

## Catch up: Hizbullah targets northern Israel; American states sue TikTok



**Israel** said that Hashem Safieddine, the likely new leader of **Hizbullah** was “probably” killed in a strike last week. Meanwhile the Shia militia in **Lebanon** fired 100 rockets into Haifa, a city in northern Israel. Despite big losses, the group’s deputy leader, Naim Qassem, said that Hizbullah’s arsenal is “in good shape”. Earlier Israel expanded its ground operation to south-west Lebanon.

Thirteen **American** states sued **Tiktok**, a short-video app, for harming childrens’ mental health. The states want TikTok to change product features, which they say are intentionally addictive. The app’s position in America is already precarious. It is a subsidiary of ByteDance, a Chinese tech darling, which has fuelled fears that the Chinese government could use it to spy on American citizens.

John Hopfield and **Geoffrey Hinton** won the **Nobel prize** in physics for “foundational discoveries” that “enable machine learning with artificial neural networks”. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which awards the prize, said that the

laureates' work is already being used in a range of areas, including developing new materials.

**Hurricane Milton**, which is expected to make landfall on **Florida's** west coast on Wednesday evening, weakened to a Category 4 storm. State officials are preparing for the largest evacuation effort in years. Florida and several other south-eastern states are still recovering from [Hurricane Helene](#), a Category 4 storm that hit on September 26th and killed at least 227 people.

Tom Tugendhat, a former British security minister, was knocked out of the leadership race for the **Conservative Party** in the third round of voting among MPs. His departure leaves three candidates: Kemi Badenoch, James Cleverly and Robert Jenrick. The winner will be announced on November 2nd. The [party](#) suffered a crushing defeat in Britain's general election in July.

A subsidiary of **Northvolt**, a Swedish-battery maker, filed for bankruptcy. The struggling firm is desperately trying to stave off financial collapse, after [splurging](#) on new technology in 2023. It announced two rounds of cutbacks in September. It also said it would suspend work on one of its new manufacturing plants, and slow the expansion of its research and development unit.

**Interpol** and police from six **European** countries will reopen 46 cold cases involving unidentified women, many of whom were murdered or died in suspicious circumstances. This follows the success of "Identify Me", an initiative launched by Interpol in 2023. It led to the identification of a British woman murdered in Belgium 31 years ago.

**Correction:** In yesterday's edition we misspelt the names of the Nobel prize winners, Gary Ruvkun and Victor Ambros. Sorry.

**Figure of the day: 67**, the number of countries that have already held national elections this year. [Read the full story.](#)

# The BJP's big test in north India



In general elections in June, Indian voters handed Narendra Modi a [stunning rebuke](#) by stripping the prime minister's Bharatiya Janata Party of its parliamentary majority. Mr Modi insists that ruling in a coalition has not changed his party's plans. But his new government has withdrawn a series of politically important initiatives under pressure from an emboldened opposition. On Tuesday, however, the BJP received a boost from results in regional elections in Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir.

Early counting suggested that the BJP would win comfortably in Haryana but lose J&K. The latter result was expected: the Hindu-nationalist party is not popular in the Muslim-majority region. But the BJP's win in Haryana is more surprising. While the party has been in power there for a decade, exit polls had pointed to a victory for Congress, the national opposition. The results are a reminder that despite the setback in the general election, the BJP remains hugely popular in parts of the country.

# Brazil's new central bank chief



On Tuesday Brazil's Senate is expected to confirm Gabriel Galipolo as the next head of the country's central bank. The nomination of Mr Galipolo, the bank's director of monetary policy, by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva initially caused jitters among some analysts. Lula has accused the central bank's current head, Roberto Campos Neto, of thwarting economic growth by keeping interest rates high.

Many economists retort that [government policy](#) is making it harder to cut rates. Strong growth is partly explained by unsustainable public spending. Lula has raised the minimum wage above inflation, among other boons. The labour market is also tight. All this is putting pressure on inflation: the annual rate is 4.2%. The central bank's target is just 3%.

The bank has therefore broken from regional trends. It raised the interest rate by a quarter-point to 10.75% in September, and signalled further increases. Mr Galipolo voted in favour of the rise, showing his independence from the government—for now.

# Political drama in Kenya



The political fallout from Kenya's massive [Gen-Z protests](#) has reached the top echelons of the government. Rigathi Gachagua, the deputy president, is due in parliament on Tuesday to defend himself against impeachment charges brought by his own colleagues. Mr Gachagua was until recently a close ally of William Ruto, the president. He is now blamed for provoking the protests in June, which left at least 40 people dead and severely damaged the administration's international standing.

The motion against the deputy president, which was drawn up by members of Mr Ruto's coalition and backed by 83% of MPs, accuses him of stirring up ethnic hatred, corruption and undermining the government. Voters are gripped by the drama, and in recent days many across the country have turned up to debate the motion in public forums facilitated by the authorities. But for a beleaguered government struggling to tackle Kenya's crippling national debt, the furore seems like a suspiciously convenient distraction.



# Dynasties at odds in the Philippines



Registration of candidates for congressional elections in the Philippines ended on Tuesday. The vote in May 2025 will come halfway through [President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos’s](#) six-year term. Congress is dominated by supporters of Mr Marcos’s dynasty. (He is the son of a despot, also called Ferdinand Marcos.) For a competing dynasty, led by Sara Duterte, vice president and daughter of Rodrigo Duterte, a former-president, the elections are a chance to challenge the dominance of the rival clan. But the final register shows insufficient candidates to mount much of a challenge.

In 2022 the two dynasties formed an uneasy alliance: Ms Duterte stood for the vice-presidency, which is voted on separately, with a rumoured understanding that she would run for the top job in 2028. Now they are drifting apart. Opinion polls indicate that Ms Duterte can win the election without Mr Marcos’s help. But she still needs Mr Marcos to shield her father from prosecution over the deaths of drug suspects killed while he was president.

## Anna Weyant's darkly playful art



Born in 1995, Anna Weyant has been feted as the “millennial Botticelli”. Her figurative paintings invite you to come closer, to approach from different angles, to turn your head upside down. Her works often experiment with shadows and reflections and usually have a darkly playful aspect to them. “Loose Screw”, which sold for \$1.5m in 2022, depicts a smiling woman holding a wine glass. In time you notice her hand is bandaged.

On Tuesday Gagosian will host Ms Weyant’s first exhibition in London, “Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Wolves?”, made up of seven new works. (The gallery has represented her since 2022; she was in a relationship with Larry Gagosian, its founder, 50 years her senior, for some time.) One is a painting-within-a-painting: a portrait of a round-faced woman rests, upturned, against a wall. In another a reader stretches out a huge, blank newspaper—rendering them unaware of an approaching figure. As the title of the show attests, these paintings tell stories.

## 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:** What is the mechanism on a canal that allows the water level to be raised or lowered?

**Monday:** Which film from 1991 featured Patrick Swayze as the leader of a group of surfers who were also bank robbers?



*The number of countries that have already held national elections this year.*

*Read the full story.*

**Those who adhere to the past won't be able to cope with the future.**

*Willy Brandt*