

Catch up: Israeli strikes kill 40 in Gaza; Ukraine attacks Moscow



Israeli strikes on a tent encampment in southern **Gaza** killed at least 40 people and injured 60 more, according to Palestinian officials. [Israel](#) said the attack had targeted a Hamas command centre “disguised in the humanitarian area in Khan Younis”, a southern city. Hamas denied Israel’s claims. Thousands of Palestinians have fled to Khan Younis since Israel began its military campaign in Gaza.

Ukraine launched a mass drone attack on Russia, killing at least one person, according to Russian officials. Russia claimed to have shot down 144 Ukrainian drones overnight. Three of Moscow’s four airports were closed. [Ukraine](#) has not yet commented on the attacks—but said it was fighting off a Russian drone assault on Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital.

The European Court of Justice ruled that **Apple** must pay €13bn (\$14.4bn) in taxes. In 2016 the European Commission accused Ireland of giving the American tech giant unlawful tax advantages, a charge the ECJ’s ruling has confirmed. On Monday Apple

[unveiled](#) a range of new products including its latest iPhone, which introduces [AI features](#) and changes to the camera system.

AngloGold Ashanti, a global gold-mining company, agreed to buy Centamin, its main rival, for £1.9bn (\$2.5 bn). The deal would leave AngloGold in control of the Sukari mine in Egypt, one of the largest gold deposits in the world. Soaring [gold prices](#) have increased dealmaking in the sector; last month South Africa's Gold Fields bought Canada's Osisko Mining.

China's exports grew in August by a surprisingly robust 8.7% (in dollar terms) year on year, and up from 7% growth in July. The figures are being burnished, however, by comparison with a low base—this time last year, [Chinese exports](#) were suffering a collapse. In August 2023, they fell by 8.8% year on year.

India's Supreme Court said that striking **doctors** must return to work by Tuesday evening to avoid “adverse action”. Doctors have been protesting for safer working conditions following the [rape and murder](#) of a trainee doctor in Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal, last month. A lawyer representing the state claimed that at least 23 patients had died as a result of staff shortages.

Australia's government said the country would ban children from accessing social media. Anthony Albanese, the prime minister, claimed that the government will run an age verification trial in the coming months, before introducing legislation through parliament. However, he did not confirm the age limits on any measures. Mr Albanese said that social-media platforms are [harming children's](#) mental and physical health.

Figure of the day: 10%, the year-on-year increase in the number of containers coming through America's ports in May and June. [Read the full story.](#)

America's unpredictable presidential debate



After weeks of wrangling over the format and rules, Donald Trump and Kamala Harris will have their first and perhaps only [presidential debate](#) on Tuesday. The former president's advisers, who advocated keeping microphones off outside allotted speaking times, are hoping the Republican nominee sticks to policy rather than personal attacks. Ms Harris, a former prosecutor, will aim to [cross-examine](#) her opponent without being dragged into petty spats.

Presidential debates have generally [not proved decisive](#) in past elections. But this cycle is unusual. President Joe Biden's disastrous performance in a debate on June 27th precipitated his departure from the race. His replacement as the Democratic nominee, Ms Harris, has had one of the shortest campaigns in modern history. The debate will be crucial for her as a means to introduce herself to millions of Americans. Furthermore, Ms Harris will be meeting Mr Trump for the first time ever, another reason why this event is unusually unpredictable.

Positive signs for Britain's economy



Closely watched data about British unemployment, wages and GDP are released this week. Inflation figures will follow next week. So far this year [Britain's economy](#) has been a good-news story. Growth surpassed most forecasters' expectations in the first half of 2024, hitting 1.5% over that period. The annual inflation rate fell from 4% in January to the Bank of England's target of 2% by May (though core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, is still above the target rate, at 3.3%).

The question now is whether the good news will continue. In August the Bank of England cut interest rates, from 5.25% to 5%. Financial markets expect another one or two cuts in 2024, which should help growth. Meanwhile, the new Labour government plans to present its first budget on October 30th. That will probably bring a bevy of tax rises, which could [reduce growth](#) if they go too far.

Brazil's galloping economy



The Brazilian economy is hot, according to data published by the country's statistics agency on September 3rd. Seasonally adjusted, GDP grew by 1.4% in the second quarter, well above market expectations of 0.9%. Year on year, the economy expanded by 3.3%. Excluding the recovery from covid-19 lockdowns, the quarterly rise was the strongest in nearly 12 years. The jobs market has rallied and the government has increased the real minimum wage. That has boosted consumer spending.

But some analysts fear growth is being fuelled by unsustainable [government spending](#), causing higher inflation. The annual inflation rate rose from around 3.7% in April to 4.5% in July. August's figures, due on Tuesday, may show the rate dropping slightly, to around 4.3%. Still, later this month the central bank will probably raise interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point, to 10.75%.

Jordan's unpopular election



On Tuesday Jordan holds parliamentary elections. King Abdullah's courtiers have changed election rules to encourage participation. They have allowed political parties, rather than the norm of independent candidates, to contest 41 of the 138 seats. They have also lowered the minimum age of candidates to 25, and increased the quota of women representatives, from 15 to 18.

But few seem enthused, especially in urban areas. In the last election just 12% of Jordanians voted in Amman, the capital; many expect a similar turnout again. Parliament is little more than a talking-shop. The king appoints the government, and determines foreign policy. Constituency boundaries also remain fixed in favour of the East Jordanian tribes, rather than the country's large Palestinian population. The Islamic Action Front, the [Muslim Brotherhood's](#) political arm, has tried to rally support by championing the group's Palestinian counterpart, Hamas, which is in effect banned in Jordan. The IAF may emerge as the largest political party. But given parliament's lack of power, even it is struggling to get out the vote.

A rare Jewish manuscript on sale



One of the treasures of Judaica, the Shem Tov Bible, goes under the hammer at Sotheby's New York on Tuesday. Rabbi Shem Tov ben Abraham Ibn Gaon, a scholar and kabbalist, produced the illuminated manuscript in the Castilian city of Soria in 1312. At the time Jewish, Christian and Muslim cultures intermingled in Spain. The richly decorated 768-page book contains Hebrew lettering, but also shows stylistic influences from Gothic France and Arab Andalusia.

The book's history is fascinating. In the mid-14th century it surfaced in Baghdad, capital of modern Iraq. Several hundred years went by before it turned up in Libya, where its mystical powers were said to help women in childbirth. In 1909 the Sassoons, a rich trading family of Iraqi-Jewish descent, purchased the tome. They sold it in 1984 and it eventually made its way to Jaqui Safra, the Geneva-based scion of a Syrian-Jewish banking dynasty. Its next owner is expected to pay \$5m-7m.

Daily quiz



The Economist

We will serve you a new question each day this week. On Friday your challenge is to give us all five answers and, as important, tell us the connecting theme. Email your responses (and include mention of your home city and country) by 1700 BST on Friday to QuizEspresso@economist.com. We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

Tuesday: Which former basketball player was nicknamed “the Bread Truck” and “the Round Mound of Rebound”?

Monday: Which Hollywood legend won the best actor Oscar for his performance in “The African Queen”?

10%

The year-on-year increase in the number of containers coming through America's ports in May and June.

Read the full story.

No man chooses evil because it is evil; he just mistakes it for happiness, the good he seeks.

Mary Wollstonecraft