

Catch up: Trump's sentencing delayed; America's cooling jobs market



A judge in New York postponed **Donald Trump's** [sentencing](#) for paying hush money until after [America's presidential election](#). Mr Trump was convicted of [34 felony counts](#) of falsifying business records in May and was meant to be sentenced in July. That date was then rescheduled to September 18th following a ruling by the Supreme Court that presidents enjoy [considerable immunity from prosecution](#). Meanwhile **Dick Cheney**, a conservative Republican Party grandee, said he would vote for Kamala Harris in November, calling Mr Trump the greatest-ever threat to the American republic.

The **American economy** added 142,000 jobs in August, fewer than analysts expected. The unemployment rate dropped to 4.2%, from 4.3% the previous month. The figures suggest that companies may be cutting job vacancies rather than firing workers. As the labour market cools, pressure grows on the **Federal Reserve** to cut [interest rates](#) at its next meeting in September.

Toyota became the latest carmaker to scale back its electric-vehicle plans as it battles slowing consumer demand and stiff competition

from [Chinese rivals](#). The Japanese company cut its production target for 2030 by one third. Earlier this week Volvo, a Swedish brand, dropped its ambition to sell only EVs by 2030; America's Ford and General Motors have both recently revised their production targets.

Antony Blinken, America's secretary of state, said he was "focused on getting those facts" behind the "tragic loss" of an American-Turkish woman whom Israeli soldiers shot dead in the occupied **West Bank** on Friday. Aysenur Ezgi Eygi was protesting against the [expansion](#) of a Jewish settlement when she was reportedly shot in the head. Israel's army said it would look into the incident.

Lloyd Austin, America's defence secretary, announced \$250m in military aid to Ukraine. **Volodymyr Zelensky**, Ukraine's president, urged his country's allies, who are meeting at the Ramstein Air Base in Germany, to allow him to use [Western-supplied](#) weapons to strike inside Russia. Mr Zelensky said that 6,000 Russian troops have died since his surprise incursion into Russia's Kursk region.

A **Russian court** banned the selling of shares in Raiffeisen, the biggest Western bank in Russia. The freeze in effect blocks the Austrian bank's plans to spin off its Russian business. According to Reuters, Russian authorities want Raiffeisen to continue operating its [international payments](#), which Russian banks can no longer offer under Western sanctions.

Boeing's faulty **Starliner** spacecraft returned to Earth without its crew after undocking from the **International Space Station**. Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams have been stranded on the ISS since docking there on June 6th (except NASA [doesn't like](#) the word "stranded"). The two American astronauts will hopefully be picked up by a SpaceX craft in February.

Word of the week: Triple E, a rare but often deadly illness carried by mosquitoes. [Read the full story](#).

Algeria's sham elections



Military juntas often relax their grip ahead of elections as a way of getting their vote out. Not so in Algeria. Bureaucrats there have disqualified all but two of the 34 contenders challenging the 78-year-old incumbent, Abdelmadjid Tebboune. At least one has been jailed. Hundreds of naysayers—who five years ago led a *hirak*, or uprising, against *le pouvoir*, or power, as Algerians call their system—have been rounded up. Foreign journalists have been kept away, too.

To inject a whiff of competition, the authorities have allowed a socialist half Mr Tebboune's age (Youcef Aouchiche of the Socialist Forces Front) and an Islamist (Hassani Cherif of the Islamist Party Movement for Society and Peace) to run. But there is scant sign of campaigning on the streets. Normally Western governments protest about North Africa's democratic deficit. But such is their thirst for Algeria's hydrocarbons, which are being used as a substitute for Russia's, that few risk criticising the charade—let alone championing a democratic transition.

Britain and Ireland reconnect over football



On Saturday Sir Keir Starmer, Britain's prime minister, will join Simon Harris, his Irish counterpart, in Dublin to watch an Ireland-England football match. On paper, the teams are mismatched. England is ranked fourth in the world and reached the final of this summer's European Championship. Ireland, which has not qualified for the tournament since 2016, languishes in 58th place.

Yet in other respects the boot is on the other foot. Eager to “reset” Britain's [relations with the European Union](#), the new Labour government is said to be keen to enlist Ireland's support. Before Brexit, British and Irish officials routinely met on the eve of European summits to hone their common positions. Nowadays they speak the same language but only one of them has a voice in Brussels. Ireland, supported by the EU, routinely stared down Mr Starmer's Conservative predecessors during post-Brexit negotiations about the Northern Ireland border. Come Saturday night, in the interests of diplomacy, Sir Keir may well be hoping for a draw.

Politics is in at New York fashion week



Whether you're a designer or a celebrity sitting in the front row, [fashion](#) week is a time to make an impression. At this year's New York Fashion Week, which begins on Friday—and officially kicks off “fashion month”—there will be many political as well as sartorial statements. One of the first events is a march in Manhattan, organised by the Council of Fashion Designers of America and *Vogue*, to encourage people to vote in the forthcoming [presidential election](#).

There will be political messaging on the catwalks, too. Willy Chavarria, a Mexican-American designer, has called his show “América”. Designs feature the letters “USA” back-to-front and upside down to reflect “how screwed this country is”, according to Mr Chavarria. Other brands, with an eye on November's elections, may take a more subtle approach. Prabal Gurung, Carolina Herrera, Sergio Hudson and Michael Kors are all beloved by [Kamala Harris](#), the Democratic candidate. Their collections may be showcases in power dressing.

