objects' design remains perhaps too self-consciously high-tech for many people's kitchens or bedside tables, the smartphone is likely to remain the mouthpiece of the AIs for some time yet.

Google, Amazon's Alexa, Samsung's Bixby, Microsoft's Cortana and Apple's Siri

are all jostling for space in consumers' imaginations.

Google has a big advantage with its Android phones in billions of pockets around the world, but a competitor like Amazon could end up on top of the wide-open market for home automation -- from kitchen to car, via the thermostat and the front door lock.

## Bound together

But building this densely-networked future environment will bring new challenges for technology companies.

They will have to work together more closely to maintain the illusion of effortlessness for users, most of whom won't be prepared to outfit their entire life with one brand's devices.

At present, buyers have a hard time figuring out which devices are compatible with which others -- prompting manufacturers to push for a

standard protocol, a universal language that would allow appliances to communicate.

"Some players think this is a winner-takes-all market and a single AI agent will win. Other companies believe a smartphone will include

multiple AI agents which are optimised for different tasks," IHS analyst Ian Fogg said.

Samsung has already taken up the banner of compatibility, announcing Wednesday that it would work more closely with the Open Connectivity Foundation, a group that aims to simplify linking up devices.

(AFP)

Visitors try out VR glasses

A fair worker presents the Xperia Touch

Remotely controlled roboter from the Star Wars movies at the booth of Sphero at the IFA Consumer Electronics Fair in Berlin



# Girl 'got into my car', says kidnap suspect

**Lyon**  
The man charged with kidnapping a nine-year-old French girl during a wedding in the Alps has admitted during police questioning that she got into his car but denies abducting her, his lawyer said yesterday.

A week after Maelys de Araujo went missing in the eastern village of Pont-de-Beauvoisin, a 34-year-old man was remanded in custody Sunday on charges of "kidnapping, illegal confinement or arbitrary detention".

The man was a guest at the wedding that Maelys was attending with her parents when she went missing in the early hours of Sunday, August 27.

Her DNA was found in his car, which was parked next to the community hall where the celebrations were held and was cleaned the day after.

The suspect's lawyer Bernard Meraud said his client told police that Maelys "got into his car with a little boy, onto the back seat, to see if his (the suspect's) dog was in the boot."

Meraud confirmed that a trace of her DNA had been found on the dashboard but



A picture taken of an appeal for witnesses poster issued by the Gendarmerie of Pont-de-Beauvoisin for Maelys that his client "completely denied" kidnapping her.

Meraud said several DNA traces, including that of his client, had been found on the dashboard and that someone who was in contact with the child could have

"transferred" her DNA in to the vehicle.

He also suggested that the children could have climbed into the car unbeknown to the driver, noting that all the windows were left down during the party. (AFP)

# Prince William and Kate expecting third child



Britain's Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and his wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, and their children Prince George and Princess Charlotte on the tarmac of the Airbus compound in Hamburg

## London

Prince William and his wife Kate are expecting their third child, Kensington Palace announced Monday, as she was forced to cancel a public event due to acute morning sickness.

The 35-year-old is again suffering from hyperemesis gravidarum, a condition that plagued her two previous pregnancies, and is being treated at home.

She has not yet reached the 12-week stage when women normally make the news public but made the announcement after being unable to attend an event in London on Monday afternoon, a spokeswoman said.

William, also 35, is second in line to the throne and the new baby will be fifth in line, pushing William's younger brother Harry down the order of succession.

## #PollToday



Do you think an advanced AI assistant, as smart as humans, would be available in our smartphones within ten years?

Yes  No  Cant Say



We have put in place the structures necessary for Catalonia to be ready to enforce the will Catalans express in the October 1 referendum."

Carlos Puigdemont

Head of the Catalan Regional Government

## Rest in sight

Texas chemical plant area declared safe



A fire at a chemical plant in Crosby, Texas has been put out and authorities have lifted an evacuation order after declaring it safe.

