

'Widow's Bay' dominates with 8 Emmys at earlier ceremony & 'The Pitt' takes 4

LOS ANGELES, Sept 7: "Widow's Bay" ran away with eight early Emmys for its debut season on Sunday at a ceremony eight days before the main awards show and telecast, while "The Pitt" had a strong second-year showing with four of its own and Rob Reiner posthumously won an acting Emmy nearly nine months after his killing.

"DTF St Louis" won big with six awards in the limited series categories, with co-stars and veteran actors David Harbour and Linda Cardellini both becoming first-time Emmy winners.

"Widow's Bay," the Apple TV horror comedy with Matthew Rhys as the mayor of a small New England town dealing with a centuries-old curse, won categories including cinematography, sound, music and production design.

Betty Gilpin won best guest actress in a comedy for her role on the show, and read a rapid-fire comic poem as her acceptance speech. It included the lines "our business is stupid, but actors are the bomb" and "let's all lean more toward Sam Shepard and less toward Sam Altman."

"The Pitt" has strong second-year showing HBO Max's day-in-the-life medical series "The Pitt" - the year's top nominee with 25 and the reigning best drama winner for its first season - had wins Sunday in categories including prosthetic makeup and best guest actor in a drama for 73-year-old first-time nominee Ernest Harden Jr.

Harden, who won for portraying the last days of Louie Cloverfield, the emergency room's constant presence and constantly struggling alcoholic on "The Pitt," wept



when his name was called.

"I am just on cloud 25," he said backstage at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. "I'm not saying it's a complete surprise because The Pitt' is such a powerful show to come from, but just to get it in your hands is unreal."

Harden's first speaking role was in the Robert Redford-Faye Dunaway thriller "Three Days of the Condor" and he had a three-season role on the sitcom "The Jeffersons" in the 1970s, but has acted for decades without awards recognition.

Singer-songwriter Andrew Bird and Gavin Brivik won for original music and lyrics for a song they wrote about the character. "It's not a music-heavy show," Bird said backstage. "But they gave us a beautiful moment with a character that we love."

Rebranding the Creative Arts Emmys and adding some star power. The Television Academy hands out well over 100 primetime Emmys, and most of them are being presented this weekend in a pair of ceremonies. They were previously known as the Creative Arts Emmys but have now been rebranded as simply the first two nights of the 78th Emmy Awards.

The weekend's awards primarily go to behind-the-scenes crew members, but

they include the guest-acting awards that tend to go to bigger names. And the shows' star power got a boost when five categories normally on the main telecast were bumped to the earlier weekend, among them best supporting actor in a limited series, won by Harbour in his third nomination, and best supporting actress in a limited series, won by Linda Cardellini in her fourth nomination in an elite TV career

included roles on "Freaks and Geeks" and "Mad Men." "Thank you to everybody who along the way through the years helped me get to this moment of a real dream come true," Cardellini said from the stage, through tears.

Rob Reiner gets a somber ovation. At a ceremony that otherwise moved at a blazing-fast clip with a breezy mood, a long, thoughtful ovation came when Reiner was announced as best guest actor in a comedy for his work on "The Bear."

Reiner's friend and fellow "Bear" guest star Jamie Lee Curtis was among those in the crowd paying him tribute. Reiner was killed along with his wife Michele Singer Reiner in December, and their son, who has pleaded not guilty, has been charged with stabbing them to death.

His win came about 50 years after winning two Emmy Awards for his acting on "All in the Family."

Saturday and Sunday's ceremonies will be edited together to air Sept. 12 on FX and stream on Hulu the following day. The primetime September 14 ceremony, also at the Peacock Theater and hosted by Mariska Hargitay, will air live on NBC and stream live on Peacock.

Both "Widow's Bay" and "The Pitt" can add up to six more Emmys to their totals on that final night.

"Pluribus," another Apple TV Emmy rookie from "Breaking Bad" creator Vince Gilligan that could challenge "The Pitt" in the top drama categories, won four trophies Sunday night including editing, production design and sound mixing.

