

Catch up: Israel raids West Bank; BYD's soaring profits



Israeli forces killed at least nine Palestinians in the northern part of the occupied **West Bank**. Israel claimed it was carrying out a “counter-terrorism operation”. It has sent in ground troops and launched a drone strike that hit a refugee camp. The operation is Israel’s biggest in the northern **West Bank** in years. Meanwhile, an Israeli strike near Syria’s border with Lebanon killed three Palestinian fighters and a member of Hizbullah, an Iran-backed militia, according to Reuters, a news agency.

Profits at BYD, **China’s** biggest carmaker, rose by 24% year on year during the first half of 2024. Higher electric-vehicle sales boosted revenues. Demand for EVs is faltering and China’s consumers have been wary of spending amid a housing crisis. But the carmaker’s competitive prices allowed it to capture market share abroad. BYD plans to set up **manufacturing bases** in **Europe** and **Mexico**.

Sir Keir Starmer, Britain’s prime minister, met **Olaf Sholz**, his German counterpart, in Berlin. In a joint declaration, the two

countries agreed to forge “deeper links” in areas including science, technology and culture. They will also co-operate on tackling illegal migration. Sir Keir has said he wants to [reset relations](#) with the European Union.

Berkshire Hathaway, Warren Buffett’s [investment firm](#), became the first American company outside of the tech sector to hit \$1trn in market value. Investors, buoyed by [expectations](#) that the **Federal Reserve** could slash rates in September, sent its stock up by more than 1% in early trading. Mr Buffett’s portfolio is expected to benefit from interest-rate cuts.

A **Ukrainian** [drone attack](#) in Rostov, a region in southern Russia, caused fires at two oil depots, according to local media. There were no reported casualties. Earlier **Volodymyr Zelensky**, Ukraine’s president, said he would discuss a peace plan to end the war in Ukraine with America’s president, Joe Biden, and Kamala Harris, the vice-president. He said that his forces’ incursion into Kursk was part of that plan.

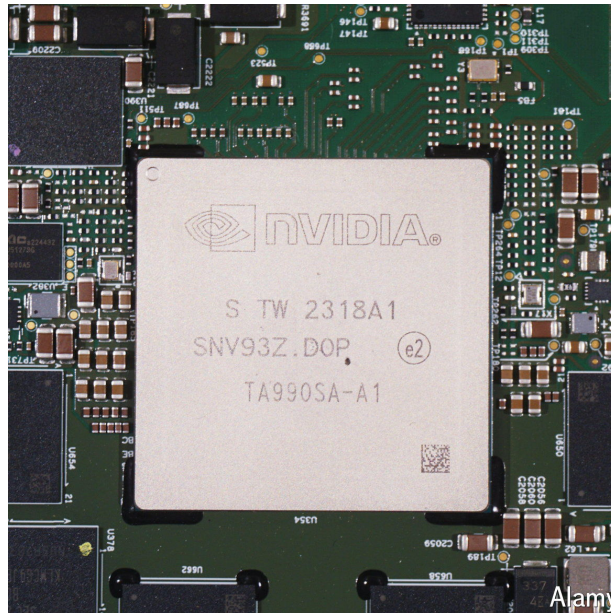
The Pentagon said that an **oil tanker** that was attacked by [Houthi](#) rebels in the **Red Sea** may be leaking oil and had the potential to cause an environmental disaster. The *Sounion* was set ablaze by the Yemeni group last week. It was carrying around 1m barrels of oil. Attempts to salvage the vessel have been prevented by Houthi threats to attack rescuers.

Authorities issued extreme-weather warnings for southern, central and western **Japan** ahead of **Typhoon Shanshan**’s approach, ordering nearly one million people to evacuate. Several [carmakers](#), including Honda, Nissan and Toyota temporarily closed factories and some commercial flights were cancelled. The storm is expected to bring “record-breaking” rainfall, with a risk of heavy flooding and landslides.

Figure of the day: 350, the rough number of pages in the “Equal Treatment Bench Book”, a language guide for British lawyers.

[Read the full story.](#)

Can Nvidia meet expectations?



Nvidia, the world's most valuable [semiconductor company](#), is something of a canary in the coalmine. When it announces second-quarter results on Wednesday, its report will be parsed for insights into the global artificial-intelligence economy. Analysts expect the company to post sales of approximately \$28.7bn for the three months ending in July—more than twice as much as in the same period last year. Since the start of 2024, Nvidia's share price has surged by over 160%.