## 2 suspected rebels killed in Kashmir gun battle

Government forces in Indian-administered Kashmir killed two suspected rebels in a gun battle yesterday, police said, and a manhunt was under way for more militants.

## 12 hurt as race car sprays flames into crowd

One person was in a critical condition Monday and 11 others were battling serious injuries after a car at a drag racing event in Australia sprayed burning fuel over the shocked crowd.

## BBC Burma pulls Myanmar TV deal over 'censorship'

The BBC's Burmese language service said it was pulling a broadcasting deal with a popular Myanmar television channel citing "censorship".

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# Philippines probes second police killing of teenager

## Manila

Philippine authorities said yesterday they would investigate allegations police tortured and murdered a second teenager following an earlier killing that sparked the largest street protests so far against President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs.

Police said they shot and killed Carl Angelo Arnaiz, 19, as he robbed a taxi driver with a handgun in northern Manila on August 17.

The young man's parents dispute the police account. On Monday the justice ministry ordered an official investigation, said Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre.

"The autopsy result appears contrary to the police allegation that he (Arnaiz) had allegedly fought back," Aguirre told reporters.

A forensic examination by a government agency which provides legal services to the poor found that Arnaiz was tortured and shot dead while handcuffed.

"He was beaten up, his body was full of welts, he had a black eye, gashes as well as handcuff marks," Public Attorney's Office chief pathologist Erwin Erfe told reporters, adding that bullet trajectories suggested Arnaiz was shot while kneeling.

# Hong Kong Airlines flight makes emergency landing



Representative image

## Tokyo

A Hong Kong Airlines flight made an emergency landing in northern Japan Monday after the cabin started to de-pressurise, a government official said, adding that no one was hurt in the incident.

The Airbus A330 jet, which was carrying 223 passengers and 12 crew members, took off from New Chitose Airport, the main gateway to the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido, at 5:07 pm (0807 GMT).

At 5:36 pm, the pilot reported that the flight

needed to return to the airport because of sudden decompression, a Japanese transport ministry official said.

The pilot, who declared it an emergency, landed in New Chitose at 6:36 pm, the official said, adding that the cause behind the loss in pressure was not immediately clear.

"We have been told that oxygen masks did not come down," the official said, adding that this might mean the severity of decompression was not critical enough to automatically deploy the masks.

# Brazil breaks up int'l cocaine ring, say police

## Sao Paulo

Brazilian police fanned out across five states and the capital early Monday to smash an international drugs trafficking ring that allegedly shipped six tons of cocaine to Europe in the last year alone.

More than 800 officers deployed to serve 127 arrest warrants and 190 search warrants in the operation centered on Latin America's biggest city, Sao Paulo, police

said in a statement.

According to police, Sao Paulo served as the warehouse for cocaine from producing countries before the drug was sent by ship from the city's port, Santos, to markets in Europe.

Arrests were also being made in Minas Gerais, Santa Catarina, Parana, Rio Grande do Sul and the Federal District where the capital Brasilia is located.

