

The world in brief, July 13th 2024



Donald Trump called on Americans to “stand united” and to not allow “evil to win” after surviving an [assassination attempt](#) on Saturday. Mr Trump was speaking at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania when shots rang out, one of which hit his ear. He pumped his fist as he was escorted from the scene by Secret Service agents. The FBI identified the shooter as Thomas Matthew Crooks, a 20-year-old from Pennsylvania. One spectator was also killed in the shooting, while two were critically injured.

Joe Biden spoke to Mr Trump on Saturday night, having earlier told reporters that “there is no place in America for this type of violence”. Former president Barack Obama condemned the incident and said it should be used as an opportunity to “recommit ourselves to civility and respect in our politics”. Reactions from world leaders started to pour in, including from Britain’s Sir Keir Starmer, Canada’s Justin Trudeau and Israel’s Binyamin Netanyahu.

Hamas said that it had not withdrawn from ceasefire talks, despite an Israeli strike that it said killed at least 90 people. The target was

[Muhammad Deif](#), an Islamist group's military commander who planned the attacks on Israel on October 7th. It is unclear whether he survived, though the Israeli armed forces said they had killed Rafa Salama, a close associate of Mr Deif.

Alphabet, Google's parent company, is in talks to acquire Wiz, a cyber-security company, for around \$23bn, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. If terms can be reached, it would be Alphabet's largest acquisition ever. Alphabet, like its fellow big tech companies, [has been splurging recently](#), with much of its expenditure directed towards AI.

Russian forces killed two members of the emergency services in a "double-tap" missile strike on Budy, a small town near Kharkiv, **Ukraine's** second-biggest city. After rescue teams arrived following a strike on a railway station, a second missile hit, according to Reuters. Russia denies deliberately targeting civilians. Six others were killed in attacks in the regions of Donetsk and southern Kherson.

Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, leader of the Communist Party of **Nepal**, was appointed the country's prime minister. The CPN had been part of the governing coalition until the party withdrew on Friday, causing the government to collapse. Mr Oli, who has been prime minister three times before and will be sworn in on Monday, will lead a coalition with the Nepali Congress party.

Carlos Alcaraz beat Novak Djokovic for a second straight year to win the Wimbledon tennis championship. The 21-year-old Spaniard was dominant throughout the match, taking home his fourth Grand Slam title. The 37-year-old Mr Djokovic was hoping to win his eighth Wimbledon final, which would have seen him equal a record set by Roger Federer, and win his 25th Grand Slam singles title.

Word of the week: RuWiki, the Kremlin's project to rewrite Wikipedia. [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.

Political deadlock in France



France celebrates its national holiday, Bastille Day, on Sunday. This year the festivities in Paris, complete with military parade and flypast, will be tinged with political uncertainty. A week after French voters went to the polls on July 7th to elect their new National Assembly, their country still **does not have a government**. Emmanuel Macron, the president, has kept Gabriel Attal, the prime minister, as caretaker as rival parties try to come to some agreement about who should be in charge.

None of the three main political blocs is even close to holding a majority. In an open “letter to the French” on July 10th Mr Macron called for a broad cross-party majority. Yet the rival political parties deeply distrust each other; they have a weak culture of compromise. And the four-party left-wing alliance, the New Popular Front, which holds the single-biggest bloc, still wants to run a minority government by itself.

How bad cooking kills



Some of the world's deadliest air pollution comes not from packed roads and power plants, but from indoors. Many families still use solid fuels, such as wood or charcoal, to cook. The household smoke that creates leads to almost 4m premature deaths each year, making it the world's third-biggest cause of early mortality for women and children, after heart disease and strokes.

But change is in the air. Since 2010 840m people across Asia have gained access to healthier fuels, such as electricity and gas. China, India and Indonesia have each more than halved the number of people relying on dirty fuels. Progress in Africa, however, has been undermined by its rapid population growth, which outpaces the number of people switching to cleaner ways of cooking. Programmes that promote healthy fuels in Africa are woefully underfunded. Many African countries have recently rolled back programmes because of rising debt burdens. Until the issue gets proper attention, millions of people will continue to die.

A tense football final



When Spain plays England on Sunday, fans of the Euros will get an appropriate final. To get to the last stage, Spain won a tough group and proceeded to difficult knock-out games, where they beat the hosts, Germany, and a turgid France. They have clearly been the best team: Rodrigo Hernández Cascante, a midfielder better known as Rodri, has skilfully enabled an array of exciting attacking talent, including Nico Williams and Lamine Yamal, a 17-year-old prodigy.

[England](#) has emerged as the best of the rest. But that was a low bar. Players from across the continent are [weary](#) after an 11-month-long season; top coaches routinely opt for club management over the international game. England have been resilient, but they have laboured to win over Switzerland (on penalties) and the Netherlands (thanks to a last-minute goal). They do not seem the obvious champions. It will probably be *felicidades España* in Berlin.