Yet investors smell trouble. In early August rumours began swirling about design issues delaying the rollout of Blackwell, [Nvidia's latest AI chip](#). The company said that it was confident that production would ramp up in the second half of the year. Another worry is whether businesses are adopting AI more slowly than expected. So far, tech giants such as Google, Microsoft, Meta and Amazon—Nvidia's main customers—are still heavily investing in new data centres. Nvidia's forecast for the next quarter will give an early sign of whether this trend will continue.

“Russia’s Mark Zuckerberg” awaits charges



On August 24th French police [arrested Pavel Durov](#) as he stepped off his private jet near Paris. So far details of the crimes that the founder of Telegram is alleged to have committed have been scant. Judges have until Wednesday to charge him.

The void of information has been filled by speculation. Some suspect geopolitical motives, noting the [messaging app](#)’s role in Russia’s war against Ukraine, both as a disseminator of information and a military communication tool. When Emmanuel Macron, France’s president, insisted that Mr Durov’s detention was “in no way a political decision”, conspiracy theories only proliferated.

Others, such as Elon Musk, the owner of X, see it as a [battle over free speech](#). That concern is not unfounded. Politicians, both authoritarian and not, are pressuring social-media apps to delete content they don’t like. But Telegram’s hands-off approach to moderation has allowed content to flourish that is straightforwardly illegal, including the sharing of child sexual-abuse material.

Kamala swings around Georgia



Can she sustain the momentum? That is the question pundits are asking as Kamala Harris embarks on Wednesday on a two-day bus tour of southern Georgia. *The Economist's* forecast model suggests that Ms Harris has a two in five chance to win the Peach State, a [remarkable improvement](#) compared with Joe Biden's one in five chance when he was on the ticket.

Democrats are keen to take credit for the improvement in [their prospects](#) in the swing state, but Mr Trump is helping them, too. At a rally in Atlanta earlier this month the former president [reignited a feud](#) with Georgia's popular Republican governor, bruising his chances with conservative voters in the suburbs. Although the two now seem reconciled, Mr Trump will have plenty to prove when he returns to Georgia. The infighting diverts attacks from Ms Harris who at last week's Democratic convention received an on-stage endorsement from Geoff Duncan, Georgia's Republican former lieutenant-governor, who split with Mr Trump after the 2020 election.

Abercrombie is cool again



For some millennials, Abercrombie & Fitch might still evoke moose logos, upturned collars and sexy black-and-white catalogues of the fashion brand's early-aughts heyday. For their parents, it might summon the overpowering scent of "Fierce", a cologne that was a teenage favourite. Both groups would probably find Abercrombie's shops and merchandise unrecognisable today.

In 2006 Mike Jeffries, the company's then boss, bragged that the preppy brand was "exclusionary" and went after "the cool kids". His successor, Fran Horowitz, prides herself on paying closer attention to what young buyers want. The brand now stocks more denim sizes. In its "Wedding Shop", it offers outfits and accessories for burdened bridesmaids. The revamp appears to have worked: in May Abercrombie reported a record \$1bn in net sales for the first quarter. Investors are expecting similarly strong results from the second quarter when the company reports on Wednesday. In 2023 Abercrombie's share price rose by 285%, outperforming [even Nvidia's](#), the world's most valuable chipmaker.

Cinematic riches in Venice



The roster of movies and stars at this year's [Venice Film Festival](#), which starts on Wednesday, looks especially plentiful. Angelina Jolie will become Maria Callas, an opera diva, in "Maria". Daniel Craig, known for playing James Bond, will be transformed into an American junkie in Mexico in an adaptation of William Burroughs's novel "Queer" by Luca Guadagnino, an Italian director. George Clooney and Brad Pitt will come together in the action-comedy "Wolfs".

Two blockbuster sequels are also launching at the fest. Tim Burton's "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" reprises the director's dark fantasy epic from 1988, and "Joker: Folie à Deux" sees the return of Joaquin Phoenix as the eponymous supervillain, this time starring alongside Lady Gaga.

Documentaries include a probe of the Mexican-American border by Erroll Morris and an intimate portrait of a professional "mistress dispeller" in China, who delicately breaks up affairs to save marriages, by Elizabeth Lo, a filmmaker from Hong Kong. The

jury, headed this year by Isabelle Huppert, a French actress, can look forward to a great show—and some tough decisions.

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: In October 2022, a leader in *The Economist* said, that Liz Truss, Britain's then prime minister, had the shelf life of which vegetable?

Tuesday: Cheshire, Cornish Yarg and Stracciatella are all types of what?

350

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a language guide for British lawyers.
Read the full story.*

Liberty is the power that we have over ourselves.

Hugo Grotius