

Catch up: Russian missile hits civilians in Kharkiv; more deaths in the Channel



At least 28 people were injured, including three children, when a Russian guided bomb hit an apartment block in **Kharkiv**, in north-eastern Ukraine. The **Russians** also continued shelling the strategically important city of Pokrovsk, killing one person. Meanwhile Britain's foreign secretary, David Lammy, said that Ukraine's Western allies are still discussing whether Ukraine should be allowed to fire Western-supplied [missiles](#) into Russia.

Eight **migrants** died while trying to cross the **Channel** from France to Britain. They were on a boat carrying about 50 people that sank soon after leaving the coast. Altogether, the French coast guard reported that they had rescued 200 people in a 24-hour period from Friday to Saturday. Less than two weeks ago 12 migrants drowned in the Channel, including six children.

The **Houthis**, a Yemeni [rebel group](#) backed by Iran, fired what it described as a “hypersonic” ballistic missile into central **Israel**. It triggered air-raid sirens in Tel Aviv and at Ben Gurion international airport before landing harmlessly in a field. The Houthis claimed

that their missile evaded 20 Israeli air-defence missiles fired to intercept it, and warned that it was the “beginning”.

Torrential rain and **severe flooding** continued to blight central and eastern Europe. The governor of **Lower Austria** declared the whole province a disaster area. Five people have been killed by flash floods in **Romania**, and one in **Poland**. In the **Czech Republic**, thousands have been evacuated from their homes, and several people remain missing. More rain is forecast until Tuesday.

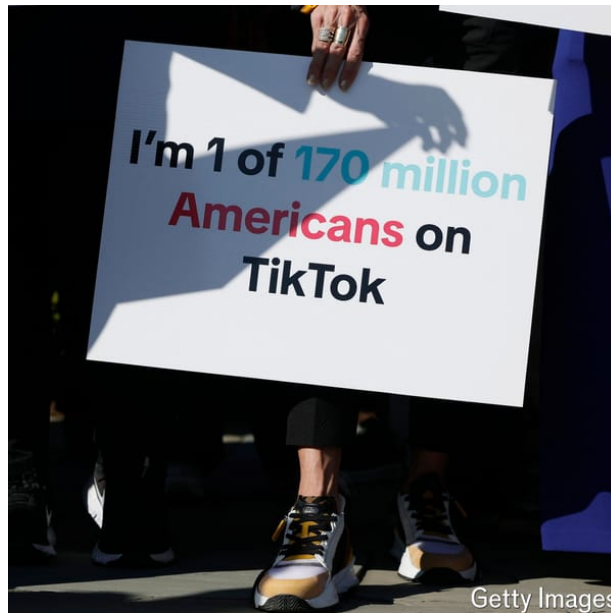
America rejected allegations that it was involved in a plot to overthrow Nicolás Maduro, **Venezuela’s** president, after Venezuelan officials arrested three Americans, two Spaniards and a Czech over a “destabilisation attempt”. Since stealing an election in July, Mr Maduro has **cracked down** on his opponents. Both America and Spain have recognised Edmundo González, the opposition leader, as the winner of the election.

King Abdullah of **Jordan** appointed a new prime minister after a general election last Tuesday. Jafar Hassan, a technocrat, replaces Bisher Khasawneh, who will stay on as a caretaker until a new cabinet is formed. Its main task is to boost slow economic growth, in part to diminish the appeal of opposition Islamist parties that won a record number of parliamentary seats, **fuelled by anger** over Israel’s war in Gaza.

SpaceX’s **Polaris Dawn** returned to earth safely after five days in orbit, splashing down off the coast of Florida. The privately funded mission was led by Jared Isaacman, a billionaire businessman; he and the three other crew members went **deeper into space** than anyone else has for over 50 years. NASA hailed the mission as a “great leap forward” for the commercial space industry.

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 inflation figures are released on Monday. They will attract 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 July, before rising to 2% in August. But 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 reintroduces 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. 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