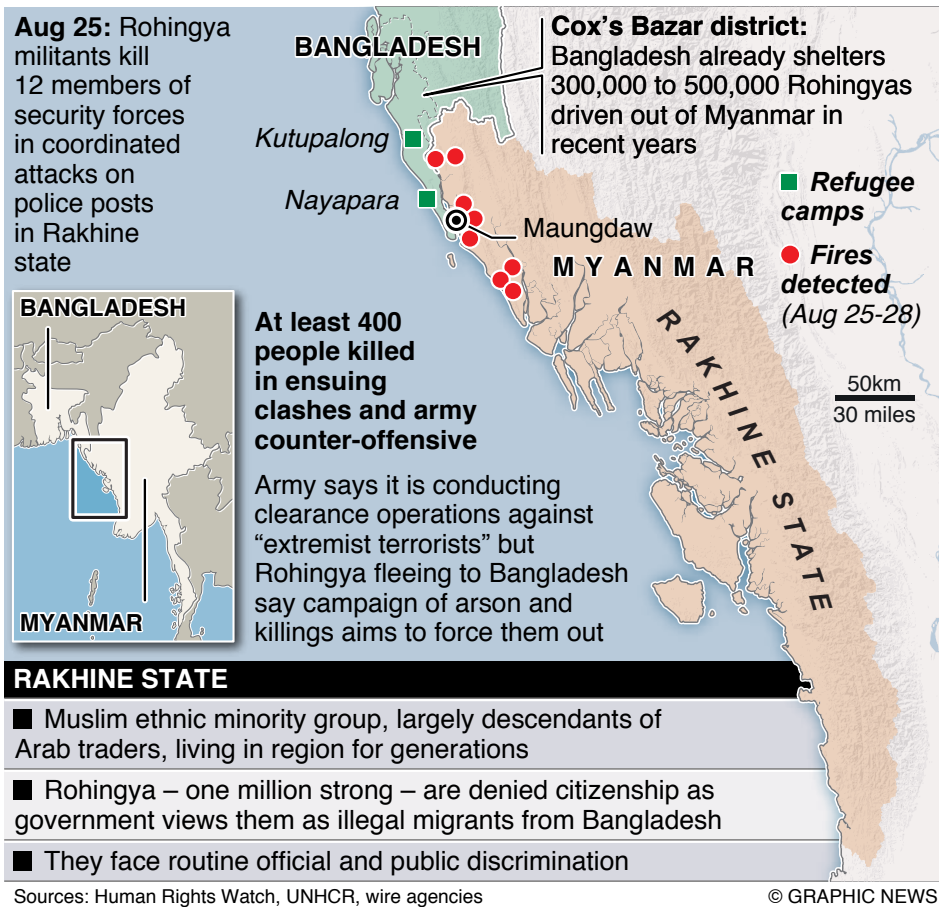


# Bangladesh forces 2,000 Rohingya off remote island



## Humanitarian crisis looms as Rohingya flee

Nearly 90,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh since violence erupted in Myanmar in August, pressuring aid agencies helping hundreds of thousands of refugees suffering from previous spasms of violence



Rohingya refugees travel on an open-back truck on Teknaf-Cox's Bazar highway near Kutupalong refugee camp in Ukhiya, Bangladesh,

### Cox's Bazar

Bangladesh authorities have forced more than 2,000 Rohingya to leave a remote island where they were hiding out after fleeing violence in Myanmar, officials said yesterday.

The United Nations says 87,000 mostly Rohingya refugees have poured over the border into Bangladesh since the latest round of fighting broke out 10 days ago in Myanmar's neighbouring Rakhine state.

The vast majority have entered overland or by crossing the Naf border river. But as desperation grows, some are braving the open seas to reach the small island of St Martin's nine kilometres (around six miles) off Bangladesh's coast.

Officials said the island's 9,000 residents, who share close cultural ties with the Rohingya and speak a similar language, had been hiding out but were ordered to give them up.

The Rohingya are a mainly

Muslim stateless ethnic minority who according to rights groups have faced decades of persecution in mainly Buddhist Myanmar.

The head of the local council Noor Ahmad said mosque loudspeakers were used to ask residents to hand Rohingya arrivals over to the coast guard.

"They told us to help find the Rohingya by any means and bring them to the coast guard camp," said Ahmad.

Another elected official, Farid Ahmed, said 2,011 Rohingya including children were rounded up at the coast guard headquarters on Sunday evening and taken away.

"Rohingya children were crying. But it is the government order. What can we do?" Ahmed said.

"They (Rohingya) said, where should we go? They (Myanmar forces) were killing us there. Our houses were burnt. They were firing at us."

Both men said the Rohingya had been taken back to Myanmar on boats.

One senior security official who spoke to AFP on condition of anonymity said the Rohingya were taken back at night under escort from border security forces.

Bangladesh coast guards have intercepted and turned away hundreds more refugees as they tried to approach the island, the official said.

Bangladesh was already home to around 400,000 Rohingya before the current crisis and has made clear it does not want to take in more.