An American renaissance in tennis



When it comes to trophy count, America remains the most successful tennis-playing country. Since 1968, when the sport opened up to professionals, American men have won 52 grand slams, tennis's most prestigious tournaments. Spaniards, with 33, are a distant second. But in recent years American men have struggled. The last of those 52 titles was won 21 years ago, by Andy Roddick at the US Open.

That dismal streak could end this weekend. On Sunday Taylor Fritz will take on an Italian, Jannick Sinner, in the US Open final. America will also be represented in the women's final on Saturday, when Jessica Pegula faces Aryna Sabalenka, a Belarusian. Though Mr Fritz and Ms Pegula will be cheered on by a raucous New York crowd, American victories are unlikely. Mr Sinner and Ms Sabalenka, who are number one and two in the world in their tours, are the overwhelming favourites to win the tournament.

Weekend profile: Brian Niccol, the new boss of Starbucks



Brian Niccol, the square-jawed, blue-eyed boss of Chipotle Mexican Grill, a chain of fast-food restaurants, presents himself as an all-American family man. His routine begins with a 6am workout. He takes his daughter to school. And then he drives ten minutes from his home in Newport Beach, California, to the office. He claims he finishes work by 6pm to walk the dog, make dinner with his wife and turn in early.

When Mr Niccol [takes over](#) as chief executive of Starbucks on September 9th, life will become a lot less simple. He will commute 1,000 miles to its headquarters in Seattle on a corporate jet. The unorthodox arrangement was approved by the coffee chain's board, which hopes Mr Niccol will turn Starbucks's fortunes around, as he has done elsewhere. After his appointment was announced on August 13th, shares in the coffee chain jumped by nearly 20%.

Starbucks's sales in America, the group's main market, slowed under the leadership of [Laxman Narasimhan](#), a former management consultant who lasted less than 18 months in the job. Mr Niccol,

who began his career at Procter & Gamble, the world's biggest consumer-products firm by market cap, made his name at Chipotle. It too was struggling when Mr Niccol arrived in 2018, having failed to recover from a series of food-poisoning outbreaks in 2015. He revamped stores to make online ordering easier (a process that vexes Starbucks). He also launched a new campaign, "For Real", that made much of the burrito chain's commitment to fresh meals. A full ingredients list was published on Chipotle's website. During Mr Niccol's six-year tenure, the firm's sales doubled, reaching \$10bn in the 2023 financial year.

Some of the battles Mr Niccol will have to fight at Starbucks will be familiar. The chain needs a rebrand. And any new chief executive will need to get to know its three-time chief executive, Howard Schultz, who looms large over the business, just as Chipotle's founder, Steve Ells, did.

But Starbucks is a global chain. It has almost 40,000 outlets compared with Chipotle's 3,500 or so. Boycotts linked to the Israel-Hamas war have affected franchise operators in the Middle East. And sales in China, its second biggest market, are in decline as the economy cools and local competition heats up. With so much to do, and a long commute on top of it all, it looks as if Mr Niccol's old life of cosy family time and early nights is over.

Weekly crossword



Our crossword has two sets of clues, one for seasoned cruciverbalists and the other for less experienced solvers. Both give the same answers, all of which feature in articles in this week's edition of *The Economist*:

Cryptic clues

1 down Recouping gig after revising practice of charging customers extra (5,7)

1 across In citizenship a person finds form of identification (6)

2 across Environmentalists' nickname for vegetables (6)

3 across Good, even stare is one say to search (6)

Factual clues

1 down Why some fans of the band Oasis recently missed out on tickets (5,7)

1 across What the *Onion* has started selling (6)

2 across One part of a coalition that no longer commands a majority in Germany (6)

3 across A company ramping up efforts to design its own chips (6)

Email all four answers, along with your home city and country, by 9am GMT on Monday to crossword@economist.com. We will pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners in next week's edition.

The winners of this week's quiz



The Economist

Thank you to everyone who took part in this week's quiz. The winners, chosen at random, were:

Jennifer Stapleton, Cheltenham, Britain

Illia Batrak, Barcelona, Spain

Araki Ichiro, Tokyo, Japan

They all gave the correct answers of: walk on the Moon, Eddie Murphy, Arthur Conan Doyle, bulldogs and cranes. The theme is characters in the original series of *Frasier*: Daphne Moon, Eddie the dog, Roz Doyle, Bulldog Briscoe and Frasier, Niles and Martin Crane.

The questions were:

Monday: Gene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt were the last two people to do what?

Tuesday: Who starred as Axel Foley in the Beverly Hills Cop film series?

Wednesday: Who wrote the original novel “The Lost World” about a land where dinosaurs had survived?

Thursday: The University of Georgia football team and the US Marine Corps both use which animal as a mascot?

Friday: The Sandhill, Wattled and Whooping are all varieties of which type of bird?

Triple E

a rare but often deadly illness carried by mosquitoes

Read the full story

**Reading is the nourishment that feeds the
kind of writing you want to do.**

Jennifer Egan