

## Catch up: more violence in Bangladesh; tensions grow in the Middle East



Violent clashes continued in **Bangladesh** as protesters called for the resignation of [Sheikh Hasina](#), the longstanding prime minister. Thousands gathered in Dhaka, the capital, as violence erupted in other parts of the country. Dozens of people are thought to have been killed as police forcefully dispersed the crowds. The government introduced a curfew, but demonstrations are expected to continue on Monday. Some 150 people were killed in protests last month against a controversial government-job quota scheme.

**Israeli** airstrikes hit two schools in Gaza city, according to Palestinian media, as well as a hospital complex further to the north. Gaza's Hamas-run health authorities said that at least 44 people were killed in the strikes, which Israel said targeted military assets. Earlier, Hizbullah, an Iran-backed Lebanese militia, fired a barrage of missiles at **Israel** as [fears over escalation](#) in the Middle East mount.

**Ukraine's** president, Volodymyr Zelensky, confirmed that Ukrainian pilots had started flying [F-16 jets](#) in the country. Several

Western countries promised to give the American-made planes to Ukraine last year, but the process has been beset by delays linked to training and the need to improve engineering infrastructure. Ukraine is eventually expected to receive 79 such jets, with 20 arriving by the end of 2024.

At least 100 people were arrested in **Britain**, as far-right protesters took to the streets in English cities including [Manchester](#) and [Liverpool](#). There was also unrest in Belfast, Northern Ireland's capital. The trouble has been sparked by the fatal stabbing of three children earlier in the week, and the subsequent spread of misinformation on social media. Sir Keir Starmer, the prime minister, said police had his “full support” to act against “extremists”.

**Berkshire Hathaway**, Warren Buffett's investment firm, sold \$50bn-worth of its **Apple** shares, cutting its stake in the tech giant by around half. The move was part of a massive sell off of stocks by Berkshire, which totalled \$75.5bn. The move means the firm is now sitting on \$277bn of cash.

In a [guest essay](#) for *The Economist*, Edmundo González, the opposition candidate in **Venezuela's** recent election, called for an “impartial verification” of the results. Mr González said that opposition tallies showed he had won an “indisputable majority”, with 67% of the vote. Venezuela's leader, Nicolás Maduro, [claimed to win](#) the vote on July 28th, despite clear evidence to the contrary.

**Novak Djokovic** won gold in the men's singles tennis at the Paris Olympics, his first such medal in five attempts. The Serbian tennis player beat [Carlos Alcaraz](#) of Spain in a closely fought final. Mr Djokovic is just the fifth player to have won the Olympic title and all four Grand Slam tournaments, a feat known as the “golden slam”.

**Figure of the day:** \$1.5trn, the foreign revenue that firms listed in China generated in 2023; those listed in America took in \$5.8trn. 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.*

# Latin America's response to Venezuela



On Monday Brazil's president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, better known as Lula, is scheduled to meet his Chilean counterpart, Gabriel Boric, as part of a two-day visit to Chile's capital. They are expected to sign a variety of agreements, but all eyes will be on their declarations regarding [Venezuela's election](#), held on July 28th.

The authoritarian incumbent, Nicolás Maduro, [claimed victory](#) despite reams of evidence that the [opposition won](#) by an insurmountable margin. The electoral council has refused to publish vote tallies. Mr Boric, a millennial socialist, immediately said the official results were “difficult to believe” and that his government would not recognise “any result that is not verifiable.” That put him at odds with an older set of left-wingers in Latin America, including Lula and the leaders of Mexico and Colombia, who have been softer on Mr Maduro. Many left-wingers in the region admire Lula as an elder statesman. But younger ones increasingly look towards the principled Mr Boric.

# Growing unrest in Bangladesh



Student protesters in Bangladesh have called on citizens to march on Dhaka, the capital, on Monday to demand the resignation of [Sheikh Hasina](#), the prime minister. The march, if it goes ahead, will defy a curfew imposed by the government on Sunday evening. It is the latest escalation in a crisis that has lasted for nearly two months.

Violence has rocked Bangladesh since students began protesting about a change to a government-jobs quota system in June. The government's brutal response, in which at least 150 people were killed, led the protests to develop into a movement demanding accountability from Sheikh Hasina. On Sunday dozens of people were killed in clashes between protesters, police and pro-government thugs. The government has shut down the internet and mobile-phone networks. It has shown little sign of trying to reach an accommodation with the protesters. The price of Sheikh Hasina's clinging to power looks ever higher.



