

FINANCIAL TIMES

FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER 2022

INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

ASIA



The proxy war over Congo's mineral wealth

BIG READ, PAGE 15

The end of Europe's energy crisis is in sight

CHRIS GILES, PAGE 17

Deep water UN climate goals fading

A woman wades through clogged tidal water after cyclone Sitrang hit Kalapara, Bangladesh, as a UN panel concluded that the world is on track for a temperature rise of up to 2.6C by 2100.

The UN Environment Programme yesterday condemned as inadequate pledges from governments to cut emissions, saying the targets mean there is now "no credible pathway" to hitting the goal of 1.5C set in Paris.

The panel's report comes shortly before the COP27 climate summit in Egypt, where delegates will be pressed on how to find deeper emissions cuts and more climate finance.

UN secretary-general António Guterres said: "We are headed for a global catastrophe. The emissions gap is a byproduct of a commitments gap. A promises gap. An action gap." Global catastrophe page 3 Gillian Tett page 17



Munir Uz Zaman/AFP via Getty Images

Briefing

► **Putin blames west for fuelling nuclear tensions** Russia's president has countered western warnings that Moscow might be planning to explode a dirty bomb in Ukraine. — PAGE 4; FT VIEW, PAGE 16; ZHOU BO, PAGE 17

► **ECB pledge as rates rise** The European Central Bank has raised interest rates by 0.75 percentage points to their highest since 2009, vowing to continue raising to tackle inflation. — PAGE 2

► **Credit Suisse shake-up** The Swiss bank has said it will raise billions in capital, carve up its investment bank and cut jobs in an attempt to move on from scandals. — PAGES 6&9; LEX, PAGE 18

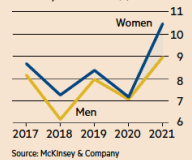
► **US nuclear policy shift** The White House has said the "fundamental" purpose of US nuclear arms is to deter strikes on it and its allies, avoiding a radical shift opposed by allies. — PAGE 4

► **Musk bid to calm Twitter** "Free speech absolutist" Elon Musk has said he does not want the platform to become a "free-for-all hellscape", in a sudden bid to appease advertisers. — PAGE 6

► **Meteorites light up Mars** Scientists have gained fresh insights into the planet's internal structure after analysing data from last year when two massive meteorites hit it. — PAGE 4

Datawatch

Women leaders leave
Voluntary attrition rate (%)



Women leaders, already in short supply at most US companies, were more likely than men to switch jobs in 2021. Some 10.5 per cent — from senior managers to the C-suite — quit their jobs, the highest rate in five years

Brutal week for Big Tech as investors knock \$550bn off market valuations

◆ Meta margins slump ◆ Zuckerberg vision questioned ◆ Microsoft value plunges ◆ Alphabet costs rise

RICHARD WATERS AND HANNAH MURPHY — SAN FRANCISCO

More than \$550bn has been wiped off the value of the biggest US digital companies this week, with Big Tech's headlong growth stalling because of the slowing global economy and mounting cost pressures.

The stock market slump has underlined a surprisingly weak earnings season from the US digital giants, ending a surge in growth during the pandemic and putting paid to hopes that they would withstand the inflation and weakening growth that are hitting the wider economy.

Facebook's parent Meta delivered the latest blow to Wall Street's faith in the resilience of Big Tech late on Wednesday when it reported a slump in its profit

margins on the back of slipping advertising revenue and soaring costs.

Mark Zuckerberg faced a barrage of questions from Wall Street analysts on why his company was planning to double down on its bets on artificial intelligence and the metaverse next year, despite an eroding advertising business and lack of any clear promises on when the massive spending would pay off.

'There are just too many experimental bets versus proven bets'

Brent Thill, an analyst on Facebook parent Meta's strategy

Echoing the wary mood at the end of a fractious earnings call, Brent Thill, an analyst at Jefferies, said: "There are just too many experimental bets versus proven bets on the core."

In a note to investors, analysts at Morgan Stanley added that they were breaking with their normal practice of not issuing immediate ratings downgrades in response to bad news because Meta's spending plans were a "thesis-changing" moment.

Wall Street's loss of confidence in the progress of Zuckerberg's metaverse vision wiped 22 per cent from Meta's shares yesterday morning in New York, cutting \$80bn from its stock market value.

That left Meta's shares 73 per cent below the record they hit 14 months ago

and extended a two-day slump for Big Tech that began on Tuesday with weak earnings from Alphabet, Google's parent company.

Fears that Big Tech was doing too little to rein in its soaring costs were triggered when Alphabet said it had added nearly 13,000 employees in just the past three months, one of its biggest hiring binges ever, despite a recent internal call from chief executive Sundar Pichai for the company to become more "focused" in its spending.

Like Meta, Google said its massive capital spending would continue, intensifying the race by the biggest tech companies to meet the growing demands of artificial intelligence.

The biggest stock market loser, Microsoft, saw \$174bn slashed off its

market value by yesterday morning after signalling earlier in the week that growth in its cloud computing business was slowing faster than expected.

The news added to fears that some of the businesses that were thought to be most resilient in a slowdown, including cloud computing and Google's search advertising, were starting to suffer.

Between them, Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Meta and Microsoft had lost \$566bn in stock market value by yesterday morning, leaving them with a combined value of \$6.64tn.

Amazon and Apple were due to report their earnings later yesterday.

Musk soothes Twitter fears page 6
TikTok's gaming channel page 9

Markets pages 10 & 11
Lex pages 18

US economy rebounds despite signs that consumer demand is dwindling

COLBY SMITH — WASHINGTON

The US economy rebounded in the third quarter after contracting for the first six months of the year, despite evidence that Federal Reserve efforts to damp consumer demand have started to have an effect.

Gross domestic product rose 2.6 per cent on an annualised basis between July and September, according to commerce department data yesterday. The figure surpassed economist expectations and marked a sharp improvement on the 0.6 per cent drop in the second quarter and the 1.6 per cent decline in the first three months of the year.

The expansion was propelled by a narrowing of the trade deficit, as weaker consumer demand slowed imports while exports rose, thanks in part to sales from the oil sector prompted by

Ukraine war-related supply problems.

However, the trade trends concealed a softening of domestic consumer demand that suggests the economy is losing steam. Consumer spending rose just 1.4 per cent, higher than expected but far slower than the previous period. The main proxy for underlying demand in the economy — final sales to domestic purchasers, excluding government spending — rose just 0.1 per cent, down from 0.5 per cent in the second quarter and 2.1 per cent in the first.

"This [GDP] number is weaker in terms of the signal it sends about the forward strength of the economy than the last one was, even though the headline was positive," said Eric Winograd, director of developed market economic research at AllianzBernstein.

US stocks gave up early gains after the report, with the S&P 500 flat in after-

noon trading. The two-year Treasury yield, which moves with interest rate expectations, dropped, suggesting investors did not view the GDP figure as likely to push the Federal Reserve towards even tighter policy.

The Fed is poised to deliver its fourth consecutive 0.75 percentage point interest rate increase next month, lifting its benchmark policy rate to a target range of 3.75 per cent to 4 per cent.

The European Central Bank raised its rates by 0.75 percentage points yesterday. Amid growing criticism of the tightening policy, ECB president Christine Lagarde made clear the bank would not how to pressure, saying "we have to do what we have to do" to tackle inflation, which is five times the 2 per cent goal. Additional reporting by Kate Duguid in New York and Martin Arnold in Frankfurt ECB raises rates page 2



Shell ready to embrace higher tax as profits soar

Report • PAGE 8

Country	AS7000inc.GST
Australia	AS7000inc.GST
China	RM830
Hong Kong	HK533
India	Rup220
Indonesia	Rup45000
Japan	¥5000inc.ACT
Korea	₩4,500
Malaysia	RM1150
Pakistan	Rupae350
Philippines	Peso140
Singapore	S\$5,800inc.GST
Taiwan	NT\$140
Thailand	Bh140
Vietnam	US\$4,50

Subscribe in print and online

www.ft.com/AsiaSubs
Tel: (852) 5803 3388
Fax: (852) 2905 5590
email: subsasia@ft.com

© THE FINANCIAL TIMES LTD 2022
No. 41,157 *

Printed in London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Dublin, Frankfurt, Milan, Madrid, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Toronto, Hong Kong, Singapore, Seoul.

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS	CURRENCIES	GOVERNMENT BONDS
S&P 500	Pair	Yield (%)
Nasdaq Composite	Oct 27	Oct 27
Dow Jones Ind	Prev	Oct 27
FTSE100	%Chg	Prev
FTSE200	Pair	Chg
FTSEMIB	Oct 27	Oct 27
FTSE All-Share	Prev	Oct 27
CAC 40	Pair	Oct 27
Xetra Dax	Prev	Oct 27
	%Chg	Oct 27

Look beyond today and invest for the next generation

Forward looking for generations

As a family-owned company, we take a long-term and holistic perspective when selecting the best investment opportunities for you and structuring your portfolio.

www.lgt.com

Subscriptions and Customer Service... Tel: (852) 2863 3388, subseasia@ft.com

South Korea: Maeil Business Newspaper, 30-1, G-1, P.O. Box 111, Jung-Ku, Seoul, 100-728

Simon Coveney said that UK prime minister Rishi Sunak should knuckle down to talks with Brussels to find compromises by the end of the year, instead of London calling new elections.

"I don't believe that Northern Ireland wants or needs an election now," Coveney said in an interview.

An estimated 10.6mn people developed the disease last year and 1.6mn died, with both metrics rising from 2020, when they also registered a year-on-year increase.

Cases of drug-resistant TB, or DR-TB, rose 5 per cent in 2021 from the previous year, the first such increase since records began in 2004, according to the WHO.

INTERNATIONAL

UN warns of higher temperature rise leading to global catastrophe

Commitments to cut emissions deemed inadequate in report that fears 1.5C limit will be missed



CAMILLA HODGSON

Climate pledges made by countries worldwide are woefully inadequate and put the world on track for a temperature rise of between 2.4C and 2.6C by 2100, the leading UN environmental body has forecast.

The analysis by the UN Environment Programme of the targets announced by 194 countries, accounting for more than 90 per cent of all greenhouse gases, said there was "no credible pathway to 1.5C in place", referring to the Paris agreement to limit global warming.

"Global and national climate commitments are falling pitifully short," said UN secretary-general António Guterres. "We are headed for a global catastrophe. The emissions gap is a byproduct of a commitments gap. A promises gap. An action gap."

Although countries pledged at the UN climate summit a year ago to revisit and strengthen their 2030 emissions targets by the end of this year, few have done so. They include previous laggards such as Australia and Indonesia.

While leading emitters the US and China have speeded up their deployment of renewable energy, their climate goals have not improved. The updated targets announced by countries this year would shave less than 1 per cent off projected 2030 emissions, a far cry from the 45 per cent fall required to limit global warming to 1.5C, said the UNEP.

weather events, which included flooding in Pakistan and Nigeria and unprecedented summer temperatures and droughts across much of Europe, the US and Asia.

The latest findings demonstrated "in cold scientific terms what nature has been telling us, all year, through deadly drought, wildfires and other extreme weather events."

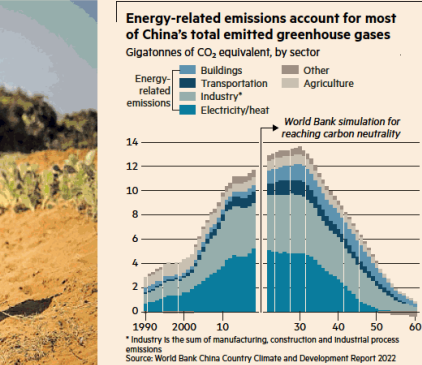
The International Energy Agency has said Russia's invasion of Ukraine will accelerate a peak in the world's consumption of fossil fuels, with gas demand expected to join oil and coal in topping out near the end of this decade.

Fatih Birol, head of the IEA, said the world was fast approaching a "pivotal moment in energy history" as demand for the fossil fuels that had underpinned the modern economy since the advent of the industrial revolution neared an inflection point.

"After rapid growth in gas consumption in the last 10 years, we think the golden age of gas is coming to an end," Birol said. "Together with the decline in coal and oil that we were already expecting, we now see a peak around 2030 for all fossil fuels."

Birol said government energy policies were rapidly evolving in part to counter the fallout from Russia's decision to weaponise its gas supplies to Europe in retaliation for western support for Ukraine.

The UN reports come less than two weeks before the COP27 UN climate summit in Egypt, where negotiators will face pressure to make progress on how to reduce emissions and provide more in climate finance despite geopolitical tension and macroeconomic difficulty.



Drought: villagers in southern Madagascar, east Africa. Heat-related deaths globally have already increased two-thirds over the past two decades, according to a report in The Lancet this week - Charlie Ribby/FT

floods, storms and raging fires: we have to stop filling our atmosphere with greenhouse gases, and stop doing it fast", said Inger Andersen, executive director of the UNEP.

Global energy-related carbon emissions rebounded after the pandemic to the highest level in history in 2021 at 36.6bn tonnes, and the annual rise in methane in the atmosphere was the largest since records began, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

The International Energy Agency has projected a smaller rise in carbon emissions of 1 per cent to 33.8bn tonnes in 2022. This follows the increase in solar and wind energy, plus the take-up of electric vehicles.

Emissions forecasts for 2022 may also be affected by lower activity during lockdowns in China, the biggest global emissions producer, and possible recessions in other developed economies.

Heat-related deaths globally have already increased two-thirds over the past two decades, a report in medical journal The Lancet this week concluded, based on the analysis of 99 experts from organisations including the World Health Organization and led by University College London.

The UN reports also offered some solutions. If countries could achieve their targets, it would give the world a 66 per cent chance of limiting warming to about 2.6C by 2100.

The UNEP said while the G20 countries were still far behind on their targets, at least 35 had peaked and reduced their emissions since 2019, including the US and the EU. An urgent transformation of societies and economies would not only require behavioural change but also the adoption of new technologies and the replacement of fossil fuels with renewable energy, it added.

Research by BNY Mellon Investment Management and Fathom Consulting estimated this week that about \$20tn of polluting assets might need to be "scrapped or retrofitted" before the end of their useful lives by 2050.

"Most financial actors... have shown limited action... because of short-term interests, conflicting objectives and not recognising climate risks adequately," the UNEP concluded.

Gillian Tett sees Opinion



GLOBAL INSIGHT EUROPE

Alice Hancock

EU risks undermining climate goals with focus on energy prices

European energy ministers gathered in a rainy Luxembourg this week to agree on how to make buildings more energy efficient. But setting binding targets to retrofit the EU's property stock responsible for 40 per cent of the bloc's power consumption was far from the top of their minds.

Recent climate change-related discussions have been infected by a more urgent desire to shield Europeans from the fallout from Vladimir Putin's decision to cut gas supplies to Europe ahead of winter - mostly by plans to curb gas prices, even though those prices have been falling.

"Unfortunately, the focus of industry, the focus of media, voters, ministers is just not on climate at the moment," one EU diplomat said.

The change of tack means the EU risks undermining its climate goals and a more sustainable solution to reduce its reliance on Russian gas, say analysts. "Structural energy reduction is a security imperative for Europe at the moment... longer-term investment in energy efficiency is really important," said Henning Gloystein, director of energy, climate and resources at Eurasia Group.

Michael Neaves from the not-for-profit Environmental Coalition on Standards said the ministers' deal on the buildings regulations on Tuesday had resulted in a hotchpotch of measures that meant national governments could "evade binding requirements to reduce the energy consumption of the worst-performing buildings".

This left "citizens and the market uncertain that they will avoid future winter energy crunches and puts the EU's climate action credibility at risk", he said.

A divide has opened between countries that want to bolster the green transition - largely richer, northern economies - and southern and eastern European states that fear the cost of committing to strict targets amid the current crisis.

Six EU delegations, including those of France, Germany and the Netherlands, signalled their displeasure with Tuesday's final compromise between the 27 member states. In a joint declaration, they said "the ambition of the minimum energy performance standards still need to be substantially increased in the further steps to come".

Those "further steps" involve negotiations with the European parliament, which also wants tougher targets. In 2021, the European Commission set the ambitious goal of cutting the bloc's greenhouse gas emissions by 55 per cent by 2030 compared with 1990 levels but discussions on achieving this, including updated carbon taxes and a phase-out of combustion engines, have dragged on. Hopes some elements will be agreed prior to next month's UN climate conference in Sharm-El-Sheikh are fading.

On Monday, after Poland put up a fight to protect its use of coal, environment ministers agreed to put off updating the EU's so-called nationally defined contribution - the measure by which countries can appraise their efforts to decarbonise under the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement - until after the first rat of the EU's climate legislation was finalised, which might not happen until next year.

Jos Delbeke, climate chair at the European University Institute, said Europe was right to focus on the more immediate crisis. "What is really worrying is energy poverty that hits more people than before, and the risk of deindustrialisation of Europe. That is what Europe should focus on now, more than setting new climate targets."

On the plus side, the crisis had provided an incentive to cut energy use and accelerate the rollout of renewable power, he noted. Greece, for example, had increased the amount of renewables in its energy mix by 20 per cent this year and last week for six hours covered all of its electricity needs through clean power for the first time.

But Laia Segura of Friends of the Earth Europe, an NGO, said that while emergency action was needed "we cannot allow short-sighted measures to lock us in policies that will not help us in the long term".

alice.hancock@ft.com

Corporate America. Legal challenges

Business awaits outcome of key cases at Supreme Court

Consequential rulings involve the environment, regulatory reach and Big Tech liability

STEFANIA PALMA — WASHINGTON JOE MILLER — NEW YORK

The Supreme Court's new session could have far-reaching effects on US business as it hears cases on issues from affirmative action to state regulation.

Last term's decisions on abortion and school prayer were split down ideological lines. But with corporate cases, "it's much harder to predict" what they will do, said Eric Talley, professor at Columbia Law School.

The decision to reverse Roe vs Wade, the 1973 ruling that enshrined the constitutional right to an abortion, suggests "this court simply is not as inclined as prior courts to treat precedent as a particularly large constraint if they don't agree with the outcome in the case. . . [It] throws things in a little bit of disarray", Talley added.

Despite a solid 6:3 conservative majority, there is no guarantee that the justices will prove friendly to business interests, legal experts say.

Sackett vs Environmental Protection Agency

The court is weighing what constitutes "navigable waters" under the Clean Water Act, a law regulating the release of pollutants and the quality of water.

The EPA defines "navigable waters" to include lakes, swamps, mudflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes and streams. The plaintiffs, a couple barred from building a home near a lake in Idaho, say it has been poorly articulated, leaving lower courts to decide.

