

Catch up: Gaza ceasefire talks to resume; Guterres meets Putin



Gaza **ceasefire talks** will soon resume in Qatar, Antony Blinken, America's secretary of state, announced alongside Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al Thani, Qatar's prime minister and foreign minister. Mr Blinken, who is currently visiting the region, added that America would send \$135m in humanitarian aid to Palestinians. Meanwhile **Israel** launched more strikes on **Lebanon** and **Gaza**; **Lebanon's army** said that Israel killed three of its troops. In Gaza, a strike on a school killed at least 17 people.

António Guterres met **Vladimir Putin** on the last day of the **BRICS summit**. It was the UN secretary-general's first trip to Russia in over two years. Ukraine's foreign minister said the meeting was a "wrong choice" that damaged the UN's "reputation". More than 20 leaders attended the summit, a sign that Mr Putin is defying Western attempts to isolate him.

Tesla's shares leapt by 22% on Thursday, adding more than \$150bn to its market value. The electric-carmaker's biggest daily gain in over a decade comes a day after it reported stronger-than-expected

third-quarter results. Sales increased from \$23.4bn to \$25.2bn, but could grow by up to 30% next year, according to [Elon Musk](#), the firm's boss.

Intel won a long-running battle with the **European Union's** competition authority after the European Court of Justice upheld a ruling quashing a €1.06bn (\$1.14 bn) fine the bloc imposed on the [American chipmaker](#) in 2008 for anti-competitive behaviour. The EU argued that Intel used a system of discounts and rebates to encourage computer-makers to buy its own processors.

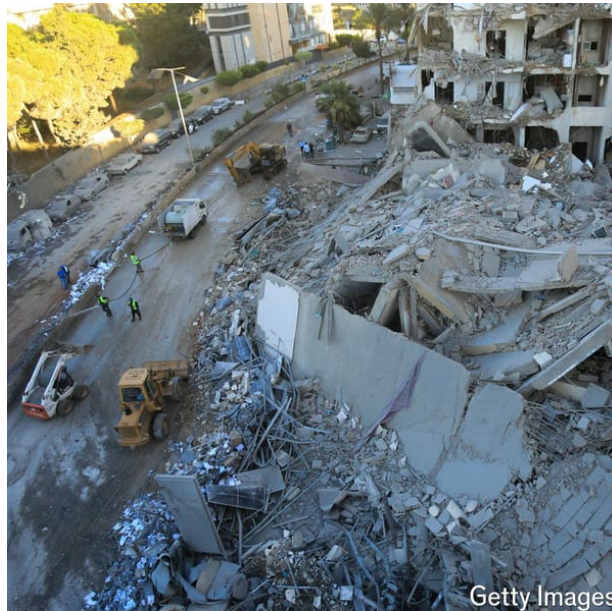
Britain's antitrust regulator opened an inquiry into **Google's** reported \$2bn [investment](#) in **Anthropic**, an [AI startup](#). The watchdog is investigating whether the partnership limits competition. Google said that it does not "demand exclusive tech rights" from Anthropic in exchange for funding. The regulator, which recently approved Amazon's \$4bn deal with the startup, will decide whether a deeper inquiry is warranted by December 19th.

Sales at **Hermès** rose by 11.3% year on year during the third quarter, exceeding analysts' expectations. The French [luxury firm](#) is defying a broader downturn in the sector owing to strong demand for its exclusive bags. Sales at **Gucci**, an Italian rival brand, slumped by 25% during that period, largely because of faltering demand from Chinese consumers.

Tropical storm Trami killed more than 20 people across the **Philippines** and forced more than 150,000 to flee their homes. The typhoon brought torrential rains and winds of up to 95 kph (59 mph). Scientists believe that [climate change](#) is causing typhoons in Southeast Asia to form closer to land, making them more dangerous.

Figure of the day: 80%, the share of company bosses that expect a return to the office five days a week within three years. [Read the full story.](#)

Israel's next moves



The Middle East is bracing for further escalation of conflict between Israel and Iran. Israel's retaliation against Iran's missile strike on October 1st appears to have been delayed for several reasons. One is the alleged leaking of American-intelligence documents on Israel's preparations. Another is the expansion of Israel's air strikes on Lebanon, which on Sunday included bombing branches of al-Qard al-Hassan, [a bank linked to Hizbullah](#).

A third is Israel's recent killing of Yahya Sinwar, Hamas's chief. Israeli officials believe they may have an opportunity to negotiate the release of hostages still held by Hamas in Gaza. In any case, Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, remains determined to strike Iran at some point. And fighting in both Gaza and Lebanon looks set to continue: Mr Netanyahu will probably not decide whether to authorise talks for a full ceasefire until he knows the winner of America's presidential election on November 5th.

Germany's charm offensive in India



In 2022 India's foreign minister scolded Europe for ignoring the rest of the world's problems while expecting sympathy for its own. Olaf Scholz, Germany's chancellor, said he had a point. That helps explain why he is leading a delegation of German ministers to Delhi for consultations with Narendra Modi's government on Friday.

