

## Catch up: Turkey strikes Kurdish militants; Hizbullah confirms Safieddine's death



**Turkey's** defence ministry said it “destroyed” at least 30 [Kurdistan Workers' Party](#) militant targets in airstrikes in Iraq and Syria. The interior minister said Kurdish rebels were “likely responsible” for Wednesday's **terrorist attack** on a Turkish aerospace company. At least five people were killed and 22 more wounded after a group of armed men entered the Turkish Aerospace Industries headquarters near Ankara, the capital.

**Hizbullah** confirmed that **Israel** killed Hashem Safieddine, the group's presumed new leader, earlier this month. Israel's campaign against Hizbullah's leadership has been ruthless: the Israel Defence Forces said it has killed three senior [Hizbullah](#) officials and around 70 fighters in Lebanon over the past two days alone. Meanwhile Israeli air strikes hit Tyre, a historic city in southern Lebanon.

America confirmed earlier reports that **North Korea** is sending troops to help **Russia** in Ukraine. Lloyd Austin, America's

secretary of defence, called it a “very serious” escalation. John Healey, Britain’s defence minister, said it showed Russia’s “desperation”. South Korea estimates that the [North has already sent](#) around 3,000 troops to Russia and committed at least 11,000 in total.

American watchdogs ordered **Apple** and **Goldman Sachs** to pay more than \$89m in fines and customer refunds over “failures” in their [troubled credit-card partnership](#). Regulators said the firms “illegally sidestepped” their obligations to customers by mishandling disputes and misleading them about interest-free payments; they also temporarily banned [Goldman](#) from launching new credit cards. The companies said they have worked together to handle the issues.

**Tesla** reported net income of \$2.2bn in the third quarter—up 17% from a year ago—surpassing analysts’ expectations after [slow growth](#) earlier this year. Sales increased from \$23.4bn to \$25.2bn. [Elon Musk’s](#) electric-carmaker earlier reported a 6% increase in deliveries compared with a year ago. Shares jumped by more than 9% in after-hours trading.

Kelly Ortberg, **Boeing’s** boss, offered a bleak assessment of the [planemaker’s](#) situation in his first public address since being appointed in September. He called for a “fundamental culture change”, and said that his focus would be reducing the firm’s huge debt burden and ending a strike that has crippled production. Workers will shortly vote on whether to end the strike.

The head of **McDonald’s** in America tried to reassure customers that they could “confidently” eat at the [hamburger chain](#) after a food-safety alert sent its stock price plummeting by 7%. On Tuesday America’s health watchdog warned that at least 49 customers were sickened with *E. coli*, and one died; most had eaten **quarter-pounders**. The suspected culprit is the burger’s slivered onions.

**Figure of the day:** 87,500, the number of inmates in prisons in England and Wales. The figure has doubled in the past three decades. [Read the full story.](#)

# Trump woos Nevada



Political pundits in Nevada like to remind those in Washington, DC how much the Silver State matters. Yet with less than two weeks to go before America's presidential election, Nevadans may be wishing that they mattered a bit less. Both Donald Trump and his opponent, Kamala Harris, are frenetically campaigning in the seven swing states, of which Nevada is one. On Thursday Mr Trump will speak at (another) rally in Las Vegas.

The race for Nevada's six electoral votes is a toss-up: *The Economist's* [presidential forecast model](#) gives Ms Harris a 51 out of 100 chance of winning the state. If Mr Trump were to win, it would be the first victory for a Republican presidential candidate there since 2004. Democrats need to rack up votes in Clark County, which includes Las Vegas, to offset Republican votes in rural counties. Washoe County, in northern Nevada, is the question mark. Whoever wins there may just win the state.

# France seeks aid for Lebanon



On Thursday France hosts an international-aid conference in Paris to rally support for Lebanon. The Middle Eastern country's prime minister, Najib Mikati, will attend. Some 1.2m people have been displaced in Lebanon because of Israeli air strikes. President Emmanuel Macron, the host, wants pledges of humanitarian aid, as well as political backing for a ceasefire between [Israel and Hizbullah](#), the Iran-backed Shia militia. France is also hoping to discuss ways to reinforce Lebanon's institutions, including [its army](#).

France, a former administrative power, has close historic ties to Lebanon. It also contributes 700 soldiers to the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the country, which is supposed to oversee the application in southern Lebanon of the UN Security Council resolution that ended a previous war between Israel and Hizbullah in 2006. Mr Macron has tried to resolve Lebanon's domestic political deadlock since its president left office without a replacement in October 2022. So far his attempts have come to nothing.

# The euro zone's familiar problems



Over the past few weeks investors have sharply reassessed the probable paths of American and European interest rates. This reflects diverging economic fundamentals. [Inflation has fallen rapidly this year](#) on both sides of the Atlantic. But American price pressures appear more stubborn. America's annual inflation rate was 2.4% in September, above expectations; the euro zone's was just 1.7%, below the European Central Bank's target of 2%. Yet while America's economic growth still appears strong, Europe's is weak. Purchasing-manager indices for the manufacturing and service sectors, released on Thursday, will probably reflect the bloc's sluggish economic momentum.

The ECB has taken note. On October 17th it cut interest rates for the third time this year. Markets now expect three more reductions by March. After a period of high inflation, Europe's policymakers are once again grappling with a familiar challenge: price pressures that are too weak and growth that is too slow.



# Tense times in Mozambique



The results of Mozambique's presidential election will be announced on Thursday. Daniel Chapo will almost certainly be declared the winner. His party, Frelimo, has ruled the country since it became independent from Portugal in 1975. But the real story of the election is Venâncio Mondlane, an independent candidate. His charisma and clever use of social media have captured the imagination of young Mozambicans, frustrated by a [corrupt government](#) and a stagnant economy.

Mr Mondlane says the ballot was rigged. On Saturday unknown gunmen killed his lawyer, who was preparing a legal challenge to the results. International observers report that sheets of results from some districts and polling stations were doctored. For many Mozambicans, this appears to confirm their suspicions about Frelimo's rule. Some are preparing to take to the streets, responding to a call from Mr Mondlane to "paralyse the country". Violence may follow: the police have fired on protesters in the past.

# Thailand's up-and-coming art fair



Choi Jeong Hwa/BAB 2024

The Bangkok Art Biennale opens in the [Thai capital](#) on Thursday. The international art fair, which runs until February, has come a long way since its modest start in 2018. This year's edition includes works from 76 artists, more than two-thirds of them from outside [Thailand](#). Works by 20th-century European artists such as Joseph Beuys and Louise Bourgeois are on display, as are those of Anish Kapoor and Tony Cragg, both contemporary British sculptors.

The show spreads across eleven highly varied venues. They include a riverside Buddhist temple, the staid National Museum and a shopping mall. Yet a climate-related theme unites the fair. Organisers call it “Nurture Gaia”. In Greek mythology Gaia personified the earth mother, a figure echoed in both Buddhist and Hindu traditions. The “Gaia hypothesis”, which evolved in the 1970s, envisioned planet Earth as a single living organism. Global overheating suggests she is now running a fever.



## 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.

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

**Wednesday:** What is the name of the TV series that is a prequel to Game of Thrones?

**87,500**

*The number of inmates in prisons in England and Wales. The figure has doubled in the past three decades.*

*Read the full story.*

**You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right.**

*Rosa Parks*