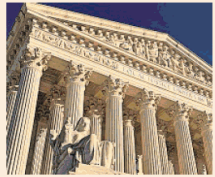
Gregory Garre, a partner at Latham & Watkins, said the ruling "has implications not just for the environment but for businesses that have to make land-use decisions".

Mallory vs Norfolk Southern Railway

Plaintiffs mostly bring cases in states where companies are headquartered or

incorporated. In this case, a Virginia resident who worked in Ohio and Virginia for the railway, then based in Virginia, sued it for "negligent and reckless conduct" in Pennsylvania, where the company also has a business licence.

If the court rules for the plaintiffs, they could challenge businesses in any state where they have licences, irrespective of where the claim unfolds. States would still need to enact laws implementing a court decision. If they did, it could trigger a seismic shift, with litig-



Rulings: Supreme Court decisions will have a big impact on companies

gants "forum shopping" for hospitable courts, legal experts say.

Even the Biden administration has filed a brief backing Norfolk Southern, arguing a court should not be involved in a case where the corporate defendant only has a business licence in that state.

National Pork Producers Council vs Ross

Pork producers are challenging California regulation that bans the sale of meat and eggs from farm animals "confined in a cruel manner", said the state's department of food and agriculture.

The producers argue "hardly any" of them meet California's strict requirements, and that the rule is "impermissibly extraterritorial". Even though California accounts for 13 per cent of US pork consumption, few large pig farms are sited there, their brief said. California's restrictions have "really significant effects outside the state as no one wants to forgo the nation's largest market", said lawyer Kannon Shanmugam.

The case addresses the boundaries of state regulation at a time when US legis-

latures have grown increasingly polarised on many issues. These proceedings "could affect any number of business issues . . . states care about", said Nicole Saharsky, a partner at Mayer Brown.

González vs Google

The plaintiffs, the relatives of a US student killed by Isis in 2015, sued Google for having allegedly "aided and abetted" the terrorists through radicalising videos on its YouTube platform.

They argue Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, which protects online platforms from legal liability over content posted by users, was enacted before the rise of algorithms.

Google argues there is no link between recommended videos and alleged violations of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Students for Fair Admissions vs Harvard University & vs University of North Carolina

Plaintiffs said admission systems that take into account an applicant's race, which both universities said helps to unlock diversity's "educational benefits",

actually discriminate against some groups, including ones of Asian descent.

Dozens of America's largest corporations have filed briefs supporting affirmative action, worried that ending those policies could narrow the pool of diverse graduates they can recruit from.

Companies may think "they're going to be next" and that the court could "claw back" rights to decide who they can hire, Talley added.

Axon Enterprise vs Federal Trade Commission & SEC vs Cochran

Plaintiffs argue the agencies' internal enforcement procedures and administrative law judges, who are hired by the regulators and decide disputes at the agencies' in-house courts, are unconstitutional. The agencies argue that the plaintiffs seek to "short-circuit" review processes embedded in statutes that underpin the FTC and SEC.

A loss for the regulators would make it easier for parties to challenge enforcement actions in federal court before agencies' internal proceedings are finished, upending a standard practice.

INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine

Putin blames west for rising nuclear tension

Russian president strikes more conciliatory tone despite 'dirty bomb' claim

POLINA IVANOVA — BERLIN

Vladimir Putin has blamed the west for fuelling nuclear tensions and countered western warnings that Russia might be planning to detonate a "dirty bomb" in Ukraine in a false-flag operation.

In a keynote speech at an international relations forum yesterday, in which he seemed to strike a more conciliatory tone than in previous months, the Russian president repeated his frequent complaints that the west was seeking to dominate the world. But he concluded with a call for mutual respect, rather than issuing new threats.

Asked about the prospects of nuclear war, he said: "We have said nothing about using nuclear weapons."

Russia had only ever replied with "hints" to provocative statements from the west about the use of nuclear weapons, Putin added.

He did repeat a claim that Ukraine could be preparing a "dirty bomb" — a conventional explosive carrying radioactive material. Western capitals have described the accusation as "transparently false" and warned that Moscow could be planning such an attack with the intention to blame Kyiv for it and use it as pretext for escalation.

A flurry of phone calls from Russia's defence minister Sergei Shoigu to Nato counterparts to discuss the allegations which Kyiv flatly denies — has heightened fears that Moscow's eight-month-

long invasion of Ukraine could go nuclear.

Putin rejected this, saying Russia would not use a dirty bomb. "We do not need this," Putin said. "There is no point, neither political, nor military."

Putin claimed that the rise in nuclear tensions was not being fuelled by Moscow — though his recent comments have included threats — but by western leaders instead.

"This was being done in order to scare 'neutral countries' away from co-op-

eration with Russia," Putin claimed, by depicting it as "scary".

But striking a calmer note than in his past comments, Putin said nuclear tensions would not develop into a crisis as they had during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, when Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev negotiated with US president John F. Kennedy.

"I cannot imagine myself in Khrushchev's role, not under any circumstances," Putin said, adding that Moscow was ready to find solutions.

As an example, he noted that in December, Russia had approached the US with an offer to restart talks on strategic stability, but said Moscow had not received a response. "If they want to, we're ready," he added.

The Russian leader repeated complaints that the west wanted to impose

its will and values on other countries. "Russia is not challenging the western elite," Putin said. "We are not trying to become the hegemonic power."

Instead, he said, Russia was simply trying to "defend its right to exist".

He called China "a close friend" and noted that Turkey and its president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan were "not easy partners" but had "a desire to reach agreement". The world had many centres of power and, for this reason, the UN security council needed to be restructured, and a "dialogue on equal terms" must begin between global powers, including Russia and the west.

Putin also said he was considering attending the G20 meeting of global leaders due to take place in Indonesia next month.

See The FT View

'Russia is not challenging the western elite. We are not trying to become the hegemonic power'

US defence

Biden avoids radical shift on atomic weapons

DEMETRI SEVASTOPOLOU AND FELICIA SCHWARTZ — WASHINGTON

The Biden administration has declared that the "fundamental" purpose of US nuclear weapons is to deter such attacks on it and its allies, a new policy that avoids a more radical shift towards a lower deterrence level that was opposed by allies in Europe and Asia.

The Pentagon yesterday released the Nuclear Posture Review, which each administration produces to outline the cases under which the US would use nuclear weapons. The NPR said the US would "only consider the use of nuclear weapons in extreme circumstances" to defend the interests of the nation in addition to allies and partners.

The report will be welcomed by US allies that at one point became alarmed that President Joe Biden might declare a narrower set of situations under which he would consider using the weapons.

The NPR said officials had considered options, including a "no first use" policy and a formula known as "sole purpose", in which the US would use the weapons only to avoid or respond to such an attack, but decided against them. It said both options would have resulted in "an unacceptable level of risk", given the non-nuclear capabilities being developed by nations that could inflict extreme harm on the US and its allies.

European and Asian allies had strongly urged Washington not to weaken its declaratory policy in a way that could embolden China and Russia and reduce the deterrent effect of what is known as the US nuclear umbrella.

Matthew Kroening, a nuclear weapons policy expert at the Atlantic Council think-tank, said some administration officials had advocated that the US should adopt a "sole use" policy.

"As a nod to that position, the NPR states that the 'fundamental purpose' of nuclear weapons is to deter nuclear attack, even while recognising that they fill other roles," said Kroening. "The change to 'fundamental purpose' is a wordsmithing exercise that will have no practical implications for strategy."

In rejecting sole purpose, the NPR said the US recognised that some allies and partners were "particularly vulnerable to attacks with non-nuclear means that could produce devastating effects". But in language that could cause concern, the NPR said the administration retained "the goal of moving to a sole purpose determination".

The US also released its national defence strategy, which said it faced a "decade" and that China would remain the "most consequential strategic competitor" for decades. "The most . . . serious challenge to US national security is the PRC's coercive and increasingly aggressive endeavour to refashion the Indo-Pacific and international system to suit its interests and authoritarian preferences," the report said.

The paper also describes Russia as an "acute threat" that must be deterred. Preventing a nuclear war see Opinion

Ice on Mars Meteorites shed light on planet's crust

When two massive meteorites smashed into Mars late last year, the shockwaves reverberated around the red planet — giving scientists new insights into its internal structure.

Drawing on data from two NASA missions, the first analysis of the meteorites' impact, which left the largest fresh craters ever seen in the solar system, was published in the journal Science yesterday.

The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter observed the craters from space, while the InSight lander recorded the resulting seismic waves on the surface thousands of kilometres away.

"The larger impact made a crater about 150 metres across — one and a half times the size of London's Trafalgar Square — and a blast zone around 35km across, which would cover most of the area inside the M25 [London orbital motorway]," said Ben Fernando, an Oxford university geophysicist on the InSight team.

Images from the orbiter showed that the 200-tonne meteorite, which hit Mars at a latitude of 35 degrees north, pushed out chunks of water ice that had lain beneath the dry surface. "I think we were a little surprised to find ice that close to the equator," Fernando said.

The implication is that Mars might hold more water frozen underground than scientists had realised, he added, which would be good news if humans manage to establish outposts there.

The impact of the two meteorites sent seismic waves racing around the surface of Mars to the InSight lander, which was 7,500km away from the first hit and 3,500km from the second. These were the first surface waves recorded by the

probe's seismometer — the only type that can provide reliable information about the planet's outer crust.

Since landing on Mars in November 2018, InSight has recorded 1,200 "Marsquakes" generated within the red planet, which provided data about the inner core and mantle beneath the probe but little about the crust.

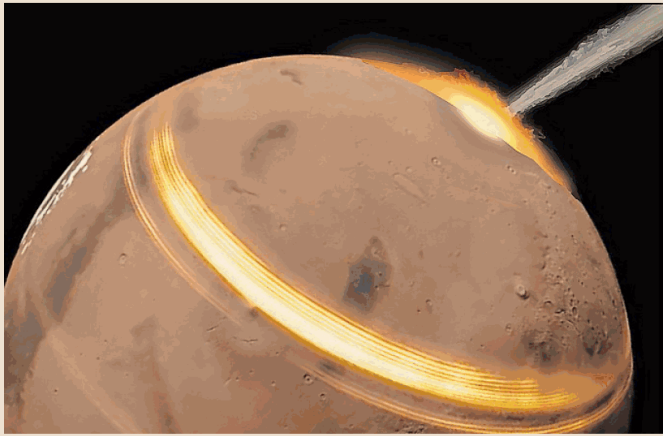
Preliminary analysis of the surface waves generated by the meteorites surprised international research teams, revealing the planet's crust as a whole was denser and more uniform than previously been thought.

"The structure of the crust under the lander is probably not representative of the general structure of the Martian crust," said Doyeon Kim, a geophysicist at ETH Zurich and lead author of one of the Science papers.

Domenico Giardini, ETH professor of seismology and geodynamics, said the findings shed light on a mystery going back to the early years of modern astronomy, known as the Mars dichotomy. This is the contrast between the planet's southern hemisphere, which is predominantly mountainous and rugged, and the north is dominated by flat and dusty volcanic lowlands.

"We don't yet have a generally accepted explanation for the dichotomy because we've never been able to see the planet's deep structure," said Giardini. "But now we're beginning to uncover this." Initial results suggest the north and the south are more alike in their geology than scientists had realised.

The InSight lander is losing power as dust builds up on its solar panels and NASA expects its mission to end within a few months. *Clive Cookson*



Top: an artist's impression of seismic waves racing across the Martian surface from a meteorite hit. Bottom: the impact site imaged from the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter — ETH Zurich/Doyeon Kim/Martin van Driel/Christian Boehm

Fighter jets

US to end permanent force in Okinawa

Middle East

IMF and Egypt agree currency deal

DEMETRI SEVASTOPULO — WASHINGTON AND KANA INAGAKI — TOKYO

The US Air Force plans to replace its fleet of F-15 fighter jets based in Okinawa, Japan, with a "rotational" force, a shift some officials worry will send a dangerous signal to China about deterrence.

The force intends to retire two squadrons of ageing F-15 Eagles that have been permanently based in Okinawa, said six people familiar with the matter. The decision has triggered alarm in some parts of the Japanese government and the Pentagon because the air force does not intend to replace them with a permanent presence in the near term.

The move, involving half of the roughly 100 air force fighters in Japan, is

part of a modernisation programme. "The message to China is the US is not serious about reversing the decline in its military forces," said David Deptula, former vice-commander of US Pacific

"The message to China is the US is not serious about reversing the decline in its military forces"

Air Forces who blamed years of underinvestment. "This will encourage the Chinese to take more dramatic action."

The air force plans to send fifth-generation F-22 fighters from Alaska to Okinawa's Kadena, a critical air base in the region, for a six-month rotation

after the F-15's departure next year. But several people said the force had not worked out future rotations, which raised concerns about possible gaps.

The air force said it would "continue to maintain readiness in support of our US-Japan alliance, which is a cornerstone for security in the Indo-Pacific."

US Indo-Pacific Command did not comment. Japan's defence and foreign ministries did not comment.

Critics said the move appeared to undermine the Pentagon's line that China is the "pacing threat". Eric Sayers, an Asia expert at the American Enterprise Institute, said: "This continues a long, frustrating pattern of using lofty rhetoric about the importance of . . . Asia but then taking actions that look like the opposite."

HEBA SALEH — CAIRO

The IMF said it has reached a \$3bn loan deal with Egypt after Cairo agreed to a key bailout condition and floated its currency.

The Egyptian pound slid 14.5 per cent to 23 to the US dollar yesterday after the country's central bank said it was moving to a "durable flexible exchange rate regime that leaves the forces of supply and demand to determine the value of the pound against other currencies".

This means abandoning a policy of drawing on its reserves to support the pound, which was aimed at reducing the cost of imports and maintaining social stability in a country where 60 per cent of the population are either poor or vulnerable to price shocks.

Egypt has been in talks with the IMF for months amid soaring commodities prices and a foreign currency crisis stemming from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which accelerated billions of dollars of outflows as foreign debt investors exited the country.

The pound had already been allowed to fall by roughly 22 per cent since March, but Cairo was understood to have been resisting fully floating the pound in order to contain the impact on prices.

The fund said that, as well as the \$3bn loan, the currency deal would also "catalyse a large multiyear financing package" from other donors, including about \$5bn in the financial year to end-June

next year reflecting "broad international and regional support for Egypt". It added that Cairo has also requested financing under its new Resilience and Sustainability Facility, which could unlock up to \$1bn.

Analysts note that Egypt had committed to floating its currency when it secured a \$12bn loan from the IMF in 2016, but subsequently reverted to controlling the exchange rate.

Jason Tuvey, senior emerging markets economist at Capital Economics in London, said it was likely "both the government and the IMF learnt from their mistakes. The government kept too tight a grip on the currency for too long, and the IMF did not push".

He added: "I don't think investors will give them the benefit of the doubt. They will only return if there is a firm commitment to exchange rate flexibility."

The central bank also raised its key

interest rates by 200 basis points to 13.25 per cent. It said it would "give priority to its main aim" of targeting inflation to achieve price stability. Inflation was at 15 per cent in September and analysts expect that at least in the short term it will rise further as a result of the fall in the pound.

Tuvey agreed this would "add to inflation pressures", but was nonetheless a "welcome step, and with an IMF deal . . . will go a long way to restoring macroeconomic stability in Egypt".

Cairo this week announced a \$3bn "social protection package" which includes increasing the minimum wage, pensions and civil service and public sector salaries.

The IMF said the reform programme it agreed with Egypt was also aimed at pushing "forward deep structural and governance reforms to promote private sector-led growth and job creation".

Egypt is the biggest debtor to the IMF after Argentina and this is its fourth loan agreement since 2016. The economy has grown even during the pandemic but state and military investments in infrastructure projects have driven the expansion while private sector investment and manufactured exports have continued to trail behind.

Analysts and Egyptian entrepreneurs argue that the state needs to improve the environment for business and scale down competition from the military to allow space for the private sector to thrive.

Contracts & Tenders

NOTICE SCOUTING - SEARCH OF ECONOMIC OPERATORS FOR CONSULTING ACTIVITIES
Alia Servizi Ambientali S.p.A., based in via Baccio da Montepopo, 52 - Florence, intends to activate a contract for scouting in the global market for searching the best and most advanced technologies available for the recovery, treatment and refining of PCBs (Printed Circuit Boards) and lithium batteries, with purpose of recovery of the metals contained therein, and possibly the Economic Operators able to supply these technologies.
Interested economic operators are invited to register in the Alia SpA Register of Suppliers in the product category 906.02.13 - Market analysis, scouting, identification of innovative technologies by following the instructions given at the link <https://aliasp.a.acquistitelematici.it/>, within the deadline 21/11/2022, or sending an e-mail at the following address: infoapprovigionamenti@aliaseviziambientali.it.
Economic operators will then be invited to RFQ if they meet the requirements set out in the "Operating Regulations of the Register of suppliers of goods and services" available on the Alia Servizi Ambientali S.p.A. website.
Alia Servizi Ambientali S.p.A.

