

## Catch up: Support for Harris grows; Palestinian factions sign unity deal



**Kamala Harris** reportedly received verbal commitments from enough delegates to the forthcoming Democratic National Convention to secure the party's presidential nomination. California's delegates voted to support her after Nancy Pelosi, a former speaker of the House of Representatives, urged party unity, according to Politico, a news website. Earlier, Ms Harris praised **Joe Biden's** legacy, calling it "unmatched in modern history". Her [campaign](#) reported that she raised a record \$81m in donations in her first 24 hours as a candidate.

Several rival **Palestinian** groups, including Fatah and Hamas, signed a declaration to form a unity government, ending years of division. **China** brokered the negotiations. Fatah, which controls the West Bank's [Palestinian Authority](#), was thrown out of Gaza by Hamas in 2007. The agreement paves the way for creating a government for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

**Gaza's** health ministry said that 84 Palestinians have been killed and 329 others injured over the past 24 hours, as the **Israel**

**Defence Forces** stepped up their [assault](#) in the enclave. The IDF said it was pushing ahead with operations in the southern city of Khan Younis, where Hamas is believed to be storing weapons.

**Wiz**, an Israeli cyber-security company, walked away from talks with **Google**, a search giant, which had [sought to acquire](#) it. The proposed deal, reportedly worth \$23bn, would have been the biggest-ever purchase of a venture-backed company. Wiz told employees that it had “chosen to continue on our path” towards an initial public offering as originally planned.

The Securities and Exchange Commission, America’s main financial regulator, approved the first spot **Ethereum** exchange-traded funds. Trading will begin as early as Tuesday. Ether, the **cryptocurrency** of the Ethereum blockchain, is the world’s second-biggest cryptocurrency, after Bitcoin. [The first bitcoin ETFs](#) were traded in January.

**Kim Beom-su**, the founder of Kakao, which runs **South Korea’s** most successful messaging app, was arrested over alleged stock price rigging. He is accused of conspiring with a private-equity fund to buy shares worth 240bn won (\$174m) to inflate the stock price of a [K-pop](#) agency. He wanted to prevent rivals from acquiring SM Entertainment.

**Google** reversed its decision to remove third-party [cookies](#) from Chrome, a web browser. Advertisers and publishers had campaigned against the move since it was announced in 2020, claiming it would destroy their business models. Instead Google said it would protect users’ privacy by allowing them to make “an informed choice” about the tracking technology.

**Figure of the day:** 40m, the number of people around the world who are infected with AIDS. [Read the full story.](#)

*In the run-up to America's presidential election, we've launched [The US in brief](#)—a daily update to help you keep on top of the political stories that matter. [Sign up here](#) to receive it as a newsletter, each weekday, in your inbox.*

# A big budget in India



India's finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, unveiled the country's budget for the fiscal year ending in March on Tuesday. Since the [shock election](#) results in June, when it failed to win a majority, the governing Bharatiya Janata Party has had to appease its coalition partners. Regional parties received the special treatment they sought for their states. Under pressure from the resuscitated opposition, the government allocated more funds to [development of agriculture and job schemes](#).

But the big-ticket item for the BJP remains [spending on infrastructure](#), for which Ms Sitharaman budgeted a record sum of 11.1trn rupees (\$131bn). Such a splurge would normally strain public finances. But earlier this year the government received dividends worth 2trn rupees from the central bank. That will help it stay fiscally prudent. It lowered its deficit target from 5.1% to 4.9% for the coming year.

# Taiwan practises for China's invasion



This week Taiwan will run several days of civilian and military drills mimicking a reaction to a [Chinese invasion](#). Air-raid sirens will signal exercises lasting half an hour each across the main island and on its outlying archipelagoes. Civilians will receive text messages telling them to seek shelter. Local governments will check that their shelters have working utilities and enough supplies.

At the same time, Taiwan's armed forces will hold its annual Han Kuang anti-invasion exercises. These have in the past been criticised for being largely performative, as some Taiwanese troops would dress up as People's Liberation Army soldiers and act out rehearsed scenes of defeat. This year there will be no such shows. The exercises will instead involve unscripted drills and, for the first time, night-time live-fire exercises. That will test whether Taiwan's soldiers can respond to unpredictable war scenarios and make decisions when they are cut off from central command. As threats from China mount, they need to start practising.



## Tesla forces a smile



Elon Musk's ability to put a positive spin on events will be tested when he presents Tesla's second-quarter results on Tuesday. His electric-car company is on a difficult stretch of road. Slowing growth in [demand for electric vehicles](#)—including Tesla's—prompted the company to say in early July that sales had fallen for the second quarter in a row, despite its efforts to lure back buyers with price cuts.

That should be disappointing for investors. So too should be the company's decision last week to delay an announcement about its long-promised [robotaxis](#) from August to October. Details of the company's plans would have offered more confidence that it will not need to rely so heavily on only selling cars in the future. But Mr Musk's investors don't behave like others. The firm's share price soared because, **despite** drooping, sales had exceeded analysts' forecasts. Mystifyingly, it is now some 68% above its low in April.

# The UN struggles with Yemen



The UN Security Council meets on Tuesday to debate the ever-messier [situation in Yemen](#). It will have much to discuss, but little to do. On Friday the Houthis, Shia rebels who control much of the country, killed an Israeli in a drone attack on Tel Aviv. The next day Israeli jets bombed the city of Hodeidah, Yemen's main Red Sea port. It was the first time Israel had struck the country, which is around 1,800km away.

Before October 7th the UN was trying to finalise a peace deal between the Houthis and the Saudi-led coalition that invaded Yemen in 2015. Nine months of regional war—including a Houthi campaign to attack commercial ships in the Red Sea—have stalled that effort. Last month the Houthis, who have a habit of hostage-taking, detained more than a dozen UN employees on bogus espionage charges. Forget brokering a peace deal: the organisation cannot even get its own staff out of custody.

## A tribute to the pioneer of political photomontage



The Vietnam war is often called the “first television war”. Graphic images of battle were broadcast into living rooms across the West, bringing the horrors of the conflict to faraway viewers. But those images also convinced Peter Kennard, until then a painter, to shift his medium to [collage](#). Mr Kennard sought to crack what he saw as a monopoly on “truth”, using clips from the news, photos and propaganda materials to highlight the inner contradictions of political power.

On Tuesday, an extensive display of his work opens at Whitechapel Gallery in London. “Peter Kennard: Archive of Dissent” draws on his career spanning five decades to show his dedication to artistic protest. The exhibition also seeks to place the works in their historical context: they will be presented on walls, placards and lecterns of the gallery’s former library building, and framed in the newspapers, posters and books in which they were originally published.



## 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 GMT on Friday to [QuizEspresso@economist.com](mailto:QuizEspresso@economist.com). We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

**Tuesday:** Land O' Lakes, Kerrygold and Lurpak are all brands of which grocery item?

**Monday:** Who was the lead singer of the 1980s pop group Marillion?

**40m**

*The number of people around the world who are infected with AIDS.*

*Read the full story.*

**Every bad situation is a blues song waiting to happen.**

*Amy Winehouse*