Germany is seeking to “[de-risk](#)” its economic relationship with China. So boosting economic ties with India, a growing Asian democracy, looks like a good bet. Mr Scholz hopes to advance negotiations on a long-stalled EU-India trade deal, despite Indian concerns about European climate and labour standards. Germany will also pursue a migration agreement, hoping to ease its chronic shortage of workers.

Yet [Germany](#) remains troubled by Mr Modi's refusal to condemn Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine. Indeed, India's prime minister has just returned from a BRICS summit in Russia. The world looks different from Delhi than it does from Berlin.

A wobbly Russian economy



Russia's central bank is expected to raise interest rates by a percentage point on Friday, to an eye-watering 20%. That would match the historically high rates reached in the immediate aftermath of the country's invasion of Ukraine, when the bank was struggling to stabilise the value of the rouble. Over the course of 2022 [Russia](#) was able to cut rates to 7.5%.

But inflation has been rising once more since mid-2023, causing the bank to hike rates again. Spending on the war effort has added to price pressures. In its latest draft budget, the government increased its projected deficit and raised military spending. The rouble has declined sharply in value against China's yuan, adding to import costs from a big trading partner. A 20% interest rate is unlikely to be the bank's peak. Growth has proved remarkably resilient. But Russian firms are already warning that high rates will crimp investment spending in the months ahead.

France's budget woes



On Friday Moody's will publish its latest sovereign credit-rating update for France. On October 11th another ratings agency, Fitch, revised the country's economic outlook downwards to negative. Concern centres on the country's debt and its budget deficit, which is set to reach 6.1% of GDP in 2024, well above the 4.4% originally forecast by the government.

Michel Barnier, the conservative prime minister, is now trying to get a [budget](#) through parliament to close the financing gap. He has promised €60bn (\$66bn) in savings: two-thirds from a spending squeeze and a third from tax increases, mostly on the rich and big companies. The budget has to be passed by December. But Mr Barnier runs a minority coalition government. Deputies have introduced over 3,500 amendments, which are now being debated in the chamber. If the government cannot secure parliamentary support, it will have to force the budget through without a vote. That would put the government's survival on the line.

A modern look for Warsaw



It has been compared to a shoebox, a parcel locker and an unmarked IKEA warehouse. [Warsaw's new Museum of Modern Art](#), which opens on the Polish capital's central junction on Friday, is an emotive topic. Some Varsovians praise the three-storey white box for its cool minimalism. Others say it is a missed opportunity to create a statement building, like the Guggenheim in Bilbao, to beautify a scarred city.

The chaotic central square tells of Warsaw's turbulent history. German occupiers razed 90% of the city's buildings in the final year of the second world war. It was rebuilt with soulless Soviet grandeur, with wide thoroughfares and an ornamental skyscraper. Rather than compete with its imposing surroundings, the new gallery's austerity contrasts with it, nodding to Warsaw's pre-war legacy of modernist architecture. It is part of a push by the city's mayor to revitalise its centre. A matching theatre, in black, is already being erected alongside it.

Daily quiz



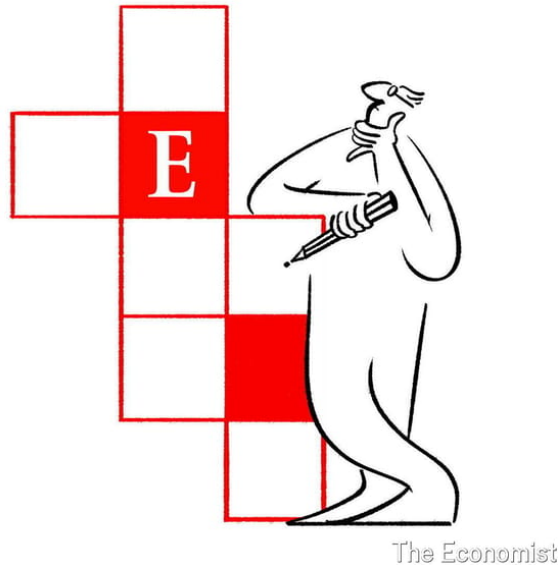
The Economist

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.

Friday: Who was the founder of IBM?

Thursday: What insect is also known as a “daddy longlegs” or “mosquito hawk”?

The winners of last week's crossword



Thank you to everyone who took part in our weekly crossword, published in the weekend edition of Espresso. The winners, chosen at random, were:

Jane Cunha, São Paulo, Brazil

Amelia Cheng, Coquitlam, Canada

Axel Ehrström, Helsinki, Finland

They all gave the correct answers of [San Francisco](#), [Sweden](#), [Al Gore](#) and [office](#). Check back tomorrow for this week's crossword.

80%

The share of company bosses that expect a return to the office five days a week within three years.

Read the full story.

Patience is a conquering virtue.

Geoffrey Chaucer