But it has been unable to stem the flow of refugees desperate to escape renewed violence in Rakhine state, where they say their community has suffered massacres at the hands of Buddhist mobs and the military.

Officials said the 2,011 Rohingya on the island had all arrived in the last few days.

"They were in different places in Saint Martin's island and they were herded together," said district administrator Ali Hossain.

## Suu Kyi, Myanmar face chorus of anger

**Yangon**  
Nobel peace laureate Malala Yousafzai and mainly Muslim countries in Asia led a growing chorus of criticism yesterday aimed at Myanmar and its civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi over the plight of the Rohingya Muslim minority.

Suu Kyi, a former political prisoner of Myanmar's junta, has come under increasing fire over her perceived unwillingness to speak out

against the treatment of the Rohingya or chastise the military.

She has made no public comment since the latest fighting broke out on August 25.

"Every time I see the news, my heart breaks at the suffering of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar," Pakistani activist Yousafzai, who famously survived being shot in the head by the Taliban, said in a statement

on Twitter.

"Over the last several years I have repeatedly condemned this tragic and shameful treatment. I am still waiting for my fellow Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi to do the same," she added.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman also questioned Suu Kyi's silence.

"Very frankly, I am dissatisfied with Aung San Suu Kyi," Anifah said.

"(Previously) she stood up for the principles of human rights. Now it seems she is doing nothing."

The Maldives announced on Monday that it was severing all trade ties with the country "until the government of Myanmar takes measures to prevent the atrocities being committed against Rohingya Muslims", the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Indonesia's Foreign

Minister Retno Marsudi met Suu Kyi as well as Myanmar's army chief General Min Aung Hlaing in Naypyidaw on Monday in a bid to pressure the government to do more to alleviate the crisis.

"Once again, violence, this humanitarian crisis has to stop immediately," Indonesian President Joko Widodo told reporters on Sunday as he announced Retno's mission.

Pakistan's foreign ministry said it was "deeply

concerned over reports of growing number of deaths and forced displacement of Rohingya Muslims" and urged Myanmar to investigate reports of atrocities against the community.

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif added in a recent tweet: "Global silence on continuing violence against #Rohingya Muslims. Int'l action crucial to prevent further ethnic cleansing - UN must rally." (AFP)



# World Cup: Syria, China eye to pull off a miracle

## Hong Kong

**W**ar-torn Syria as well as China, the ultimate sleeping giants, are both aiming to pull off a near-miracle as Asian qualifying for the 2018 World Cup heads into a final showdown today.

Among Asia's heavyweights, Australia's progress is far from assured and South Korea are in danger of missing out on their first World Cup since 1982 in what will be a nail-biting last round of group games.

Perhaps indicating rising standards in the region, competition for Asia's 4.5 places at next year's Russia World Cup has been unusually intense, with only Japan and Iran qualified so far.

Group A is particularly unpredictable as South Korea, Syria, Uzbekistan and Marcello Lippi's China remain in the running for either the second automatic berth, or a place in the play-offs by finishing third.

Syria, despite playing their home games in Malaysia to avoid their country's bitter civil war, occupy the play-off spot after a win and a draw against China, wins over Uzbekistan and Qatar, and draws with South Korea and Iran.

They play arguably the night's toughest fixture -- away to Iran, who are yet to concede a goal -- as they look to stay ahead of Uzbekistan and China, and perhaps even leap-frog South Korea into second place.

Chinese success would be just as eye-catching if they manage to rise from fifth in the group to snatch a play-off spot and stay in the hunt for just their second World Cup appearance.

China were largely written off after defeats to South Korea, Syria and Uzbekistan, but they are reborn since Lippi's arrival last October, winning twice to keep their hopes just about alive.

If they beat Qatar handily, and South Korea and Iran win against Uzbekistan and Syria respectively, 77th-ranked China can celebrate a major boost in their grand plan to become one of the world's top football nations.

"I always tell my

players, when there is still a theoretical chance, we have no reason to give up," Lippi said, after last week's 1-0 win against Uzbekistan.

