

Catch up: Ukraine uses long-range missiles; Trump picks Lutnick for commerce secretary



Ukraine reportedly fired advanced long-range missiles on **Russia's** Bryansk region. On Sunday President Joe Biden finally [permitted Ukraine](#) to use the American-supplied weapons on Russian soil. Earlier on Tuesday President Vladimir Putin approved changes to Russia's nuclear doctrine, setting out new conditions for using its arsenal.

Donald Trump nominated **Howard Lutnick**, the co-chair of his transition team and Cantor Fitzgerald's boss, for America's commerce secretary. [Mr Lutnick](#) made a bid for [treasury secretary](#), but his aggressive jockeying apparently annoyed Mr Trump. The president-elect's treasury candidates include Scott Bessent, a hedge-fund manager, Kevin Warsh, who sat on the [Federal Reserve's](#) board of governors, and Marc Rowan, a [private-equity chief](#).

Somaliland's opposition won the **breakaway region's** presidential election. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, who leads the Waddani party, received more than half of the votes cast last week, according to the electoral commission. Better known as Irro, he has promised democratic reforms. His rival, President Muse Bihi Abdi, who during his term pushed for Somaliland's **international recognition**, received just over 30% of votes.

High earners boosted **Walmart's** bottom line. The world's largest retailer posted third-quarter revenue of \$169.6bn, up 5.5% year on year, and raised its annual outlook. Operating income also exceeded expectations, growing by 8.2% to \$6.7bn. Households earning more than \$100,000 a year accounted for three-quarters of the American low-cost **retailer's expansion** in market share.

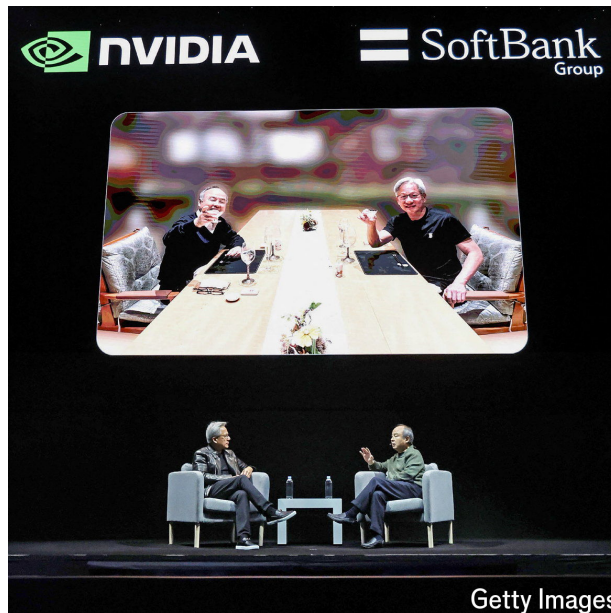
During a visit to **Gaza**, Binyamin Netanyahu, **Israel's** prime minister, insisted that **Hamas** would not rule the enclave once the war ends. He offered a reward of \$5m for each **hostage** returned safely; around 101 are still missing. Meanwhile an American envoy visiting **Lebanon** said that a ceasefire between Israel and **Hizbullah** was "within our grasp".

Nestlé's new boss, Laurent Freixe, set out his plan to make the world's largest **food company** "more efficient, responsive and agile". Mr Freixe wants to cut costs by \$2.8bn and spin off its European bottled-water business. That will allow the company to spend 9% more on marketing to restore investor confidence and bring back inflation-wary buyers.

A judge in **Hong Kong** **sentenced 45 activists and former politicians** who had been convicted of subversion under a law imposed by China. The "**Hong Kong 47**" had organised an unofficial primary in 2020 to improve the chances of pro-democracy candidates in a legislative election. Benny Tai, a law professor, was sentenced to ten years in prison. Two defendants were acquitted in May.

Figure of the day: 21%, Russia's interest rate—a two-decade high. Markets expect it to reach 23% by the year's end. [Read the full story.](#)

All's well that's Blackwell



Nvidia, the world's most valuable company, is likely to report on Wednesday that its [winning streak](#) continued in the third quarter. Revenue is expected to exceed \$33bn. A good result from the chip designer would be in keeping with a bullish earnings season, during which big tech firms, such as cloud service providers, reaffirmed their faith in generative artificial intelligence and pledged to increase spending on Nvidia's products. Nvidia is also likely to benefit from strong demand from the Middle East, which is betting big on government-owned AI technology.

Providing an extra fillip will be Nvidia's Blackwell AI chips, which after delays in production may generate their first revenues in the quarter. Nvidia recently declared Japan's [Softbank](#), led by Masayoshi Son, as Blackwell's first big customer. Concern persists that companies have not found enough use for generative AI to justify all the money they spend on Nvidia's chips. But, for the time being, hope—and hype—remain strong.

