

Catch up: Biden drops out; endorses Harris



President Joe Biden announced that he would [abandon his bid to be re-elected](#) in November, saying “it is in the best interest of my party and my country for me to stand down”. He intends to see out the rest of his term. Mr Biden’s announcement follows weeks of pressure from senior Democrats for him to [cede his party’s nomination](#) to a younger candidate. Several prominent lawmakers, including Chuck Schumer, the Democratic majority leader in the Senate, praised Mr Biden’s decision. But Mike Johnson, the Republican speaker of the House of Representatives, said that if Mr Biden “is not fit to run for president, he is not fit to serve as president” and should resign from office.

Meanwhile speculation grew over how the party would [appoint a new nominee](#). Mr Biden lent his “full support and endorsement” to **Kamala Harris**, his vice-president, as his replacement as nominee and called on his party to “come together and beat Trump”. Ms Harris said that she intended to “earn and win this nomination”. [Gretchen Whitmer](#), the governor of Michigan, who was widely

viewed as a possible candidate, appeared to rule herself out of the running to replace Mr Biden.

Bangladesh's Supreme Court scrapped most of the quotas that reserved government jobs for family members of veterans who fought in the country's 1971 war of independence. The scheme is extremely controversial; in recent days, it sparked student-led protests that plunged Bangladesh into chaos and left at least 100 people dead. The demonstrations are the biggest since Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh's prime minister, [won a fifth term](#) earlier this year.

Ukrainian troops in Donetsk, an eastern region, withdrew from the village of Prohres to avoid being trapped by Russian forces. The pull-back was reported by DeepState, an open-source intelligence outfit. In recent days Ukrainian troops also gave up Krynky, a village on the east bank of the Dnipro river, amid heavy losses. But although Russia has plenty of manpower, its stocks of Soviet-era weaponry [may be running out](#).

Nippon Steel said it had hired Mike Pompeo, a former secretary of state under Donald Trump, to help lobby for its [acquisition of US Steel](#). The deal is opposed by both [Joe Biden](#), America's president, and Mr Trump, his Republican opponent. Nippon said that Mr Pompeo—who also previously led the Central Intelligence Agency—would help to convey the firm's view that the deal could bolster America's "economic and national security".

Israel said that it carried out an air strike on military targets in and around the Al Hudaydah Port in Yemen. The strikes were directed at the Houthis, an [Iran-backed militia](#) that previously claimed responsibility for a drone strike which killed one person and injured as many as ten others in Tel Aviv on Friday. Israel's army said the strikes had been carried out in response to "hundreds of attacks" by the Houthis on Israel in recent months.

Microsoft said around 8.5m computers were disabled in a global **IT outage** on Friday. Though the number represents less than 1% of the machines running Microsoft's operating system, many of the affected devices were used for critical services, the firm said. The disruption was caused by a corrupted software update sent out by CrowdStrike, a cybersecurity firm. IT experts say businesses could take weeks to recover.

Figure of the day: 7.5m, the number of people who could be deported from America if Donald Trump becomes the next president, according to one estimate. [Read the full story.](#)

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Where do Democrats go from here?



President Joe Biden called off his re-election campaign on July 21st, capping a packed week in American politics. As Republicans cheered Donald Trump—who had just days earlier survived an assassination attempt—at their convention in Milwaukee, Mr Biden retreated from public events, having tested positive for coronavirus. The calls from Democratic lawmakers urging the 81-year-old president to abandon his bid only grew louder.

But the path ahead is hardly straightforward. Mr Biden quickly endorsed Kamala Harris, his vice-president. Powerful Democrats, including Bill and Hillary Clinton, backed her, too—but Barack Obama, at the time of writing, had not. Instead he and others like Nancy Pelosi, the former speaker of the House, appear to support a hurried contest in the next few weeks, rather than a coronation of Ms Harris at the party's convention next month in Chicago. But many of the [other high-calibre Democrats](#) on the wish-lists of politicians may opt out of challenging the sitting vice-president and lobby instead to be her running-mate.

China's central bank is busier than it looks



Many government institutions are guilty of short-termism. They let the urgent crowd out the important. Not so China's central bank. It faces the urgent threat of deflation: [prices have fallen](#) for five quarters in a row by one measure. In response, most central banks would scramble to cut interest rates. But China has not cut its main policy rates for months. And the country's banks, which last cut their rates on five-year loans in February, are expected to keep them unchanged on Monday.

Instead the central bank has busied itself with important tweaks to its toolkit. It has narrowed the "corridor" within which short-term interest rates can fluctuate around its target. It has also said it will sell government bonds, including some borrowed from other financial institutions, if needed to prevent a bond bubble. It can be good policy to ignore problems that are pressing but not important. Unfortunately deflation is both.

Tensions simmer in the Philippines



Ferdinand Marcos, the Philippines' president, gives his yearly state-of-the-nation address to Congress on Monday. Under Mr Marcos and Sara Duterte, his vice-president, the nation has had two years mostly untroubled by the discord that is customary among its political dynasties. Mr Marcos and Ms Duterte each belong to one of those [dynasties](#), founded by their respective fathers, each of whom served as president. The coalition formed by the younger generation set aside their rivalry for the presidency with the aim of mobilising each family's huge popular following in order to get Mr Marcos elected first. It was then expected to help Ms Duterte win in 2028.

But in June Ms Duterte suddenly resigned from Mr Marcos's cabinet, while remaining vice-president. Neither has yet given a cogent explanation for the rift. So Congress—and the Philippines at large—will listen intently to Mr Marcos's annual address, trying to discern whether the coalition can survive. Its prospects look dim: Ms Duterte is skipping the event.

The race to beat AIDS



On Monday the 25th International AIDS Conference opens in Munich. It will focus on bringing [the epidemic](#) to the point where it no longer constitutes a public-health crisis by 2030. That means, above all, ensuring as many as possible of those already affected are taking appropriate antiretroviral drugs. These not only save lives, but also block transmission of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

In addition, for those not yet infected but who feel at risk, a growing range of prophylactic techniques are being developed, deployed and simplified. These include PrEP pills, which reduce the risk of a user getting HIV from sexual intercourse by 99%. The aim is to make them more user-friendly and, in some cases, less easily detected by nosy partners who might take offence.

In truth, 2030 is probably too ambitious a target. It was set by the United Nations on the back of some optimistic assumptions about funding. But even if it slips, the feeling that AIDS can now be conquered is palpable.

Glimmer in the Lake



The Glimmerglass Festival, a Mecca for American opera lovers, opens on Monday outside Cooperstown in upstate New York. In recent years the provincial opera company has typically offered a programme including one [new opera](#) and one rarely performed work, as well as one classical grand opera and one popular musical. Its performances garner rave reviews. Aside from the bucolic setting and top-notch singers, a big draw is now the 900-seat theatre, which relies on natural amplification instead of microphones. Its opening in 1987 marked a great leap forward. When Glimmerglass launched in 1975 performances were held in a high-school gym.

This year's festival promises Gilbert and Sullivan's rollicking "Pirates of Penzance", Francesco Cavalli's bawdy masterpiece "La Calisto" (first performed in Venice in 1651), and Ruggero Leoncavallo's comedy-thriller "Pagliacci". Another highlight will be "Elizabeth Cree", a one-act chamber opera by Kevin Puts and Mark Campbell. First performed in 2017 and based on a novel by the British writer Peter Ackroyd, it revolves around a murder trial in Victorian London.

7.5m

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Read the full story.

**The politician's promises of yesterday are
the taxes of today.**

Mackenzie King