Shailene Woodley and a canceled Spider-Noir" are also winners. Shailene Woodley won best guest actress in a drama for her role on "Paradise." It was her first Emmy.

"Spider-Noir," the Nicolas Cage series which was canceled after one season last week by Amazon Prime Video, won five Emmys including visual effects and stunts.

Hargitay was among this weekend's winners, getting two Emmys for the documentary she directed about her mother, Jayne Mansfield, "My Mom Jayne," to go with the best actress in a drama Emmy she won in 2006 for "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."

And Bad Bunny won his first career Emmy Award for his Super Bowl halftime show, which took seven trophies at the first of the weekend's ceremonies on Saturday. (AP)

Congo's Ebola burial teams battle community anger, fatigue, fear of infection

BUNIA (CONGO), SEPT 7: Yuma Adolphe and his team are responsible for the safe and dignified burial of some of the people who die from Ebola in Ituri, the epicenter of history's deadliest Ebola outbreak. Nearly every day, they dig the graves, prepare the bodies and handle the coffins.

But as the authorities grapple with the outbreak, which has killed nearly 3,200 people among more than 6,500 cases, the burial team says they are at their limits, struggling with an increasing workload and hostile communities.

"It is difficult, but we try to push ourselves beyond our limits," Adolphe told The Associated Press.

Since the outbreak began in mid-May, authorities have deployed small burial teams like Adolphe's across the hot spots to handle the burials. Paid USD 20 a day, they are a part of a group of front-line workers who are working to contain the rapidly moving disease.

Despite the toll, the burial team members say the priority is to keep their community safe.

"We have to look at our own mental well-being, and physically the fatigue mounts, but we keep going to ensure the community is protected."

But their work is in the crosshairs of the locals' frustration with the outbreak, which not only has taken their loved ones but prohibits them from traditional burial rites.

Health workers exclusively handle the bodies as Ebola spreads as a result of direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of infected people.

Experts say bodies of victims still contain consider-



able amounts of active virus and can spread infections further.

Since May, health workers and burial teams such as Adolphe's have been attacked by bereaved families across the front line of the outbreak.

"Usually, the body is handed over to the family, who can handle it however they wish, in accordance with our African customs," Adolphe said. "But in this situation, it's difficult to let the family handle the body as they please. They are deprived of certain rituals, and that's what leads to misunderstandings."

Jeanne Alasha, adviser to the military governor of Ituri on health and humanitarian affairs, said that "as for those who continue to assault the teams, they are committing offenses punishable by law".

Ituri province, where the outbreak is concentrated, is also at the centre of the rebel conflict in eastern Congo. The province is under a military government appointed by federal civilian authorities in Kinshasa.

Shortly before noon last Friday, Justine Habineno, a 36-year-old chorister, was buried in Congo's Ituri province. Habineno had died of Ebola. She had only complained of slight headaches

before heading to a hospital and was diagnosed with Ebola, her mother said.

A catechist presided over the ceremony attended by dozens of people, as a team of specialist burial team members in scrubs and boots stood by.

Habineno's mother, Sofia Wanito, said that the doctors only allowed her to see the body through the window of the hospital ward, and she wasn't allowed to touch the coffin.

"In the past, we didn't die like this. I could not even cover her with the sheets myself and pay a final tribute," Wanito said.

The Ebola outbreak is spreading across six provinces in eastern Congo in some of the most difficult conditions imaginable, fueled by rebel violence, displacement and intense population movements. A weak healthcare and surveillance system also challenges responders, and insufficient contact tracing and laboratory testing.

Efforts to contain the outbreak have also been complicated by the lack of an approved vaccine or treatment for the rare Bundibugyo virus causing it.

Authorities have started vaccinating front-line health workers with the Evrebo vac-

cine, which the World Health Organisation says could offer some protection against Ebola but there's no conclusive evidence that it would work against the current virus.

Health authorities say the true scale of the crisis is likely three times more than official statistics as the disease continues to outpace efforts to contain it. WHO has said that it's projected to surpass the deadliest in history, West Africa's 2014-2016 outbreak, which killed more than 11,000 people.

