

## Catch up: Iran's Trump assassination plot; cases against president-elect wind down



**America's** Department of Justice charged three people for involvement in an alleged **Iranian plot** to murder targets including **Donald Trump** as well as an Iranian-American journalist critical of the country's regime. Two suspects were arrested in New York; a third, tasked with surveilling **Mr Trump** and plotting to assassinate him, is believed to remain at large in Iran.

**Jack Smith**, the special counsel prosecuting the American government's cases against Mr Trump, took a first step towards **winding them down**. He asked the judge overseeing Mr Trump's election-interference trial to postpone a series of deadlines in light of the former president's victory this week. The Justice Department has long forbidden the prosecution of sitting presidents.

Bryan Lanza, who worked as an adviser to Mr Trump during his re-election campaign, said that the incoming American administration will focus on achieving peace in **Ukraine**, rather than winning back

territory. Mr Trump has repeatedly said he would end the war, but not yet specified how. Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, has already spoken to Mr Trump as president-elect; Elon Musk joined the call, Axios reported.

At least 25 people died after a bomb exploded at Quetta railway station in **Balochistan**, a province of **Pakistan**. Around 50 people were injured in what appeared to be a suicide attack. The Balochistan Liberation Army, a militant group that wants independence for the region, claimed responsibility. Violence in the resource-rich province, which borders Iran and Afghanistan, has been increasing this year.

**American stocks** closed at record highs. The S&P 500 gained 4.7% in over five days—its best weekly performance since last November—and on Friday briefly leapt above 6,000 points for the first time. In another first the Dow Jones Industrial Average crossed 44,000 points. Stocks have [rallied](#) in the days following Mr Trump's election victory.

**South Korea** accused **North Korea** of blocking its GPS signals on Friday and Saturday. The action disrupted shipping vessels and civilian aircraft, the South said. Tensions between the two Koreas have been [mounting](#) recently. Last week Kim Jong Un's regime tested an intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time in almost a year

**Pompeii**, a Roman archaeological site, will cap the number of visitors it allows at 20,000 per day. The ancient city, which was buried when nearby Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79AD, is one of Italy's most popular attractions. It drew nearly 4m tourists in 2023. On October 6th, when entry to the site was free, a record 36,000 people visited.

**Kakistocracy**, a word that may be useful over the next four years. [Read the full story.](#)

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# Trumponomics 2.0



Donald Trump's [economic programme](#) can be divided into three main categories. Most controversially, Mr Trump vows to slap levies of 10-20% on everything America imports. He has proposed tariffs of 60% on all goods from China and higher duties—perhaps 500%—on cars from Mexico. That could raise consumer prices at home and drag down growth; it could also invite retaliation.

Moreover Mr Trump says he will reduce the corporate-tax rate, from 21% to perhaps 15%. That could further swell America's budget deficit. And then there is deregulation. Mr Trump wants to give big-tech and energy firms a freer hand. He proposes reducing oversight of artificial intelligence and letting foreign companies drill for oil on federal land.

His policies in other areas, such as immigration, could also have disastrous economic side-effects. Mass deportations would shrink the workforce, sending wage growth surging, in the short term at least. The threat of inflation could induce the Federal Reserve to keep interest rates higher next year—inviting the wrath of Mr Trump.

# How will China react to Trump?



Donald Trump's return brings uncertainties for China, including the damage caused by tariffs on Chinese goods. But China will try to take advantage of Mr Trump's comeback. It will spy a chance to divide the West if he slaps tariffs on America's allies. It will see another if there is a speedy, Russia-friendly end to the war in Ukraine. It might also try to undermine morale in Taiwan. Mr Trump has declined to say whether he would use American forces to repel a [Chinese attack on the island](#), which China claims as its own.

Although China has hoped for a profitable coexistence, it is now resigned to economic decoupling. The bilateral relationship increasingly resembles a [geopolitical contest](#). In that vein, China will seek ways to take advantage of Mr Trump's unilateralism, casting itself as the natural leader for developing countries. But it has much to lose from Mr Trump's "America First" policies.

# The wiretapping scandal animating Mauritius



Voters in Mauritius face a choice between dynasties when they head to the polls on Sunday. It's not the first time. Pravind Jugnauth, the incumbent prime minister, and Navin Ramgoolam, his main challenger, are both sons of former prime ministers. Their two families have led the country for most of its [independent history](#).