Gordon Parks documented the ordinary



“Gordon Parks: Camera Portraits from the Corcoran Collection” opens at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, on Sunday. The exhibition features portraits from 1940-70, capturing the spirit of an era of tumultuous change in American society. Many are of celebrities, from the boxer Muhammad Ali to musicians Leonard Bernstein and Duke Ellington. The self-taught photographer was no stranger to photographing the famous: acclaim for his 1948 photo essay profiling a gang leader in Harlem’s crime wars won him a job at *Life* magazine.

But Parks had a variety of work experiences. He took photos for a number of New Deal government schemes in America’s Great Depression. As *Life* magazine’s first African-American staff photographer, he sensitively recorded the Civil Rights era. The exhibition shows that Parks also excelled at documenting ordinary folks, from a cleaning lady in a government office to an old schoolmate in Detroit.

Three things to know about the week ahead

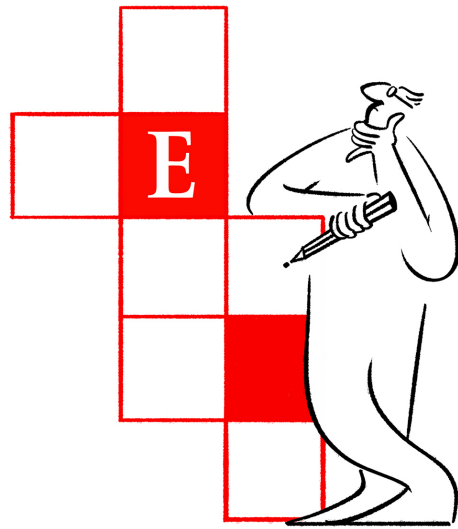


This week was likely to be closely watched by observers of American politics even before shots were fired, apparently injuring Donald Trump, at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania on Saturday. On Monday Republicans are due to gather in Milwaukee for their national convention and anoint Mr Trump as their nominee. He is also due to choose his [running-mate](#). On the Democratic side, ahead of next month's convention in Chicago, Joe Biden faces another testing week. He will try to bolster support by [proving his vigour](#) in another televised interview on Monday. But the week is sure to be overshadowed by Saturday's shocking turn of events.

Separately, investors in America's big banks will watch for results from Bank of America, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, due early this week. On Friday the biggest, JPMorgan Chase, reported a strong investment-banking performance. But the retail side is less rosy: banks have warned that high interest rates are straining the finances of the less well-off. Elsewhere, on Monday China's Communist Party leaders hold a long-awaited [plenum](#) on long-term economic strategy. An enduring, deepening property crisis has

dragged down growth, and now protectionist pressures abroad threaten exports. Economic data due that day, including the latest snapshot of GDP, will focus their minds.

Weekly crossword



Our crossword has two sets of clues, one for seasoned cruciverbalists and the other for less experienced solvers. Both give the same answers, all of which feature in articles in this week's edition of *The Economist*:

Cryptic clues

1 down Brains of clientele scrambled with gin (12)

1 across An inappropriate relationship among prince's tutors (6)

2 across Look! Regularly unseen type of parasite (5)

3 across Region has line after endless feud (6)

Factual clues

1 down What is highly dependent on nutrition after conception (12)

1 across One of crimes for which Anne Boleyn was beheaded (6)

2 across A foe of salmon (5)

3 across Where is preparing for a mighty trade war (6)

Email all four answers, along with your home city and country, by 9am BST on Monday to crossword@economist.com. We will pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners in next week's edition.

The winners of this week's quiz



Thank you to everyone who took part in this week's quiz. The winners, chosen at random, were:

Kate Daly, Yardley, Pennsylvania, America

Katie King, Vancouver, Canada

Francois de Repentigny, Singapore

They all gave the correct answers of a yard, slap shot, chop suey, lip sync and drum. The theme is words that end in stick: yardstick, slapstick, chopstick, lipstick and drumstick.

The questions were:

Monday: In the imperial system, what measurement equals 0.9144 metres?

Tuesday: Which term in ice hockey was used as the title of the 1977 film about the sport, starring Paul Newman?

Wednesday: Which Chinese-American dish which consists of meat, eggs and mixed vegetables may owe its name to a term for “miscellaneous leftovers”?

Thursday: What two-word term refers to the practice of pretending to sing a song by mouthing the words?

Friday: Bass, snare and toms are all types of which musical instrument?

RuWiki

*the Kremlin's project to rewrite Wikipedia.
Read the full story*

**All that separates, whether of race, class,
creed, or sex, is inhuman, and must be
overcome**

Kate Sheppard