

Catch up: Harris's economic policies; gold price breaks record



Kamala Harris, America's vice-president and the [Democratic Party's presidential nominee](#), shed some light on her [economic policies](#) during a campaign speech in North Carolina. Promising to build an “opportunity economy” if elected, Ms Harris said her plans include a ban on so-called “price gouging” by grocery stores and creating assistance programmes for first-time home-buyers. She also hit back at Donald Trump's plans to impose [large tariffs](#) on all imported goods, dubbing it a “Trump tax”. Ms Harris's economic populism seeks to build on the legacy of President Joe Biden, who has spent big in an effort to win over [left-behind voters](#).

The price of **gold** rose to a [record high](#), climbing past \$2,500 per ounce. The rally comes after the American stockmarket had one of its strongest weeks this year, recovering the losses that it suffered during [a rout nearly two weeks ago](#). Investors—who flock to bullion when interest rates are low—are preparing for the Federal Reserve to cut rates next month.

Officials in [Pokrovsk](#), a **Ukrainian** town in the Donetsk region, reportedly warned residents that **Russian** troops were “advancing at a fast pace” and urged them to evacuate. The advance comes after Ukraine’s [surprise invasion](#) of Russia. Earlier, Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine’s president, said his country’s troops had gained complete control of the Russian town of Sudzha, in the **Kursk** border region.

Turkish lawmakers brawled in parliament after Ahmet Sik, an opposition MP, said that his colleague should be released from prison and readmitted to the chamber. Can Atalay was arrested in 2022 after being accused of organising [protests](#) against Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey’s president and then prime minister, in 2013. Mr Sik was attacked by MPs from Mr Erdogan’s ruling party.

[Home building](#) in **America** fell to the lowest level since May 2020. The number of units built in July fell by 6.8% compared to the previous year, with just 1.2m added. Construction was very slow in the South, as Hurricane Beryl delayed building work. America’s construction sector has struggled this year as high interest rates have made mortgages expensive.

India said it would hold local elections in **Kashmir** for the first time in a decade. [Jammu & Kashmir](#) enjoyed special status in India for 70 years—including having its own constitution and flag—until 2019, when Narendra Modi, India’s president, [stripped it of its autonomy](#) and split the state. The Muslim-majority territory has long been a [regional flashpoint](#), with Pakistan, India and China all laying competing claims to it.

A judge in New York temporarily blocked the launch of **Venu Sports**, [a joint sport-streaming service](#) between **Disney, Fox and Warner Brothers**. FuboTV, another streamer, filed an antitrust lawsuit against the media giants, arguing that their product, due to launch ahead of the [NFL season](#) this autumn, would “irrevocably

harm” consumers. The companies said they would appeal against the decision.

Word of the week: kudzu, an invasive species of climbing vine.
[Read the full story.](#)

As America prepares to vote in national elections in November, keep abreast of the political news by reading [The US in brief](#), our daily update. [Sign up](#) to receive it as a newsletter each weekday.

India's sexual-violence problem



Doctors in India have called for strikes on Saturday to demand safer working conditions in hospitals. The appeal follows a week of protests triggered by the rape and murder of a 31-year-old trainee doctor at a government-run hospital in West Bengal, an eastern state. The case stoked public anger about widespread [sexual violence against women](#) and the police's failure to investigate it seriously. A man arrested in connection with the crime had a history of violence against former partners but had never been punished.

In his Independence Day speech on Thursday [Narendra Modi](#), the prime minister, spoke of the need to protect women, though he did not refer to the young doctor's killing. Members of Mr Modi's party have called for the resignation of Mamata Banerjee, the chief minister of West Bengal, who belongs to an opposition party. She has demanded the death penalty for any culprits of the crime. The political fall-out risks overshadowing the urgent need to improve India's record on women's safety.

Obstacles to building Indonesia's new capital



Jakarta, Indonesia's capital and home to 10m people, is congested, polluted and sinking into swampy land. [Jokowi Widodo](#), the outgoing president, wants to shift the capital to [Nusantara](#), a city to be built in the jungles of Borneo more than 1,200km away. Yet things are not going to plan for the \$35bn project. Construction has been delayed by problems with funding and land acquisition. A grand ceremony to celebrate Indonesia's independence day at the prospective capital on Saturday has been downsized. Organisers, unable to feed or house the planned 8,000 guests, slashed the list to 1,300.

Officials and planners insist that Nusantara is a long-term project. Prabowo Subianto, who will take over from Mr Widodo in October, has said he will continue building the city. But, with a scheduled completion date in 2045, Nusantara will require much more political commitment to keep it afloat.

Football is back



This weekend England's Premier League kicks off a new season. The competition has become the world's most popular football league, partly because it has so many strong teams. Many fans think that anyone can beat anyone. Last season was a [thriller](#). With just a few games to go, three clubs—Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester City—were vying for the title.

But some teams are more equal than others. Manchester City, an Emirati-owned side, won their fourth consecutive championship. They are favourites to take the crown this year, too. The squad is packed with world-class talent and its manager, Pep Guardiola, is widely thought to be the world's best. However, a disciplinary panel is investigating whether the club violated the league's financial rules, charges it denies. A verdict is expected by the spring. If guilt is established, City could face a points deduction.