But the name on everyone's lips is "Missie Moustass" (Mr Moustache). The mysterious social-media user claims to be "a simple civil servant". In recent weeks, the profile has leaked recordings of private phone calls involving politicians, police chiefs, journalists and foreign diplomats. At first, Mr Jugnauth claimed that the clips had been manipulated using artificial intelligence. Then his government shut down social media; it lifted the ban a day later following public outcry. Four people have been arrested, including a former telecoms boss. The scandal will have tarnished Mr Jugnauth and his People's Alliance coalition in a difficult race.



## A new rivalry in world tennis



The ATP Finals bring down the curtain on the 2024 men's tennis season. The self-proclaimed “[fifth Grand Slam](#)” features the eight men who have accrued the most rankings points in a round-robin group stage, semi-finals and final. This year is the first since 2001 not to feature [Roger Federer](#), Rafael Nadal or Novak Djokovic.

The trio took tennis to new heights. But now two new successors will bring their best game: Jannik Sinner of Italy, the Australian and US Open champion, and Spain's [Carlos Alcaraz](#), who won the French Open and Wimbledon. Mr Alcaraz has won six of the ten matches they have played, including all three that they played this year. Their most recent three-set tussle, in the final of the Beijing Open, was an excellent match that lasted almost three and a half hours. Mr Sinner has a slightly better serve, but Mr Alcaraz is better able to win points on his opponents' serve. For now, the Spaniard also appears to be better at holding his nerve on court.

## Machiavelli in Montana's mountains



“I am the opposite of progress,” growls John Dutton, a ranching patriarch played by Kevin Costner. “I am the wall it bashes against.” This is the central thrust of “Yellowstone”, of which the second half of the fifth (and probably final) season airs on Sunday on Paramount Network. Since they first appeared in 2018, Dutton and his cutthroat children have fought militias, developers and holidaying New Yorkers to keep their corner of Montana just the way it is.

During its fourth season “Yellowstone” was the most-watched show in America, averaging nearly 12m viewers a week. Many fans will be sorry to see it end (though they may take comfort in Taylor Sheridan, the creator, working on a kind of cowboy cinematic universe, including two prequels). But [actual Montanans](#), many of whom see the show as applying mythical or outdated views of the Wild West to their home state, will be ready for the finale.



# 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* An old despot, eviscerated, battered, behind—yet still he won (6,5)

*1 across* Remodel historic container for capital (5)

*2 across* Fat loss is predicated in diet at first (5)

*3 across* Take drug, I hear, to find narcotic flower (5)

## Factual clues

*1 down* This week's biggest winner (6,5)

*1 across* South Asian capital (5)

*2 across* Oily organic compound (5)

*3 across* Flower used as symbol of remembrance (5)

Email all four answers, along with your home city and country, by 9am GMT on Monday to [crossword@economist.com](mailto:crossword@economist.com). We will pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners in next week's edition.

## The winners of last week's quiz



*The Economist*

Thank you to everyone who took part in this week's quiz. The winners, chosen at random, were:

**Jeannette Duplessis**, Calgary, Canada

**Stefaan Ottevaere**, Deinze, Belgium

**Aine Ui Ghiollagain**, Inverness, Britain

They all gave the correct answers of quantum mechanics, royale with cheese, A Room With a View, diamonds and tomorrow. The theme is James Bond movies: Quantum of Solace, Casino Royale, A View to a Kill, Diamonds are Forever and Tomorrow Never Dies.

The questions were:

**Monday:** Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg were pioneers in which branch of physics?

**Tuesday:** What, according to a discussion between two characters in "Pulp Fiction", do the French call a cheeseburger?

**Wednesday:** Which E.M. Forster novel opens with a scene in a Florence boarding house?

**Thursday:** What is the distinctive pattern on a Pringle sweater?

**Friday:** The word procrastinate stems from *cras*, the Latin word which has which normal English translation?



# Kakistocracy

*A word that may be useful over the next four years.  
Read the full story.*



**How can you govern a country which has  
246 varieties of cheese?**

*Charles de Gaulle*