

## Catch up: Fighting rages in Middle East; China's economy



As world leaders marked [the anniversary](#) of the **October 7th** attacks, fighting raged across the Middle East. Israel said that Hizbullah had sent around 190 rockets towards it on Monday. Hamas and [the Houthis](#) also fired missiles. Israel continued to strike southern Lebanon and Gaza. It said that it soon planned to attack Hizbullah from the sea, warning residents of southern Lebanon to stay away from nearby beaches.

**Chinese** stocks hit their highest level in more than two years on the first day of trading after a week-long holiday. The CSI 300 index quickly rose by 10.8%, but the rally dwindled after a briefing by the country's top economic planner failed to reveal more [stimulus](#), disappointing investors. Meanwhile the World Bank forecast that China's economy would grow at 4.8% this year, shy of the country's own forecast of "around 5%".

**Samsung Electronics**, a chipmaking giant, admitted it was in "crisis" and apologised to investors after reporting disappointing results. South Korea's most valuable company [faces concerns](#) that

it is losing ground to rivals in the production of both logic chips (which process information) and memory chips (which store it). Its share price has fallen by nearly 30% in the past six months.

**Ukraine's** foreign minister, Andrii Sybiha, said that **Russia** had bombed two cargo ships docked in [the Black Sea port](#) of Odessa. One was carrying corn and was bound for Italy, he said. A port worker was reportedly killed. Meanwhile, Kamala Harris said she would not hold bilateral talks with Vladimir Putin to end the war, were she to become president. She insisted that Ukraine must be represented in any negotiations.

**Hurricane Milton** intensified to a category 5 storm over the Gulf of Mexico at almost record-breaking speed. It is expected to make landfall on Florida's west coast on Wednesday evening; state officials urged residents to start evacuating. Florida and several other south-eastern states are still recovering from [Hurricane Helene](#), a category 4 storm that hit on September 26th and killed at least 227 people.

The mayor of Chilpancingo, a city in south-western **Mexico**, was murdered six days after taking office. Alejandro Arcos's killing follows the assassination of another new city official just three days ago. Chilpancingo is the capital of Guerrero, which has been especially affected by [drug-gang violence](#). The state's governor, Evelyn Salgado Pineda, said the crime "fills us with indignation".

Keeping up appearances is important in politics. Just ask [Ishiba Shigeru](#), **Japan's** new prime minister. His government admitted undertaking "minor editing" of a photo of the country's cabinet, in order to tidy up the look of ministers. The admission followed social-media speculation that the images had been doctored. A government spokesperson said such editing is "customarily performed" on official photos.

**Figure of the day: 67**, the number of countries that have already held national elections this year. [Read the full story.](#)

# The BJP's big test in north India



In general elections in June, Indian voters handed Narendra Modi a [stunning rebuke](#) by stripping the prime minister's Bharatiya Janata Party of its parliamentary majority. Mr Modi insists that ruling in a coalition has not changed his party's plans. But his new government has withdrawn a series of politically important initiatives under pressure from an emboldened opposition. On Tuesday the BJP could face yet more setbacks when results from regional elections in Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir are revealed.

Exit polls suggest that the BJP could lose both regions. In J&K that will hardly be surprising: the Hindu-nationalist party is not popular in the Muslim-majority region. But suggestions that the Congress party might win Haryana will be of much greater concern. The BJP has ruled there for a decade. Losing power would be another signal that the party's popularity is waning and that India's opposition is on the rise.

## Brazil's new central bank chief



On Tuesday Brazil's Senate is expected to confirm Gabriel Galipolo as the next head of the country's central bank. The nomination of Mr Galipolo, the bank's director of monetary policy, by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva initially caused jitters among some analysts. Lula has accused the central bank's current head, Roberto Campos Neto, of thwarting economic growth by keeping interest rates high.

Many economists retort that [government policy](#) is making it harder to cut rates. Strong growth is partly explained by unsustainable public spending. Lula has raised the minimum wage above inflation, among other boons. The labour market is also tight. All this is putting pressure on inflation: the annual rate is 4.2%. The central bank's target is just 3%.

The bank has therefore broken from regional trends. It raised the interest rate by a quarter-point to 10.75% in September, and signalled further increases. Mr Galipolo voted in favour of the rise, showing his independence from the government—for now.

# Political drama in Kenya



The political fallout from Kenya's massive [Gen-Z protests](#) has reached the top echelons of the government. Rigathi Gachagua, the deputy president, is due in parliament on Tuesday to defend himself against impeachment charges brought by his own colleagues. Mr Gachagua was until recently a close ally of William Ruto, the president. He is now blamed for provoking the protests in June, which left at least 40 people dead and severely damaged the administration's international standing.

The motion against the deputy president, which was drawn up by members of Mr Ruto's coalition and backed by 83% of MPs, accuses him of stirring up ethnic hatred, corruption and undermining the government. Voters are gripped by the drama, and in recent days many across the country have turned up to debate the motion in public forums facilitated by the authorities. But for a beleaguered government struggling to tackle Kenya's crippling national debt, the furore seems like a suspiciously convenient distraction.



# Dynasties at odds in the Philippines



Tuesday is the deadline for registering candidates for the Philippines' congressional elections. The vote in May 2025 will come halfway through [President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos’s](#) six-year term. Congress is dominated by Mr Marcos’s dynasty. (He is the son of a despot, also called Ferdinand Marcos.) The final list of candidates will show whether supporters of another dynasty, led by Sara Duterte, the vice-president and daughter of Rodrigo Duterte, a former president, intend to loosen his hold.

In 2022 the two dynasties formed an uneasy alliance: Ms Duterte stood for the vice-presidency, which is voted on separately, with a rumoured understanding that she would run for the top job in 2028. Now they are drifting apart. Opinion polls indicate that Ms Duterte can win the election without Mr Marcos’s help. But she still needs Mr Marcos to shield her father from prosecution over the deaths of drug suspects killed while he was president.

## Anna Weyant's darkly playful art



Born in 1995, Anna Weyant has been feted as the “millennial Botticelli”. Her figurative paintings invite you to come closer, to approach from different angles, to turn your head upside down. Her works often experiment with shadows and reflections and usually have a darkly playful aspect to them. “Loose Screw”, which sold for \$1.5m in 2022, depicts a smiling woman holding a wine glass. In time you notice her hand is bandaged.

On Tuesday Gagosian will host Ms Weyant’s first exhibition in London, “Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Wolves?”, made up of seven new works. (The gallery has represented her since 2022; she was in a relationship with Larry Gagosian, its founder, 50 years her senior, for some time.) One is a painting-within-a-painting: a portrait of a round-faced woman rests, upturned, against a wall. In another a reader stretches out a huge, blank newspaper—rendering them unaware of an approaching figure. As the title of the show attests, these paintings tell stories.



## 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 GMT 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.

**Tuesday:** What is the mechanism on a canal that allows the water level to be raised or lowered?

**Monday:** Which film from 1991 featured Patrick Swayze as the leader of a group of surfers who were also bank robbers?

*The number of countries that have already held national elections this year.*

*Read the full story.*

**Those who adhere to the past won't be able to cope with the future.**

*Willy Brandt*