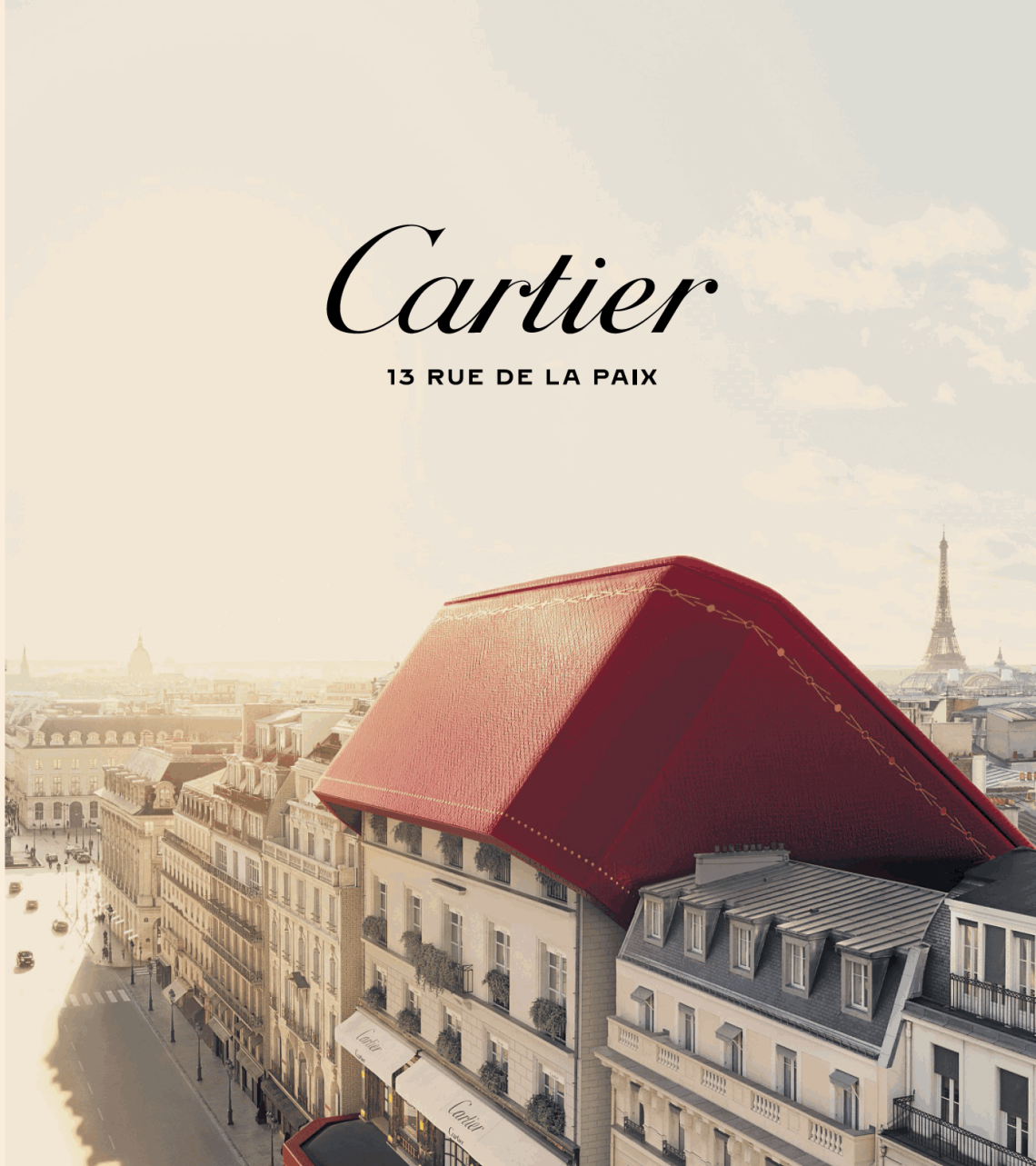
Legal Notices

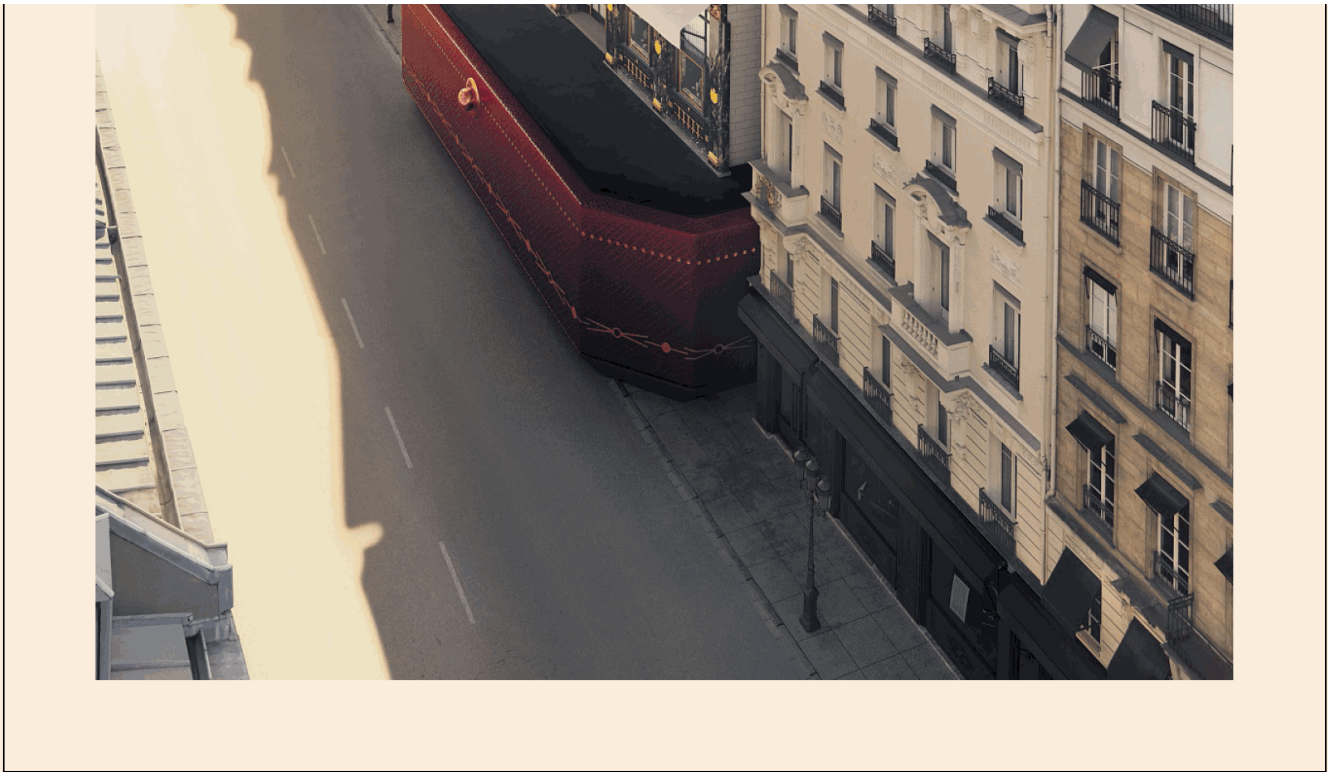
United States District Court for the Northern District of California
Twitch Interactive, Inc. v. Mango and CreatineOverdoz, No. 2:21-cv-706-JST (N.D. Cal.)
TOD: CreationOverdoz
A lawsuit has been filed against you. Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you receive it), you must serve on Twitch Interactive, Inc. an answer to the second amended complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
The answer or motion must be served on Twitch or Twitch's attorney, whose name and address are: KATHERINE M. DUCODALE, ESQ., PIRKINS COLE LLP, 1888 Century Park East, Suite 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90067. If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the second amended complaint. You must also file your answer or motion with the court.
Published October 26, November 4, 11 and 18, 2022.



Brisk business: customers at a Cairo currency exchange yesterday

Cartier
13 RUE DE LA PAIX





Companies & Markets

Credit Suisse launches \$4bn Saudi-backed fundraising

- Scandal-hit bank to cut 9,000 jobs
- Second strategic revamp in a year

OWEN WALKER
EUROPEAN BANKING CORRESPONDENT

Credit Suisse is set to raise billions in capital, carve up its investment bank, and cut thousands of jobs in an effort to restructure and move on from scandals and a \$F4bn third-quarter loss.

The Swiss bank is seeking to raise \$F4bn (\$4.05bn), including \$F1.5bn from the Saudi National Bank, which will become the second-largest shareholder in the group, owning 9.9 per cent.

Credit Suisse has also agreed to sell part of its securitised products unit to US investment groups Pimco and Apollo and outlined plans to spin off its capital

writing off \$Fr3.7bn of deferred tax assets related to the restructure.

The bank has lost revenues after cutting back divisions such as its prime brokerage unit as it seeks to reduce risk following its involvement in scandals last year over the collapse of Greensill Capital and family office Archegos.

Under the strategic plan, Credit Suisse plans to reduce risk-weighted assets in its investment bank by 40 per cent over the next three years and focus the unit on serving institutional and wealth management clients with equities, foreign exchange and rates.

Credit Suisse will set up a capital release products unit, a "bad bank" holding pen for high-risk assets that it seeks to wind down.

SNB is Saudi Arabia's largest lender, is majority owned by state entities and its biggest shareholder is the Public Investment Fund, the increasingly active sovereign wealth fund that is chaired by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Credit Suisse said the investment, which must be approved at extraordinary general meeting on November 23, would allow the bank to raise its common equity tier 1 ratio — an indicator of its financial strength — to 14 per cent from 12.6 per cent.

It said director Michael Klein would leave the board to advise Kormer on spinning out the CS First Boston business, which he would later lead as chief executive.

The bank reported \$Fr12.9bn of outflows as clients in its wealth management business and Swiss domestic bank pulled money from their accounts and opted to close. Deposits fell 70 per

"We are [creating] a new bank that is simpler, more stable and with a more focused business model"

markets and advisory business under a rejuvenated CS First Boston brand.

The bank said yesterday it would cut \$Fr2.5bn of costs, representing 15 per cent of its cost base, by 2025. It added that the workforce would shrink from 52,000 to 43,000 over the next three years, including plans to cut 2,700 roles by the end of this year.

Credit Suisse shares fell close to 19 per cent yesterday.

The moves are part of a second strategic revamp in less than a year as the bank attempts to right itself after a series of losses and crises that prompted wholesale changes to its leadership.

"This is a historic moment for Credit Suisse," said chief executive Ulrich

'Dear advertisers' Musk aims to soothe fears of Twitter turning into a free speech 'hellscape'



A grab from Elon Musk's video posted on the site. He wrote: 'Entering Twitter HQ — let that sink in!' — APFG/Getty Images

ORTENCA ALIAJ — NEW YORK
HANNAH MURPHY — SAN FRANCISCO
CRISTINA CRIDDLE — LONDON

Elon Musk has said he does not want Twitter to become a "free-for-all hellscape", in a sudden attempt to appease advertisers after the billionaire previously suggested that he wanted the social media platform to rely less on money from marketers.

"Twitter obviously cannot become a free-for-all hellscape where anything can be said with no consequences," he wrote in a letter posted yesterday titled "Dear Twitter Advertisers".

Musk, a self-declared "free speech absolutist", has repeatedly said that his acquisition of the company stemmed from a desire to restore free speech to Twitter, triggering concerns among advertisers that the social media platform might no longer

platform must be warm and welcoming to all, where you can choose your desired experience according to your preferences, just as you can choose, for example, to see movies or play video games ranging from all ages to mature."

He said Twitter "aspired to be the most respected advertising platform

"In addition to adhering to the laws of the land, our platform must be warm and welcoming"

in the world that strengthens your brand and grows your enterprise".

The post comes a day before his \$44bn deal to buy Twitter is set to close, in keeping with a deadline imposed by Delaware court

advertising money to survive."

In an early presentation to potential investors in the deal, Musk said he wanted to shift Twitter away from relying so heavily on advertising — down to 45 per cent of revenue from more than 80 per cent in 2021, according to someone familiar with the document. He indicated that other income would come from subscriptions as well as new business lines in payments and data licensing.

But in the near term, Musk has to persuade advertisers to work with a company he publicly accused of lying about fake accounts and its cyber security practices, as he attempted to wriggle out of his agreement to acquire the business.

The world's richest man wrote yesterday that he had bought Twitter to "help humanity", not to make more money. But he said that he believed

Shopify stock climbs despite losses and slowing sales

IAN JOHNSTON — LONDON

Shopify shares jumped yesterday after it beat analysts' estimates for the third quarter, despite warning that the strong US dollar, higher inflation and rising interest rates would hit customers' spending power.

Shares in the Canadian ecommerce group rose 16 per cent in midday trading in New York after it posted revenue of \$1.4bn in the three months to September 30, above consensus estimates and up 22 per cent on the previous year.

Operating losses widened to \$545mn, compared with \$4mn in the same period last year. This marked a third consecutive quarter of operating losses, as sales growth has slowed and the company has invested in its supply chain, with the \$2.1bn acquisition of logistics company Deliverr.

"This year is an investment year," Shopify president Harley Finkelstein told analysts. "This is a company that ultimately wants to be profitable and we would like to get back there," although he did not put a timeframe on the return to profitability.

Shopify allows brands and independent retailers to sell directly through their own websites or social platforms, rather than trading through Amazon or other large marketplaces.

Its market capitalisation soared during the pandemic as consumers turned to online vendors during lockdowns, peaked at \$212bn in November 2021. Yesterday's share price rise comes in the wake of a 75 per cent decline this year.

"This is a posterchild of pandemic growth [for which] all the stars were aligned," said Tyler Radke, US software analyst at Citi. "Things really flipped this year with the [Federal Reserve] raising rates, energy prices going up, consumer spending coming under pressure and inflation."

Chief executive Tobi Lütke cut a tenth of the workforce in July, saying that the company's "bet" on a permanent rise in the amount consumers spent online relative to retail stores had failed to pay off.

Department of Commerce data show that online US retail sales made up 17.2 per cent of total retail sales in the

Shisse, said chief executive Ulrich Körner. "We are radically restructuring the investment bank to help create a new bank that is simpler, more stable and with a more focused business model built around client needs."

Credit Suisse also reported a SFr4bn loss for the third quarter, including

switched to rivals. Revenues fell 30 per cent compared with a year earlier, driven by a 58 per cent fall in investment banking income, an 18 per cent drop in wealth management revenues and a 9 per cent decline in its domestic bank.

Additional reporting by Andrew England See Companies and Lex

media platform might no longer remain a safe place for brands if it became home to toxicity and abuse.

But in the letter he sought to reassure advertisers, which account for the majority of Twitter's \$5bn annual revenues, writing: "In addition to adhering to the laws of the land, our

imposed by a Delaware court. It marks an about-turn from Musk's previous comments. In 2019, Musk said on Twitter that he "hated advertising". In April he wrote in a since-deleted tweet: "The power of corporations to dictate policy is greatly enhanced if Twitter depends on

money, but he said that he believed that advertising, "when done right, can delight, entertain and inform you". It was "essential to show Twitter users advertising that is as relevant as possible to their needs".

Additional reporting by James Fontanella-Khan

15.9 per cent of total retail sales in the second quarter, down from 15.9 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2021.

Sales growth in the third quarter was also limited by the "significant strengthening" of the US dollar relative to foreign currencies, Shopify said, affecting its international business.

Legal Notices

**THE HIGH COURT
COMMERCIAL**
Record No. 2022/210 COS

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION UNDER REGULATIONS 13 AND 14 OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (CROSS-BORDER MERGERS) REGULATIONS 2008 (AS AMENDED) AND IN THE MATTER OF MANGOMILL PLC AND MARIADB CORPORATION AB

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an application for an order under Regulation 14 of the European Communities (Cross-Border Mergers) Regulations 2008 (as amended) (the "Regulations"), confirming accuracy of the legality of the cross-border merger as regards that part of the procedure which concerns the completion of the cross-border merger, in respect of a proposed cross-border merger between Mangomill plc and Mariadb Corporation Ab (the "Applicants"), will be made by the Applicants in the Commercial List of the High Court of Ireland (the "Court"), sitting at the Four Courts, Inns Quay, Dublin 7, Ireland, at 10.30 a.m. (Irish time) on Thursday, 13 December 2022 (the "Hearing").

The Court issued a certificate under Regulation 13 of the Regulations on 24 October 2022 confirming that Mangomill plc has properly completed the pre-merger requirements in the Regulations.

Any interested party wishing to support or oppose the making of any order at the Hearing (an "Interested Party") that wishes to obtain a copy of the Originating Notice of Motion and Affidavits should contact the Solicitors for the Applicants, Arthur Cox LLP, at the postal address or email address below. Any Interested Party may appear at the Hearing personally or be represented by a solicitor or by counsel. Any Interested Party intending to so appear should give notice in writing to Arthur Cox LLP by no later than 5:30 p.m. (Irish time) on Tuesday, 6 December 2022, and any affidavit in support of any such appearance should be filed with the Central Office of the High Court of Ireland, and served on Arthur Cox LLP, by no later than 5:30 p.m. (Irish time) on Tuesday, 6 December 2022.

Dated this 28th day of October 2022.

ARTHUR COX LLP
Solicitors for the Applicants
10 Earlsfort Terrace
Dublin 2
D02 T380
Ireland
Email: peter.woods@arthurcox.com or Sarah.K.McDermott@arthurcox.com
(Ref: F2W AN152/001)

Contracts & Tenders

**Province of Styria (Austria) -
Public Structured Bidding Procedure**

The Province of Styria is the majority owner of an energy supply company. The Province of Styria has been granted acquisition rights in respect of the shares of the minority shareholder and the Province of Styria is entitled to nominate a third party to exercise its acquisition rights in its place. The minority shareholder currently intends to sell its minority interest. In the event of an acquisition or pre-emption, the Province of Styria is looking for interested parties to conclude a nomination agreement in a transparent and structured bidding procedure that is not subject to public procurement law. However, the Province of Styria expressly reserves the right to exercise its acquisition rights itself.

Further information on the structured bidding procedure and its subject matter is available at the following link:
<http://schiefer.vemap.com/home/bekannt/anzeigen.html?annID=389>

Deadline for submission of requests to participate: 16.12.2022

Music industry wonders if Swift is the last pop superstar

INSIDE BUSINESS MEDIA

Anna Nicolaou



In investing and in life, we often seek bellwethers to help make sense of the big picture, or predict the future.

After a hurricane in the US, rescue crews track which Waffle House restaurants are closed to gauge where the damage is worst. Investors scan FedEx's financial statements for clues about the broader economy; if the postman is weighed down with packages, things are going well.

In trying to sort out where the music industry stands, it would make sense to look at how the biggest musicians are faring. But in 2022, what should be bellwethers are sometimes the opposite.

Take Taylor Swift and the concept of superstardom.

Over the past decade, the US music industry has changed. Streaming has taken over and revenues recovered. Wall Street stormed in. Some people have become richer.

But audiences have fragmented. Any record executive will tell you that it's harder than ever to score a hit. With Spotify adding some 60,000 tracks every day, even the stars are seeing their share of listening decline. "Hits" are no longer as big.

It's a phenomenon that chief executives of the largest companies have admitted and even bragged about. BMG chief Hartwig Masuch this summer

said: "The extraordinary thing about our first-half result is that we grew revenue 25% with virtually no hits."

Warner Music chief Stephen Cooper told an investor conference in September that the company had successfully reduced its "dependency on superstars".

These comments are hard to reconcile with the sales of Swift's latest album, released last Friday. In less than a day, *Midnights* was the biggest seller of the year and is forecast to reach about 1.5mn in sales by the end of the week. The last person to achieve this kind of numbers was also Swift, five years ago. In the past decade, the only albums to reach that coveted 1mn first week threshold have been from Swift in 2017, 2014 and 2012, Adele in 2015 and Drake in 2016.

There's a reason this has become increasingly rare. Some half a billion people pay to stream music. But with the exception of countries such as Japan and Korea where CDs are still popular, today's listeners are not buying individual albums.

In previous eras, Michael Jackson, Prince, The Beatles, Carole King and others could sell millions of albums at their debut. Today, some J-Pop and K-Pop artists, such as BTS, pull off big numbers. But in the streaming-driven US landscape, a successful star might hope to make just 200,000 in first-week sales. *Harry's House*, this year's previous big breakthrough, reached about 521,000, and Puerto Rican trap star Bad Bunny's *Un Verano Sin Ti* 274,000.