## Bogey team

South Korea, looking to hang onto second place in Group A, should be favourites against Uzbekistan but they are playing in Tashkent and against a team still smarting from their defeat to China.

Uzbekistan have a torrid history against the Koreans, who beat them to an automatic qualifying spot for both the 2006 and 2014 World Cups. The Uzbeks lost in

and we don't want to leave things to chance." The top two in Group A and B gain automatic entry to the World Cup, while the two third-placed teams face each other -- with the winner going into a play-off against the fourth-placed side from the CONCACAF federation.

the play-offs each time.

"This is our last chance. Either we beat South Korea or we should end football in our country," said Uzbek captain Odil Ahmedov, according to the FIFA website.

"They're our bogey team, it's a fact," Ahmedov added. "But we're playing at home and we have a duty to our fans."

Australia's campaign is also in the balance after last week's 2-0 defeat to Japan left them third in Group B, behind Saudi Arabia on goal difference. The Asian champions will expect to beat bottom-placed Thailand in Melbourne, and they will hope Japan do them a favour by keeping the Saudis in check in Jeddah.

But a talented United Arab Emirates side also has an outside chance of overhauling Australia with a big win over Iraq, meaning Ange Postecoglou's side cannot afford any slip-ups.

"We have just got to play well," Postecoglou told reporters. "If you don't play well you leave things to chance,

## World Cup 2018 European qualifying

### Group C:

Azerbaijan 5 San Marino 1  
Northern Ireland v Czech Republic (1845),  
Germany v Norway (1845);

### Group E:

Armenia 1 Denmark 4,  
Poland v Kazakhstan (1845),  
Montenegro v Romania (1845);

### Group F:

England v Slovakia  
Slovenia v Lithuania (1845),  
Scotland v Malta (1845).



China's Zhang Xizhe kicks the ball during the World Cup football qualifying match between China and Uzbekistan in Wuhan

## Today's fixtures:

### Group A:

**At Tehran**  
Iran v Syria (1500 GMT)  
**At Doha**  
Qatar v China (1500 GMT)  
**At Tashkent**  
Uzbekistan v South Korea (1500 GMT)

### Group B

**At Melbourne**  
Australia v Thailand (1000 GMT)  
**At Amman, Jordan**  
Iraq v UAE (1400 GMT)  
**At Jeddah**  
Saudi Arabia v Japan (1730 GMT)

This file photo taken on March 28, 2017 shows South Korea's Nam Tae-Hee (L) playing against Syria's Hag Mohamad Tamer (R) during their World Cup football qualifying match in Seoul



# Hamilton says heart has led his surge to top



**Monza**  
**L**ewis Hamilton attributes his surge to the top of the Formula One drivers world championship to an increased level of "heart and passion" since winning the British Grand Prix in July.

The 32-year-old Briton, whose victory in Sunday's Italian Grand Prix lifted him three points clear of Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari, has won three of the last four races to become leader for the first time this year.

As Ferrari retreated from their home race to lick their wounds after being outclassed by a Mercedes master-class that saw Valtteri Bottas finish second, Hamilton admitted he felt he now has the momentum.

Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton celebrates with team members after winning the Italian Formula One Grand Prix at the Autodromo Nazionale circuit in Monza

"To come through these last races -- they've been real solid races -- I

think I've felt more heart and passion within myself," said Hamilton, who claimed a record-breaking 69th career pole on Saturday and then his 59th win on Sunday.

"I've found more in the last three or four races. I think Silverstone was a real empowering weekend and from then it's sparked a forest fire within me -- and that's hopefully reflected in my driving and the way I'm working with my guys.

"To be leading, whilst it's only a couple of points, I'm grateful for it. By no means do I feel comfortable and I will apply myself the same that I have these past three or four races.

"Earlier on in the year, it was obviously 20 points gap, or whatever, between myself and him, so now I'm going to see if we can have that feeling for a while."

He added that his success had come after a "real constant search and battle for perfection, which is what's been needed to overhaul the Ferraris because they've been exceptional all year long."