COP29 enters its end game (apparently)



The UN's annual climate conferences rarely end on schedule. COP25, held in Madrid in 2019, dragged on for an exhausting 44 hours of overtime. That record hasn't yet been matched. But COP29, currently under way in Baku, the capital of [Azerbaijan](#), may do it. By the middle of the summit's second week it is normally possible to discern the shape of a final agreement. Not this year.

The main goal is still to agree on a new (and bigger) target for the amount of money rich countries should stump up to help [poor ones](#) adapt to climate change. But how big the pot might be is no clearer than it was a fortnight ago, nor where the cash might come from. Should emerging economies like China, whose cumulative carbon-dioxide emissions have now overtaken the European Union's, have to contribute? With just three days officially left, long nights loom.

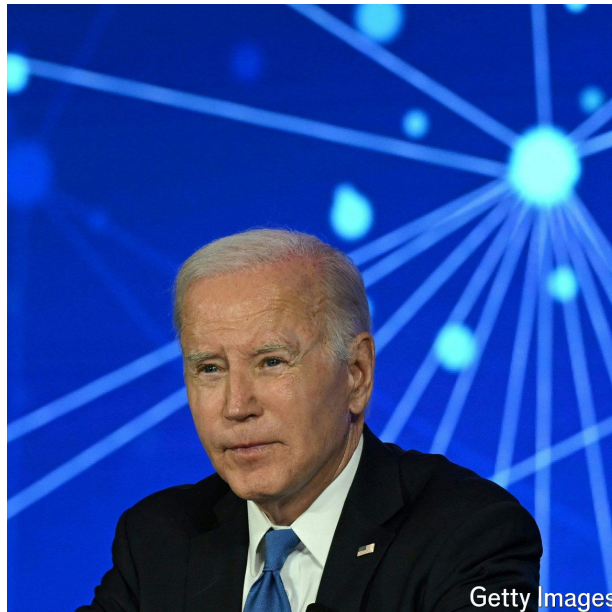
America's retailers ready for Christmas



Target, one of America's biggest discount retailers, reports quarterly results on Wednesday. Sales are expected to have grown by around 2% year on year, adding to an encouraging trend for big stores and supermarkets. On Tuesday Walmart, the world's biggest retailer by sales, reported revenue of \$169.6bn in the latest quarter, a rise of 5.5% year on year. That reflects its reputation among cost-conscious shoppers and the [success](#) of its private-label brands, on which margins are higher.

The last few weeks of the year are crucial for America's retailers, starting with "Black Friday," the day after Thanksgiving (November 28th) when stores slash prices. The shopping frenzy kick-starts the Christmas season. Forrester Research, a consultancy, predicts a festive time for retailers, with total sales rising 3.7% year on year to \$1trn. Online transactions are also expected to climb, by 10% year on year, the cream on retailers' Christmas pud.

A first inter-governmental summit on restraining AI



On Wednesday in San Francisco the International Network of AI Safety Institutes starts its inaugural meeting. Composed of government bodies from nine countries plus the EU, it aims to erect “guardrails” on artificial intelligence. Delegates will debate ways to prevent AI [models](#) from generating things such as launch orders for nuclear warheads. One bold idea is “on-chip governance”—hardware tweaks to limit microchips to approved types of processing.

Yet forging global restrictions on AI looks tricky. China was not invited to the two-day event, hosted by America’s government. Moreover, the project was initiated by the outgoing administration of President Joe Biden. President-elect Donald Trump has instead stated his support for those wary of throttling innovation in the AI sector. In the coming months many will be watching a [tech titan](#) with Mr Trump’s ear. Though a fierce critic of government intervention, Elon Musk has also described unchecked AI as an existential risk.

Mozambique's election crisis



The protests that have followed Mozambique's general election are unprecedented in recent history. Thousands have taken to the streets in the weeks since Daniel Chapo was declared president-elect. They say that the vote was [rigged](#) by his Frelimo party, which has ruled the country since independence from Portugal in 1975. The opposition candidate, Venâncio Mondlane, has called for revolution, but the state is cracking down. Security forces have shot dozens of people dead.

Regional heads of state will discuss the crisis at a summit of the Southern African Development Community in Zimbabwe on Wednesday. The protests have disrupted trade and sometimes shut border crossings. But many regional leaders remember Frelimo as a force in their countries' common struggle against white minority rule. They are unlikely to question the election result, especially as some of them have "won" dodgy ballots of their own.

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.

Wednesday: Which novel by Alice Sebold is narrated by a 14-year-old girl who is murdered in the first chapter?

Tuesday: What title is most associated with Prince Philip, the late husband of Queen Elizabeth II?

My life seemed to be a series of events and accidents. Yet when I look back I see a pattern.

Benoît Mandelbrot