

Catch up: Russian strike kills at least 40 in Ukraine; Turkey requests to join BRICS



A **Russian** missile attack killed at least 41 people and injured more than 180 in Poltava, a city in central **Ukraine**. The strike destroyed part of an educational institute and a nearby hospital, according to Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine's president. A statement by the country's Ministry of Defence said that many are still trapped underneath rubble. Mr Zelensky also [repeated calls](#) for more Western air defences and for allies to allow the use of long-range weapons so Ukraine can strike deeper into Russian territory.

Turkey submitted a request to join the **BRICS** in an attempt to forge [alliances](#) outside of the West. The group—which initially comprised Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa—has been expanding in recent years. In 2024 it welcomed four new members, including Iran and Saudi Arabia. Their admission reflects how geopolitics is changing: the world is becoming more multipolar.

At least 12 **migrants** died while trying to cross the **English Channel** after a boat capsized off the coast of Le Portel in northern France. The French coastguard said that more than 50 other

migrants were rescued, with several needing urgent medical care. It is the [deadliest disaster](#) in the Channel this year.

A court in **Venezuela** issued an arrest warrant for Edmundo González. Mr González claims, legitimately, that he defeated President Nicolás Maduro in a [presidential election](#) in July. Since stealing the vote, Mr Maduro has cracked down on dissent. Mr González, who is in hiding, has been charged with “usurpation”, conspiracy and sabotage.

Cathay Pacific said it had completed inspection of all of its [Airbus](#) A350 jets, after an engine component failed mid-flight. Disruption will continue until Saturday, while the company carries out repairs on 12 remaining aircraft with engine parts that need replacing. Shares in Rolls-Royce, the company that manufactures engines for A350 planes, fell by about 6.5% on Monday.

At least 129 prisoners died during a failed escape attempt in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**. Many were killed during a stampede, officials said. Prison guards also shot around 24 inmates, according to Shabani Lukoo, the country’s interior minister. The [prison](#) was about ten times over capacity. In 2017 more than 4,000 prisoners escaped from it.

Pope Francis arrived in Indonesia, the world’s most populous Muslim-majority country. Catholics make up about 3% of the population. Francis aims to develop inter-faith dialogue there. During his 12-day trip across Asia he will fly some 30,000km and visit four countries. At age 87, Francis is making the longest trip of his [papacy](#).

Fact of the day: 40%, the estimated average fall in price of stationary lithium batteries per kilowatt-hour of storage between 2019 and 2023. [Read the full story](#).

A pivotal moment for Israel



The repatriation of six bodies of Israeli hostages from Gaza on Saturday could be a pivotal moment for Israelis. The hostages had survived for nearly 11 months since being abducted by [Hamas](#) on October 7th. Forensic evidence indicated they had been murdered shortly before Israeli forces arrived.

This has fuelled protests against the government of Binyamin Netanyahu, who has refused to accept one of Hamas's main conditions for a [ceasefire and hostage-release deal](#): a withdrawal of Israeli forces from the border corridor between Gaza and Egypt. Such a deal might have saved the hostages' lives. The news unleashed the largest wave of demonstrations in Israel since the war began, with more than 100,000 protestors blocking main roads in Tel Aviv and other cities. Trade unions held a one-day general strike on Monday. For now, Mr Netanyahu is not budging. He told a cabinet meeting that he is sticking by the "strategic decision" to hold the border corridor.

Panama's crackdown on illegal migration



On Tuesday Panama will deport 70 Indian nationals on a flight funded by America's government. Since taking power in July, José Raúl Mulino, the president, has promised to crack down on illegal migration through the [Darién Gap](#), the jungle on the southern border with Colombia. In the past two weeks five deportation flights have departed to Colombia and Ecuador. Many deportees have criminal records, according to migration officials. Mr Mulino says Chinese nationals will be next.

Last year over 520,000 migrants crossed the gap into Panama: 25,565 came from China and 3,736 from India. Mr Mulino's tough stance appears to be having some effect. In the first eight months of the year numbers fell by 27% compared with 2023, declining more sharply since he took office. But there is no plan in place to deport Venezuelan migrants, who make up almost two-thirds of entrants. Migration from that country could surge again after [President Nicolás Maduro's](#) recent theft of an election and subsequent crackdown.

How will Harris advertise?



With Labor Day over, the sprint to the American presidential election in November begins. Kamala Harris's campaign will look to put its best foot forward with a massive advertising blitz, starting on Tuesday. It intends to spend \$170m on television spots in battleground states and a further \$200m on streaming platforms like YouTube and Spotify. According to the campaign, it will be the biggest such spend by "any political organisation ever".

[Ms Harris](#) certainly has the cash. She has raised over \$500m since becoming the Democratic Party's candidate in August. But in terms of spending she is still playing catch-up with Donald Trump. His campaign and its allies have forked out more than Democrats in four of seven swing states. Still, not all of that money has been well spent. The campaign has reportedly been buying advertisements around Mr Trump's home in Mar-a-Lago to keep the boss happy, despite the fact that Florida is not in play this [election](#).

Heathrow workers on strike



Hundreds of Border Force officers at [Heathrow airport](#), Europe's busiest, will end their four-day strike on Tuesday. But disruption is due to continue. Following the industrial action—which protested against the introduction of “inflexible” new work rotas—650 members of the Public and Commercial Services Union will refuse to work overtime or perform extra tasks until September 22nd. Britain's Home Office said it will try to “minimise disruption where possible”.

The dispute is the latest in a series of setbacks for the air-travel industry, which has struggled to handle a post-pandemic surge in demand. Heathrow has just two runways, compared with four at Paris's Charles de Gaulle and at Frankfurt, and six at Amsterdam's Schiphol. Yet bosses forecast a record 82.4m passengers this year, up from 80.9m in 2019. Simple fixes such as a new baggage system and improvements to security lanes will help boost capacity, but calls for another strip of tarmac will probably grow.

Time's up for luxury watches



The Hong Kong Watch and Clock Fair kicked off on Tuesday. Manufacturers will show new products in the hope that buzz and higher sales will follow. In recent years that has run like clockwork. But now something might jam.

The pandemic saw a huge boom in luxury watches, as buyers felt flush from low interest rates and a thriving stockmarket. Watch prices rose by 27% between 2020 and 2022, according to BCG, a consultancy. But the market has since plummeted. Swiss watch exports dropped to 12.3bn Swiss francs (\$14.5bn) in the first six months of 2024, 3.2% lower than in the same period last year.

That is largely down to an economic slowdown in [China](#), a big luxury market. Demand in China and Hong Kong fell by 21.6% and 19.9% respectively in July. The Watch and Clock Fair may struggle to make buyers tick.

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: Who starred as Axel Foley in the Beverly Hills Cop film series?

Monday: Gene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt were the last two people to do what?

40%

The estimated average fall in price of stationary lithium batteries per kilowatt-hour of storage between 2019 and 2023.

Read the full story.

Form follows function.

Louis Sullivan