Midnights' 1.5mn is a number from another era, putting Swift in the category of 1990s boy bands – the previous

financial peak for the US music business. "She's basically an intellectual property franchise now. Like a DC [comics] movie", said Matt Pincus, cofounder of music publisher SONGS.

Big companies and marketers spend billions of dollars and countless hours obsessing over "engagement" and "KPIs" as they try to reach fickle gen-Z consumers, whose attention is split between video games, TikTok, Discord, YouTube, television, podcasts, etc. Meanwhile, Swift's fans in Argentina and Chile are buying billboard advertisements on her behalf, or strategising about how to boost her sales numbers.

"Hitting 1.5mn would freak her out so much, so please keep buying and streaming," one fan account posted to Twitter over the weekend – a reference to Swift's "lucky number" being 13.

In another twist, vinyl records have become the currency of these teenage super-fandoms, who view them as collectibles. *Midnights* has sold more than 500,000 vinyl copies.

Tatiana Crisano, a music analyst and former Billboard journalist, says part of Swift's advantage is that her career took off when it was easier to hold people's attention.

"It genuinely is a lot harder to make something a mainstream hit today than it was even two years ago. People can listen to whatever they want and get it at any time they want, and you have algorithms pushing people further into riches."

This is good news for Universal Music, home to Swift, although only marginally. In signing with them in 2018, Swift negotiated a deal to own her music. Universal receives a fraction of the revenue for distributing it but, as with everything else, Swift stands alone.

anna.nicolaou@ft.com



TO THE 2022 NEWS SCHOOL GRADUATES, CONGRATULATIONS.

We have been inspired by every one of you. Last month, we launched News School, a nightly education programme designed to give young people from a variety of backgrounds an opportunity to learn about the news and media industry. The representation of young people from diverse backgrounds entering the industry is disproportionately low. We want to address this issue and ensure we're representative of the communities we serve.

We are proud to congratulate our inaugural class of News School Philippines 2022.

- Ana Sophia Gervacio, Julianne Christiana Gabrielle Siron, Katrina Francesca Tagum, Leyla Rhyme Ahira Guzman, Michelle Anne Morabe, Nicole Faye Merilles, Patricia Gemima Aurellano, Tracy Vem Avila**

Patricia Gemina Aureliano, Tracy Yen Avila

Thank you to St. Scholastica's College, Manila, and the University of the Philippines Diliman.

Thank you to all our guest speakers from RIMES Technologies, DXC Technologies Manila, The Asset, Thomson Reuters, Gefura Inc., PNP Malolos, Zoopla New Homes, INNOVEO Consulting, SGV & Co. (A member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited), Mitsubishi Motors, Inc., Asian Development Bank, QBE Philippines.



COMPANIES & MARKETS

Oil & gas

Shell ready to 'embrace' higher taxes

Energy major set to boost dividend and buy back shares as profits hit \$9.5bn

TOM WILSON — LONDON

Shell chief executive Ben van Beurden signalled the oil and gas group was ready to pay higher taxes as its announcement of \$9.5bn in third-quarter profits prompted renewed calls for additional levies on energy companies.

The profits are surpassed in the company's history only by the previous quarter's \$11.5bn, leaving Europe's largest energy major on course to smash its annual profit record of \$51bn set in

2008. Shell has already reported earnings of more than \$30bn in the first nine months of the year.

Yet the company paid no tax at all in the UK after investments and decommissioning in the North Sea exceeded all Shell's profits from its British upstream and retail businesses in the quarter.

Van Beurden said it was a "societal reality" that governments would be looking to companies such as Shell, which have benefited from soaring oil and gas prices, to help offset energy costs for struggling consumers.

"We should be prepared and accept that also our industry will be looked at for raising taxes in order to fund the transfers to those who need it most in

these very difficult times," he added. "We have to embrace it."

In May, the UK government introduced an additional 25 per cent energy profits levy on oil and gas producers in the North Sea to help raise funds but Shell does not expect to pay any taxes under the levy until early next year.

Ed Miliband, the shadow secretary of state for climate change and net zero, said Shell's global profits of \$9.5bn were "further proof that we need to make the energy companies pay their fair share".

Shell's performance beat the average analyst estimate of \$9bn and was more than double the \$4.1bn it recorded a year ago. The UK-listed group said it expected to increase its dividend for the

fourth quarter by 15 per cent. Shell will also buy back a further \$4bn of shares in the fourth quarter, bringing total share purchases for the year to \$18.5bn.

The company's shares rose 5 per cent. Oil prices have dropped from more than \$120 a barrel in June to about \$90 a barrel as recession fears in Europe hit economic activity, while gas prices have softened from record levels.

But despite lower average crude prices, Shell benefited from a strong operational performance from its deep-water oil assets, particularly in the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in the recovery of significant "high-value barrels", it said.

"Best production we've seen in a decade," said chief financial officer Sinead

Gorman after the results. "Gulf of Mexico is doing fabulously." That helped the division to profits of \$5.9bn, up from \$4.9bn in the three months to the end of June. In contrast, earnings of \$2.3bn in Shell's integrated gas business, which includes liquefied natural gas trading, were down about 40 per cent from June because of lower production levels and lower seasonal demand, it said.

"Although integrated gas performance was particularly poor this quarter, Shell's upstream division performed particularly strongly," said Biraj Borkhataria at RBC Capital Markets.

The 15 per cent dividend rise was "well above" RBC's forecast, he added. See Lex

Household goods

Unilever raises prices 12.5% in quarter as sales volumes fall

JUDITH EVANS

Unilever increased its prices by 12.5 per cent in the third quarter from a year earlier, its highest-ever quarterly rise, becoming the latest consumer goods maker to pass steep cost inflation on to customers.

The maker of Magnum ice cream, Cif cleaning products and Dove soap also warned of falling sales volumes as squeezed consumers economise on household essentials.

The company said yesterday that sales volumes had declined 1.6 per cent during the quarter and warned they were also likely to shrink in the final three months of the year.

Other consumer goods groups have also pushed up prices and reported falling sales volumes as households grapple with the rise in costs.

Pointing to a "mixed" outlook for the global economy, Unilever chief executive Alan Jope said: "We expect the challenges of high inflation to persist in 2023."

Graeme Pitkethly, the company's chief financial officer, said consumers in Europe were particularly affected by inflation in basic goods and energy because of the war in Ukraine. "Consumer sentiment in Europe is at an all-time low," he added.

Dutch brewer Heineken said on Wednesday that European consumers were cutting their spending on alcohol,

Heineken meanwhile said European consumers were cutting their

Technology

Foxconn's China iPhone factory hit by coronavirus

GLORIA LI — HONG KONG EDWARD WHITE — SEOUL PATRICK MCGEE — SAN FRANCISCO

Workers at one of the biggest factories producing Apple iPhones are pleading for food and medical supplies as China's zero-Covid policy causes havoc in the world's most important manufacturing hub.

Beijing's censors have removed viral



videos circulating on social media showing workers at the Zhengzhou facility in central China asking for supplies. Two workers told the Financial Times that the factory failed to deliver food regularly to staff under quarantine.

The disruptions highlight investor concerns about supply chain risk at Apple, with more than 95 per cent of iPhones produced in China, though production remains stable for now. "If Apple isn't building a plan B, it could be an absolutely historic mistake," said Manuel Muñoz, dean of IE School of Global and Public Affairs in Madrid.

Foxconn said that only "a small number of employees" had been affected and production on the Zhengzhou campus remained "relatively stable". Apple did not respond to a request for comment.

China stands apart from the rest of the world in its relentless lockdowns, strict quarantines and mass testing as it tries to eradicate coronavirus. Despite the policy weighing heavily on economic growth, President Xi Jinping's administration has given no indication of a change of stance.

Zhengzhou reported a total of 69 new Covid-19 cases over the past three days. Workers told the FT that the number of infected people in the factory was higher than official estimates.

"Five days ago, I was told that my PCR test result was 'abnormal' and I was required to self-quarantine in my dorm room," said one Foxconn worker, who shares his room with seven other men. "But no one is looking after me or arranging more tests for me."

Barriers have been erected around the campus. Workers must take daily Covid tests and have been restricted to the factory floor and their dormitories.

Zhengzhou, capital of Henan province and home to more than 10m people, has been placed under partial lockdown after dozens of Covid cases were reported earlier this month.



Rights offer ECB urged to halt Monte dei Paschi issue

Monte dei Paschi di Siena has been accused of indirectly buying its own shares in a €2.5bn rights issue. In a letter on behalf of an investor, lawyers said the capital raise was unlawful — Fabio Nuzzi/REUTERS

A London-based investor has called for the European Central Bank to block a €2.5bn rights issue at Monte dei Paschi di Siena, arguing that the Italian bank is indirectly buying its own shares in the offering.

MPS is paying an unusually high fee of €125mm to eight underwriters on the capital raising, even though the Italian state has committed to buy 64 per cent of the issue and much of the rest has been guaranteed by other investors.

"It is unclear, to say the very least, that a private investor in the position of MPS would provide an underwriting fee of such a scale to others in order to ensure the purchase of unsubscribed shares, and directly or indirectly contribute to the purchaser," law firm RPC wrote in a letter this week to the ECB's supervisory board.

In the letter seen by the Financial Times, RPC said it represented a global investor with UK and US operations that had an interest in MPS. The letter complained that the capital raise "is unlawful, the ECB's authorisation of it should be withdrawn and the rights issue itself should be halted".

RPC contended that the rights issue was "significantly undersubscribed and can only be completed with the

assistance of the underwriting fee". The law firm did not identify its client nor state whether they had a short position in MPS's stock.

The ECB declined to comment on the letter. But officials are expected to rebuff the demand to withdraw their authorisation of the Italian bank's capital raise, according to one person familiar with the matter.

MPS's woes have been a long-running concern for the ECB, which has for years pushed it to reduce its large portfolio of non-performing loans and to bolster its capital.

Andrea Enria, chair of supervision at the ECB, recused himself from any discussion of MPS more than two years ago after his sister-in-law Alessandra Barzaghi joined the Italian bank's board of directors.

The FT revealed on Wednesday that the European Commission was monitoring the rights issue over concerns that its structure could constitute illegal state aid. Under EU rules, the state can take part only if all investors — public and private — are subject to the same conditions.

The Italian regulator, Consob, demanded MPS issue a statement highlighting the exceptional fee it was

paying the pool of arranger banks, including Bank of America, Citigroup, Credit Suisse and Mediobanca, and alternative investment fund Algeris, as it would affect the bank's capital buffer targets.

The 576-page capital increase prospectus is available to investors only in Italian.

Bankers close to the negotiations on MPS's capital increase said the fees it agreed were proportionate to the risk being taken to guarantee the full private investors' share of the rights issue, of €387m.

But the pool of banks has signed sub-underwriting agreements worth at least €410m with third-party investors, including MPS bondholders, which have committed to buy MPS shares if current shareholders do not exercise their rights to buy the stock during the two-week rights issue.

The UK lawyers also wrote to the European Commission this week and are planning to send letters to the pool of banks arranging the capital increase.

MPS declined to comment. *Silvia Sciorilli and Martin Arnold*

were cutting their spending on alcohol

warning of "early signs of demand slowdown" in the region.

Jobs said some households were switching to supermarket own brands for ice cream, cleaning products and some food, but that "in aggregate there is no significant switch to private label in our sectors".

"The consumer is going to be under pressure for sure. The northern hemisphere winter is coming and energy bills will certainly be higher," he said, adding that the downturn was so far mitigated by high levels of employment.

Unilever achieved higher price growth than analysts had expected, with a smaller volume decline, enabling it to raise its full-year forecast for underlying sales growth to more than 8 per cent. The strong dollar helped the group record its highest turnover to date at €15.8bn for the quarter.

But Pitkethly said the group had not passed on all the inflation it faced in input costs, which meant it expected its full-year margin to decline 2.4 percentage points to 16 per cent.

He added that Unilever expected another €2bn of net materials inflating in the first half of 2023, following €4.5bn of additional costs in 2022.

Analysts said the latest numbers suggested a management reorganisation dividing Unilever into five business groups was proving effective.

Foodmaker Nestlé reported price rises of 7.5 per cent in the first three quarters of 2022, its biggest rise in decades, while its real internal growth — a measure of sales volumes and consumer product choices — slid 0.2 per cent in the third quarter.

Household products maker Reckitt Healthcare said this week it had increased prices almost 10 per cent in the quarter, but its sales volumes have fallen 4.6 per cent.

Banks

Danske set for \$2bn scandal settlement hit

RICHARD MILNE
NORDIC AND BALTIC CORRESPONDENT

Danske Bank believes it will cost about \$2bn in fines to resolve one of the largest money-laundering scandals on record as it nears a solution with US and Danish authorities.

Denmark's biggest bank said yesterday it would take an additional charge of Dkr14bn (\$1.9bn), taking the total provision to Dkr15.5bn, as it hopes to reach agreement with the US Department of Justice, the US Securities and Exchange Commission and the Danish special crime unit by the end of the year.

"Danske Bank is now in a position to reliably estimate with a high degree of certainty the financial impact of a potential co-ordinated resolution with these authorities, at a total of Dkr15.5bn," the bank added.

It stressed that there was still "uncertainty" that a resolution could be realised but was working towards fin-

ishing it this year. It declined to comment further.

Danske disclosed one of the biggest dirty money scandals on record in 2018 when it said that much of the €200bn of cash that flowed through its Estonian branch between 2007 and 2015 from countries including Russia was suspicious, although the bank has not stated how much was proved to be money laundering.

The Danish bank ousted both its chief executive and chair following the scandal, and lost its next chief executive after he was implicated in a separate money-laundering scandal.

Shares in Danske rose by 11 per cent yesterday as investors hailed the lifting of the biggest uncertainty surrounding the bank. Its shares are still under half the level they were at in early 2018 before most of the revelations about the scale of the money laundering.

Danske is still subject to a number of civil lawsuits, and it warned yesterday

that it could face "material" damages from those cases.

Dozens of prominent shareholders are suing Thomas Borgen, its former chief executive for most of the time of the scandal, and a preliminary judgment is expected next month. Danish prosecutors last year dropped all charges against Borgen and other top executives over the affair.

Other Nordic banks have also faced money laundering problems, with the former chief executive of Swedbank, Sweden's oldest bank, currently on trial over the issue. Swedbank is also under investigation by US authorities.

Danske revealed yesterday that it now expected to make a net loss of "better than" Dkr5.5bn this year, as opposed to its previous guidance of Dkr10bn-Dkr12bn, due to the probable Estonian fines.

For the third quarter, the bank swung from a net profit of Dkr3.3bn a year earlier to a net loss of Dkr13.8bn this year.

Tobacco

Altria in Japan tie-up on smoke-free products

OLIVER BARNES — LONDON

Altria, the cigarette maker behind the Marlboro brand in the US, has launched a joint venture with Japan Tobacco in its latest push into the market for smoke-free alternatives.

The partnership in heated tobacco will give Altria a fresh chance to gain a foothold in the \$28bn smokeless tobacco market after several unsuccessful attempts.

It will give the company the opportunity to grow outside the US, its main market, where it has had exclusive rights to sell the Marlboro brand since it was carved out from Philip Morris in 2008.

Altria chief executive Billy Gifford said he believed the tie-up and Altria's product pipeline "position us well to increase adoption of smoke-free products".

Altria will invest \$150mm in the joint venture Horizon Innovations, and will

hold a 75 per cent stake. Japan Tobacco will have a 25 per cent stake.

Previous efforts include e-cigarette brands MarkTen and Green Smoke, which Altria abandoned in 2018 citing sluggish sales.

Subsequently, Altria took a 35 per cent stake in e-cigarette manufacturer Juul Labs, which has since had its products banned by the US Food and Drug Administration and is facing possible bankruptcy.

This month Altria exited a partnership with Philip Morris that gave it US commercialisation rights for IQOS, a line of e-cigarettes. PMI paid \$2.7bn to regain the rights.

Chris Grove, analyst at Stifel, said the partnership gave Altria "a real fighting chance" of competing with IQOS.

The venture is centred on two products: Japan Tobacco's heated tobacco stick Ploom and Altria's Marlboro-branded heated tobacco products.

"You combine the Marlboro branding — in a market where it's a 43 per cent market share — and a really good device that can utilise the Ploom product," said Grove.

As part of the venture, Japan Tobacco has committed to launch Altria's heated tobacco devices in an international market by 2025, and the two companies are planning to develop other smoke-free products, possibly including vapes.

Last month Altria ended its non-compete agreement with Juul.



The Marlboro maker is bullish over its partnership with Japan Tobacco

COMPANIES & MARKETS

Credit Suisse ready to undergo radical surgery

Strategy involves stripping back the business and making it more focused on wealth management and domestic market

OWEN WALKER, ARASH MASSOUDI AND ANDREW ENGLAND — LONDON

When Credit Suisse executives struck a plan to spin off its capital markets and advisory business in the summer, they chose a name that harked back to its 1980s glory days: First Boston.

But as the strategy developed, they soon realised that the intellectual property for the brand was already owned by a series of small financial services businesses who refused to sell.

Instead, the bank settled on the name CS First Boston for the business that it plans to list next year as part of a major restructuring of the group.

For 166 years, Credit Suisse executives focused on growing the business from its humble beginnings financing Switzerland's railway network into an international bank offering wealth management and investment banking to a global client base. The 1988 merger with First Boston was part of the Swiss bank's efforts to grow its investment banking business in the US.

Yesterday morning, that expansion drive came screeching to a halt as the bank unveiled a radical new strategy aimed at arresting years of losses alongside a \$F1.5bn investment by the Saudi National Bank.

By the end of the day, Credit Suisse



Arabia was a market it was planning to grow and the SNB investment would help its expansion in the country.

"We have been in the Middle East for nearly 60 years and it will be one of the strongest growth regions over the next 10 years," they said. "It is a region we have focused on and we want to grow in — especially as we have strong partners in the region."

Credit Suisse already has two other large Middle Eastern shareholders, the Qatar Investment Authority and Olayan Group, an investment business run by a wealthy Saudi family. It owns about 5 per cent of its stock and bought their initial stakes during the financial crisis.

Despite the wider group job cuts, Credit Suisse announced last month that it would expand its presence in Doha, hiring 100 staff and launching a tech hub with Qatar's Investment Promotion Agency.

The SNB investment is a sign of growing interest from Saudi Arabia in buying into Western businesses.

Middle Eastern sovereign wealth funds from Qatar, the UAE and Kuwait bought stakes in Western banks and other distressed assets during the financial crisis, while Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund sat on the sidelines.

