

Catch up: Israel kills next Hizbullah leader; Trump accuses Labour of election interference



The **Israel Defence Forces** confirmed they had killed the presumed new leader of **Hizbullah** in an air strike earlier this month.

Hashem Safieddine, the head of the group's executive council, was a cousin of **Hassan Nasrallah**, a former boss of the Iran-backed militant group whom [Israel assassinated in September](#). Hizbullah has not commented on Mr Safieddine's death.

Donald Trump accused Britain's ruling **Labour Party** of interfering in America's [presidential election](#). In a complaint filed to the Federal Election Commission, Mr Trump's campaign claimed that strategists from Labour were helping his opponent, Kamala Harris. The campaign cited reports that Labour officials had recently travelled to America to meet Ms Harris's staff. Labour has not yet responded to the allegations.

Xi Jinping, China's leader, and **Narendra Modi**, his Indian counterpart, will hold their first formal bilateral meeting since 2019

on Wednesday, on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia. [China and India](#) agreed earlier this week to allow patrols along their disputed Himalayan border. Hostility between the countries had grown after a deadly skirmish at the border in 2020.

Arm, a British chipmaker, scrapped a licence that allowed **Qualcomm**, an American semiconductor firm, to use its intellectual property to make chips, according to Bloomberg. It is the latest move in a long-running legal battle. [Arm](#) sued Qualcomm in 2022 for breach of contract and trademark infringement, accusing it of failing to renegotiate contract terms after buying a new company.

The **FBI** confirmed it was investigating a leak of highly classified American intelligence documents about possible **Israeli** strikes on **Iran**. The leaked documents circulated on Telegram, a messaging app, last week. Meanwhile Israel said it had arrested seven people suspected of planning to assassinate a senior Israeli scientist and a mayor “under [Iranian](#) direction”.

Andriy Kostin, Ukraine’s prosecutor-general, resigned over a scandal involving prosecutors and other officials obtaining fake disability status [to avoid military service](#). His resignation came after **Ukraine’s** president, Volodymyr Zelensky, convened a national-security meeting to discuss how to crack down on corruption. Mr Zelensky demanded “political responsibility” from Mr Kostin. In 2024 the country’s security service found more than 4,000 fake disability-status certificates.

Mike Jeffries, the [former CEO](#) of **Abercrombie & Fitch**, a fashion retailer, was arrested in Florida and charged with running a sex-trafficking operation. Prosecutors accuse Mr Jeffries of having coerced “dozens” of male models into attending sex parties and having sex with him and his partner, who was also indicted. Mr Jeffries’ lawyer said he would respond in court. The 80-year-old could face life in prison.

Figure of the day: \$700m, the amount of direct support that Iran provides to Hizbullah per year. [Read the full story.](#)

America's latest push for peace in Gaza



Antony Blinken is on his 11th trip to the Middle East since the war between Israel and Hamas began on October 7th 2023. America's secretary of state does not seem to have brought many new ideas. Some diplomats were hopeful that the recent death of Hamas's leader, [Yahya Sinwar](#), might lead to a resumption of talks over a Gaza ceasefire. But Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, insists the war will go on. And, after losing two leaders in three months, Hamas has no clear decision-maker, complicating any negotiations.

American and Egyptian officials have discussed a mini-deal under which Hamas would release some of the 101 hostages in its custody in exchange for a brief ceasefire. But it is not clear why the group would agree: Hamas would lose some of its little remaining leverage. Nor are Mr Netanyahu's far-right coalition partners willing to accept even a temporary halt in the fighting. Mr Blinken's trip is unlikely to achieve much.

All eyes on Tesla



Third-quarter results, due on Wednesday, might deliver a glimmer of good news for Tesla. The maker of electric vehicles has already released production numbers for the quarter. It made 470,000 vehicles—an increase of 6% compared with a year ago, after two quarters of declines. But overall Elon Musk’s car firm is still not growing as rapidly as it has in previous years.

Investors, who had been hoping for an announcement about a smaller “Model 2” that would cost around \$25,000 and presumably prove popular, were instead treated to the [launch of a robotaxi](#) at a glitzy event in Hollywood on October 10th. Details of how this business might operate, or when testing on public roads might begin, were scant. The prospect of future profits looks uncertain. And Mr Musk’s grandiose plans for selling humanoid robots seem not to have convinced investors. Tesla’s shares plunged after the event.

