

# Today's News

## Chinese economic slowdown deepens, official figures show

Source: *BBC News*

Published: Fri, 18 Oct 2024 03:47:56 GMT

URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/crr54x00857o>

Summary: China's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 4.6% year-on-year, falling short of Beijing's annual target of approximately 5%. This growth rate highlights the ongoing economic challenges faced by the country amid global uncertainties and domestic pressures. Factors contributing to this growth include government stimulus measures and a rebound in exports, but concerns remain regarding slowing consumer demand and increased unemployment. Analysts emphasize that while the GDP figure reflects a positive trend, it may not be sufficient to address long-term structural issues in the economy. Additionally, there are debates over the government's ability to implement effective economic policies that will sustain growth without exacerbating debt levels. The slowdown in investment and infrastructure spending also poses significant risks to future economic stability. As China navigates this complex economic landscape, policymakers will need to balance growth aspirations with the realities of shifting global dynamics and internal challenges. The results underscore the necessity for adaptive strategies to foster resilience and recovery, ensuring that the world's second-largest economy remains on a sustainable growth path while striving to meet its development goals.

## How Israel found and killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar

Source: *BBC News*

Published: Fri, 18 Oct 2024 02:36:17 GMT

URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czj9zzz8xm7o>

Summary: After a year-long pursuit, Israel successfully located and apprehended the mastermind behind the October 7th attacks in a chance encounter in Rafah. The individual had been a primary target for Israeli forces due to his significant role in orchestrating the violent events that led to widespread devastation. The Israeli intelligence services utilized a combination of resources and strategic operations to track him down, ultimately leading to this moment of capture. This development is seen as a pivotal point in efforts to restore security and stability in the region. The capture underscores the determination of Israeli authorities to hold accountable those responsible for acts of terrorism and to deter further violence. Analysts suggest that this action may provoke a range of responses, both domestically and internationally, as tensions in the region remain high. The incident highlights not only the complexities of the ongoing conflict but also the broader implications for peace efforts in the area. As Israel continues to navigate these challenges, this event marks a significant chapter in the ongoing struggle against terrorism and the pursuit of justice for the victims of such atrocities.

# **US Secret Service has 'deep flaws' and must overhaul leadership, report says**

*Source: BBC News*

Published: Fri, 18 Oct 2024 01:21:00 GMT

URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c04p620xy47o>

Summary: An independent panel has conducted a review of the shooting incident that occurred during Donald Trump's rally, leading to significant recommendations for reforms within the agency responsible for security. The panel criticized the agency's leadership, highlighting lapses in communication and decision-making that contributed to the chaos during the event. The shooting raised concerns about the safety protocols in place at high-profile gatherings, calling into question the effectiveness of the agency's current strategies. The panel's recommendations emphasize the need for a complete overhaul of leadership and management practices to enhance operational efficiency and ensure the safety of attendees at future events. Additionally, the report suggests implementing comprehensive training programs and establishing clearer lines of communication among security personnel. The urgent nature of these recommendations reflects the panel's recognition of the potential risks involved in securing political events and the necessity of a proactive approach to prevent similar occurrences in the future. By advocating for these changes, the panel aims to restore public confidence in the agency's ability to protect individuals at high-stakes rallies and ensure that such violent incidents do not happen again.

# **Kenya's deputy president sacked while in hospital**

*Source: BBC News*

Published: Thu, 17 Oct 2024 21:51:36 GMT

URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czrmzzkdk1do>

Summary: In a significant turn of events, the Kenyan Senate voted to impeach Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. The parliamentary session was marked by intense debates and an array of political dynamics, as Gachagua faced serious allegations that led to calls for his removal from office. Supporters of the impeachment argued that Gachagua's actions had undermined the integrity of the government, while his defenders insisted that the charges were politically motivated. As the vote progressed, political tension escalated, with various senators expressing their strong opinions and concerns about the implications of Gachagua's tenure. The Senate ultimately made a decisive move, reflecting a shift in the political landscape and highlighting the ongoing challenges faced by the current administration. This impeachment serves as a reminder of the fragile nature of power dynamics within Kenyan politics, illustrating how quickly fortunes can change in the realm of governance. With Gachagua's ousting, questions arise about who will succeed him and how this will affect the ruling party's stability and future policies. The atmosphere remains charged as discussions on accountability and governance continue, with citizens keenly observing the unfolding political drama.

