

## Catch up: Israel kills three Lebanese soldiers; Boeing's crisis continues



**Israel** stepped up its war on two fronts by launching more strikes on **Lebanon** and northern **Gaza**. The Israel Defence Forces said it hit 160 Hizbullah targets over the past day. **Lebanon's army** said that Israel killed three of its troops as they evacuated injured people in the south of the country. In Gaza, a strike on a school killed 16 people.

Around 33,000 factory workers at **Boeing**, roughly a fifth of the aerospace giant's staff, rejected a new contract offer and will continue their strike, which began on September 13th. The offer included a pay rise of 35% over four years; workers want 40% over three years. The strike has crippled production and is a further blow to Kelly Ortberg, **Boeing's** new boss.

**António Guterres** met **Vladimir Putin** on the last day of the **BRICS summit**. It was the UN secretary-general's first trip to Russia in over two years. Ukraine's foreign minister said the meeting was a "wrong choice" that damaged the UN's

“reputation”. More than 20 leaders attended the summit, a sign that Mr Putin is defying Western attempts to isolate him.

**Intel** won a long-running battle with the **European Union’s** competition authority after the European Court of Justice upheld a ruling quashing a €1.06bn (\$1.14 bn) fine the bloc imposed on the [American chipmaker](#) in 2008 for anti-competitive behaviour. The EU argued that Intel used a system of discounts and rebates to encourage computer-makers to buy its own processors.

In a private meeting, members of **Justin Trudeau’s** Liberal Party reportedly urged the Canadian prime minister to resign before the next general election. The Liberals have been far behind the opposition Conservative Party in polls for more than a year. Mr Trudeau’s journey from a centre-left hero to a toxic liability has [lessons for mainstream politicians](#) everywhere.

Sales at **Hermès** rose by 11.3% year on year during the third quarter, exceeding analysts’ expectations. The French [luxury firm](#) is defying a broader downturn in the sector owing to strong demand for its exclusive bags. Sales at **Gucci**, an Italian rival brand, slumped by 25% during that period, largely because of faltering demand from Chinese consumers.

**Tropical storm Trami** killed more than 20 people across the **Philippines** and forced more than 150,000 to flee their homes. The typhoon brought torrential rains and winds of up to 95 kph (59 mph). Scientists believe that [climate change](#) is causing typhoons in Southeast Asia to form closer to land, making them more dangerous.

**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 one in two 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, is attending. Some 1.2m people have been displaced in Lebanon because of Israeli air strikes. President Emmanuel Macron, the host, pledged €100m (\$108m) in aid. He wants 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, pointed to a further loss of European 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



Results for Mozambique's presidential election were announced on Thursday. Daniel Chapo won 71% of the vote according to official counts. His party, Frelimo, has ruled the country since it became independent from Portugal in 1975. Venâncio Mondlane, an independent candidate, trailed behind with 20%. 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 opened 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*