

Catch up: Hamas confirms Sinwar's death; North Korean troops to help Russia



Hamas confirmed Israel's [killing of its leader](#), **Yahya Sinwar**, but vowed his death would strengthen its resolve. Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, also said that the fighting would continue. The Israel Defence Forces announced it was sending more reserves to northern Israel as its offensive in neighbouring Lebanon continues. Israeli troops also killed two gunmen who crossed into Israel from Jordan.

South Korea warned that **North Korea** is sending soldiers to help **Russia** in Ukraine. Yoon Suk Yeol, South Korea's president, held an emergency meeting to discuss the matter. Earlier Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, said that [North Korea](#) is planning to send 10,000 troops to aid Russia. South Korean officials reportedly put the figure at 12,000.

Britain's foreign secretary, David Lammy, arrived in Beijing, where he is expected to seek "pragmatic and necessary" engagement with China. During a two-day visit to the country he will discuss climate and trade, and China's support for Russia's

invasion of Ukraine. Britain's view of China has turned [increasingly hawkish](#). Mr Lammy is only the second foreign secretary to visit in six years.

A court in Rome ruled that 12 migrants taken to a detention centre in **Albania** must be moved to **Italy**, because their countries of origin (Bangladesh and Egypt) had not been declared safe. Italian vessels had [delivered them this week](#) to the Albanian site—the first time an EU country processed asylum claims in a third country. Italy vowed to appeal against the ruling.

China's economy grew by 4.6% in the year to the third quarter, faster than expected, but the slowest pace since early 2023 and below the government's target of 5%. Prices also fell, marking the sixth consecutive quarter of deflation. Officials began to introduce [economic stimulus](#) in September, but the figures suggest more is needed.

Kenya's president, [William Ruto](#), nominated the interior minister, Kithure Kindiki, as his deputy, replacing Rigathi Gachagua. On Thursday the upper house of Kenya's parliament voted to impeach the deputy president on charges such as provoking ethnic divisions. Mr Gachagua, who denies the charges and claims they are politically motivated, was too ill to attend the trial, according to his lawyers.

Millions of people in **Cuba** lost electricity after the country's power grid shut down, which the energy ministry blamed on a power-plant failure. Dated generators and a lack of fuel have made power cuts a frequent occurrence. Cubans are [increasingly restless](#): some took to the streets this year to complain about blackouts and food shortages.

Figure of the day: 1.8m, the number of barrels of crude oil that Iran exported a day in September. [Read the full story.](#)

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Ukraine's plan for a post-war world



The visit of America's president to Berlin on Friday will be a celebratory affair. After receiving the Federal Cross of Merit, Germany's highest civilian honour, Joe Biden will visit Olaf Scholz, the chancellor, to discuss Ukraine and other matters. Throughout the war the two men have shared a cautious approach to escalating the war, often frustrating more hawkish NATO allies. Mr Scholz's transatlantic focus has also troubled allies who wish to promote European autonomy. They include Emmanuel Macron, France's president, who along with Keir Starmer, Britain's prime minister, will join the pair in Berlin.

The plan's two final points are reminders of what Ukraine can do for its Western allies if it prevails. The country has [vast mineral wealth](#), especially in parts of Donbas occupied by Russia. And, in a post-war world, battle-hardened Ukrainian units could replace some American contingents based in Europe. But in three weeks it could all be a dead letter if [Donald Trump wins](#) America's presidential election.

How to read China's economy



New figures released on Friday showed that [China's economy](#) grew by 4.6% in the year to the third quarter, a little faster than expected. Industrial production also beat forecasts. But China's investors are no longer much concerned with backward-looking data. They are preoccupied instead with press conferences. Ever since the central bank and financial regulators held an unusual joint media briefing on September 24th, investors have been reacting—and overreacting—to every hint of impending stimulus. China's planning agency, finance ministry and housing ministry have all held press conferences so far this month, but the ultimate scale of any fiscal easing remains vague.

Friday's figures, although better than expected, suggest the economy is still falling short of this year's official growth target of 5%. They also show that China suffered its sixth straight quarter of deflation (as measured by the gap between "real" inflation-adjusted growth and the unadjusted figure). The statistics cannot say how much stimulus the government will eventually provide. But they do help clarify how much stimulus China's economy needs.

Biden's farewell trip to Germany



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Meanwhile, some of Mr Scholz's Social Democrat colleagues quietly wonder if the president might offer another lesson. Opinion polls suggest that Mr Scholz, one of the least popular chancellors in [German](#) history, will lead his party to a devastating defeat in next year's election. Yet Mr Scholz continues to insist he is the right man for the job. There was a time when Mr Biden said the same about himself.

A royal visit to Australia



King Charles III and Queen Camilla arrived in Australia on Friday for a six-day tour of Sydney and Canberra. The premiers of Australia's six states have snubbed a reception to welcome the royals, citing other commitments. Australian monarchists accused them of "insulting" the king.

The country has debated for decades whether to become a republic. In 1999 Australians voted against doing so in a referendum. Since then support for republicanism has fallen. Republicans thought Queen Elizabeth II's death in 2022 would change that. Yet many Australians [cling to the king](#). Recent polling suggests that just one in three wants to ditch the monarchy. Australia's centre-left Labor government has scrapped plans for another referendum on the issue. One reason is that Australians have bigger issues to worry about. Most are more preoccupied with rising inflation than with the crown.

The good old British sensibilities



The word “buttocks” does not, in this golden era of sly and subtle television, appear much in reviews. Nor do words such as “romp”, “tits” and “bonk”. But then reviewers rarely have to cope with the [oeuvre of Jilly Cooper](#), a British “bonkbuster” novelist. On Friday, with the release of a star-studded adaptation of her 1988 novel “Rivals” on Disney+, they do. They have risen to the occasion magnificently, peppering (adoring) reviews with not just the words above but also with (brace yourself) “squirting”.

“Rivals”, set in Ms Cooper’s beloved Cotswolds, is unabashedly of another era. The men are lecherous and treacherous; the women gorgeous; the sex gratuitous; the puns execrable. It is, in short, glorious. There is plot—something or other about a TV company. But don’t worry about that. In an era that takes itself a trifle seriously, “Rivals” doesn’t at all. Instead, it offers romps, rumps, lashings of champagne and, above all, joy. Oh, and did we mention the buttocks?

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.

Friday: How many US states have double letters in their names?

Thursday: How many inches are in a yard?

The winners of last week's crossword



Thank you to everyone who took part in our weekly crossword, published in the weekend edition of Espresso. The winners, chosen at random, were:

Faheem Handoo, Chicago, America

Gwern Evans, Cardiff, Britain

K. S. Bharti, Naya Nangal, India

They all gave the correct answers of [baked beans](#), [brain](#), [Delhi](#) and [shale](#). Check back tomorrow for this week's crossword.

1.8m

The number of barrels of crude oil that Iran exported a day in September.

Read the full story.

A genius is often merely a talented person who has done all of his or her homework.

Thomas Edison