But under Crown Prince Mohammed

shares, already battered by years of scandals and churn at the top of the bank had fallen by 19 per cent.

The plan, devised by the bank's latest management team, chief executive Ulrich Körner and chair Axel Lehmann, will involve stripping back the business and making it more focused on wealth management and its Swiss domestic market.

"We are creating a new Credit Suisse with a simpler, more stable, more focused business model," said the bank's chair Axel Lehmann yesterday.

The expensive restructuring will be funded by a \$F1.5bn capital raise, backed by the Saudi National Bank, whose investment will make it Credit Suisse's largest shareholder with 9.9 per cent, based on current holdings.

That deal with SNB, the largest commercial bank in the Gulf country, was poorly received by Credit Suisse shareholders, whose earnings per share will be diluted by around a quarter.

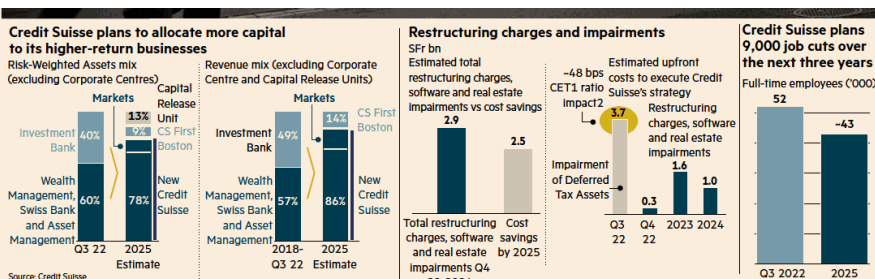
"It's very painful to give 10 per cent of the bank away for just \$F1.5bn," said a top ten shareholder in the group. "Alternatives such as a partial IPO of the Swiss bank would have been better."

David Herro, chief investment officer of Harris Associates, the bank's largest current shareholder, was more supportive: "We welcome the aggressive approach Credit Suisse is taking to stabilise and improve the performance of both the investment bank and the group as a whole."

The retreat from global investment banking and doubling down on wealth management - especially in the Middle East - has raised concern among some shareholders and analysts about the influence of the new Saudi investors and whether the reformed business will be too conservative.

"Certainly radical surgery was needed, but you have to wonder what the new investors want out of this," said the top 10 shareholder.

The three-year plan drastically pares



back Credit Suisse's investment bank, and involves partially selling off the profitable securitised products business and spinning out CS First Boston. It will also include \$F2.5bn of spending cuts across the business, with thousands of redundancies planned.

The group's headcount will drop by 'Our main concern is the lowly Rote target for 2025, which appears to lack ambition'

tangible equity of around 6 per cent by 2025.

"Our main concern is... the lowly Rote target for 2025, which appears to lack ambition," said Citigroup analyst Andrew Coombs. "Part of the rationale for reallocating capital is to drive a rating, but this can only go so far if the return prospects remain this low. The stock appears cheap, even post dilution, but there is likely to be significant execution risk in the coming months, so this remains a high-risk investment."

One Credit Suisse board member said the conservative approach was a symptom of how many Swiss national banks were currently running the bank, which has undergone a complete leadership change in the past year, with many senior roles going to former executives of rival UBS.

"That Swissness comes out in the conservative estimates," they said. "It creates a culture and a way of working that is sustainable and not short-term-minded."

SNB's involvement also raises questions about the future direction of the Swiss bank. SNB published a statement yesterday saying the reason for its

investment was to work with Credit Suisse on developing asset management, wealth management and investment banking services in Saudi Arabia.

It also said it would explore "strategic partnerships" with the Swiss bank and would consider investing in the spun-off CS First Boston business.

A Credit Suisse executive involved in the discussions with the SNB said Saudi

Credit Suisse shares, already battered by years of scandals and churn at the top of the bank, fell 19% yesterday

Michael Bondelino, EFF@ft.com

bin Salman, who has chaired the PIF since 2015, Saudi Arabia has become the biggest investor in the bank's approach to investing in western assets, and the recent boom in oil prices has given the country more financial firepower.

SNB was formed by the merger of the National Commercial Bank and Samba Financial Group. Analysts said the merger was partly driven by Riyadh's desire to create a national champion to develop the financial services sector as Prince Mohammed seeks to project the kingdom as a regional hub. State entities own just over 50 per cent of SNB, with the PIF the largest shareholder.

Credit Suisse shareholders said they were apprehensive about Saudi influence, these concerns were not shared by its senior executives. "The region is important to us from a wealth perspective, so it's important to have large investors who are there," said a person involved in discussions over the SNB investment. "Some other investors may have concerns, but it's not something we worry about."

"The region is important to us from a wealth perspective, so it's important to have large investors who are there," said a person involved in discussions over the SNB investment. "Some other investors may have concerns, but it's not something we worry about."

Additional reporting by Samar Al-Atrush in Riyadh and Stephen Morris in London See Lex

Legal Notices

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re: WOLFGANG C. HÖGLER, Debtor Chapter 11 Case No. 22-10643 (MEW)

Debtor(s): () (s) (Jointly Administered)

NOTICE OF HEARING TO CONSIDER CONFIRMATION OF THE CHAPTER 11 PLAN FILED BY THE DEBTORS AND A RELATED VOTING AND OBJECTION DEADLINE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the hearing on the first Amended Reorganization Plan for the Southern District of New York (the "Plan") and the first Amended Declaration of Intention to Reorganize (the "Declaration") filed by the Debtors (the "Plan and Declaration") is scheduled for **November 2, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** in Courtroom 1212, United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York 10037. The hearing will be held in person and will be open to the public.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the hearing on the first Amended Reorganization Plan for the Southern District of New York (the "Plan") and the first Amended Declaration of Intention to Reorganize (the "Declaration") filed by the Debtors (the "Plan and Declaration") is scheduled for **November 2, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** in Courtroom 1212, United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York 10037. The hearing will be held in person and will be open to the public.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the hearing on the first Amended Reorganization Plan for the Southern District of New York (the "Plan") and the first Amended Declaration of Intention to Reorganize (the "Declaration") filed by the Debtors (the "Plan and Declaration") is scheduled for **November 2, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** in Courtroom 1212, United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York 10037. The hearing will be held in person and will be open to the public.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The material in the Solicitation Package is intended to provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision regarding the Plan. The Plan and Declaration are subject to the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Federal Bankruptcy Rules, and the rules of this Court.

OBTAINING SOLICITATION MATERIALS: The material in the Solicitation Package is intended to provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision regarding the Plan. The Plan and Declaration are subject to the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Federal Bankruptcy Rules, and the rules of this Court.

CONFIRMATION HEARING: The hearing on the Plan and Declaration will be held on November 2, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 1212, United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York 10037. The hearing will be held in person and will be open to the public.

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions regarding the Plan, please contact the Debtors at (212) 455-4000 or visit the Debtors' website at www.credit-suisse.com.

WOLFGANG C. HÖGLER, Debtor Chapter 11 Case No. 22-10643 (MEW)

Debtor(s): () (s) (Jointly Administered)

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re: WOLFGANG C. HÖGLER, Debtor Chapter 11 Case No. 22-10643 (MEW)

Debtor(s): () (s) (Jointly Administered)

NOTICE OF HEARING TO CONSIDER CONFIRMATION OF THE CHAPTER 11 PLAN FILED BY THE DEBTORS AND A RELATED VOTING AND OBJECTION DEADLINE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the hearing on the first Amended Reorganization Plan for the Southern District of New York (the "Plan") and the first Amended Declaration of Intention to Reorganize (the "Declaration") filed by the Debtors (the "Plan and Declaration") is scheduled for **November 2, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** in Courtroom 1212, United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York 10037. The hearing will be held in person and will be open to the public.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the hearing on the first Amended Reorganization Plan for the Southern District of New York (the "Plan") and the first Amended Declaration of Intention to Reorganize (the "Declaration") filed by the Debtors (the "Plan and Declaration") is scheduled for **November 2, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** in Courtroom 1212, United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York 10037. The hearing will be held in person and will be open to the public.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the hearing on the first Amended Reorganization Plan for the Southern District of New York (the "Plan") and the first Amended Declaration of Intention to Reorganize (the "Declaration") filed by the Debtors (the "Plan and Declaration") is scheduled for **November 2, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** in Courtroom 1212, United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York 10037. The hearing will be held in person and will be open to the public.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The material in the Solicitation Package is intended to provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision regarding the Plan. The Plan and Declaration are subject to the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Federal Bankruptcy Rules, and the rules of this Court.

OBTAINING SOLICITATION MATERIALS: The material in the Solicitation Package is intended to provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision regarding the Plan. The Plan and Declaration are subject to the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Federal Bankruptcy Rules, and the rules of this Court.

CONFIRMATION HEARING: The hearing on the Plan and Declaration will be held on November 2, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 1212, United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York 10037. The hearing will be held in person and will be open to the public.

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions regarding the Plan, please contact the Debtors at (212) 455-4000 or visit the Debtors' website at www.credit-suisse.com.

WOLFGANG C. HÖGLER, Debtor Chapter 11 Case No. 22-10643 (MEW)

Debtor(s): () (s) (Jointly Administered)

Media

TikTok to launch standalone gaming channel

CRISTINA CRIDDLE — LONDON
PATRICK MCCOGE — SAN FRANCISCO

TikTok is making a big push into gaming, adding a dedicated tab within the short-form video platform, its first venture into a different entertainment format.

The Chinese-owned company is the latest video platform to expand into games, one of the most lucrative entertainment industries, following Netflix's launch of mobile games last year and Facebook, which are winding down their gaming platforms.

Users will be able to access the games via a button on the homepage of what is one of the world's most popular video apps. It will feature a host of mobile games where ads can be served and users can pay for additional content, according to four people familiar with the plans.

ByteDance, TikTok's Chinese owner, has long developed its own games and is looking to bring titles to the new channel, one person familiar with the strategy said.

Chinese regulators have cracked down on gaming over the past year, delaying approvals for new offerings and limiting the amount of time children can play video games. Douyin, the ByteDance-owned Chinese version of

TikTok, has offered so-called hyper-casual games since 2019.

Head of global gaming last month. The former McKinsey manager and Intel system architect joined in 2020 after spending three years at Snap.

"TikTok and gaming were made for each other," he wrote in a LinkedIn post announcing his appointment last week. "TikTok has far shown its value in helping consumers discover what's fun, valuable, and popular."

The new channel could be announced as soon as next Wednesday at "TikTok Made Me Play It", which the company has described as its "first gaming event".

It will feature speakers from gaming groups Electronic Arts, 2K, VNG Corporation, NetEase Games and Homia.

TikTok moderators in Europe, who will be that it would mothball Stadia, the three-year-old cloud-based game it once called "the future of gaming."

But the mobile gaming industry is still seeing healthy growth, with revenues set to rise from \$104bn last year to \$128bn in 2026 - more than the total spend on console and PC gaming combined, according to analysts Omdia.

"There is plenty of room for TikTok to make an impact," George Jijashvili, an Omdia analyst, said.

Additional reporting by Tim Bradshaw in London.

remove harmful content from the platform, there have been testing games before they are launched, according to two people with knowledge of the process.

The creation of the gaming channel follows tests in Vietnam in May. In the summer, TikTok quietly rolled out a feature that allowed video creators to link to simple games which, when clicked, can be played in a pop-up web browser.

TikTok already has a partnership with Zynga, the maker of gaming titles such as *High Heels!* It has more than 10 gaming partners including Voodoo, Aim Lab and Matchingham Games.

Social media rivals have struggled in this space. Last month, Snapchat-maker Snap said it would discontinue investment in gaming and Facebook will close its gaming app today, about two years after its launch. Google said this month that it would mothball Stadia, the three-year-old cloud-based game it once called "the future of gaming."

But the mobile gaming industry is still seeing healthy growth, with revenues set to rise from \$104bn last year to \$128bn in 2026 - more than the total spend on console and PC gaming combined, according to analysts Omdia.

"There is plenty of room for TikTok to make an impact," George Jijashvili, an Omdia analyst, said.

Additional reporting by Tim Bradshaw in London.



A dedicated tab will be added to the China-owned short-video platform

COMPANIES & MARKETS

Xi catches investors off guard with no 'adults in the room'



Equities. Party congress

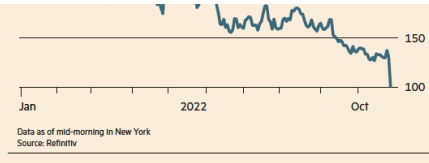
Nasdaq Composite fell 1 per cent. Those moves came after data showed the US economy grew in the third quarter, having contracted for the first six months of the year.

GDP increased 2.6 per cent on an annualised basis between July and September compared with economists' expectations of a rise of 2.4 per cent.

In government bond markets, the yield on the 10-year US Treasury note dipped 8 basis points to 3.93 per cent, down from a high of more than 4.3 per cent earlier this month.

Jim Paulsen, chief investment strategist at The Leuthold Group, said fears of a recession in the US were slowly overtaking concerns that the Fed had lost control of inflation.

"The force behind [this month's] moves higher for stocks is the idea the tightening cycle is about over," said Paulsen. "The Fed may not have blinked yet but maybe the bond market has and that seems to be enough for equities."



Data as of mid-morning in New York Source: Refinitiv

Investors have also been watching the latest flurry of quarterly corporate earnings closely for signs of strain from rapid price growth and rising borrowing costs, against an increasingly challenging economic backdrop.

Shares in Facebook owner Meta tumbled more than 22 per cent yesterday after the company reported another quarter of declining revenues, joining other Big Tech groups in warning that an economic slowdown was hitting its advertising businesses.

Across the Atlantic, the benchmark Stoxx Europe 600 Index finished flat.

The European Central Bank raised interest rates 0.75 percentage points in its latest effort to tackle inflation, pushing its deposit rate to 1.5 per cent — the highest level since 2009.

The yield on the 10-year German Bund fell 2bp to 1.95 per cent. The Italian 10-year yield dropped 3bp to just over 4 per cent as the debt instrument's price climbed.

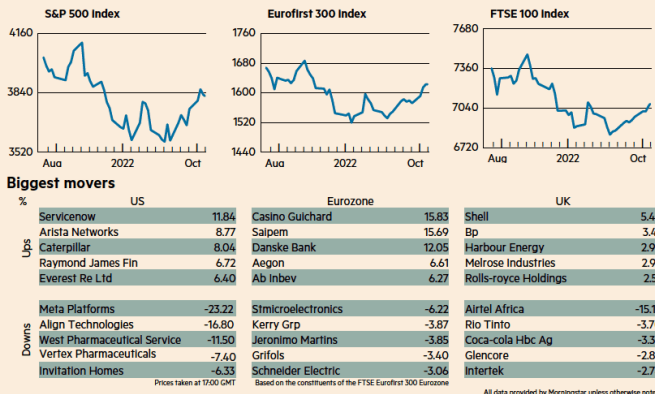
The dollar strengthened 0.6 per cent against a basket of six peers while sterling declined 0.4 per cent against the US currency to \$11580.

George Steer and Harriet Clarfelt

Markets update

	US	Eurozone	Japan	UK	China	Brazil
Stocks	S&P 500	Eurofirst 300	Nikkei 225	FTSE100	Shanghai Comp	Bovespa
Level	3823.58	1623.07	27345.24	7073.69	2982.90	114008.17
% change on day	-0.18	0.01	-0.32	0.25	-0.55	1.10
Currency	\$ Index (DXY)	\$ per €	Yen per \$	\$ per £	Rmb per \$	Real per \$
Level	110.456	1.000	146.015	1.158	7.213	5.294
% change on day	-0.689	-0.498	-0.416	-0.172	0.358	-0.614
Govt. bonds	10-year Treasury	10-year Bund	10-year JGB	10-year Gilt	10-year bond	10-year bond
Yield	3.931	1.959	0.248	3.406	2.696	11.654
Basis point change on day	-7.300	-15.300	-0.450	-16.300	1.000	-11.200
World Index, Commods	FTSE All-World	Oil - Brent	Oil - WTI	Gold	Silver	Metals (LME)
Level	384.71	96.75	89.26	1666.75	19.59	3657.30
% change on day	-0.08	1.11	1.54	0.45	3.76	3.39

Main equity markets



Wall Street

Facebook owner **Meta** dived after the magnitude of its cost and capital expenditures guidance spooked investors. Funds earmarked for several initiatives, including the virtual world metaverse, meant earnings and free cash flow would "be under significant pressure in 2023", said Bank of America.

An earnings beat lifted fast-food chain **McDonald's**, which posted third-quarter earnings of \$2.68 per share, topping Wall Street's estimate by 10 cents.

Same-store sales climbed 9.5 per cent, comfortably above the 5.8 per cent anticipated by analysts, with the group benefiting from "strategic menu price increases and positive guest counts" in the US, it said.

Foreign exchange moves weighed on invisiagin maker **Align Technology**, which reported a 12.4 per cent year-on-year slide in third-quarter revenue to \$890.3mn, falling short of the Refinitiv-computed estimate.

Joe Hogan, chief executive of the medical device group, said the "significant impact" from unfavourable forex rates led to a \$57.4mn knock to revenue — "one of the largest foreign exchange impacts we have ever experienced in one quarter".

The dollar has strengthened significantly against peer currencies this year. *Ray Douglas*

Europe

France's **Casino Groupe** rose sharply on news that it was considering selling some of its stake in Brazil's Assaí, a cash and carry specialist.

In a bid to accelerate its deleveraging, the retailer said it was weighing a potential disposal that would generate "at least \$500mn".

Swiss lender **Credit Suisse** dived after posting a net loss of SF4.8bn (\$4.05bn) for the third quarter, which was much bigger than the SF4.0mn loss Jefferies had forecast.

As part of a restructuring of its business, the bank was also seeking to raise SF4bn of capital — a figure that was "larger than we thought it would be", added the broker.

Germany's **Nemetschek**, which develops software for the construction and media sectors, sank despite releasing a third-quarter update described as "solid" by Cit.

Organic revenue grew 11.8 per cent, marginally ahead of the broker's 11.7 per cent estimate, boosted by the performance of its build and design businesses.

But Cit noted there were fears around the "sustainability of demand given softening construction/macro indicators".

Anheuser-Busch InBev rallied after the world's largest brewer reported better than expected results. *Ray Douglas*

London

Africa-focused telecoms group **Airtel Africa** fell to the bottom of the FTSE 100 index after posting a 22 per cent slide in pre-tax profits for its fiscal second quarter.

Airtel said first-half revenue had been "impacted again by the effect of some voice customers being barred in Nigeria and the loss of lower sharing revenues following the recent sales of towers in Tanzania, Madagascar and Malawi".