Front-line health workers in eastern Congo have gone on multiple strikes to demand pay for their work, complicating efforts to stop the outbreak.

Benjamin Muhindo, another burial team member, said that his family worries that he might bring the virus home. For him, though, a bigger priority is ensuring the proper burial of victims, he said.

"Burials during this Ebola epidemic are very complicated, as we are working under pressure and constantly racing against the clock," Muhindo said.

Trauma experts say the high number of cases and the deaths are only one side of its impact at personal and communal levels.

"The trauma of this outbreak doesn't stop with the case count," said Rose Tchwenko, Mercy Corps country director in Congo. The chain of transmission will only be broken by "an integrated holistic response," which includes a social response to bereaved families and front-line workers, she added.

After the burial on Friday, Adolphe said that he's very tired but more worried about the community than anything else.

US pushes for trilateral Ukraine-Russia talks as Zelensky seeks security guarantees and sanctions

KYIV, SEPT 7: The United States is pushing to revive direct trilateral negotiations between the US, Ukraine and Russia after US envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner held substantive talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kyiv.

The discussions came a day after Witkoff and Kushner met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow and held discussions to end the war.

Kushner said the US believes a return to the trilateral format could help move negotiations forward.

"One thing Steve (Witkoff) and I really thought would be productive is to go back to the trilateral format, which we were able to do about six months ago."

He said the format would allow the three sides to communicate directly rather than relying on Washington to speak separately for Moscow and Kyiv.

"Hopefully we'll have progress on that very soon."

Zelensky welcomed the proposal but said Ukraine was prepared to consider broader talks involving its European partners.

"We must do everything possible to ensure that trilateral meetings take place - or trilateral meetings plus our European partners. We'll see what Russia agrees to."

Mentioning that "three rounds of very substantive talks" have taken place, Zelensky said the discussions in Kyiv took place across three rounds, with the final session involving European representatives.

"Today, we had three rounds of negotiations. All of them were very substantive."

Thanking Witkoff and Kushner for travelling to Kyiv and also expressing gratitude to US President Donald Trump for his support, Zelensky said, "We had



good discussions."

Zelensky also highlighted the challenges Ukraine could face during the coming winter, particularly the country's air-defense and energy needs.

"If the war continues into the winter, we are counting heavily on the winter package."

He said Ukraine is seeking air-defence support, assistance for the energy sector and substantial supplies of US liquefied natural gas (LNG).

"We are counting on support for air defense and the energy sector, as well as substantial volumes of American LNG and the ability to use them."

Zelensky said the discussions went beyond military security and included Ukraine's long-term economic recovery and reconstruction.

"We are talking not only about security guarantees, but also about economic guarantees for Ukraine - to recover and rebuild."

He stressed that Ukraine's armed forces must remain strong after the war.

"Our army must be strong, and for us this is a key security guarantee."

Zelensky argued that any guarantees must be credible enough to prevent future Russian aggression.

"The guarantees must be strong and clear. We must

not fear any future challenges."

The Ukrainian leader said the three sides also discussed Ukraine's future and its economic prosperity plan, while European officials joined the negotiations.

"Ukraine, Europe, and the United States will meet in the near future."

Despite the renewed diplomatic push, one of the most difficult issues, territory, remains on the table.

Zelensky said the territorial question cannot easily be settled at the working level and would ultimately require decisions by the countries' leaders.

"The territorial issue remains a relevant one. I think such complex issues can only be resolved at the level of leaders."

Previous rounds of negotiations have struggled over territory and security guarantees, leaving the central political questions unresolved. Political Analysis

Meanwhile, Kyiv is also looking to Washington for increased economic pressure on Russia.

The Ukrainian side said it is counting on efforts by Senator Lindsey Graham, described by Kyiv as a strong supporter of Ukraine, to secure US backing for a new sanctions package.

"The Ukrainian side is counting on the efforts of Lindsey Graham, a great

friend of Ukraine, to be positively recognized by the United States."

Kyiv said it is "counting on these sanctions" and expects a vote in the US Senate.

