

## Icahn leaves post as Trump adviser

Washington

Billionaire investor Carl Icahn said Friday he is leaving this post as special adviser to President Donald Trump on regulatory issues. In announcing his departure, Icahn avoided any mention of last weekend's white supremacist rally in Virginia and Trump's claim that anti-racism counter protesters were equally to blame for deadly violence that broke out during the gathering.



## India threatens Philip Morris with action

New Delhi

The Indian government has threatened Philip Morris International Inc with "punitive action" over the tobacco giant's alleged violation of the country's anti-smoking laws, according to a letter sent to the company. An investigation last month revealed how Philip Morris was deploying marketing tactics in India, some targeting young people. (Reuters)



Contrary to the insinuations of a handful of your Democratic critics, I never had access to nonpublic information or profited from my position, nor do I believe that my role presented conflicts of interest. "nevertheless, I chose to end this arrangement (with your blessing) because I did not want partisan bickering about my role to in any way cloud your administration or Ms. Rao's important work,"

Carl Icahn,

Billionaire investor



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**As Apple and Samsung gear up to launch new flagship smartphones, the market leaders are seeking a wow factor that can help them fend off challenges from rising Chinese-based manufacturers.**



"Clearly, Apple wants to do something different for the 10th anniversary" of the iPhone, NPD Group analyst Stephen Baker said because "it is still going to be a flat piece of glass and the other things we talk about around a phone."

# US Treasury chief defends Donald Trump

Washington  
US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin yesterday defended President Donald Trump's response to bloodshed following a rally of white supremacists and neo-Nazis, rejecting calls from former Yale classmates that he resign from the administration in protest.



Flanked by Secretary of Treasury Steve Mnuchin and Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, US President Donald Trump delivers remarks following a meeting on infrastructure at Trump Tower,

A group of 359 people from Mnuchin's 1985 class at the Ivy League university had signed an open letter posted Friday, saying it was his "moral obligation to resign... because President Trump has declared himself a sympathizer with groups whose values are antithetical to those values we consider fundamental to our sacred honor as Americans, as men and women of Yale, and as decent human beings."

Mnuchin responded Saturday that he "strongly" condemned those "filled with hate and with the intent to harm others."

"While I find it hard to believe I should have to defend myself on this, or the President, I feel compelled to let you

know that the President in no way, shape or form, believes that neo-Nazi and other hate groups who endorse violence are equivalent to groups that demonstrate in peaceful and lawful ways," Mnuchin, who is Jewish, said in a statement.

"I don't believe the accusations against the President are accurate and I believe that having highly talented men and women in our country surrounding the President in his administration should be reassuring to you and all the Americas people."

"As long as I am Treasury Secretary I will do the best job I can for the American people and provide the best advice I can to the President."

At a press conference Tuesday at Trump Tower in New York, the president -- flanked by Mnuchin -- said "there was blame on both sides" following the rally by white supremacists and neo-Nazis that was met by counter-protesters. (AFP)

## New iPhone in Sept

Apple is widely expected to unveil the latest iteration of the iPhone in September, while smartphone market leader Samsung is holding an August 23 unveiling likely to launch its Galaxy Note 8 handset.



Speculations rife

Some reports say the new iPhone will include a high-quality, edge-to-edge screen with a notch in the top for an extra camera supporting 3D facial recognition. Some speculate that the back of the new handset will be glass and will offer wireless charging. Some reports say Apple could release as many as three new handsets, including an "iPhone Pro" aimed at capturing the high end of the market.

## China trouble

Apple has lost ground in the Chinese market, with revenues down 10 percent in the past quarter from a year earlier in its "Greater China" segment.

## Augmenting reality

Some analysts say the upcoming handsets may showcase the ability to handle augmented reality (AR) as a way to revive interest. Google has pushed augmented reality with a "Tango" phone, and enabled Pixel handsets to be used for virtual reality with "Daydream" gear. And Apple has made an AR kit available to developers that could lead to iPhone apps.

## Shifting market

Global smartphone sales saw a modest decline of 0.8 percent in the second quarter of 2017. The South Korean giant maintained the top spot with a 23.3 percent market share, while Apple held onto second place with 12 percent.

Huawei was the third-largest vendor, with an 11.3 percent market share. China-based Oppo and Xiaomi rounded out the top five.



Takaful International has honoured the winners of its "Employees of the quarter - 2017" with certificates of appreciation and rewards at a ceremony held at its headquarters in Seef District. On this occasion, Younis Alsayed, CEO -Takaful International congratulated Seham Husain Khairalla Jaafar, Motor Takaful, and Khulood Hassan Ali Khamis, Administration for their excellent efforts and dedication to the company. Every quarter the company honours its employees based on their overall performance and activities.