The interim dividend was, however, raised to 218 cents from 2 cents a year earlier.

At the other end of the blue-chip benchmark was oil major **Shell**, which reported adjusted core earnings of \$9.45bn for the third quarter, its second-highest profit on record.

Shell said it would be returning more money to investors through a \$4bn share buyback programme and a 15 per cent jump in dividends for the fourth quarter, which would be paid in March next year.

Upmarket estate agent **Foxtons** climbed thanks to a "resilient" rental business, said chief executive Guy Gittins.

In the third quarter, revenue leapt 25 per cent year on year to £43.8mn, boosted by an 18 per cent rise in lettings sales.

This performance prompted Foxtons to forecast full-year results "ahead of our previous expectations". *Ray Douglas*

Xi Jinping made a clean sweep, putting his men in the top party positions. He now has a clear field to pursue his preferred policies and those policies are unlikely to be investor-friendly.

Markets have taken the outcome of the Congress badly. Investors must now reposition for a China where Xi's credo reigns supreme. They must also brace for the expected backlash from the US in the form of more sanctions and increased scrutiny of supply chains and investment ties that were once encouraged a mere decade ago.

In other words, the great decoupling, which I first identified as a major investment theme three years ago, is now in full swing.

What does this mean? First of all, countries and multinationals will have to pick sides more. Companies that have put too many eggs in the China basket will be forced into a painful and costly reorientation.

If they have too much manufacturing in China, they will need to reallocate; if they are too dependent on the Chinese consumer, they'll need to brace for very slow growth for the foreseeable future.

Ideology and national security trump all other considerations for Xi, including growth. He will double down on "common prosperity", achieving economic self-sufficiency and pressing to bring Taiwan definitively under mainland control. For foreign investors in China, this means new investments will be "steered" (more or less politely) to the priorities set by the Chinese state. Foreigners should not be surprised to

US politicians and policymakers increasingly view any contact with China as suspicious. A Republican victory in the midterms would likely track more measures against China.

The fragmenting and doubling up of supply chains, as multinationals create parallel US-oriented and China-oriented production plans, will lower productivity globally. And it will continue to fuel inflation as the bifurcation

investors likely to fall in the US sphere of influence would be wise to avoid Chinese onshore markets

of global supply chains sweeps from sector to sector over a lengthy period of time. Remember when China was said to "export deflation" post its 2001 entry into the World Trade Organization — now the reverse process is under way.

Global banking and capital markets will be the next to decouple. Restrictions of capital flows into China are on the horizon as Washington prepares to prevent America from funding the development of its main strategic adversary.

Beijing is also working hard on creating its own sphere of economic and financial influence. It is intent on decoupling from the dollar-based global financial order as it views any such dependence as strategic vulnerability.

China can do very little in the short-term to advance financial self-reliance.

international use of its own currency and cross-border payment system.

One financial measure China pushed on is initiating the break-up of HSBC.

Mainland insurer Ping An, the bank's chief shareholder, may claim that the east-west split of the venerable Hong Kong bank would unlock more profitability but make no mistake that the geopolitical considerations for a divorce are much more compelling.

Most of all, investors positioning themselves for the great decoupling must ensure their portfolios are insured against the risk of conflict over Taiwan which now looms large.

"Bullish China" was a decades-long play that made many investors in Chinese companies listed abroad very rich.

Now portfolio investors in countries that are likely to fall in the US sphere of influence would be wise to avoid Chinese onshore markets despite Beijing finally opening them to foreigners more or less fully.

But the great decoupling is set to create new opportunities for western equity investors as countries and firms that can attract the capital and investment that is leaving China will benefit.

Investors should look into companies that are less exposed to China than their peers from either a revenue or supply chain point of view.

What lies ahead is nothing short of a fundamental rewriting of how the world works — but as ever, there will be winners as well as losers.

Diana Choyleya is chief economist at Enodo Economics

FT LIVE

WOMEN AT THE TOP EUROPE

Building an Inclusive Business

Catch up on all sessions on demand

Ellen White
Former England striker and Euro 2022 winner

Trinny Woodall
CEO & Founder, Trinny London

Amanda Pritchard
Chief Executive Officer, NHS England

Lesia Vasylenko
Member of the Parliament of Ukraine, IX Convocation, Holos Party

The last few years have been a tough environment for businesses. As profits decrease, how will boardrooms across Europe approach their diversity and inclusion (D&I) strategies? How can purposeful action from leaders drive real change? What does the future of leadership look like?

Watch on demand at: www.europe.live.ft.com

#FTWomen

Knowledge Partner:

Global Strategic Partner:

Strategic Partners:

Associate Partner:

MARKET DATA

WORLD MARKETS AT A GLANCE											FT.COM/MARKETSDATA		
Change during previous day's trading (%)													
S&P 500	Nasdaq Composite	Dow Jones Ind	FTSE 100	FTSE Eurofirst 300	Nikkei	Hang Seng	FTSE All World \$	\$ per €	\$ per £	¥ per \$	£ per €	Oil Brent \$ Sep	Gold \$
-0.18%	-1.09%	1.00%	0.25%	0.01%	-0.32%	0.72%	-0.08%	-0.498%	-0.172%	-0.416%	-0.346%	0.65%	0.45%

Stock Market movements over last 30 days, with the FTSE All-World in the same currency as a comparison

AMERICAS	EUROPE	ASIA
S&P 500	FTSE 100	Nikkei 225
New York	Toronto	Tokyo
NYSE	TSX	TOPIX

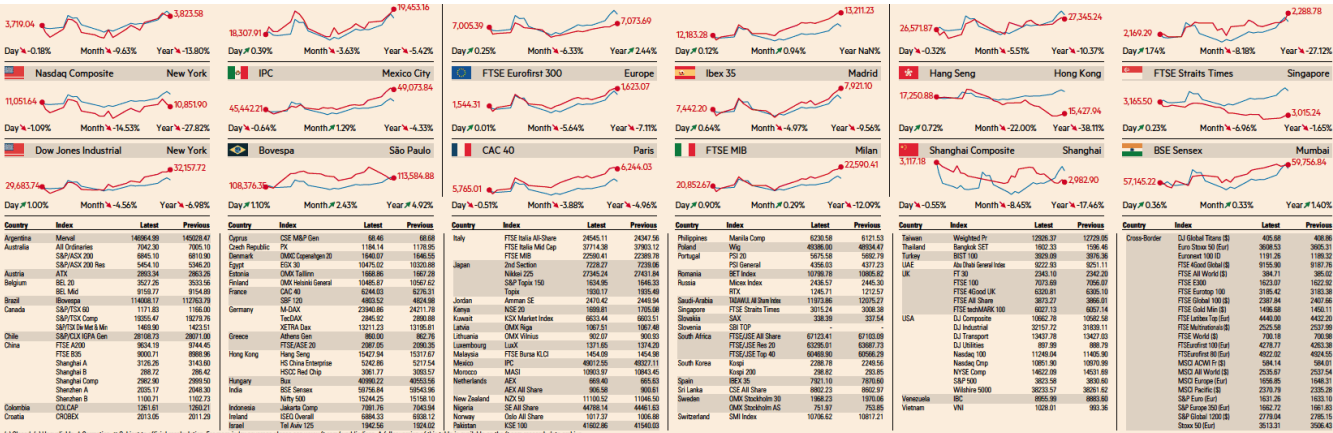


Table of stock market biggest movers, categorized by region (USA, Europe, Asia, etc.) and industry. Columns include stock name, price, and percentage change.

USA
 - Amazon: 145.28 (+0.5%)
 - Microsoft: 137.23 (+0.2%)
 - Google: 2825.14 (+0.1%)
 - Apple: 176.51 (+0.1%)
 - Facebook: 122.43 (+0.1%)
 - Tesla: 139.21 (+0.1%)

Europe
 - ASX 200: 7154.98 (+0.1%)
 - Nikkei 225: 27123.00 (+0.1%)
 - Hang Seng: 17210.00 (+0.1%)
 - FTSE 100: 7508.00 (+0.1%)

Table of UK market winners and losers, listing various sectors like Mining, Retail, and Energy. Columns include sector name, percentage change, and specific stock names.

Winners:
 - Mining: +1.6%
 - Retail: +1.2%
 - Energy: +0.8%

Losers:
 - Financials: -0.5%
 - Healthcare: -0.3%
 - Consumer Goods: -0.2%

Table of FTSE 100 index and FTSE 250 index, including daily closing prices, changes, and volume. Includes sub-sections for FTSE Global Equity Index Series and FTSE Global Value Index Series.

FTSE 100 INDEX
 - 28 Oct 2022: 7508.00 (+0.1%)
 - 27 Oct 2022: 7498.00 (+0.1%)
 - 26 Oct 2022: 7488.00 (+0.1%)
 - 25 Oct 2022: 7478.00 (+0.1%)

FTSE 250 INDEX
 - 28 Oct 2022: 13242.00 (+0.1%)
 - 27 Oct 2022: 13232.00 (+0.1%)
 - 26 Oct 2022: 13222.00 (+0.1%)
 - 25 Oct 2022: 13212.00 (+0.1%)

Table of UK stock market trading data, including turnover, average price, and volume for various sectors.

UK STOCK MARKET TRADING DATA
 - Total Turnover: 7846.00 (+0.1%)
 - Average Price: 171.23 (+0.1%)
 - Volume: 458.12 (+0.1%)

Table of UK recent equity issues, listing company names, issue sizes, and dates.

UK RECENT EQUITY ISSUES
 - Alkerm: 10.00 (+0.1%)
 - AstraZeneca: 10.00 (+0.1%)
 - AstraZeneca: 10.00 (+0.1%)
 - AstraZeneca: 10.00 (+0.1%)

Market data provided by Morningstar | www.morningstar.co.uk. Includes disclaimer and terms of use.

Market data provided by Morningstar | www.morningstar.co.uk. Includes disclaimer and terms of use.

Main financial data table with columns for Stock, Week, Price, High, Low, YTD, P/E, MCap, and various market indices.

FT 500: TOP 20 and FT 500: BOTTOM 20 tables listing top and bottom performing stocks in the FT 500 index.

Table of Bonds: High Yield & Emerging Market, including columns for Country, Rating, Price, Bid, and Yield.

Table of Bonds: Global Investment Grade, including columns for Country, Rating, Price, Bid, and Yield.

Table of Volatility Indices, including columns for Index Name, Price, Bid, and Yield.

Table of Gilts: UK Cash Market, including columns for Maturity, Price, Bid, and Yield.

ARTS

Cannes prize-winner leaves the rich all at sea

This week's new film releases reviewed by Danny Leigh and Leslie Felperin

Partly the male model. As laid bare in *Triangle of Sadness*, the erratic new comedy from Ruben Östlund, even success is a gunge tank of indignity. Bookers whisper about your need for Botox; you get paid a fraction of your female peers. Such is the lot of catwalker Carl (Harris Dickinson). In 147 minutes of pouts and postures, Östlund has him just precisely one insightful thing – as if only to highlight the inanity of the rest.

To talk about money is unsexy, Carl is told, having just been left with a bill. For a moment, he pauses, considering the logic by which we do or don't discuss the power of finance. "Yeah, why is that?" he asks.

A good question. Even a stopped clock, and so on. You could say the same of the whole film, a messy satire about wealth that occasionally uses a scalpel – but more often a scattergun. In his last film, *The Square*, Östlund teased the art world. Before that he made *Force Majeure*, male ego skewed in a ski resort. Now *Triangle of Sadness* takes elements of both, stretches the length and cranks the volume. The location is mostly a luxury yacht on which Carl and girlfriend Yaya have blagged a free trip. The result is a panty of high-end downtime. (Yaya is played by Charlbi Dean, who died this year at 32, a sad shadow across the film. She and Dickinson are both terrific.)

And so we are invited to behold the ugly rich at play, a pan-European 1 per cent. Naturally there is a tasteless Russian tycoon, travelling with wife and girlfriend. (The film was shot before the invasion of Ukraine.) A dull Swedish tech mogul drinks alone. An elderly English couple bemoan the drag on the family business caused by UN regulations against landmines.

You may have noticed a snag, it isn't just the on-the-nose, cartoonish tone.



With the superyachts of Saudi princelings and Silicon Valley CEOs lately the subject of books, exposés and pieces in the New Yorker, it takes a tin ear for the zeitgeist to set the movie at sea and not make it about a lone, Randian billionaire. Instead, Östlund merely gives us a commercial cruise with bells on – the soft option of an ensemble romp.

Still, he does mount a fine, wordless illustration of the brute onboard hierarchy. Guests on deck, the crew in pristine white; then, out of sight of both, the other crew, dark-skinned figures wearing dark blue, their uniform better suited to scrubbing the surfaces.



Above: Sunny Melles in 'Triangle of Sadness'. Left: Eddie Redmayne and Jessica Chastain in 'The Good Nurse'

which a string of US hospitals quietly let him move on to the next payroll every time suspicions about him came to light. First do no harm to the corporate reputation. The rest is someone else's problem. DL
In cinemas now, on Netflix from October 28

The glower of actor Aubrey Plaza is a thing of great beauty and precision, as subtle as a stiletto secretly sheathed in a kooky pair of boots. She can use it for comic effect, as with her eye-rolling millennial intern April in *Parks and Recreation*. Or she can deploy it to suggest vampy erotic power (sublime indie film *Black Bear*) or even demonic malevolence (TV series *Legion*). Cast in the title role and getting a chance to show off her terrific range in drama *Emily the Criminal*, this time Plaza expresses indignation, the anger of a young woman who's been screwed around by luck, circumstance and poor choices for too long and is getting her own back now, big time.

Working long hours for a catering company to make ends meet in Los Angeles, New Jersey-reared art school graduate Emily has a massive student loan she's struggling to pay off. A criminal record for assaulting an ex-lover (we never quite get the full story) and driving under the influence is keeping her from getting better-paying jobs. But a colleague tips her off about a potential side hustle. It's a scam run by a handsome Lebanese immigrant Youcef (Theo Rossi) and his brother Khalil (Jonathan Avigdor). They need "dummy" buyers for expensive stuff (such as massive TVs) paid for with stolen credit card information, who will then hand over the goods to be fenced to customers looking for a bargain.

Emily turns out to be surprisingly good at this line of work, thanks to guts of steel, a sharp, quick mind and that killer glower. She starts taking riskier but more lucrative jobs from Youcef, with whom an inevitable relationship blossoms, but how far will she go?

Triangle of Sadness
Ruben Östlund
★★★★★

The Good Nurse
Tobias Lindholm
★★★★★

Emily the Criminal
John Patton Ford
★★★★★

Bros
Nicholas Stoller
★★★★★

Writer-director John Patton Ford unfolds a smart parable about the economic pressures on this generation, superbly illustrated by a brace of scenes where Emily goes for job interviews.

In the first, her criminal record is the problem – arguably fair enough, although Emily rightly takes exception to the slimy, *gotcha* way the HR executive brings it up; in the second, she rejects the expectation that she should work for free as an intern in order to get a foot in the door at an advertising agency. Viewers will have to find out how much of a criminal Emily is willing to become, but in those two scenes she could kill with a look alone. LF
In cinemas in the UK from October 28; available online in the US

Bros arrives in UK cinemas on a downbeat note. Trilled as a landmark gay romcom from Hollywood, it promptly bombed at last month's US box office. The long story of why might involve the risks of trailblazing and the uncertain place of big-screen comedy in the age of streaming. But a lot also comes down to the scale of the task set for himself by writer and star Billy Eichner, a comic actor of serious ambition. (The movie is produced by veteran Judd Apatow.) Because for *Bros*, it is not enough to be a romantic comedy between men released by an industry until lately made nervous by the thought. On

Östlund has a brilliance for small scenes of deep awkwardness. His eye for detail can be excruciating

screen, Eichner plays Bobby Lieber, an abrasive New York podcaster we might take as lightly autobiographical. As writer, he also sets out to acknowledge and subvert the tropes of romcoms past, to ask out loud whether the movie should seek a straight audience and, crucially, to be funny in the process.

Remarkably, it mostly works. The frantic self-awareness comes folded into a barrage of gags about sex, politics and pop culture, with reference to Bert and Ernie, digs at *The Power of the Dog*, and much else besides.

If the movie has the energy of solo stand-up, that makes sense too. Lieber is a one-man show as well; how he might become part of a duo without diluting himself is the core of the story. (The foil is the likeable Luke Macfarlane.) Ultimately, the box-office bust may have had less to do with dated cultural norms than a still more enduring tradition: the fate of Hollywood films too smart for their own commercial good. DL
In UK cinemas from October 28



Left: Aubrey Plaza in 'Emily the Criminal'. Below: Luke Macfarlane (top) and Billy Eichner in 'Bros' – Nicole Rivelli/Universal Pictures



The moment is short and precise, like all the best things in the film. Östlund has a brilliance for small scenes of deep awkwardness: the bickering of a couple overheard by strangers; a professional smile stiffened into a pained rictus. His eye for detail can be excruciating.

You wish you had more chance to squirm happily. Instead, the film reaches for blunt instruments – as plot device and guiding principle. Dinner is champagne and caviar, a slapstick feast that turns emetic. A Marxist might suspect the director of being a reactionary double agent. (A real lullotline is sharper than this.) And on and on we go: an acid little punchline extends into a whole third act, complete with a shipwreck, protracted power shift, a moral to the story and still more humiliation for the hapless Carl. Stay for the credits and ask yourself how a film can have 25(O) producers, and not one who points out the film is an hour too long. Next time Östlund stages a revolution, he should start by eating the execs. DL
In UK cinemas from October 28

No slight on the actors, but most suspensions of disbelief would struggle with the casting of Jessica Chastain and Eddie Redmayne as overworked staff in a New Jersey hospital, baggy-eyed from the night shift. In true-crime drama *The Good Nurse*, it obliges director Tobias Lindholm to dial down the star power. Some of the job falls to the locations: the stairwells of police stations, strip-lit hospital break rooms. But the blue-grey mood also flows from the story. The subject is the serial murder of patients in critical care, based on the grim 2003 case of Charles Cullen, recounted here with unflashy sobriety.

Chastain is Amy Loughren, the kind of nurse who knows the names of her patients and goes the extra mile for their welfare. Arriving at a new ICU amid staffing shortages, Redmayne's Cullen is pale and rabbitish, but comes with a wealth of references and matter-of-fact compassion. The pair are soon friends: parents of young kids, born carers. And if "Charlie" always seems to be on duty when a patient flatlines, well, he is as sorrowful as anyone.

