

Catch up: Israel says it inflicted “crushing blow”; dozens killed in Balochistan



Israel said that **Hizbullah** had suffered a “crushing blow” from Israeli air strikes on southern Lebanon, which it claimed foiled Hizbullah’s plans for a bigger attack. On Sunday the Iran-backed militant group **fired hundreds of rockets** towards Israel—a long-awaited retaliation for Israel’s killing of a top Hizbullah commander last month. Meanwhile, polio **vaccines** arrived in **Gaza**. The World Health Organisation confirmed last week that a ten-month-old boy had contracted the disease, the enclave’s first case in 25 years.

At least 70 people were killed in a series of attacks in **Balochistan**, in south-west **Pakistan**. The Baloch Liberation Army, a separatist group, claimed to have killed at least 22 people on a highway in the province. Officials say they targeted individuals from Punjab. Baloch nationalists in Pakistan feel that Punjabis, the country’s largest ethnic group, have sidelined and impoverished them.

Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine’s president, urged the West to allow his country to use their weapons systems to **strike inside Russia**.

America continues to impose restrictions on where Ukraine can fire its precision longer-range missiles. Mr Zelensky's plea came after **Russia** attacked 15 regions in **Ukraine**, including the capital, Kyiv. At least five people were killed and several cities suffered power outages.

Arbat dam, on the coast of **Sudan**, burst after heavy rainfall. Floods killed 60 people in the [war-torn country](#), according to local officials. At least 100 more are missing. The dam supplied drinking water to Port Sudan, a city near the coast. Many civilians have fled there since civil war broke out in [Khartoum](#), the capital, in April 2023.

[Olaf Scholz](#), **Germany's** chancellor, visited Solingen, a western city where three people were killed and eight were injured in a knife attack on Friday. The suspect, a 26-year-old Syrian asylum-seeker, admitted to the crime and is thought to be a member of Islamic State. Mr Scholz promised [his government](#) would “do everything” to deport individuals “not allowed to stay in Germany”.

The **World Health Organisation** announced its plan to tackle [mpox](#). The viral disease is thought to have infected more than 17,000 people since January, mostly in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Its spread is being fuelled by a new strain, which is easier to transmit than older ones and appears to be more deadly. The WHO said it would need \$135m to deliver its six-month response plan, which includes improved surveillance and diagnostics.

Canada will impose 100% tariffs on imports of Chinese-made [electric vehicles](#), and a 25% levy on Chinese steel and aluminium. The move follows similar plans by the European Commission and America. **China's** government has hugely heavily subsidised the **EV industry**; cars are more advanced and cheaper than those of rivals abroad. Justin Trudeau, Canada's prime minister, accused China of having “an unfair advantage” in the market.

Figure of the day: 200, the number of rockets and drones that Hizbullah launched towards Israel on August 25th. [Read the full story.](#)

America's booming property market



The property market has been **incredibly resilient** over the past two years. Interest-rate increases should lead to a drop in house prices, as rising mortgage rates reduce demand. Yet in May prices were 9.7% higher than when the Federal Reserve began tightening monetary policy in March 2022, according to the S&P Case-Shiller index, which tracks American property prices. On Tuesday S&P will release data for June.

There are signs that the market may be weakening. One reason for the boom is that America's mortgage system relies on long-term fixed rates. That means that fewer homeowners sell when the Fed raises rates, because they want to retain their cheaper mortgages. This has reduced the number of existing homes available on the market. Seeing this tightness, homebuilders ramped up construction a couple of years ago, and that stock of housing is now hitting the market. In July the number of homes, most of which were new builds, for sale was 19.8% higher than a year earlier. Nevertheless, if recent history is any guide, the resilient housing market will probably continue to confound observers.

Germany's chancellor on the back foot



On Sunday Saxony and Thuringia, two states in eastern Germany, will hold parliamentary elections. It will be a bruising experience for the “[traffic-light](#)” [coalition](#) that governs the country; in both states all three parties could be ejected from parliament altogether. In Thuringia, and perhaps Saxony, the hard-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) is likely to top the polls—for the first time ever in a German state election. Another populist outfit, set up by Sahra Wagenknecht, a hard leftist campaigning on a pro-Russia line, will also do well.

Hoping to limit the damage for his Social Democrats, on Tuesday Olaf Scholz, Germany's chancellor, will campaign in Jena, Thuringia's second town. But Mr Scholz faces a second problem. Last Friday a Syrian asylum-seeker who had evaded a deportation order murdered three people in Solingen, a town in western Germany. Calls are growing for Germany to tighten its asylum rules—and not only from the AfD.

BHP digs for copper



The world's largest miner reports its annual results on Tuesday. Since the start of the year its share price has fallen by 19%. A slowdown in China's property market has depressed demand for iron ore, which is used in steelmaking. Iron ore has long been a money-maker for BHP, funding its investments in other areas.

One of those is copper. The red metal is in high demand due to its use in electric vehicles, data centres and power lines. Recently BHP increased its copper production through acquisitions. In July it jointly acquired Filo Corp, a South American copper miner, for \$3.25bn. Last year the company purchased OZ Minerals, an Australian copper producer, for \$6.4bn. But its \$49bn bid to buy [Anglo American](#), another major mining firm with significant copper assets, was unsuccessful. Investors will be eager to hear about BHP's acquisition plans.

The search for dark matter continues



The nature of dark matter, which is invisible and makes up 27% of the universe, is still largely unknown. Scientists think it could consist of Weakly Interacting Massive Particles, [but they have never found any](#). On Monday physicists presented new results from the world's most sensitive WIMP detector, known as LZ, at conferences in São Paulo and Chicago: still nothing.

LZ, which is housed in an old mine and will run until 2028, watches a tank of liquid xenon for a signal that a WIMP has bumped into a xenon nucleus. It searches for ever-fainter interactions, meaning that it continuously narrows down what properties WIMPs could have. The lack of signal suggests that it is either closing in on WIMPs, or that it cannot detect them—if they exist at all. If the former, a big discovery may be coming. If the latter, dark matter will remain shadowy for a while yet.

How Adam Sandler stays rich



If you were asked to name the highest-paid actor in 2023, whom would you choose? Tom Cruise, perhaps, or Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson? Meryl Streep? Nice tries. But those guesses are wrong. It was Adam Sandler, nicknamed the “The Sandman”, who took home \$73m last year. That is some \$14m more than Margot Robbie, who placed second.

How did Mr Sandler, best known for playing schlubs, rise to the top of the film industry? Part of the reason is a deal with Netflix: Mr Sandler produces and stars in middling, but popular, [comedies](#) for the platform. (It says subscribers spent 500m hours watching Mr Sandler’s films in the first half of 2023.) His other income stream comes from the thing that made him famous: stand-up. On Tuesday Netflix releases his latest special, “Love You”. Mr Sandler may be aiming that adoration at his fans—or at the streaming service that keeps him rich and famous.

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.

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

Monday: Which heiress was kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army in 1974?

200

The number of rockets and drones that Hizbullah launched towards Israel on August 25th.

Read the full story.

The only joy in the world is to begin.

Cesare Pavese