

## Catch up: second assassination attempt on Trump; France's European commissioner resigns



President Joe Biden said America's Secret Service will be given "every resource" to protect **Donald Trump** after an [apparent second assassination attempt](#). The former president was playing golf at the Trump International Golf Club in Florida when his security detail fired shots at a gunman spotted in the bushes. Mr Trump was unharmed. American media outlets later identified the suspect, who has been taken into police custody, as Ryan Wesley Routh, a 58-year-old man from Hawaii. The incident comes two months after [another attempt on the life](#) of the Republican presidential nominee.

**Stéphane Séjourné** was nominated for the role of France's new European commissioner. He will replace **Thierry Breton**, who abruptly stepped down after accusing Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the [European Commission](#), of pressuring France's government to withdraw its support for his candidacy. Ms von der Leyen, who is expected to announce a new team of commissioners

on Tuesday, has repeatedly clashed with Mr Breton, who has criticised her approach to leading the commission.

The **yen** appreciated to just under ¥140 against the dollar, its strongest level since July 2023. The Japanese currency had a turbulent summer, hitting its [weakest point in 37 years](#) before strengthening in July and August following a series of interventions in currency markets by the Bank of Japan. The yen's continued recovery comes days before America's Federal Reserve is expected to cut interest rates.

**Harland and Wolff**, the builder of the Titanic, announced its insolvency and appointed Teneo, an advisory firm, as its administrator. Shareholders in the [163-year-old company](#) can expect to see the value of their investments in the business wiped out. An unspecified number of redundancies are also expected to follow. The business has struggled amid the broader decline of Britain's post-war shipbuilding industry.

One person was killed and at least 42 were injured when a Russian guided bomb hit an apartment block in **Kharkiv**, in north-eastern Ukraine. Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine's president, said the strike showed his country needs to be [allowed to fire](#) Western-supplied missiles into Russia—something Britain's foreign secretary, David Lammy, said Western allies are still discussing.

A court in **Hong Kong** convicted someone for the first time under [Article 23](#), a national-security law introduced in March. Chu Kai-pong, a 27-year-old, was found guilty of sedition for wearing a T-shirt printed with a protest slogan that was popularised during pro-democracy protests in 2019. He could be imprisoned for up to ten years if found to have “colluded with foreign forces”.

[“Shogun”](#), a series set in 17th-century Japan, won best drama at the **Emmy Awards**. “Hacks”, a series about a comedy duo, had a surprise win for best comedy, beating “The Bear”, a comedy-drama

about a restaurant, which won most other comedy trophies. “Baby Reindeer”, a drama about stalking, also swept numerous gongs at the television industry’s most prestigious awards.

**Figure of the day:** \$84bn, Intel’s current market value, down from over \$210bn in January. [Read the full story.](#)

# TikTok's day in court



The world's hottest video app will appear in court on Monday to fight for survival in its biggest market. America passed a law in April requiring that TikTok's business in the country be sold to a non-Chinese owner within 12 months, or else face a [ban](#).

ByteDance, TikTok's Beijing-based owner, says it has no intention of selling; China's government would probably not allow it anyway. So the app, which has 170m American users, is hoping to overturn the law.

TikTok will claim that the ban infringes its right to free speech. America's government will argue that the app is a national-security threat, since its content—including news—could be manipulated by propagandists. If TikTok's appeal fails it may yet do a deal with the next president. Kamala Harris broadly backs the government's position, but Donald Trump, who once tried to ban the app, now says he wants to keep it online.

## Modi's first 100 days



Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, describes his [general-election upset](#) in June as a vote for “continuity”. Despite losing his party's parliamentary majority, forcing him to rely on coalition partners to form a government, he has barely changed his cabinet. Facing imminent regional elections, his Bharatiya Janata Party is campaigning on a familiar platform of development and Hindu nationalism. Now the new government is trumpeting completion of an action plan for its first 100 days, a deadline which it reaches at the start of this week.

Mr Modi and his ministers started compiling the plan in March. They have indeed hit many targets, among them approving 3,000km of highway projects, expanding an affordable-housing programme and launching a new national pension scheme. Less well publicised are some tweaks to the plan since the election, which include ditching some privatisations and reviewing a controversial military-recruitment scheme. Continuity, perhaps. But compromise, too.

# Hoping for better news on inflation in Italy



Italy's final inflation figures for August, released on Monday, are attracting more interest than usual. Inflation had been the least of the problems of Giorgia Meloni's [hard-right government](#). The headline rate has dropped sharply from a peak of almost 12% year on year in late 2022. But after appearing to flatten out at around 0.8%, it jumped to 1.3% in July before easing slightly to 1.1% in August. Core inflation, which strips out energy (and fresh food), remained stable at 1.9% in August.

Italy still looks on target to meet the European Central Bank's 2% target. Modest price rises, however, often reflect low GDP growth. The government's estimate is for a rise of just 1% in 2024. Many independent forecasters think even that is optimistic. But in that respect, too, Italy is not so out of line with its peers. The ECB last week cut its forecast for growth in the euro zone to 0.8%.



# Germany's new border controls



On Monday Germany reintroduced controls for six months at land borders with France, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark. Checks at the borders with Austria, Switzerland, Poland and the Czech Republic are already in place. Police will have the powers to refuse entry, as permitted by European Union and national law.

With this attempt to curb illegal immigration, Germany's interior ministry is trying to take the wind out of the sails of the hard-right Alternative for Germany party. It made big [electoral gains](#) at elections on September 1st in the eastern German states of Saxony and Thuringia. Olaf Scholz's coalition government also wants to calm Germans' angst after a fatal knife attack in the western city of Solingen by a Syrian asylum-seeker who had lost the right to stay in the country. Some of Germany's neighbours, however, are highly critical of the border decision. The Austrian interior minister has already said that his country will not accept asylum-seekers rejected by Germany.

# The Booker prize shortlist



The Booker prize, for the best work of fiction in the English language, is “posh bingo”, wrote Julian Barnes, long before he won it himself after his fourth shortlisting. Judges can seem less like they are making analytical decisions than like they are picking names at random. Esteemed authors have missed out, including Martin Amis and Angela Carter. Doris Lessing won a Nobel prize, but never a Booker.

Yet judging literary prizes is hard. This year’s Booker longlist offers several riveting tomes: there is a dark retelling of Huckleberry Finn (Percival Everett’s “James”); a generation-spanning family saga (Claire Messud’s “This Strange Eventful History”); and a plunging investigation of the deep ocean (Richard Powers’s “Playground”). For the first time, the list features a Dutch author (Yael van der Wouden for “The Safekeep”) and a Native American one (Tommy Orange for “Wandering Stars”). On Monday the shortlist is announced. It is safe to say that a lot of good books won’t be on 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](mailto:QuizEspresso@economist.com). We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

**Monday:** *Premier cru* is a French term normally associated with which product?

**\$84bn**

*Intel's current market value, down from over \$210bn in January.  
Read the full story.*

**Being a liberal is the best thing on earth  
you can be. You are welcoming to everyone  
when you're a liberal.**

*Lauren Bacall*