

Catch up: Harris and Walz kick off campaign; Disney's surprise earnings



Kamala Harris and **Tim Walz** began a tour of battleground states. They will campaign in seven states in five days, including Wisconsin and Michigan. Ms Harris introduced Mr Walz as her [running-mate](#) at a big rally in Philadelphia on Tuesday. The [governor of Minnesota](#) went after **Donald Trump** and J.D. Vance and said he would defend personal freedoms, such as abortion rights. Mr Walz is more progressive than other figures that were on Ms Harris's vice-presidential short-list, having overseen gun restrictions and marijuana legalisation in his home state.

Disney's earnings were higher than expected during the third quarter, with operating income rising 19% year on year. The boost was partly down to the success of "Inside Out 2", an animated film that has notched up more than \$1.5bn in box-office sales since June. But [demand](#) dipped in Disney's theme-park and cruise-ship businesses. Operating income in the "experiences segment" fell by 3% year on year.

Around 300 Ukrainian soldiers launched an attack into Kursk, a **Russian** region bordering **Ukraine**. At least five people died and 28 were injured in the attack, according to Russian officials, one of the largest on Russian soil since the war began. Russia has successfully intensified its [offensive](#) in Ukraine in recent months. The Ukrainian military is retreating by up to 1km a day.

Turkey filed a request to join **South Africa's** case at the UN's International Court of Justice accusing Israel of committing genocide in [Gaza](#). More than ten countries, including Nicaragua, Mexico and Spain, have also joined. The court issued an [interim ruling in January](#), calling for Israel to allow more humanitarian aid to enter the enclave, but stopped short of demanding a ceasefire.

Giorgia Meloni, Italy's prime minister, announced it will double a flat tax on wealthy foreign residents. The yearly fixed payment on foreign-earned income will rise from €100,000 (\$109,334) to €200,000. The tax was introduced in 2017 and is now paid by around 4,000 people. The scheme had become controversial among [Italians](#), who blamed it for boosting property prices.

China will impose restrictions on three chemicals used to make **fentanyl**, according to the Biden administration. America has for years been pressing China to clamp down on the production of ingredients used to make [the drug](#). Around 75,000 Americans were killed by fentanyl and similar synthetic opioids last year.

Donald Trump announced he would sit for an interview with **Elon Musk**, the owner of X, a social-media platform, on August 12th. The ex-president can probably expect a fairly easy ride. Mr Musk has endorsed his re-election bid and neither man is averse to promoting the odd right-wing conspiracy theory. Mr Trump, though, is [far less keen](#) on electric-vehicles (may their supporters "ROT IN HELL") than his interlocutor, who owns Tesla.

Figure of the day: 13%, the decline per decade in the West's incidence rate of dementia over the past 25 years. [Read the full story](#).

In the run-up to America's presidential election, we've launched [The US in brief](#)—a daily update to help you keep on top of the political stories that matter. [Sign up here](#) to receive it as a newsletter, each weekday, in your inbox.

Bangladesh's uncertain future



Two days after Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh's prime minister, [resigned and fled to India](#), her country is adjusting to a new reality. Some of it looks hopeful. Khaleda Zia, the ailing opposition leader, has been released. So have many student protesters who were imprisoned in recent months.

Yet the long-term outlook is thornier. The constitution stipulates that elections must take place within 90 days of parliament's dissolution, which happened on Tuesday. Student leaders have rejected the prospect of an army-led government; their preferred caretaker, Muhammad Yunus, an economist and Nobel laureate persecuted by Sheikh Hasina, was appointed by the president later on Tuesday to lead an interim government.

Mr Yunus will have to start bringing to justice those responsible for the killing of protesters. He will also have to try to recreate the competitive politics quashed by Sheikh Hasina's autocratic rule. Hours before his appointment he emphasised the importance of political renewal [in a guest essay](#) for *The Economist*, writing: "We urgently need new politicians, and new leaders to step forward."

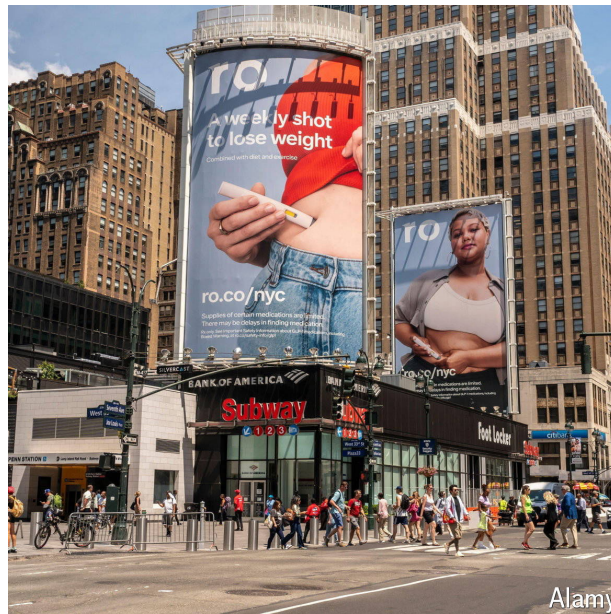
Thai court disbands Move Forward



Thailand's dismal politics became more dismal yet on Wednesday as the country's constitutional court ordered the dissolution of the opposition Move Forward Party. The court ruled that the party's call to reform Thailand's lèse-majesté laws, which forbid criticism of the royal family, threatened the constitutional monarchy. To make matters worse, the court also banned party executives including [Pita Limjaroenrat](#), a former leader, and Chaithawat Tulathon, the current leader, from politics for ten years.

