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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 9/7/2015 |  | | | |  | | --- | | **World**  There's a refugee crisis in Europe. Thousands of people fleeing the civil war in Syria are working their way toward safer places such as Austria and Germany.   A civil war began in Syria in 2011 during the pro-democracy "Arab Spring," when rebels took to the streets because to oppose Syria's president, who is Bashar al-Assad. The Syrian government is fighting the rebels. Russia supports al-Assad and is building a base in Syria.   There are also other groups involved in the conflict. That includes Kurds, the radical Islamic group IS, and the jihadist group Nusra Front. All of these groups have control of some of Syria's territory. It's estimated that 200,000 people have died in Syria. Four million have fled the country and 7.6 million have been displaced within the country.   Refugees are a particular type of migrant. They move to another country not just for economic reasons, but also because of war, persecution or natural disaster. Germany will take 800,000 of the refugees, and will feed and house them, teach them German and give them vocational training. Many will be given asylum, which means they will be able to stay in Germany permanently. Austria and the U.K. are also taking some refugees. But there is dispute among some Europeans on how many refugees they should take.  Other world notes:   Shinzo Abe won re-election as Japan's prime minister. Abe is the father of Abenomics, an economic policy meant to boost Japan's stagnant economy.   The low price of oil has hurt the oil cartel OPEC. OPEC stands for Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.   Archaeologists found a hundred stone monoliths underground near Stonehenge. The site is about 4,500 years old and is in Britain, in the U.K.  **USA**   * In the presidential race, a recent poll shows U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders leading Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire, 49 to 38. Clinton led 38 percent to 27 percent in Iowa. There's still talk of Veep Joe Biden running. Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina have the earliest presidential primaries/caucuses, which are events where Republicans and Democrats start choosing their candidates. * On the GOP side, Donald Trump is still coming up tops in the polls, followed by Dr. Ben Carson. Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina is also making ground. All three are non-politicians. The next GOP debate is Sept. 16. * For the sixth time, Google has a new logo. Google will be part of a new parent company called Alphabet.   **Entertainment**   * Apparently Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy have broken up. Kermie may have a new girlfriend, who's named Denise. * At the Video Music Awards, Kanye West said he's running for president in 2020. * Expected to be a big hit for Christmas is the BB-8 droid from *The Force Awakens* episode of sci-fi movie blockbuster *Star Wars*. * This week 18 people will be honored by Pres. Obama with National Arts or Humanities medals. Included is Stephen King, who's renowned for his frightening fiction. * There's talk that Michael Fassbender could win an Oscar for his work in a movie about one of Apple's co-founders, Steve Jobs.   **Sports**   * A big upset in the first week of college football happened when BYU beat Nebraska with a last-minute pass. * Serena Williams advanced in the U.S. Open, where she beat her sister, Venus, in the quarterfinals. * A judge has thrown out the four-game Deflategate suspension of Tom Brady quarterback for the New England Patriots. The decision hurt the reputation of NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. | | |

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