"Whilst I feel I always drive with my heart, my heart is the engine and the power and the force behind what I do... My

mind is really like the rudder and I feel like it's really steering me in the right direction in terms of how I prepared."

As Hamilton celebrated his and Mercedes' supremacy by skateboarding in Monte Carlo, four-time champion Vettel attempted to put on a brave face after a disappointing result in front of a record 93,000 impassioned tifosi.

His boss, Ferrari chief executive Sergio Marchionne, described the performance gap between Mercedes and his team as 'embarrassing', acknowledging the pain felt when Daniel Ricciardo, who started 16th on the grid, overtook Kimi Raikkonen to take fourth place.

"Emotions run high and when you have a bad day you can't hide it, so I can understand his feelings," said Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff.

"To be leading the championship -- whilst it is only a couple of points -- I am grateful, but by no means do I feel comfortable," added Hamilton, who is scheduled to take part in a tyres-testing day at Le Castellet in the south of France on Thursday.

"But I want to stay here..."

## McLaren hoping to secure Renault power

**Monza**  
**T**he McLaren team were yesterday still hoping to secure a supply of Renault engines next year as part of a complex web of deals that would keep Honda in Formula One.

The team's French racing director Eric Boullier told reporters following Sunday's Italian Grand Prix that McLaren, frustrated by three years of disappointment with Honda, were trying to keep the Japanese manufacturer in the sport.

"It is complicated because you want to do the best for F1 as well -- it is not only about McLaren.

"Whatever will happen -- and it is a good collaborative work with all the parties in the paddock -- we all try to make the best of the situation, but I will not comment more than this."

It has been an unconfirmed open secret in the F1 paddock that McLaren is seeking to switch from Honda engines to another supplier.

Many observers believe that McLaren is hoping to

land a Renault supply and move Honda to Toro Rosso, currently running with Renault power, but after several meetings in the Monza paddock no announcement was forthcoming at the weekend.



McLaren's Spanish driver Fernando Alonso (C) waves from a historical car during a car parade ahead of the Italian Formula One Grand Prix at the Autodromo Nazionale circuit in Monza

## Bangladesh reach 253-6 despite Lyon's 5 wickets



Bangladeshi cricketer Sabbir Rahman reacts after scoring a half century (50 runs)

### Chittagong

**A**ustralian off-spinner Nathan Lyon claimed five wickets but Bangladesh fought back to reach 253-6 at stumps on the opening day of the second Test.

Lyon decimated Bangladesh's top order with four consecutive lbws before Sabbir Rahman and Mushfiqur Rahim put on 105 for the sixth wicket to steady the hosts in Chittagong.

Monsoon rain could disrupt play on the second day, putting pressure on Steve Smith's men to polish off Bangladesh's tail early as they seek a win to equalise the two-Test series.

Australia lost their first-ever

### SCOREBOARD

Bangladesh first innings	
Tamim Iqbal lbw b Lyon	9
Soumya Sarkar lbw b Lyon	33
Imrul Kayes lbw b Lyon	4
Mominul Haque lbw b Lyon	31
Shakib Al Hasan ct Wade b Agar	24
Mushfiqur Rahim not out	62
Sabbir Rahman st Wade b Lyon	66
Nasir Hossain not out	19
<b>Extras (b5)</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total (six wickets, 90 overs)</b>	<b>253</b>

Test against Bangladesh last week and dropped a fast bowler in Chittagong to strengthen their spin attack on a turning wicket.

Lyon claimed his fifth wicket in the last session when Sabbir was stumped.

## Crash victim Rossi misses San Marino - Yamaha



Movistar Yamaha MotoGP's Italian rider Valentino Rossi

### Paris

**C**rash victim Valentino Rossi was confirmed as a non-starter for this weekend's San Marino MotoGP, his Yamaha team announced on Monday.

The Italian nine-time world champion is recovering from a broken leg after a training crash last week.

The 38-year-old motorcycling legend underwent surgery in Ancona in Italy on Friday, discharging himself from hospital the following day.

