

Catch up: Catch up: Anti-Barnier protests in France; Argentinian embassy in Venezuela surrounded



Thousands of people in **France** protested against the selection of **Michel Barnier** as the country's [new prime minister](#). Mr Barnier, the EU's former Brexit negotiator, represents the Republicans, a centre-right party. But the New Popular Front, a four-party left-wing alliance, won more seats than any other group in the parliamentary election that ended in July. Mr Barnier has said he is open to forming a government with any party.

Security forces in **Venezuela** surrounded the Argentinian embassy in Caracas in which six opposition leaders have taken sanctuary. On Saturday Venezuela revoked the right of Brazil to represent Argentinean interests in the country, stripping the embassy of diplomatic protection. Argentina and Venezuela fell out after Nicolás Maduro [brazenly stole](#) the presidential election in July. Mr Maduro has been trying to round up his opponents since.

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.

Antony Blinken, America's secretary of state, said he was “focused on getting those facts” behind the “tragic loss” of an American-Turkish woman whom Israeli soldiers shot dead in the occupied **West Bank** on Friday. Aysenur Ezgi Eygi was protesting against the [expansion](#) of a Jewish settlement when she was reportedly shot in the head. Israel's army said it would look into the incident.

Super Typhoon Yagi made landfall in northern Vietnam, killing at least four people. The cyclone, the most powerful in the Pacific this year, ripped roofs from buildings, uprooted trees and swept boats out to sea. It had earlier passed across the Chinese island of Hainan, where two people died. Scientists think that typhoons in the region will form closer to the land and strengthen more quickly because of climate change.

Boeing's faulty **Starliner** spacecraft returned to Earth without its crew after undocking from the **International Space Station**. Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams have been stranded on the ISS since docking there on June 6th (except NASA [doesn't like](#) the word “stranded”). The two American astronauts will hopefully be picked up by a SpaceX craft in February.

Aryna Sabalenka beat Jessica Pegula, the local favourite, in straight sets to win her first US Open tennis championship. The Belarusian lost in the final last year to Coco Gauff, another American, and said the experience had taught her how to overcome a partisan crowd. Ms Sabalenka, the world number two, also won the Australian Open earlier this year.

Word of the week: Triple E, a rare but often deadly illness carried by mosquitoes. [Read the full story.](#)

America's “final” deal for Gaza



For months American, Egyptian and Qatari negotiators have been shuttling between Middle East capitals to [broker a ceasefire](#) between Israel and Hamas. The latest “bridging proposal” drawn up by the Biden administration foundered after it emerged that Hamas had executed six of the Israeli hostages it holds; in turn, the Israeli prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, insisted his troops would remain for the foreseeable future at a key location in the Gaza Strip, on the border with Egypt.

The Americans are now expected to present what some diplomats call a “final proposal” within days. It is far from clear whether that ultimatum can overcome the two big obstacles: Hamas’s demand for guarantees for a total Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, and Israel’s that a significant number of the 101 [hostages still held in Gaza](#) be released alive as a prelude to a more comprehensive ceasefire.

Saudi's economy sinks in oil



On Sunday Saudi Arabia is expected to report its GDP falling by 0.4% in the second quarter, from April to June, compared with last year. The [oil-powered economy](#) has declined for the past year, as global [oil prices dived](#). The Kingdom needs to lessen its reliance on oil, which accounts for nearly 40% of GDP and more than 60% of budget revenues. To that end, Saudi has spent on other areas of the economy, investing heavily in renewables and building new megacities and tourist towns along the Red Sea.

The second-quarter GDP figure should improve on the 1.7% drop recorded in the first quarter. According to preliminary data, non-oil activities, including hospitality and tourism, showed encouraging growth. Still, they were a long way from offsetting an 8.5% contraction in oil activities caused by production cuts in the same period.

India's opposition seeks support in America



Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, has long targeted the [vast Indian diaspora](#) as a source of financial and political support, especially in America. Rahul Gandhi, the newly appointed leader of the opposition, is now trying something similar. Hoping to build on a surprisingly strong performance in the recent [general election](#), the de facto head of the Congress party begins a short trip to America this weekend to meet members of the diaspora as well as business leaders, academics and lawmakers.

On Sunday Mr Gandhi will officially kick off meetings in Texas, home to more than 400,000 Indian-Americans (second only to California). He will speak with students and professors at the University of Texas at Dallas before appearing at a gathering of the diaspora in Irving. He then heads to Washington, DC, where he is due to meet think-tankers and address the National Press Club.

The end of an Olympic summer



Sunday brings the [Paralympic games](#) in Paris to a close, marking the end of France's Olympic summer. After Paris hosted a hugely successful Olympic games from July 26th to August 11th, some worried that the spirit might not be matched for the Paralympics. Yet the crowds proved enthusiastic, while France itself stacked up a satisfying number of medals. The City of Light has shown once again that its monuments and palaces can serve as spectacular settings for sports events.

Paris is now getting ready to take down its pop-up stadiums. The city centre will revert to its pre-Olympic state. Or almost. Anne Hidalgo, the mayor of Paris, says that she would like to [keep some modifications](#) in place. They include a lane reserved for Olympic traffic on the city's ring road; it will become dedicated instead to car-pooling, public transport and emergency vehicles. Ms Hidalgo has long tried to curb car use and promote greener forms of transport. This summer's games may bring her another win.

The Belarusian band rocking America



When Molchat Doma (“Houses are silent”) formed in Minsk in 2017, not even the Belarusian band’s members would have imagined their effect on [international rock ’n’ roll](#). They sang in Russian. And their dark, post-punk sound seemed grungy for the mainstream.

Then, in 2020, the group went viral on TikTok. Western Gen-Zers used Molchat Doma high-tempo if melancholic music to accompany videos about mundane tasks, from trying on outfits to dying their armpit hair. The band’s songs were streamed millions of times. The musicians set off to tour America and Europe.

This week Molchat Doma released their fourth album—“Belaya Polosa” (“White Stripe”). It is their first record since moving to Los Angeles (probably for fear of being persecuted by the Belarusian regime for criticising Russia’s invasion of Ukraine). The album is more experimental than its predecessors: the intros are longer; the beats less danceable. Still, Molchat Doma’s many fans will no doubt find a way of working it into their daily routines.

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:

Jennifer Stapleton, Cheltenham, Britain

Illia Batrak, Barcelona, Spain

Araki Ichiro, Tokyo, Japan

They all gave the correct answers of: walk on the Moon, Eddie Murphy, Arthur Conan Doyle, bulldogs and cranes. The theme is characters in the original series of *Frasier*: Daphne Moon, Eddie the dog, Roz Doyle, Bulldog Briscoe and Frasier, Niles and Martin Crane.

The questions were:

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

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

Wednesday: Who wrote the original novel "The Lost World" about a land where dinosaurs had survived?

Thursday: The University of Georgia football team and the US Marine Corps both use which animal as a mascot?

Friday: The Sandhill, Wattled and Whooping are all varieties of which type of bird?

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 Recouping gig after revising practice of charging customers extra (5,7)

1 across In citizenship a person finds form of identification (6)

2 across Environmentalists' nickname for vegetables (6)

3 across Good, even stare is one say to search (6)

Factual clues

1 down Why some fans of the band Oasis recently missed out on tickets (5,7)

1 across What the *Onion* has started selling (6)

2 across One part of a coalition that no longer commands a majority in Germany (6)

3 across A company ramping up efforts to design its own chips (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.

Triple E

*A rare but often deadly illness carried by mosquitoes.
Read the full story.*

**Reading is the nourishment that feeds the
kind of writing you want to do.**

Jennifer Egan