The movie doesn't insult our intelligence or cheapen the gravity by dragging out the question of his guilt. But that leaves dramatic space to fill. Lindholm also needs to manage the risk of depicting a killer who – a spoiler warning here – never explains his inhumanity. No lesson in pathology is forthcoming. Thin as that rationale can be for true crime, without it the danger

FT FINANCIAL TIMES

Moral Money Forum

MUST ESG BE BAD NEWS FOR EMERGING MARKETS?

This has been a tough year for the environmental, social and governance (ESG) investing agenda. ESG has become a target of choice for conservative politicians in the US as its culture wars intensify. Financial companies making green pledges face increasingly intense scrutiny over fiduciary duty and antitrust questions – as well as possible greenwashing.

Our next FT Moral Money Forum report highlights the thorniest problems – and some potential solutions.

The Moral Money Forum identifies the most interesting ideas, policies, and practices that are making a difference in socially responsible business, sustainable finance, and impact investing.

Read the report at:
forums.ft.com/moral-money-forum

Advisory partners: HIGH MEADOWS INSTITUTE, Vontobel, WHITE & CASE

is blank titillation — as seen in *Monster*, the recent Netflix series about serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer. The engine for the drama becomes the horrified realisation of Chastain's Loughren. The saving grace for the film is spotlighting the structure that gave Cullen licence: a medical system in



FT BIG READ. CENTRAL AFRICA

The DRC has become the battleground in a proxy conflict over precious resources, with local and foreign-backed forces causing deaths and mass displacement across the east of the country.

By Andres Schipani

Some residents of the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo simply call it *la guerre sans fin* — the war without end. One morning in August, Abigael Bahati felt it in her skin as she searched for cassava leaves close to the village of Kanombe.

"I was hungry and I had gone to look for food but I was caught," says the 28-year-old mother of an 18-month-old baby. "They took me away and raped me," she recalls, adding that others fled in fear of their lives.

Her attackers, she says, were rebels with the M23, an armed group that has resurfaced with renewed strength after a 10-year hiatus. It is terrorising civilians as part of a mission to gain control of swaths of territory around Rutshuru, a town bordering Uganda and Rwanda. "They... go to the farms, attack people, beat you up and even cut you with knives," Bahati adds.

The M23 — which Congolese officials, local people and analysts accuse of being backed by Rwanda — resumed fighting in November 2021 and has since been waging a brutal offensive in the resource-rich, conflict-ridden eastern Congo. More than 355,000 Congolese have fled their homes so far this year, according to the UN, pushing the number of those displaced in DRC due to overlapping conflicts to more than 5.5m this year — the largest recorded humanitarian crisis of its kind in Africa. Congolese president Felix Tshisekedi warns that regional tensions could escalate into a full-blown war "if Rwanda's provocation continues". His Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame, who denies his country is behind the M23, says shelling from conflicts waged in DRC territory has crossed its borders.

M23, however, is just one of about 100 rebel groups pillaging the area in a complex, deep-rooted war that, for the most part, has escaped international attention. Congolese military officers speak of fighting *groupes locaux et groupes étrangers* — local militias as well as those with Rwandan and Ugandan roots.

Here, amid a longstanding failure from the state to control the area, regional tensions, local conflicts and historical ethnic struggles are compounded by a deadly contest for sought-after minerals and agricultural assets. This has turned eastern DRC into the battleground for one of the world's longest-running wars. Lieutenant General Johnny Luboya Nkashama, governor of the Ituri province, is blunt about the main impetus: "This is a war over resources."

Congo, a common shorthand for the DRC, is the resource-rich heart of Africa. The third most populous country in the sub-Saharan region, with 92m people, the DRC has enormous mineral wealth such as cobalt, a key component for the battery industry. Additionally, it has significant hydroelectric potential and more than 70m hectares of untapped arable land.

Yet it remains one of the world's poorest countries, according to the World Bank, with 75 per cent of the population living on less than \$1.90 a day. Despite its potential, the country is failing to achieve sustained and equitable growth, partly due to brutal conflict but also a corrupt elite accused of siphoning off the nation's natural resources.

It is these lucrative resources that also lure bad actors from neighbouring countries to the eastern DRC. "For years, the DRC's neighbours have used militias in its east — Congolese and foreign alike — as proxies," a Crisis Group report says. "Rwanda and Uganda have long sought to exert influence in the area, whose abundant mineral resources buttress their economies."

Standing in the province of North Kivu, Colonel Guillaume Ndjike Kaiko, spokesman for the Congolese armed forces, known as FARDC, points across the border to Rwanda. "The enemy is there and active," he says.

Congolese officers consider the M23 to be Kigali's proxy army. "These are not just rebels," Ndjike Kaiko adds. "These are nations that are coming together to wage a purely economic war on the Democratic Republic of Congo."

Who's behind the M23?



report by the Uganda Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, a watchdog, says "there have been significant discrepancies" between official gold production figures and the exports of gold reported by the country's revenue authority. This "implies that the major part of the gold exported is not part of the local and formal production".

The UN believes that several gold mines in Ituri are controlled by Codeco and *Mai-Mai* factions who smuggle almost all of the region's gold out of the country. It adds that "criminal networks and some FARDC members continued to traffic in and profit from untaxed coltan from mines" in North Kivu, some of which is smuggled into Rwanda for onward trade.

Virunga National Park, which borders Rwanda and Uganda, has found itself in the eye of the storm. M23 now occupies the area which is home to roughly 300 mountain gorillas.

"Rwanda is a very small country with very limited resources, and has huge needs, part of those are met by Congo's raw materials transiting through Rwanda," says Emmanuel de Merode, a Belgian prince and the park's director. "The M23 are just holding the ground."

Tshisekedi has fostered closer ties with Uganda, allowing its troops to fight the ADF Islamist group in North Kivu and approving the construction of roads linking the two countries — offering an alternative to Uganda-Rwanda border crossings. Armoured cars and soldiers of the Uganda People's Defence Force



are a common sight by the roadworks where they are stationed to protect the works, staff and equipment.

These moves were seen as unfriendly by Kigali, which has old tensions with Kampala, analysts say.

The situation is deteriorating

There are two continuing efforts to mediate tensions, one led by Angola and another by Kenya, under the East African Community, which has a regional force. In August, it deployed a unit from Burundi to fight rebels inside DRC, although the Burundian military itself has been involved in the conflict; according to the UN.

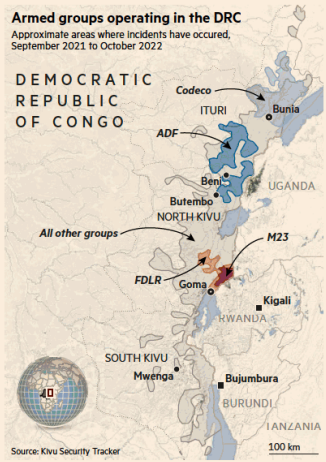
With the world's attention focused on Russia's invasion of Ukraine and, closer to home, the devastating civil war in Ethiopia, Congolese people feel the international community is only timidly engaging. US secretary of state, Antony Blinken, denies "turning a blind eye", saying he is "very concerned by credible reports that Rwanda" is backing the M23 when he visited Kinshasa and Kigali in August.

President Emmanuel Macron brought Tshisekedi and Kagame together on the sidelines of the UN general assembly in September. The three leaders "agreed to work together to ensure that M23 is removed from all Congolese areas as quickly as possible" and "to end the activities of armed groups in the Great Lakes region, including the FDLR."

Since then the two governments have been engaged in a war of words. On Monday, Rwanda released a statement rejecting "unjustified attempts to make Rwanda a scapegoat for the internal politics of DRC". The DRC swiftly responded with its own statement "denouncing the dishonest rhetoric of Rwanda and its military activities on Congolese soil", adding that Kigali's "interventionist and expansionist ambitions will never be tolerated".

"The security situation is only deteriorating," warns John Banyene, a civil society leader in Goma, who joined protests against UN peacekeepers over

Congo's war without end



have been killed over the past year. It leaves many wondering where the M23's source of strength comes from. Bintou Keita, the head of the UN's stabilising mission known as Monusco, told the UN Security Council in June that the M23's capacity now appeared to be that of a "conventional army".

Marcos Affonso da Costa, the commander of Monusco, says they are "facing an enemy that is even stronger than 10 years ago". "To defeat it you need to have a lot of investment and military structure, you need... artillery, intelligence...

Too rich and too big

army, fled and sought refuge in Congo. In 1996 and 1998, Rwanda and its Ugandan allies invaded eastern Congo, ostensibly to hunt down *genocidaires*, spurring a string of conflicts that sucked in several countries, earning the name "Africa's world war". Between 1998 and 2008, about 5.4m people were killed in eastern DRC, according to the International Rescue Committee, although the number is disputed. The conflict toppled Congolese dictator Mobutu Sese Seko and spawned an alphabet soup of armed militias across eastern Congo, each seeking natural resources.

This crisis is now back at full force. The Tshisekedi government last year declared one of the country's longest states of siege since its independence from Belgium in 1960, with military officers taking over from civilian administrators. Kigali has accused Congolese troops of "fighting together" with the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, or FDLR, whose ranks include Hutu fighters. The M23, dominated by Tutsis, claims to protect the Congolese Tutsi against militant Hutu.

"Until the problem of the FDLR, which operates in close collaboration with the DRC army, is taken seriously and addressed, security in the Great Lakes region cannot be achieved," says Yolande Makolo, the Rwandan government's spokesperson.

This is backed up by locals on the ground who speak of Congolese soldiers and FDLR rebels sometimes fighting the M23 together and accuse them of being involved in the illicit trade of charcoal.

A senior Congolese military officer says the army has no policy of making deals "with the bad boys" of the FDLR, but acknowledges "it can happen that one commander in the bush does it".

Members of the Congolese armed forces, known as FARDC, who say they are battling local militia and foreign-backed rebels, top and below. Right: Mwasi Mbayahi, who fled a raid by ADF on cocoa plantations in the village of Bulungo

rebel group was accused before the UN Security Council in June of committing some of the war's worst atrocities — including forcing its victims of sexual violence to cook and eat human flesh. "There is never a lack of armed groups," says Taruayo Adroma. "It never stops as there is always a resource for them." Among the spoils are gold, coltan, diamonds, cassiterite, cocoa, timber, charcoal, with various groups controlling strategic supply chains into Rwanda and Uganda, analysts and Congolese officials say.

"The nexus of conflict, minerals, rebels and foreign backers has bedevilled Congo for decades," notes a June report by the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, a think-tank. A "critical part of the problem," they say, is that Congo's neighbours are exporting resources they do not have in large quantities.

In October, Tshisekedi spoke of the "predatory will" of its neighbours. A Congolese mining belt running along its borders with Uganda and Rwanda holds vast amounts of gold and some of the world's largest deposits of coltan, an ore mined by hand that is key for manufacturing electronic devices.

"This is a regional problem that centres on the Democratic Republic of Congo being too rich and too big," says Joas Mbitso Ngedza, a former deputy finance minister who negotiates with Kinshasa on behalf of Codeco. On his feet are trainers with the word WAR emblazoned across them.

The US Treasury has said that "in eastern DRC, where there are approximately 130 active armed groups, the gold trade is a major driver of conflict". They believe "more than 90 per cent of DRC gold is smuggled" to states including Rwanda and Uganda, where it is refined and exported mainly to the

Members of the Congolese armed forces, known as FARDC, who say they are battling local militia and foreign-backed rebels, top and below. Right: Mwasi Mbayahi, who fled a raid by ADF on cocoa plantations in the village of Bulungo

"I had to run because things got bad again. We haven't had peace in a long, long time. I cannot remember if we ever had"

While conservatives are spread more evenly, means 75 per cent of constituencies are now majority immigration-sceptic despite the overall electorate splitting almost 50-50. The public has moved forward, but Britain's political incentives drag on progress.

At the UK's 2019 general election,

views into a 34-16 ratio of states in favour of protecting gun rights.

Britain and America like to see themselves as the standard bearers of liberal democracy, but on the evidence presented, there is still some way to go.

john.burn-murdoch@ft.com

How an even split among Americans on gun control becomes a comfortable Senate majority for the gun rights movement

% of US adults in each state who say gun control is more important than gun rights, vs share who prioritise gun rights

In aggregate, 52% say gun rights are more important, while 48% say the reverse

The Senate treats all states as equal, ignoring hugely varying populations and turning what was essentially a tie into a 34 states to 16 ratio



Sources: Data For Progress, Pew Research, US Census Bureau

From boardroom reshuffles

Cat Rutter Pooley is right ("Business needs better than this blueprint for failure", Opinion, October 20) that the sure sign of a failing business is one that brings in a new chief executive to unveil a new strategy and, when it hits the ropes, then suddenly it fires its chief financial officer.

It's also true that one thing businesses rarely do with former chief executives, especially when there was good reason to jettison them to start with, is think the answer to be the challenges they now face is to invite the old boss back.

More so, if the reason they are in a fix might have something to do with events that the old boss presided over.

As to the idea that that person should have any say in the choice of new boss, that would be almost

A PM is no different from banker or football director

In the context of the current debate in the UK around probity in public life ("Investors take fright at prospect of Johnson return as UK premier", Report, October 22) it is interesting to note the Financial Conduct Authority imposes a "fit and proper test" in relation to senior appointments in the banking industry.

The FCA has the following guidelines for this test: honesty (including openness to self-disclosure, integrity and reputation), competence and capability, financial soundness.

Surely it is reasonable to expect that standards in political life, in particular the second in the limits on the incentive value of further tax cuts for the rich - how much more of the pie can the top 1 per cent possibly want?

Richard Orders, London W4, UK

very real prospect that investments in Hong Kong will go to zero" simply has no basis in fact.

I am no longer surprised when people who claim to be friends of Hong Kong make false allegations about us. But I am surprised that a serious business newspaper should let this one go unchallenged.

Clifford left here some time ago and now writes from Washington. I am still here after 50 years.

Mike Rowse, Hong Kong

Two data points show just how unequal US is

Your front page Datawatch item on "Unequal America" (October 14) says two things about trickle-down economics. The first is that whatever trickle there was has clearly dried up.

Raj Parkash, London W4, UK

Beleaguered managers

Oh not Distrusting employees unsure of their role; surveillance by tech which doesn't measure what makes an employee effective, against metrics that don't capture what the company needs. Why doesn't any of this improve motivation and company effectiveness? Who'd have thought it?

If we were to brainstorm the question - how can we make our company as ineffective as possible - these things would be high on the list.

The blame should not be heaped on beleaguered managers, as proposed by Rana Foroohar in her article ("The perils of 'productivity paranoia'", Opinion, October 24).

The self-reflection she proposes should be by company boards who are obsessed with money and numbers, because they are easy, instead of what really inspires and motivates people, because that is hard.

Hilary Sutcliffe, Director, Society Inside, London SE21, UK

Opinion

China can use its leverage with Moscow to prevent a nuclear war

Zhou Bo

Will Putin use nuclear weapons in Ukraine? This billion-dollar question matters not only to Kyiv and Europe, but also to China. So far, Beijing has trodden a careful line between Russia, its strategic partner, and Ukraine, which is a significant trading partner.

But if Moscow decides to use tactical nuclear weapons against Ukraine, China can hardly maintain such a position any more. A joint declaration between Beijing and Kyiv in December 2013 agreed that China will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against Ukraine and, more importantly, will provide security assurances in the

event of any such threat by a third party. Putin's intensifying rhetoric is therefore raising the stakes for Beijing. He said last month he would be ready to defend the "territorial integrity" of Russia "by all means."

China has so far refrained from providing any military assistance to Russia. But given Beijing's huge influence on Moscow, it is uniquely positioned to do more to prevent a nuclear conflict.

First, Beijing should thank China to honour the five nuclear powers' joint statement in January that "nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought". Russia has the largest nuclear arsenal in the world and the one threatening Ukraine - which chose to give up its nuclear weapons - has already tarnished its reputation. It would be all the more appalling if Putin followed through on his threat against Ukrainian citizens, who he had previously described as "practically one people" with Russians.

Second, Beijing should make clear to the Kremlin that using nuclear weapons on the battlefield would put China in a very difficult situation. Beijing has maintained a policy of "no first use" of nuclear weapons for more than half a century.

While other defence policies have changed, this has held firm and China prides itself on having nuclear

Beijing could play a significant role in brokering a deal between the Kremlin and Nato

strategies which are the most stable, sustainable and predictable among nuclear powers.

The last thing Beijing wants now is a sour relationship with European capitals. At a time when the US is ramping up its competition with China, it is particularly important that Europe does not always take America's side. Putin has admitted that Beijing had "ques-

tions and concerns" about Russia's invasion - but if he uses nuclear weapons, then Beijing's response will go far beyond questions and concerns. Could China remain neutral in the event of international protests against Moscow? And could Beijing abstain from a UN Security Council vote condemning Russia for its actions?

Finally, Beijing could play a significant role in brokering a deal between Russia and Nato. For example, Nato could promise to halt any further expansion in exchange for Moscow agreeing not to use nuclear weapons. Such a compromise would save face on both sides. During the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, US president John F Kennedy and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev reached a similar agreement: the Soviets would dismantle their ballistic missiles in Cuba in exchange for a US pledge not to invade Cuba again. Secretly, America also agreed to dismantle all of the Jupiter medium-range ballistic missiles which had been stationed in Turkey for possible use against Russia.

Since Moscow's primary concern has

been Nato expansion, Putin might find this option worth considering. It would be worth thinking about for Nato too.

The alliance's expansion in the face of the Kremlin's warnings has helped push Europe to the brink of a nuclear conflict. Putin is right to conclude this is a war between Russia and the west rather than between Russia and Ukraine. As a goodwill gesture, Nato could pledge not to use nuclear weapons first against Russia or within Moscow's sphere of influence.

In a 2018 documentary, Putin asked, "Why do we need a world without Russia in it?" The answer should be, "But where is Russia without the world?" If Putin now opens a nuclear Pandora's box that was kept closed even during the cold war, it would be a moment of infinite stupidity.

China can help the world by simply telling Putin: don't use nuclear weapons, Mr President.

The writer is a former senior colonel in the People's Liberation Army and now senior fellow at the Center for International Security and Strategy at Tsinghua University

The end of Europe's energy crisis is in sight

Chris Giles



On Monday, the wholesale spot price of European natural gas went negative. For an hour, suppliers were willing to pay almost €16 to someone able to suck up a megawatt hour of gas, about the equivalent of an average UK household's monthly consumption. It was a remarkable turnaround for a market that saw record prices of over €300/MWh towards the end of August.

Of course, there were special forces at work. Although the negative price was recorded on the main Dutch benchmark for European gas, it was not seen everywhere across the continent. It lasted for one hour only and a more standard spot price now around €50/MWh remains twice the norm for European gas. And it occurred because liquefied natural gas supplies keep arriving in Europe when storage facilities are effectively full.

