

Catch up: Venezuela's opposition leader flees; Russia takes control of Novohrodivka



Edmundo González, the rightful winner of **Venezuela's** presidential election in July, fled the country and is seeking asylum in Spain. Mr González trounced the autocratic incumbent, Nicolás Maduro, in the election. But [pliant authorities](#) declared Mr Maduro the winner. Mr Maduro has been trying to round up his opponents since. Earlier security forces surrounded the Argentinian embassy in Caracas, the capital, where six opposition leaders have taken sanctuary.

Russia said that its armed forces had gained full control of **Novohrodivka**. The small town lies less than 9km from Pokrovsk, a strategically important city in eastern Ukraine because of its rail and road links. Russian soldiers have been advancing rapidly from the east as they consolidate [control of the Donbas region](#).

Boeing said it had reached a tentative agreement with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers to

avert a strike at factories in Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington. The deal will net the union's more than 32,000 members a 25% pay bump and 12 weeks of parental leave. It must still be approved by union members—originally they had asked for a 40% raise.

Abdelmadjid Tebboune was re-elected as **Algeria's** president. Though he won 94% of the vote, less than a quarter of Algerians turned out. Observers had criticised the government for stifling dissent; all but two of the 34 contenders challenging the 78-year-old incumbent were disqualified. Hassani Cherif, a challenger to Mr Tebboune who received 3% of the vote, claimed [the election](#) had been marred by fraud.

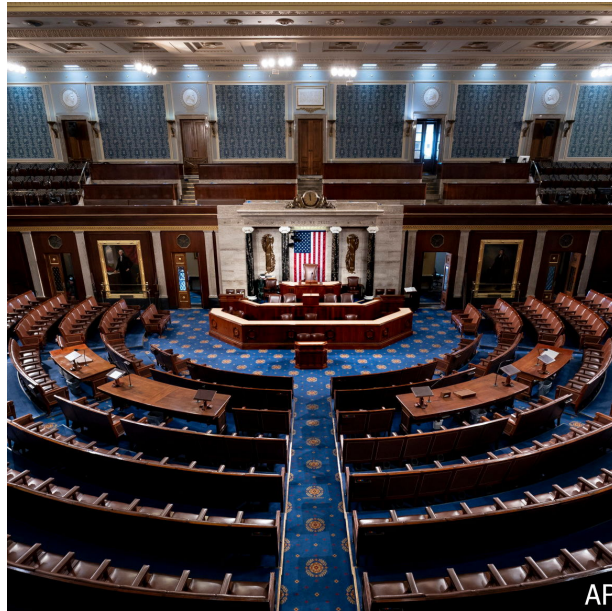
A gunman, shooting from **Jordan**, killed three **Israelis** at a West Bank border crossing. The assailant was also killed. Separately, an Israeli airstrike killed Mohammad Morsi, the deputy director of the Civil Emergency Service for northern [Gaza](#), according to local health authorities. The emergency-response service says 83 of its employees have died in Israel's fight against Hamas.

Singapore's prime minister, [Lawrence Wong](#), said that work would begin next year on a fifth “mega terminal” at **Changi airport**. The new facility will raise capacity at the airport from 90m to 140m passengers a year by the mid-2030s, he said, and increase the number of connections from 150 to 200 cities.

The Stade de France was lit up in the colours of the tricolore as the **Paris Paralympics** came to a close on Sunday. Jean-Michel Jarre, an electronic-music pioneer, and more than 20 other DJs performed at the closing ceremony. [The games](#) were popular, with 2.4m of the 2.8m available tickets sold. The next event will be held in Los Angeles in 2028.

Minus \$14.8bn, the amount of foreign direct investment in China in the second quarter of this year, a record low. [Read the full story](#).

Congress's autumn agenda



After a six-week recess, America's Congress returns to work on Monday. One item will dominate the agenda: a [funding package](#) to keep the government working past September 30th, when federal agencies run out of money.