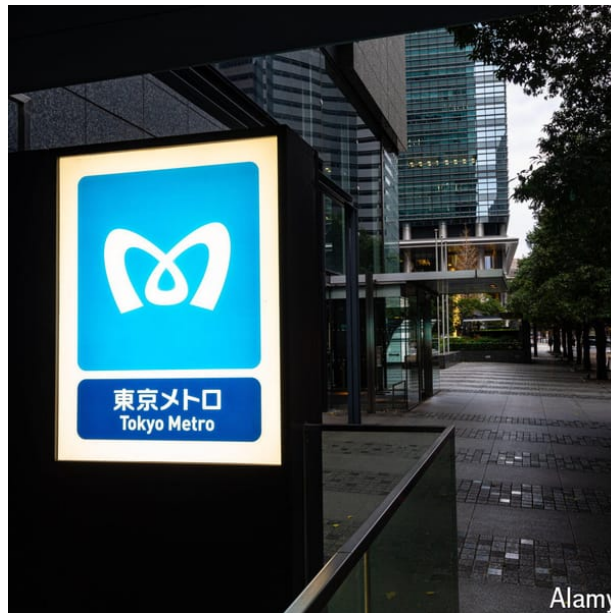
Wagner's African stronghold



On Wednesday the United Nations Security Council will discuss the Central African Republic, home to one of the world's most neglected crises. The main topic will be the fate of the UN's 14,000-strong peacekeeping force. It arrived in the country a decade ago to quell violence that had nearly descended into genocide. By some measures the mission has been a success: CAR today is more stable, and the national army holds much more territory.

But a large elephant lurks in the room: [the Wagner Group](#). The Russian mercenary outfit arrived in CAR in 2018, ostensibly to train the army. Six years later, it controls lucrative gold and diamond mines and provides round-the-clock protection for the president. A good deal for the regime, no doubt—and for Russia, which has replaced France, the former colonial power, as CAR's most influential foreign ally. But the risk for the UN is that its peacekeepers find themselves fighting alongside a group accused of war crimes.

Tokyo Metro's trading debut



Japan's capital city is famous for its efficient public train system. Now investors are thrilled about Tokyo Metro, which makes its trading debut on Wednesday. Shares opened at ¥1,630 (\$10.8), far above the company's initial price of ¥1,200. It is the largest initial public offering in Japan for six years. The metro's reputation for safety and the promise of healthy dividends has attracted investors. Perks such as free train tickets have helped, too.

Japan's government is keen to boost the stock market. It has introduced tax-exemption schemes for [retail investors](#) and pushed [corporate-governance](#) reform. Some expect Tokyo Metro's listing to boost Japanese stocks, which have been sluggish ahead of an unpredictable general election on Sunday. But whether the stock offers long-term returns is still in doubt. Despite the railway operator's stable revenue, critics have pointed out it lacks a convincing growth strategy.

Exciting prospects in the NBA



It has been seven years since a team won consecutive [National Basketball Association](#) championships. But the current champions, Boston Celtics, go into the new season, which starts this week, as the clear favourites to break this run. In a survey of NBA managers, 83% picked the Celtics to win this year's trophy. The team is impressive in both attack and defence.

Their fiercest competition is the Oklahoma City Thunder. Last season they were beaten in the playoffs, a knock-out tournament at the end of the regular league season that determines the champions. This time around the big question is whether their talented but young squad can go any further. Particularly exciting is Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, a point guard, who many consider a probable most valuable player of the season. Intrigue abounds elsewhere, too. [LeBron James](#), at 39 years old, will play alongside his 20-year-old son, Bronny, for the Los Angeles Lakers.

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.

Wednesday: What is the name of the TV series that is a prequel to Game of Thrones?

Tuesday: Which Carthaginian general won a fabulous victory over the Romans at Cannae?

\$700m

The amount of direct support that Iran provides to Hizbullah per year.

Read the full story.

Real elegance is everywhere, especially in the things that don't show.

Christian Dior