His Yamaha team said it "regrets to report that Valentino Rossi will not be able to compete" in the 13th race of the 2017 season.

## Sky's Viviani wins after Boasson Hagen relegated

### London

**S**ky's Elia Viviani was made the winner of stage two of the Tour of Britain on Monday after Edvald Boasson Hagen was relegated for irregular sprinting after crossing the finish line first.

Boasson Hagen was also edged out in a photo-finish

in Sunday's opening stage and had already donned the leader's green jersey on the podium before the gut-wrenching decision was made.

Viviani gestured angrily to the Norwegian after crossing the line in second, feeling he had been impeded.



# Nadal hits 50, Pliskova races through



Rafael Nadal of Spain serves against Alexander Dolgoplov of Ukraine



## New York

**W**orld number one Rafael Nadal notched up his 50th win at the US Open yesterday to reach the quarter-finals for the seventh time.

The two-time champion, who could meet old rival Roger Federer in New York for the first time at the semi-final stage, crushed Ukraine's Alexander Dolgoplov 6-2, 6-4, 6-1.

The 31-year-old Spaniard goes on to face either 19-year-old Andrey Rublev of Russia or Belgian ninth seed David Goffin for a place in the last-four.

"I played a solid match with not many mistakes," said Nadal, the reigning French Open champion.

"He's a player who can play amazing shots but sometimes he can be very unpredictable with errors so I just waited for my opportunity."

Nadal, the 2010 and 2013 champion in New York, showed no signs of the struggles that bedeviled him in the two previous rounds, when he dropped the opening set before prevailing in four.

His 23 winners on Monday were just shaded by world number 64 Dolgoplov's 25 but the Ukrainian's 39 unforced errors were more than three times those committed by Nadal.

Federer, bidding for a sixth US Open and 20th major, will tackle Philipp Kohlschreiber later Monday.

After stretching his

runs of dominance over Mikhail Youzhny to 17-0 and Feliciano Lopez to 13-0, the 36-year-old Federer takes an 11-0

advantage into his night-time duel with German 33rd seed Kohlschreiber.

The remaining last-16 tie of the day sees 2009 champion Juan Martin del Potro, the 24th seeded Argentine, up against Austrian sixth seed Dominic Thiem.

Thiem, who was forced to quit with injury against del Potro at the same stage in 2016, celebrated his 24th birthday on Sunday.

Top seed Kristina Pliskova, the runner-up in 2016, needed just 46 minutes to sweep past Jennifer Brady of the United States 6-1, 6-0 and make her third Slam quarter-final of 2017.

The tall Czech had needed back-to-back three-setters to get to the last 16, including having to save a match point against Zhang Shuai of China in the third round.

But the 25-year-old world number one fired 23 winners on Sunday while the



Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic celebrates

outclassed Brady, the 91st-ranked player, managed just six in her quickfire demolition.

Pliskova will next face either 37th-ranked compatriot Lucie Safarova or US 20th seed CoCo Vandeweghe for a place in the semi-finals.

"I think it was one of my best matches this year," said Pliskova.

"But the opponent was not the best. Definitely she can play better than she was playing today."

Ukraine's Elina Svitolina, the fourth seed who is in a three-way tussle with Pliskova as well as the already-eliminated Garbine Muguruza for the world top spot, faces Madison Keys, the 15th seeded American.

## Rublev sets up Nadal clash

### New York

**R**ussia's Andrey Rublev became the youngest man to make the US Open quarter-finals in 16 years on Monday and will face world number one

Rafael Nadal for a spot in the semi-finals.

The 19-year-old defeated Belgian ninth seed David Goffin 7-5, 7-5, 6-3 to become the youngest player in the

last-eight since Andy Roddick in 2001.

"Rafa is a real champion. I will try to do my best -- I have nothing to lose," said the world number 53.

## Venus reaches 39th Slam quarter-final

### New York

**D**efying an energy-sapping disease, Venus Williams has pushed herself farther than she ever imagined at age 37 to reach her 39th career Grand Slam quarter-final at

the US Open. US ninth seed Williams, seeking her eighth Grand Slam title and third US Open crown, defeated Spain's 35th-ranked Carla Suarez Navarro 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 Sunday.