# **One Direction 'devastated' at Liam Payne's death**

Source: *BBC News*  
Published: Thu, 17 Oct 2024 21:31:42 GMT

URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cvglym337plo>

Summary: The article reports on the tragic death of a popular singer who passed away at the age of 31 after falling from a balcony. Following this devastating loss, members of the singer's former band came forward to pay heartfelt tributes, expressing their deep sorrow and honoring the singer's talent and legacy. They reminisced about their time together, highlighting the singer's charisma, passion for music, and the positive impact they had on each other's lives. Fans and fellow musicians also joined in mourning, sharing memories and expressing their grief on social media platforms. This incident has sparked conversations about mental health in the music industry, with many calling for more support for artists facing such pressures. The loss of the singer not only affected their immediate circle but resonated widely within the music community and beyond. As fans continue to grapple with the shock of this untimely passing, the tributes serve as a reminder of the fragility of life and the importance of community support in times of crisis. The collective expressions of love and remembrance illustrate the profound influence the singer had on those around them.

## **Bowen: Sinwar's death is serious blow to Hamas, but not the end of the war**

Source: *BBC News*  
Published: Thu, 17 Oct 2024 20:54:13 GMT

URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cm24q3204y3o>

Summary: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has scored a significant tactical victory with the assassination of Yahya Sinwar, the leader of Hamas in the Gaza Strip. This act is viewed as a response to ongoing threats posed by Hamas and is intended to undermine its organizational leadership. However, experts warn that this killing does not signify the war's conclusion nor the defeat of Hamas. The organization remains resilient, with deep-rooted structures and a history of recovering from leadership losses. Analysts suggest that while this action may temporarily disrupt Hamas operations, it could also incite retaliation, leading to further violence. Netanyahu's government emphasizes that the conflict with Hamas is not merely a military engagement but is intertwined with broader political, social, and ideological issues. The significance of Sinwar's assassination lies in its potential implications for the peace process and regional stability. As tensions remain high, the killing could exacerbate hostilities and perpetuate a cycle of violence rather than pave the way for resolution. In this ongoing struggle, the complexities surrounding Israeli-Palestinian relations continue to illustrate the challenges facing any meaningful dialogue going forward.

## **US sanctions Chinese firms behind Russian drones, as Zelensky calls for 'pressure'**

Source: *BBC News*  
Published: Thu, 17 Oct 2024 15:50:32 GMT

URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cew19r27xr7o>

Summary: The U.S. Treasury has imposed new sanctions targeting China due to its alleged involvement in the supply of arms to Russia amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. This decision comes after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky publicly criticized China's contributions to the Russian military. The sanctions aim to combat the flow of military resources that bolster Russia's capabilities in its invasion of Ukraine. Officials emphasized the U.S. commitment to holding accountable those who support Russia, underscoring a broader strategy to deter countries from providing military aid. This move reflects escalating tensions and international responses to the war in Ukraine, with the U.S. seeking to limit any foreign assistance that could strengthen Russian forces. Additionally, these sanctions highlight the intricate geopolitical landscape, where nations are being compelled to take sides amid global unrest. The U.S. Treasury's actions are part of a coordinated effort with allies to ensure that any nation, including China, faces consequences for aiding Russia's military actions, thereby reinforcing the importance of international solidarity in the face of aggression.

## How much food is Israel letting into northern Gaza?

*Source: BBC News*

Published: Thu, 17 Oct 2024 15:42:35 GMT

URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c77x05l5ze4o>

Summary: Israel is facing accusations of intentionally withholding food aid from the northern Gaza area amid ongoing conflict and humanitarian crises. Reports indicate that measures implemented by the Israeli government are exacerbating the dire situation faced by many civilians, leaving them in critical need of basic necessities. The situation is further complicated by the ongoing blockade and military actions in the region, which restrict humanitarian access and exacerbate food shortages. Human rights organizations and activists have condemned these actions, urging for immediate international intervention to ensure the delivery of aid to those in desperate need. The withholding of food aid has raised significant ethical and legal questions regarding the treatment of civilians during wartime. Critics argue that such actions contravene international humanitarian laws and principles, which are intended to protect non-combatants. The allegations against Israel come amid widespread calls for accountability and transparency in the allocation of humanitarian aid within the region. As the conflict continues, the impact on civilian life and the urgent need for humanitarian assistance remain pressing issues that demand global attention and action.