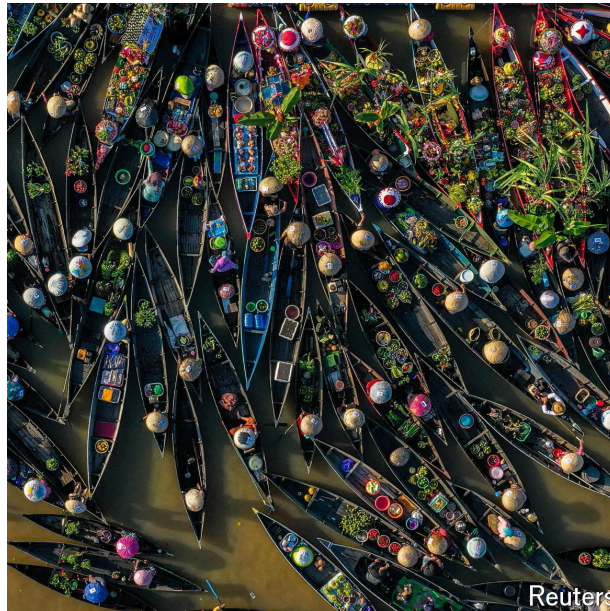
## A test case for the AI boom



When Palantir reports second-quarter earnings on Monday, the focus will be on how much its commercial revenue has been boosted by generative artificial intelligence. Most of the [software company's day-to-day business](#) is data sleuthing on behalf of shadowy government agencies. But it has become one of America's most highly valued software stocks this year because investors hope that its Artificial Intelligence Platform, which provides clients access to large language models to help manage their data, will attract a growing number of private firms.

Commercial revenue in the quarter is expected to grow by between 32% and 45% year on year. It is fast catching up with sales to governments, which has been sluggish. Investors will be looking at how much its AI “boot camps” for potential clients are attracting big orders. Some worry that the firm's valuation has been overinflated by hype about the AI boom. That makes the results a “prove it” moment—not just for Palantir, but for commercial deployment of generative AI in general.

# Lofty goals for Indonesian growth



The Indonesian economy probably grew by around 5% in the second quarter of the year, said the finance minister, Sri Mulyani Indrawati, ahead of the release of official data on Monday. But if the president-elect, [Prabowo Subianto](#), has his way, Indonesia's growth rates will soon pick up rapidly. Mr Prabowo, a former general who won [Indonesia's presidential election in February](#), will begin his term in October. He has said that growth should hit 8% in the first three years of his administration, based on Indonesia's new nickel-led industrial policy and more generous public spending. That would be Indonesia's most rapid rate of growth since 1995.

Despite the ambitious pronouncements, analysts worry that Mr Prabowo will not follow Ms Mulyani's relatively orthodox fiscal policy, putting Indonesia's fiscal credibility at risk. According to the president-elect's brother and adviser, Hashim Djojohadikusumo, Mr Prabowo may raise the debt-to-GDP ratio from its current 39% to more like 50%.

# The limits of America's basketball dominance



Olympic basketball comes in two formats. The traditional version of the game has five players on each side; a newer event, known as “3x3”, has three. In the larger format America is the dominant force. Its men’s side has won Olympic gold 16 times, the women’s team nine. At the Paris Olympics, both sides are unbeaten and are on course to add two more golds to the tally.

But the 3x3 events look more open. The American women are in the semi-finals on Monday, but only after losing to Australia, Azerbaijan and Germany. The men have been defeated by sides including Poland and Lithuania. Players need to compete on the 3x3 world tour to be eligible for the Olympics. That means American selectors have to find talent beyond elite domestic competitions like the [National Basketball Association](#). The short duration of 3x3 matches—just ten minutes or first to 21 points—can also make the action chaotic. A clean sweep of American basketball golds is unlikely.



## 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](mailto:QuizEspresso@economist.com). We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

**Monday:** Maverick, Goose and Iceman are nicknames for characters in which 1986 movie?

**\$1.5trn**

*The foreign revenue that firms listed in China generated in 2023;  
those listed in America took in \$5.8trn  
[Read the full story.](#)*

**At some point in life the world's beauty  
becomes enough.**

*Toni Morrison*