She booked a Tuesday

fight for a semi-final spot against Czech 13th seed Petra Kvitova, a two-time Wimbledon winner who defeated Spanish third seed and reigning Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza 7-6 (7/3), 6-3. Williams, this year's Wimbledon and Australian Open runner-up and the oldest woman in this year's US Open draw, is only 1-4 against Kvitova, but she has grown accustomed to overcoming the odds.

In 2011, Williams was diagnosed with Sjogren's disease, which leaves her weakened and pushed her

into a vegan diet to stay competitive and combat the illness.

"Over time I've learned that I can push myself a lot further than I thought I could," Williams said. "I do have to push myself a lot. I think that's the biggest thing that I've learned."

"In the beginning, when everything is easy, you're healthy, it's easy to play when you don't have those odds against you. But when you have the odds against you, it's hard to find that in yourself every day."

Williams, 19-3 in majors

this year, said she wasn't sure how she was able to stay competitive over rivals sometimes half her age.

"I love the pressure and I

need a challenge," Williams said. "I don't know (how I sustain it). If I could do it I would put it in a box and sell it."



## US Open results

### Results from day 8 (x denotes seeding):

#### Men

##### 4th rd

Rafael Nadal (ESP x1) bt Aleksandr Dolgoplov (UKR) 6-2, 6-4, 6-1  
Andrey Rublev (RUS) bt David Goffin (BEL x9) 7-5, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3

#### Women

##### 4th rd

Karolina Pliskova (CZE x1) bt Jennifer Brady (USA) 6-1, 6-0



# Sharapova ousted at US Open

Russia's Maria Sharapova leaves the court

**New York**

**M**aria Sharapova described her return to Grand Slam centre-stage after a 15-month doping ban as "a great ride" despite her US Open campaign ending in the fourth round Sunday.

The former world number one and five-time major winner fell 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 to Latvian 16th seed Anastasija Sevastova.

It was her first appearance at a Slam since the 2016 Australian Open, where she failed a drugs test and was kicked out of the sport until April this year.

"It's been a really great ride in the last week," said the 30-year-old Russian.

"Ultimately I can take a lot from this week. It's great to get that major out of the way. It was an incredible opportunity. I'm very thankful for it. I did my best. I can be proud of that."

Sharapova, the world number 146, had needed a wild card into the tournament, where she was champion in 2006.

The US Tennis

Association's decision was not met with universal approval.

Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki claimed it was "unacceptable" for a player with a doping suspension to be given prime-time spots on the prestigious Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Sharapova played all of her four matches in the 24,000-capacity arena including her first-round defeat of world number two Simona Halep.

Sharapova insisted Sunday that she had nothing to prove to her critics.

"I feel like I'm really beyond that," she said. "I think there's only a way to show it on the court, because that's what really matters to me."

"I have so many things in my life but there's a desire to keep going for more and to keep living through these moments out on these courts."

"That's special and that's meaningful. As long as I have that desire, I'll be there. That's what's important to

me." Sevastova, a quarter-finalist in New York also in 2016, said she was happy to see Sharapova playing again and that she felt no desire to prove a point on behalf of her peers.

"I think some players have that. I don't have that. I have great respect for her," said the 26-year-old.

Sharapova needed treatment on a blistered right hand in the final set but she insisted it was not a factor in her defeat.

Her statistics, however, made for sober reading -- 42 winners and 51 unforced errors to only 14 by Sevastova, whose 21 winners were half Sharapova's total.

Next on the schedule for Sharapova is the WTA event in Beijing at the end of September as she attempts to build her ranking to ensure direct entry into the 2018 Australian Open.

In April next year, Sharapova will be 31 and she admitted that she has even surprised herself to be still playing even considering her enforced absence from the sport.

Anastasija Sevastova of Latvia shakes hands with Maria Sharapova of Russia after defeating her in their women's singles fourth round