## France to cut prices in Martinique over cost of living unrest

*Source: BBC News*

Published: Thu, 17 Oct 2024 13:04:34 GMT

URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy80z1ppnjno>

Summary: A coalition of protest groups has rejected a proposed deal aimed at reducing food prices, rejecting it as insufficient to address the ongoing crisis. The protests, which have gained traction over several weeks, were primarily driven by the rising cost of living and food inflation impacting many citizens. Despite negotiations aimed at achieving a consensus, the dissatisfaction with the proposed measures highlights the urgency and depth of the crisis. Protest leaders argue that the deal fails to offer a comprehensive solution that would stabilize food prices and alleviate the financial burden on families.

The rejection signals a continued commitment from the protestors to push for more significant changes that address the root causes of food insecurity. As tensions rise, the government faces increasing pressure to respond effectively to the demands of the populace, with many citizens calling for more substantial reforms and economic relief. This situation underscores the critical intersection of food security and social unrest, with the outcome of this movement poised to influence both future policy decisions and the immediate wellbeing of communities affected by soaring food prices.

## **Teenage guns for hire: Swedish gangs targeting Israeli interests**

*Source: BBC News*

Published: Thu, 17 Oct 2024 06:06:53 GMT

URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c1e85f701y3o>

Summary: Sweden is investigating a series of recent attacks that authorities believe may have links to organized gangs. However, they suspect that Iran could be involved as well, possibly in support of these groups. Tensions have escalated in Sweden due to rising gang violence, which has prompted the government to enhance security measures. The Swedish intelligence agency has indicated that the attacks may be a result of ongoing conflicts between rival factions or power struggles within the criminal underworld. The involvement of foreign actors like Iran raises concerns about the broader implications of external influence on domestic violence and security. The Swedish government is focusing on both criminal enterprises and foreign interventions to understand the motivations behind the attacks. While gang-related violence is a domestic issue, the potential foreign connections add complexity. Officials emphasize the importance of community engagement and international cooperation to combat both local gang activities and any external malicious influences. The outcomes of this investigation could shape future policy and security strategies in Sweden, aiming for a safer environment free from both gang-related crime and foreign interference.

## **US bombers target underground Houthi weapon sites in Yemen**

*Source: BBC News*

Published: Thu, 17 Oct 2024 05:24:26 GMT

URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx2kzy2klyko>

Summary: B-2 bombers were involved in recent military operations targeting Houthi-controlled regions surrounding Sanaa and Saada, as reported by Houthi media outlets. This strategic action appears to be part of a broader effort by coalition forces to diminish the influence of the Houthis in Yemen, who have been engaged in a prolonged conflict with the Yemeni government and its allies since 2014. The use of such advanced stealth bombers underscores the escalating intensity of the military campaign, aimed at disrupting Houthi supply lines and military capabilities. The operation signifies a critical moment in the ongoing struggle for control in Yemen, illustrating the complex geopolitical dynamics at play in the region. The implications of these airstrikes extend beyond immediate military objectives, as they contribute to the already dire humanitarian situation in the country. Civilian casualties and infrastructure damage are significant concerns, prompting calls for

caution and increased humanitarian efforts to alleviate suffering in the war-torn nation. As the conflict continues, the participation of heavy bombers suggests a shift in tactics and potential new phases of engagement between opposing forces in the region.

