

Catch up: Harris's economic policies; Israeli airstrike hits southern Lebanon



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 “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](#).

An **Israeli airstrike** on Nabatieh, a city in [southern Lebanon](#), killed at least ten people, according to local media. Israel's army said the attack had targeted a “weapons storage facility” used by Hizbullah, an [Iran-backed Shia militia](#). Antony Blinken, America's secretary of state, is due to arrive in Israel on Saturday for peace talks aimed at ending the [war in Gaza](#).

The price of **gold** rose to a [record high](#), climbing past \$2,500 per ounce. The rally comes after American stockmarkets had one of their strongest weeks this year, recovering the losses that they 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.

Russia said that **Ukraine** had used Western-supplied rockets—possibly deployed using American-made [HIMARS launchers](#)—to blow up a bridge in Kursk, the Russian border region in which it has launched a surprise incursion. Meanwhile 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.

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 in 2013. Mr Erdogan, now Turkey’s president, was prime minister at the time. Mr Sik was attacked by MPs from Mr Erdogan’s ruling party.

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](#).

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.

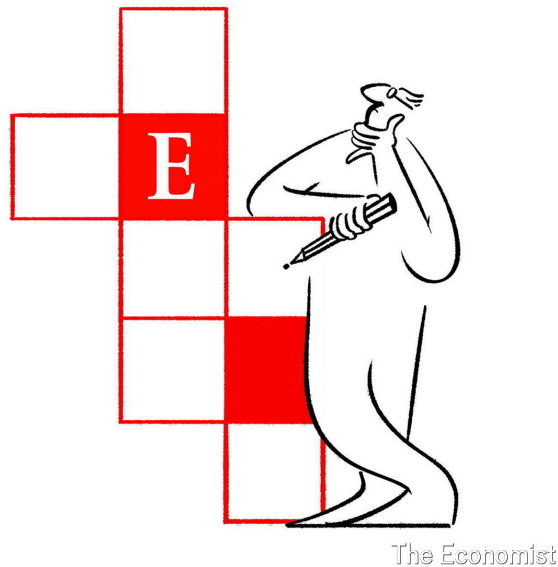
A tribal festival in Papua New Guinea



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.

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