A tribal festival in Papua New Guinea



Papua New Guinea, a Pacific island state, is home to at least 312 tribes and [more than 800 languages](#). But these groups have not always co-existed in harmony; inter-tribal violence occurs even now. There have been efforts to encourage peace. The Hagen Show, an annual festival of traditional performance, dance and art (a gathering also known as a *sing-sing*) that was first held in 1961, is one example. Today the event draws hundreds of performers from scores of local tribes—and thousands of tourists.

This year's festival kicks off on Saturday in Mount Hagen, PNG's third-largest city, situated in the western highlands between the country's two highest peaks. Over two days visitors can expect to witness vibrant displays of each tribe's culture, from elaborate headdresses and colourful face-paint to animal masks and skeleton designs. That is, if they can afford the trip: some private tour companies charge thousands of dollars to help tourists make the journey.

Weekend profile: Colin Huang, China's richest man

When Colin Huang, founder of Pinduoduo, an e-commerce site, this month became China's richest man, his public reaction was typical: utter silence. He has thrived while toeing the party line and keeping quiet.

Born in 1980 to factory workers in the eastern city of Hangzhou, Mr Huang studied in China and America, taking a masters in computer science at the University of Wisconsin. He got a software-engineering job at Google in 2004, resigning in 2007 to start his own businesses. By 2015, he had built three moderately successful companies.

China's tech scene at the time was dominated by giants like [Alibaba](#) in e-commerce and [Tencent](#) in gaming. He started to think about a gamified e-commerce app to compete with them. Spending almost a year at home recovering from an illness, he saw how his mother and her friends would carefully track grocery prices and band together to buy at a discount. He integrated social features into the app too, like group-buying. It became Pinduoduo, which means "shop more together".

Mr Huang's company quickly came to dominate the market in areas the e-commerce giants had neglected, offering agricultural products to poor rural people. From rural areas the company then expanded into cities. But the company's focus remained, he said, on "the vast majority of Chinese people".

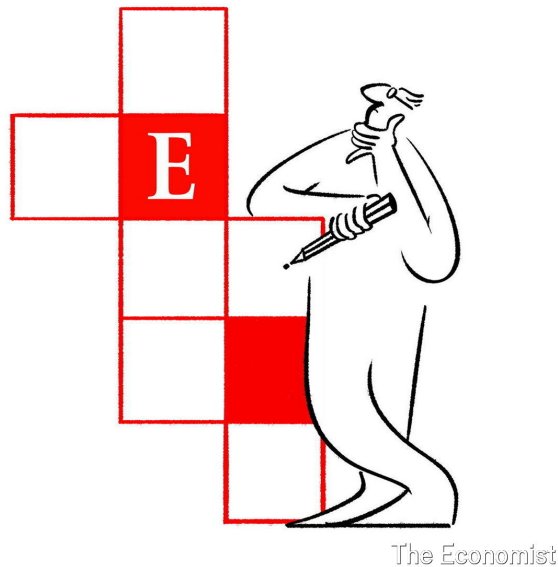
That is changing. In September 2022, Pinduoduo's parent company, PDD, launched [Temu](#), an online marketplace, in America, to connect sellers in China with inflation-weary American consumers. According to one survey, a third of American shoppers now make

at least one monthly purchase on the site. With aggressive promotion and the slogan “shop like a billionaire”, it has already expanded to 60 countries. The recent growth in Mr Huang’s net worth has largely come from Temu’s success abroad.

Back in China, Mr Huang seems to have avoided becoming a target for officials by making himself into what the government would see as a “good” billionaire. The priority he gives to lifting rural people out of poverty echoes the Communist Party’s own rhetoric.

Although only in his forties, he has stepped back from front-line leadership to make way for a “new generation of leaders”. He has also donated \$100m to support agricultural research at his alma mater, Zhejiang University. These days he is reportedly pursuing his personal interests in food- and life-sciences. But he does not make much noise about that.

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 Underground treasure bonanza only occasionally disguised (12)

1 across Tabloid with plot showing where to get a tan (6)

2 across A bit of troublesome currency (6)

3 across Natural state is fresh air, we're told (6)

Factual clues

1 down One way to describe much of Britain's critical infrastructure (12)

1 across A place to soak up ultraviolet rays (6)

2 across What has slumped after a Ukrainian incursion into Russia (6)

3 across Something becoming less common on European beaches (6)

Email all four answers, along with your home city and country, by 9am GMT 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



The Economist

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

Elizabeth Hawes Unangst, Edgewater, Maryland, America

Colin Robertson, Naarden, The Netherlands

Kent Powell, Atlanta, Georgia, America

They all gave the correct answers of Enduring Love, storms, Nick Fury, first cause, and the Rolling Stones. The theme is code names for US military operations: Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), Desert Storm (first Gulf War), Urgent Fury (Grenada), Just Cause (Panama), and Rolling Thunder (bombing of North Vietnam).

The questions were:

Monday: Which novel by Ian McEwan, later made into a film starring Daniel Craig, begins with a tragic balloon accident?

Tuesday: Agnes, Babet and Jocelyn are all names for what type of phenomenon that hit Europe over the last 12 months?

Wednesday: Which character played by Samuel Jackson, is the director of SHIELD in the Marvel movies?

Thursday: *Primum movens*, a Latin term sometimes used to argue for the existence of God, has what meaning in English?

Friday: Mick Taylor and Brian Jones were former members of which rock group?

Kudzu

*An invasive species of climbing vine.
Read the full story.*

You are who you choose to be.

Ted Hughes