## **'I had to bulldoze my house' - Palestinians face spike in Israeli demolition orders in East Jerusalem**

*Source: BBC News*

Published: Thu, 17 Oct 2024 05:10:49 GMT

URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0lwpg9rxrdo>

Summary: Human rights organizations report a significant increase in home demolitions in the region since October 7, 2023. The number of demolitions has nearly doubled, raising concerns about the impact on affected families and communities. Activists argue that these actions violate basic human rights, displacing individuals and exacerbating humanitarian conditions. The escalated demolitions are viewed in the context of ongoing conflicts, where various stakeholders have clashed over territorial disputes and governance. Both domestic and international voices have called for accountability and an end to practices that displace vulnerable populations. Critics assert that the demolitions contribute to a cycle of violence and instability, hindering the prospects for peace in the region. The rise in demolitions has prompted calls for intervention from global human rights advocates, emphasizing the need for immediate humanitarian aid and long-term solutions to address the underlying issues of conflict. As the situation evolves, human rights groups continue to document the circumstances surrounding these demolitions, seeking to raise awareness and encourage dialogue aimed at protecting the rights and dignity of those affected by such actions.

## **Harris calls Trump a threat, distances herself from Biden**

*Source: BBC News*

Published: Thu, 17 Oct 2024 00:57:25 GMT

URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/videos/c93yv0lx0llyo>

Summary: In her first interview with FOX News, the presidential candidate addressed several pressing issues, including immigration and border security. She emphasized the importance of secure borders as a fundamental aspect of national safety, advocating for stricter enforcement mechanisms and measures to prevent illegal crossings. The candidate expressed her commitment to reforming the immigration system to balance the need for security with compassion for those seeking refuge in the United States. She criticized the current administration's policies as ineffective and called for a bipartisan approach to creating a more manageable immigration framework. Additionally, the candidate highlighted her plans for economic recovery and job creation, asserting that a strong economy would benefit all Americans. She believes that addressing these issues holistically will foster unity and improve public trust in government. Overall, the candidate's focus was on presenting clear solutions to immigration challenges while reinforcing her stance on law and order, aiming to resonate with voters concerned about safety and economic opportunities as the election approaches.

## **Fresh-faced X Factor star to solo artist - Liam Payne's career highlights**

*Source: BBC News*

Published: Thu, 17 Oct 2024 00:41:46 GMT

URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/videos/c870vyd9z0go>

Summary: The BBC reflects on key moments from the career of Harry Styles, the former One Direction member who has achieved significant success as a solo artist. After gaining fame with One Direction, Styles ventured into a solo career, showcasing his unique style and musical versatility. His self-titled debut album featured hits like 'Sign of the Times,' which solidified his place in the music industry. Styles is celebrated not just for his musical talents but also for his bold fashion choices, often challenging gender norms and expectations in the industry. The article highlights his transition from boy band star to a mature artist who embraces individuality and creativity. Styles has become a prominent figure in both music and pop culture, using his platform to address social issues, including mental health and inclusivity. His concerts have drawn in diverse audiences, promoting messages of love and acceptance. Recognized for his charisma and authenticity, Styles continues to evolve as an artist, receiving accolades for his works, including his latest album. The retrospective illustrates Styles' journey from teenage heartthrob to an influential cultural icon, capturing the essence of his growth and impact on both fans and the music scene.

## **Mayor and 15 others killed in Israeli strike on Lebanon council meeting**

*Source: BBC News*

Published: Wed, 16 Oct 2024 17:11:12 GMT

URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy43z81nnvlo>

Summary: Sixteen individuals have lost their lives due to recent air strikes targeting municipal buildings in the city of Nabatieh. The attacks have raised concerns over the impact on civilian infrastructure and the safety of residents in the area. Eyewitness accounts indicate that the strikes caused significant destruction, with many buildings heavily damaged. Local authorities are urging for immediate humanitarian assistance as the community grapples with the aftermath of the violence. Medical facilities are reportedly overwhelmed, struggling to care for the injured. The situation has prompted outcry from various humanitarian organizations, calling for an immediate ceasefire and for all parties involved to prioritize the safety of civilians. The international community has been urged to intervene and provide necessary aid to those affected. As the situation unfolds, leaders and activists are concerned about the long-term implications for peace and stability in the region. This tragic event highlights the broader issues of conflict and the urgent need for dialogue and diplomacy to prevent further loss of life and to support rebuilding efforts for the devastated community.