Move Forward won last year's general election but was blocked from forming a government by army-backed conservatives in the senate, the parliament's upper chamber. The [conservative establishment](#) is waging "lawfare" against progressives, says Mr Pita. Move Forward's predecessor, the Future Forward Party, was dissolved in 2020, sparking widespread student-led protests before its MPs set up a new party. Move Forward may also continue in another form. But this time, Mr Pita will not be able to be part of it.

Competition eats into Novo Nordisk's profits



Novo Nordisk, Europe's most valuable firm, reported mixed results on Wednesday. Profits for the three months ending June were below expectations but the company raised its sales forecast. Novo now expects sales this year to grow between 22% and 28%, slightly higher than previous expectations. With Eli Lilly, an American drugmaker, the Danish firm dominates the market for [weight-loss medicines](#), which are proving popular: analysts at Morgan Stanley predict the global market will reach \$105bn by 2030.

But Novo is under pressure in America over the price of its slimming jabs. In July, for instance, President Joe Biden accused the company of "price gouging". Another worry is [competition](#). IQVIA, a data firm, estimates that nearly 120 anti-obesity drugs are in development. Last month Roche, a Swiss firm, announced promising results for a once-a-day pill. Cheaper generic versions of the drugs are emerging from China, too. Still, for now Novo's position in the weight-loss duopoly looks secure.

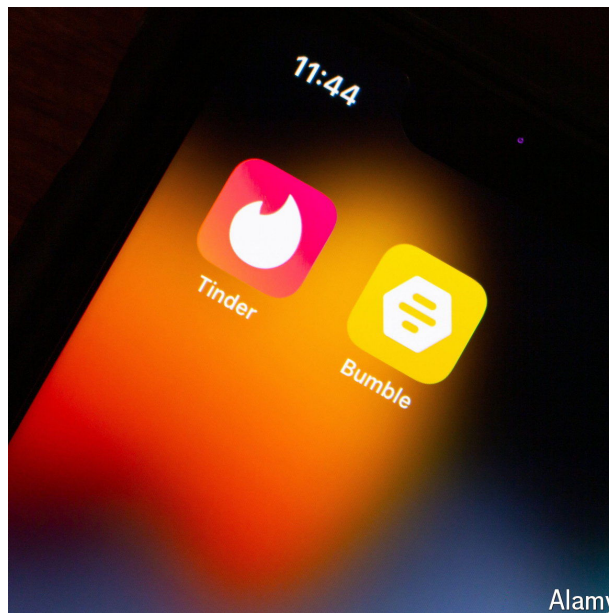
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Dating apps lose their allure



Tinder, a mobile dating app, launched on American college campuses in 2012. It quickly became a hit. Online dating had sometimes been considered the last resort of the desperate. But Tinder made it easy and fun—the [lovelorn](#) sifted through photos of potential mates with a simple swipe.

Yet dating apps have lost their spark. On July 30th Match Group, which owns Tinder and other similar services, reported quarterly revenue growth of just 4% year on year. Bumble, its rival, is not expected to do much better when it releases earnings on Wednesday. The market values of both companies have dropped by around four-fifths since February 2021, when Bumble went public.

Singles increasingly favour offline opportunities for matchmaking. On Eventbrite, a ticketing platform, attendance at singles events rose 42% between 2022 and 2023. Dating apps are taking note. Tinder recently launched a series of in-person events; Bumble wants to be known as a “connections company”. Love, it seems, is not an easy business.

Celebrating Wikipedia



On Wednesday the conference halls of Katowice, a Polish city, will fill with WikiFauna, the people who edit [Wikipedia](#). Some will be WikiGnomes, keen-eyed editors who fix typos and broken links. Others will be WikiDragons, who conduct diligent research before making big changes. WikiFarmers, who tend to new articles, will mingle with WikiHunters, who kill off outdated ones. WikiTrolls, who vandalise others' work, will probably steer clear. If not, WikiNinjas will see them off.

The volunteers, who cheerfully describe themselves using the monikers above, are gathering for Wikimania, a conference devoted to the online encyclopedia. Attendees should feel jolly. Amid fretting over social-media addiction and disinformation, Wikipedia is [one of the internet's great successes](#). Home to some 60m articles in more than 300 languages, it is vast (and growing). Thanks to readers' donations, the site remains free. Studies suggest it is also more accurate than many believe. The dedication of WikiFauna will keep it flourishing.

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 GMT on Friday to QuizEspresso@economist.com. We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

Wednesday: Which character in John Steinbeck's novel "The Grapes of Wrath" inspired an album by Bruce Springsteen?

Tuesday: Which President was assassinated in 1881, only six months into his term of office?

13%

The decline per decade in the West's incidence rate of dementia over the past 25 years.

Read the full story.

**The truth comes as conqueror only
because we have lost the art of receiving it
as guest.**

Rabindranath Tagore