For months Donald Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, has warned, baselessly, that non-citizens will vote in the election, helping Democrats. On Friday Republicans in the House of Representatives released a draft bill. Tacked onto the funding proposal was a section that would require people to provide proof of citizenship to register to vote in federal elections. They also want the bill to expire in March 2025, when they hope that Mr Trump will be back in the White House. Democrats want to keep funding at existing levels until the end of the calendar year, so it can be renegotiated before Joe Biden leaves office. With November's election looming, lawmakers will probably come to some agreement. But expect a lot of wrangling first.

Japanese households are feeling the pinch of inflation



Japan's economy is bouncing back. Preliminary GDP figures released last month showed an annualised 3.1% growth in the second quarter of 2024. Analysts reckon that the final figures—out on Monday—will confirm that. Relatively strong private consumption, which accounts for half of GDP, has contributed. And real wages grew by 1.1% in June, the first increase in just over two years. (They also grew by 0.4% in July.)

How long wage growth will last is unclear. And households are feeling the pinch of inflation, which was 2.7% in July. The political implications are significant. Kishida Fumio's recent [decision](#) to step down as prime minister was partly due to anger over rising living costs. His Liberal Democratic Party is set to elect their next leader, and thus the new PM, on September 27th. A poll conducted in August showed more than half of voters consider inflation the most urgent issue.

Mexico's judicial reform advances



Mexico's upper chamber must start considering a [crucial decision](#) this week: whether to approve a constitutional change to overhaul the judiciary. Andrés Manuel López Obrador, the outgoing president, wants to replace a system of professional exams for federal judges—including those of the Supreme Court and electoral courts—with elections. The bill was approved by the lower chamber last week.

Mexico's justice system needs reform. But academics, diplomats and business groups (both Mexican and foreign) have warned that electing judges would increase the influence of the dominant ruling party, corrupt actors and organised crime over the judiciary. And, they claim, it threatens Mexico's relationship with the United States and the North American free-trade deal. The reform seems almost certain to pass all hurdles. Claudia Sheinbaum, who becomes president on October 1st, will have to deal with the fallout.

Apple bets on AI



On Monday Apple unveils its new iPhone 16 models. They will be jam-packed with artificial-intelligence features, including an upgrade to Siri, Apple's previously dimwitted digital assistant. (Though the full software update probably won't be available until later this year). True to Apple's love of design, the whole screen will glow colourfully when active.

Apple hopes that new [AI features](#) will encourage users to upgrade. iPhones account for half of the firm's revenue, though sales growth has slowed in recent years as competition intensifies and markets become saturated. But investors' perception of Apple as an "AI stock" has given it a boost. Since announcing the iPhone's new features in June, the firm's share price has risen by 14%, compared with 3% for the S&P 500, an index of big American firms. That said, a recent survey suggests new features rarely convince iPhone users to upgrade. Nevertheless, Apple will hope its new iPhones get glowing reviews.

Protecting Australia's most pristine territory



Heard Island and the McDonald Islands are some of Australia's most remote wildernesses. The territory is some 4,000km from the western edge of the mainland, in the middle of the Southern Ocean. The volcanic sediments of Big Ben, Australia's highest mountain, nourish a rich marine ecosystem largely devoid of human-introduced species. Wetlands support up to 4m birds.

Yet [climate change](#) and overfishing threaten the territory's habitat. An agreement to protect the landscape expires this year. Australia's government is proposing to replace it with a deal to expand the marine protected reserve by 400%. It also wants to promote sustainable fishing, including for Patagonian toothfish, or "Chilean sea bass". Still, some conservationists have argued the scheme does not go far enough. The Australian Marine Conservation Society, a non-profit group, claims that 77% of the fishing grounds used by vulnerable macaroni penguins will remain unprotected.

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.

Monday: Which Hollywood legend won the best actor Oscar for his performance in “The African Queen”?

Minus \$14.8bn

*The amount of foreign direct investment in China in the second quarter of this year, a record low.
Read the full story.*

To despise money, one must have plenty of it.

Cesare Pavese