The issue was not raised by the American delegation during Sunday's talks, according to the Ukrainian side, but officials said the Senate has been active and positive in its assessment of the sanctions package.

Ukrainian officials also pointed to comments by Senator Richard Blumenthal, who said the package has a strong chance of passing. We are counting on a vote."

US special envoy Witkoff described his recent meeting with Putin as a "productive discussion and said maintaining communication with both Moscow and Kyiv is essential to reaching a peace agreement." "We had a good, concrete conversation with Putin."

He added: "If you don't have relationships with both sides, and you have poor communication, then you probably have very, very little chance of getting to a peaceful resolution." Following the Kyiv talks, Witkoff said he remained optimistic. "I'm confident that there'll be a good resolution here."

The Kyiv meeting followed a three-hour session between Witkoff, Kushner and Putin at the Kremlin on Saturday, followed by dinner with the Russian president.

Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov described the discussions as "useful" and said the American delegation had "prepared seriously for this trip." According to Ushakov, the US representatives expressed interest in ending the fighting as quickly as possible and presented: "A whole series of considerations regarding possible paths to a settlement."

India, Bangladesh discuss cultural cooperation during 'Nazrul Borsho'

DHAKA, SEPT 7: India and Bangladesh discussed ways to deepen cultural cooperation, including exchanges in classical music, folk art and heritage conservation, particularly as part of Dhaka's year-long celebrations marking the legacy of revolutionary poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi met Bangladesh's Cultural Affairs Minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury on Sunday, during which they discussed the "deep-rooted cultural connection" between the peoples of the two countries, according to a social media post by the Indian High Commission in Dhaka.

The talks also focussed on the importance of strengthening cultural engagement between the two neighbours, it said.

Minister of State for Cultural Affairs Ali Nawaz Mahmud Khayyam was also present during the meeting.

The two sides "discussed potential cooperation and exchanges in the fields of classical music, folk art, her-



itage conservation, institutional linkages and joint cultural programmes and conferences, especially as part of Nazrul Borsho celebrations, which are all aimed at promoting people-to-people ties," the mission said.

Nazrul Borsho, or Nazrul Year, is being observed in Bangladesh from May 25, 2026 to May 25, 2027 to commemorate the 127th birth anniversary of the country's national poet.

Nazrul, popularly known as the "Bidrohi Kobi" (rebel poet), was born in 1899 in Churulia in present-day West Bengal.

His writings championed freedom, equality, resistance to oppression, and communalism, and his songs and poetry became an important part of the cultural and political life of Bengal during the Indian freedom movement. Political Analysis

West Bengal officially commemorates his birth anniversary, while Churulia preserves his memory through the Nazrul Academy. His Nazrul Geeti remains an important part of Bengal's musical heritage.

The year-long observance of 'Nazrul Borsho' seeks to highlight his literary, musical and cultural legacy through programmes across Bangladesh and international initiatives. (PTI)

Himachal Govt mulling non-practicing allowance for medical officers: CM Sukhu

SHIMLA, SEPT 7: The Himachal Pradesh Government is contemplating granting Non-Practicing Allowance (NPA) to Medical Officers (Specialist), Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said on Monday, while announcing an Rs 800-crore push to strengthen cancer care institutions across the state.

Presiding over a meeting of the Health Department here, Sukhu said the State

Government was committed to providing world-class healthcare services to patients within the state and had taken several steps in this regard, yielding positive outcomes, according to a statement issued here.

In view of the rising number of cancer cases in the state, the Government will spend Rs 800 crore to strengthen cancer care institutions, he said. Send Money Overseas

The Chief Minister directed the constitution of an expert committee to recommend a future roadmap for strengthening cancer care institutions.

He said the State Government was in the process of procuring high-end machines and equipment at par with those available at AIIMS Delhi to bolster diagnostic and patient-care facilities.

Sukhu said the Govern-

ment was also planning exposure visits to renowned and world-class healthcare institutions abroad for medical students and faculty to acquaint them with advanced treatment practices and incorporate them into health institutions in the state.

The Government is also planning to adopt new-age healthcare techniques, including gene and molecular therapy, he said.