

Catch up: Harris's running-mate; Hamas names new leader



Kamala Harris introduced **Tim Walz** as her [running-mate](#) at a big campaign rally in Philadelphia. [Mr Walz](#), the governor of Minnesota, went after Donald Trump and J.D. Vance and said he would defend personal freedoms, such as abortion rights. Mr Walz is more progressive than other figures that were on Ms Harris's vice-presidential short-list, having overseen gun restrictions and marijuana legalisation in his home state. He is expected to accompany Ms Harris on a tour of battleground states this week.

Hamas named **Yahya Sinwar**, the group's top man in Gaza and an architect of the October 7th attack, [its overall leader](#). The appointment comes after Ismail Haniyeh, who held the post since 2017, was [assassinated in Iran](#) on July 31st. Meanwhile **Israel's** army said it has killed 45 Palestinian fighters in Gaza since Monday. Medics reported that non-combatants, including a journalist, were also killed.

Mohammed Shahabuddin, **Bangladesh's** president, appointed **Muhammad Yunus**, a Nobel-peace-prize winner, to lead an

interim government. Earlier Mr Shahabuddin dissolved parliament and released Khaleda Zia, an opposition leader and former prime minister, from house arrest. The moves clear the way for elections after Sheikh Hasina, the former prime minister, [resigned and fled on Monday](#). In [a guest essay](#) for *The Economist* published on Tuesday Mr Yunus laid out the next steps for Bangladesh.

Stockmarkets in Asia lurched again, as investors pondered whether turmoil in the market was a correction, or the beginning of a [full-fledged crash](#). Japan's Topix index, among the most closely watched in the current climate, fell by 2% upon opening, before clawing back its losses. The **Bank of Japan** indicated it would not raise interest rates while capital markets were “extremely volatile”. **America's stockmarkets** also rebounded.

China will impose restrictions on three chemicals used to make **fentanyl**, according to the Biden administration. America has for years been pressing China to clamp down on the production of ingredients used to make [the drug](#). Around 75,000 Americans were killed by fentanyl and similar synthetic opioids last year.

Britain's prime minister, Sir Keir Starmer, called a second emergency meeting as rioting by [anti-immigration protesters](#) continued across the country. He said the rioters would face “the full force of the law”. The government announced plans to create over 500 prison places to accommodate those involved in the violence. The police are bracing for more protests on Wednesday.

Donald Trump announced he would sit for an interview with **Elon Musk**, the owner of X, a social-media platform, on August 12th. The ex-president can probably expect a fairly easy ride. Mr Musk has endorsed his re-election bid and neither man is averse to promoting the odd right-wing conspiracy theory. Mr Trump, though, is [far less keen](#) on electric-vehicles (may their supporters “ROT IN HELL”) than his interlocutor, who owns Tesla.

Figure of the day: 13%, the decline per decade in the West's incidence rate of dementia over the past 25 years. [Read the full story.](#)

In the run-up to America's presidential election, we've launched [The US in brief](#)—a daily update to help you keep on top of the political stories that matter. [Sign up here](#) to receive it as a newsletter, each weekday, in your inbox.

Bangladesh's uncertain future



Two days after Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh's prime minister, [resigned and fled to India](#), her country is adjusting to a new reality. Some of it looks hopeful. Khaleda Zia, the ailing opposition leader, has been released. So have many student protesters who were imprisoned in recent months.

Yet the long-term outlook is thornier. The constitution stipulates that elections must take place within 90 days of parliament's dissolution, which happened on Tuesday. Student leaders have rejected the prospect of an army-led government; their preferred caretaker, Muhammad Yunus, an economist and Nobel laureate persecuted by Sheikh Hasina, was appointed by the president later on Tuesday to lead an interim government.

Mr Yunus will have to start bringing to justice those responsible for the killing of protesters. He will also have to try to recreate the competitive politics quashed by Sheikh Hasina's autocratic rule. Hours before his appointment he emphasised the importance of political renewal [in a guest essay](#) for *The Economist*, writing: "We urgently need new politicians, and new leaders to step forward."

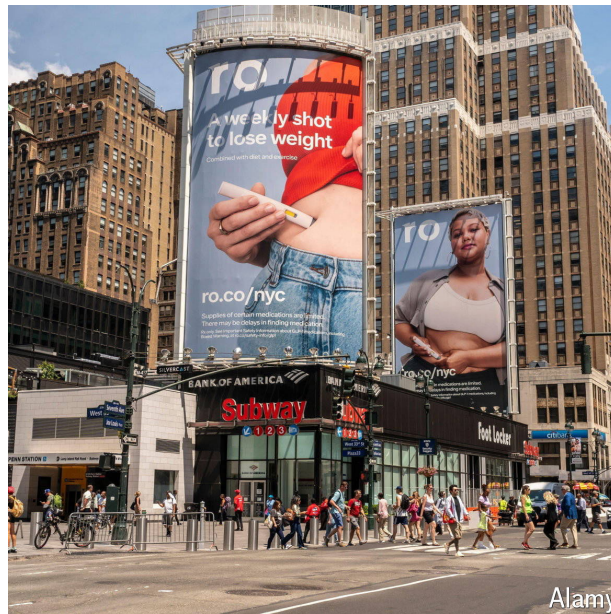
“Lawfare” in Thailand



Thailand’s dismal politics could become more dismal yet on Wednesday. The country’s constitutional court looks likely to disband the progressive Move Forward Party, which won last year’s general election but was blocked from forming a government by army-backed conservatives in the senate, the parliament’s upper chamber. The case seeks to dissolve the party on the grounds that its call to reform Thailand’s lèse-majesté laws, which forbid criticism of the royal family, should be considered treasonous. Party executives including [Pita Limjaroenrat](#), a former leader (pictured), also face possible ten-year bans from politics.

The conservative establishment is waging “lawfare” against progressives, says Mr Pita. But he insists that supporters of more democratic government will not give up. Move Forward’s predecessor, the Future Forward Party, was dissolved in 2020, sparking widespread student-led protests. Move Forward may also continue in another form. Despite all evidence to the contrary, many Thais still believe that one day they will get a government that they actually elected.

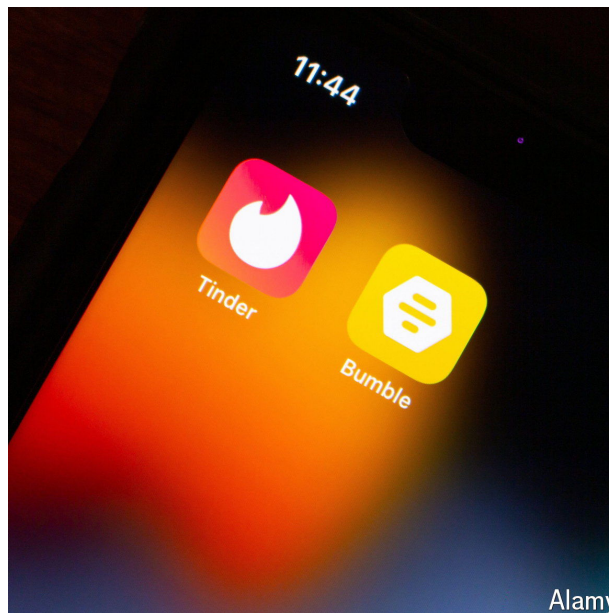
Competition eats into Novo Nordisk's profits



Novo Nordisk, Europe's most valuable firm, reported mixed results on Wednesday. Profits for the three months ending June were below expectations but the company raised its sales forecast. Novo now expects sales this year to grow between 22% and 28%, slightly higher than previous expectations. With Eli Lilly, an American drugmaker, the Danish firm dominates the market for [weight-loss medicines](#), which are proving popular: analysts at Morgan Stanley predict the global market will reach \$105bn by 2030.

But Novo is under pressure in America over the price of its slimming jabs. In July, for instance, President Joe Biden accused the company of "price gouging". Another worry is [competition](#). Iqvia, a data firm, estimates that nearly 120 anti-obesity drugs are in development. Last month Roche, a Swiss firm, announced promising results for a once-a-day pill. Cheaper generic versions of the drugs are emerging from China, too. Still, for now Novo's position in the weight-loss duopoly looks secure.

Dating apps lose their allure



Tinder, a mobile dating app, launched on American college campuses in 2012. It quickly became a hit. Online dating had sometimes been considered the last resort of the desperate. But Tinder made it easy and fun—the [lovelorn](#) sifted through photos of potential mates with a simple swipe.

Yet dating apps have lost their spark. On July 30th Match Group, which owns Tinder and other similar services, reported quarterly revenue growth of just 4% year on year. Bumble, its rival, is not expected to do much better when it releases earnings on Wednesday. The market values of both companies have dropped by around four-fifths since February 2021, when Bumble went public.

Singles increasingly favour offline opportunities for matchmaking. On Eventbrite, a ticketing platform, attendance at singles events rose 42% between 2022 and 2023. Dating apps are taking note. Tinder recently launched a series of in-person events; Bumble wants to be known as a “connections company”. Love, it seems, is not an easy business.

Celebrating Wikipedia



On Wednesday the conference halls of Katowice, a Polish city, will fill with WikiFauna, the people who edit [Wikipedia](#). Some will be WikiGnomes, keen-eyed editors who fix typos and broken links. Others will be WikiDragons, who conduct diligent research before making big changes. WikiFarmers, who tend to new articles, will mingle with WikiHunters, who kill off outdated ones. WikiTrolls, who vandalise others' work, will probably steer clear. If not, WikiNinjas will see them off.

The volunteers, who cheerfully describe themselves using the monikers above, are gathering for Wikimania, a conference devoted to the online encyclopedia. Attendees should feel jolly. Amid fretting over social-media addiction and disinformation, Wikipedia is [one of the internet's great successes](#). Home to some 60m articles in more than 300 languages, it is vast (and growing). Thanks to readers' donations, the site remains free. Studies suggest it is also more accurate than many believe. The dedication of WikiFauna will keep it flourishing.

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. We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

Wednesday: Which character in John Steinbeck's novel "The Grapes of Wrath" inspired an album by Bruce Springsteen?

Tuesday: Which President was assassinated in 1881, only six months into his term of office?

13%

The decline per decade in the West's incidence rate of dementia over the past 25 years.

Read the full story.

**The truth comes as conqueror only
because we have lost the art of receiving it
as guest.**

Rabindranath Tagore