But it is important not to get too distracted by these caveats. All European gas prices have tumbled since Vladimir Putin decided to stop supplying the continent through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline at the end of August. Day-ahead prices are similar to the hourly rate of €50/MWh, month-ahead prices for November are €100/MWh, less than a third of the peak, and future prices for November 2023 are also down from almost €300/MWh to around €140.

It goes without saying that the tumbling cost of gas was neither Putin's intention nor the consensus expectation when the Russian president weaponised

Higher prices will lower gas demand, encourage other ways of making electricity and crush the amount used

Economic circumstances will still be difficult across Europe this winter, but that is exactly what has happened. The gas-hungry process of producing ammonia for fertiliser - a low value added business - ceased until a couple of days ago, with the bulk chemical imported from the US. Dirty coal and clean renewables have been used to substitute for gas in electricity generation.

Analysis by Ember, a consultancy, has found that there was a record year-on-year increase in solar and wind electricity generation across the EU between

Flood of green finance flow from west

ENVIRONMENT Gillian Tett



When the COP27 climate talks begin next month in Egypt, there will be dozens of depressing data points for delegates to consider. Here is one that has largely gone unnoticed: between 2019 and 2021, there were only \$14bn of so-called climate "blended finance" deals - structures that use public money to de-risk green investments - for poor countries.

This was less than half the volume seen in the previous three years. Yes, you read that right: even amid renewed calls to fight climate change around the world, blended finance has shrivelled in a most "disappointing and unexpected" way, says Joan Larrea, head of the Convergence group that collected the data.

This might not alarm non-financiers. After all, the phrase "blended finance" tends to sound worthy-but-dull, the financial policy equivalent of spinach. It never graces the lips - or placards - of activists such as Greta Thunberg.

But, as next month's meeting will show, developing countries feel increasingly angry about the lack of support

ter this, it needs to rapidly unplug the blended finance pipeline in what could be the single most sensible way to help.

Right now, global climate finance is in a bifurcated state of flood and drought. Parts of the environmental ecosystem are drowning in private funding, sending green asset valuations sky high. Financial groups such as Brookfield, General Catalyst and TPG (to name but a few) have raised tens of billions to support green projects.

Meanwhile, mainstream environmental, social and governance funds have swelled, despite the rightwing anti-ESG backlash. This is likely to continue, given that the younger generations in the west care more about green issues than their elders, and are set to inherit many trillions from them.

But the developing world faces a drought. Poor nations urgently need funding to switch from dirty activities (such as burning coal) to green equivalents. Yet western private sector capital currently shies away. This is partly because of political and currency risks but it also reflects a shortage of credit data, and the fact that developing country projects tend to be too small - and too opaque - to meet the criteria of the investment funds.

Until now, efforts to plug this gap have mostly focused on public or philanthropic funds. At the upcoming COP27 debates, for example, there will be demands for more climate aid from wealthy countries (which sees



filled a 2015 pledge for \$100bn annual help.)

There will also be demands for the multilateral development banks (MDBs), such as the World Bank, to extend dramatically more green loans. Mia Mottley, the Barbadian premier, wants more than \$100bn in such reserves to be repurposed for this cause with a further \$650bn in new issuance for clean-energy developments.

The World Bank has so far refused to do this, since its leaders fear losing their cherished AAA credit rating or having to change the bank charter. But encouragingly, US climate envoy John Kerry told me this week that the US, which is the bank's biggest shareholder, also wants reform. "We think that a significant increase in concession-

Developing countries feel angry about the lack of support from rich nations

from wealthier nations in tackling climate change. If the west wants to count...

unlikely to materialise given that rich nations, lamentably, have not yet ful...

support from rich nations in tackling climate change

Small experiments in this direction have occurred but, as the Convergence

gillian.tett@ft.com

Forget the humanoid – it's industrial robots that will transform the world

TECHNOLOGY

John Thornhill



When writer Simon Ings compiled a massive compendium of 100 of the most interesting stories written about robots, he was struck by one thing they had in common: how wrong they all were.

In the over-cafeinated imaginations of science fiction writers and film makers, robots are almost always depicted as humanoid creations that can help, care for, have sex with and, when they are feeling particularly evil, terminate humans. But the reality is that humanoid robots remain lousy at interacting with us in the physical world in the varied and instinctive ways humans do. What humanoid robots turn out to be good at is performing boring, func-

tional, repetitive tasks such as regulating road traffic – which does not make such great entertainment. The first such robot, later known as a traffic light, was unveiled near the Houses of Parliament in London in 1868.

"We were expecting friends, companions, or at any rate pets," Ings wrote in his book *We, Robots*. "What we got was infrastructure."

That is worth thinking about as we become distracted by the emergence of more lifelike humanoid robots, which most closely resemble science fiction. Earlier this month, amid his customary hype, Elon Musk unveiled Tesla's first humanoid robot, called Optimus.

Standing at 175cm tall and weighing 73kg, the bipedal Optimus robot has been designed to mimic a human. But several robotists were underwhelmed by its functionality, pointing out that in some respects it was less impressive than Honda's Asimo robot, which played football with then US president Barack Obama way back in 2014.

rebooted halfway through the session to make sense (a trait, some may say, it shares with some recent British politicians).

Humanoid robots may generate media coverage and fire the public's imagination but they are never going to transform our economies – or even make a decent cup of tea. By contrast, last year saw an extraordinary surge in the number of industrial and service

Society will have to become far more creative than most science fiction writers in how we collaborate

robots installed in factories, warehouses and workplaces around the world: this is certain to have a far bigger impact. In 2021, over 537,000 new industrial robots came on stream – 31 per cent more than in the year before – bringing the total global stock to a record 3.5mm. "The use of robotics and automation is growing at breathtaking speed," the

International Federation of Robotics noted in its annual report this month. The most enthusiastic adopters of industrial robots are found in Asia, which accounted for 74 per cent of all deployments last year. China led the field with a 51 per cent increase followed by Japan, the US and South Korea.

The UK was a rare exception in recording a 7 per cent fall, leaving the country lagging far behind other advanced economies. While the German car industry has installed 1,500 robots per 10,000 employees, the comparable figure in Britain is just 824.

This global surge in robot adoption is being driven by several trends: the demand for more miniaturised and higher tech products, the disruption of global supply chains caused by the Covid pandemic and the resulting impetus to reshore manufacturing, together with widespread labour shortages.

"We are sitting on some kind of demographic time bomb in many countries. We do not have enough people who can do things by hand," says Patrick Schwarkopf, an IFR executive board member. Schwarkopf says that the debate

about the use of robots is evolving fast. Whereas some economists had previously warned that AI-enabled robots would kill off swathes of human jobs, policymakers now see an urgent need to accelerate automation to fill the gaps left in the workforce by retiring baby boomers.

Even at its current high rates of immigration, Germany's 45mm strong workforce is set to shrink by between 4mm and 6mm by 2035, he says.

That suggests our societies will have to become far more creative than most science fiction writers in imagining how we can best collaborate with robots. Rather than constantly benchmarking them against humans, we should exploit their complementary capabilities.

As the roboticist Cynthia Yung has suggested, our obsession with humanoid robots replicating what humans can already do represents the assertion of form over function. Far better for function to inform form. Start with the human need and reverse engineer the robot to do what they do best.

john.thornhill@ft.com

March and September. Most impressive of all has been the reduction in consumption of gas by both industrial and domestic consumers, not merely related to the mild weather. In recent weeks, Germany's industrial use of gas has been around 20 to 25 per cent down on a year ago while its production in the sector was 2.1 per cent higher in August year on year. German household gas consumption is down similar amounts as families compete to see how far into autumn they can go without turning on the heating.

It is true that the prevailing view in the energy sector is that though there might not be enough gas this winter to avoid shortages and blackouts, the real worry is next winter because gas storage will not be replenished in the summer without Russian supply.

It is not often I am able to deliver good news, but these forecasts are also likely to be much too pessimistic. The price signal will encourage more investment in LNG terminals and in interconnectors across Europe to create a single gas market. But most important, higher prices will lower demand for gas, both by encouraging the development and use of other means of generating electricity and, directly, by crushing the amount consumed.

No one should feel delighted they are paying more for energy this winter, but the price signal has done its job. It has forced Europe to adapt. Advanced capitalist economies are remarkably successful in this regard.

chris.giles@ft.com

Lex

Twitter: @FTLex

Credit Suisse: complication plan

The latest restructuring at Credit Suisse includes a \$F4bn (\$4.05bn) capital raising and a redoubled focus on wealth management. Potential clients are entitled to ask this: how well will you manage my wealth when you have stewarded your own assets so badly? Many banks boast of building a wealth management franchise. Few have done so globally. Think of Morgan Stanley and UBS, which reallocated capital away from their investment banks. Creditably, their shares trade above their tangible book values. Credit Suisse stock is worth a miserable third of its TBV.

Hoping to turn the page on a woeful start, Credit Suisse aims to shrink its capital-hungry investment bank to five-fifths. This is at present hogging 32 per cent of risk-weighted assets. Most of those reside within a securitised products group that Apollo and Pimco plan to buy. The balance would tumble into a "bad bank" before being wound down.

The loss of deferred tax assets on the SPG unit contributed to a net loss of \$F4bn in the third quarter compared with \$F1.6bn the previous quarter. The bank plans to raise \$F4bn of capital next month from shareholders. New investor Saudi National Bank will take up \$F1.8bn of this. Net dilution will be at least 20 per cent, thinks Citigroup.

On a conference call, executives insisted they were simplifying the bank. Analysts seemed bemused. No wonder. The new core of Credit Suisse will be wealth, asset management and Swiss banking. But the group will keep a markets division, including equities, plus other investment banking units. On top of that, Credit Suisse will carve out a boutique investment bank. Its rebooted CS First Boston brand may lure nostalgic co-investors. Barclays, already a beneficiary of Credit Suisse's woes, will be rubbing its hands in hopes of mopping up more displaced clients. Credit Suisse is too cheap to be good value. Net interest income boosts via steeper interest rates could provide half of any revenue gain to 2025. That is a bet on higher-for-longer inflation. About 5,000 staffers will eventually go, 17 per cent of the total. The target

return on tangible equity of 6 per cent by 2025 is still the lowest of any European bank. To enjoy any credibility, Credit Suisse wealth managers would have to steer clients away from buying shares in their own employer.

Renewables investment: what the hay

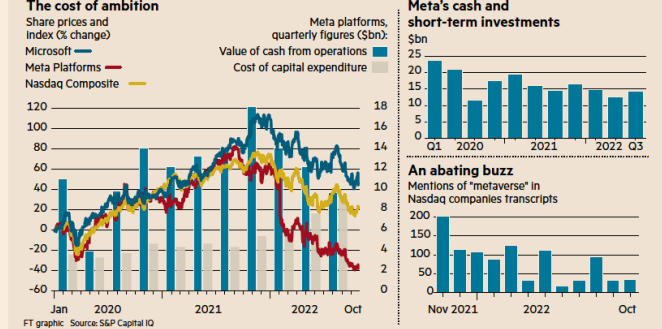
High oil and gas prices mean big producers gush with cash. But companies are not investing much of it back into their business, traditional or renewable. That speaks to the tight spot they are in – and does not bode well for the energy transition.

The story is the same across the board. Shell's third-quarter adjusted net income was \$9.4bn. That's off the boil compared with the second quarter, when oil prices averaged \$114 per barrel but still more than twice as high as last year. Adjusted net income at TotalEnergies was just shy of \$10bn – up from less than \$5bn the year before. This year's profits translate into bumper cash flows – which so far mostly cut debt or go back to shareholders. Nine month capital spending at Shell was some 35 per cent of cash flow. At Total it made up about a quarter.

Making hay while the sun shines is normal in cyclic industries. But this much hay suggests producers are in a strategic bind. On the fossil fuel side, that is to be expected. With the International Energy Agency warning on peaking or plateauing oil and gas demand, why would oil and gas companies invest in anything except for high-return, quick payback stuff? But businesses are also underpenalising on renewables, which the IEA reckons need double their current annual investment by 2030. At Shell, investments in wind and solar will be \$4bn this year – a sixth of its capex programme and 5.5 per cent of operating cash flow, which Goldman Sachs estimates at \$7bn this year. The same "growth" portfolio will account for a third of capital and operating expenditures. This includes other low-carbon businesses such as biofuels, carbon capture and electric vehicles. In renewables investment, we are still talking small beer. Building scale in new energies takes time – or a penchant for mergers and

Meta: bonfire of his vanities

Rising capital spending and slipping cash flows are spooking investors in Meta. Shares are undershooting peer stocks, although the group still sits on a big bulwark of cash. Business is losing some of its enthusiasm for the metaverse



Meta Platform's social media apps have historically been cash machines. In 2021, executive Mark Zuckerberg now appears intent on burning every last dollar generated. On Wednesday, the company behind Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp announced that in 2023 it would blow as much as \$39bn on capital expenditures. Operating expenses may touch \$100bn. Both figures would represent annual double-digit percentage growth as Zuckerberg goes all-in on artificial intelligence and the metaverse.

The problem is that those gaudy figures were shared in a report where third-quarter revenues shrunk by 4 per cent, year over year. Meta's core advertising business is wrestling with

threats from TikTok and a change in the Apple advertising system along with general economic slowdown. Wall Street was so alarmed by Zuckerberg's apparent defiance that it sent the company's shares down by more than a fifth yesterday. Meta's dilemma of a slowing legacy business is not unusual. But its pivot is uncertain, expensive and led by a boss who has few constraints on his actions. In the third quarter of 2021, Meta generated free cash flow of nearly \$10bn. In this year's third quarter, that number was just \$173m. It has a net cash balance of more than \$15bn and has imposed austerity across much of its social media banners. The spending on artificial intelligence and metaverse is simply

overwhelming. It is unclear how cutting-edge ventures will generate revenue. Snap, the main US rival of Facebook, has shed nearly 80 per cent of its equity value this year, buffeted by the dreadful advertising environment. In this sense, Meta's gambit to find some other place to play and use its war chest to do so is understandable. Public companies that have mutual fund investors and requirements to report quarterly are not ideal test beds for radical reinventions. Since its peak trillion-dollar market cap 15 months ago, Meta has lost \$800bn in equity value. Zuckerberg happens to be Meta's largest individual shareholder. That leaves him as the biggest victim of his own over-reach.

acquisitions. Expect oil majors to hoover up much bigger green energy groups instead.

Mastercard/Visa: swipe gripe

Every day, millions of Americans use their credit cards to buy things like a cup of coffee or a bagel. But behind these mundane transactions, a battle is brewing over billions of dollars of fees associated with moving and collecting those payments. When a consumer swipes their plastic, 2-3 per cent of the charge goes to payment networks and card-issuing banks. These charges add up quickly, as indicated by Mastercard's third-

quarter operating profits of \$3.1bn, up 14 per cent on the same period of 2021. Shoppers made \$5tn in purchases on credit cards last year, according to the Nilson Report. Merchants paid more than \$105bn in so-called swipe, or interchange, fees on those transactions – a 25 per cent jump from 2020. A new bill making its way through Congress is taking aim at those fees. The proposal will require banks with more than \$100bn in assets to allow merchants to route payments made on cards they issue on networks besides Visa or Mastercard. The two companies dominate the US card payments network. They handled more than 70 per cent of US credit card transactions last year. Greater competition could help lower costs for merchants and prices for shoppers.

In practice, consumers might not see much benefit. Visa and Mastercard set interchange rates but get only a small slice of the charges. It is credit card-issuing banks that collect the bulk of swipe fees. They often use the money to fund perks for cardholders. Smaller networks can offer merchants lower fees. But lower fees mean reduced profits for banks. They will try to make up the shortfall by raising card membership fees and interest rates and rolling back rewards. More than a decade ago, regulators mandated limits on debit card interchange fees. Unless they do the same for credit cards, Visa and Mastercard remain safe bets for investors. They may bring in lower fees per transaction but, unlike banks, they bear no default risk.

Samsung/JY Lee: South Korea expects

One genius ends up feeding 200,000 people. This was the theory of late Samsung group chair Lee Kun-hee. He built the Korean conglomerate into a \$280bn group. National as well as family expectations burden his son, who became executive chair of Samsung Electronics yesterday, Jay Y. Lee is stepping into the position at the most politically challenging time in the history of Samsung.

Lee's appointment fills an eight-year vacuum at the top of Samsung. His succession was complicated by political volatility and a prison term for bribery and embezzlement. He was pardoned in August. While Lee always held the status accorded to the Samsung heir, his new title will increase his authority. He had been the only head of a big conglomerate in South Korea to stick with the vague role of vice-chair. Shares in Samsung C&T, regarded as the holding company, rose more than 6 per cent yesterday. That is no help to the profitability of Samsung Electronics. Third-quarter earnings reported on the same day missed expectations. Operating profits fell 31 per cent to Won10.9tn (\$7.7bn). Shares are down a quarter this year and trade at 14 times forward earnings. That is still a 40 per cent premium to TSMC.

Samsung has outpaced its Taiwan peer technologically, becoming the first company to mass-produce next-generation 3nm chips. But Samsung is set to lose its number one position in chip sales to TSMC because its lags behind in contract chips. Its other core business, smartphones, is unlikely to offset that weakness. The executive chair needs to show political judgment as well as business acumen. Many nations hope Samsung will help them expand domestic chip capacity. The stakes are highest in the chip war between the US and China. Lee may not be a genius. But he does have the budget to hire smart advisers and the hard-earned life experience to balance their views in his decision-making. Geopolitical experts will be just as useful to him as technologists.

FT Lex on the web For notes on today's stories go to www.ft.com/lex

NIKKEI Asia The voice of the Asian century

CROSSWORD

No 17,237 Set by BRADMAN

ACROSS

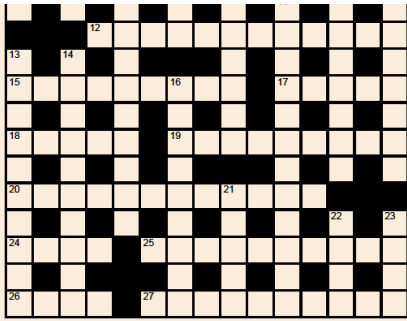
1 One thing on top of another? Simple to organise in days gone by (10)

6 Student events in the tabloids? (4)

9 Domestic space in no. 54, home with newly married man (6,4)

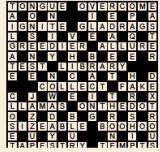
10 Attempt seen as mad on reflection





JOTTER PAD

Solution 17,236



- 12 Informally out of the groove? (3,3,6)
 15 Skilled worker, one to grumble about national organisation (9)
 17 Second chance to succeed in dire situation (5)
 18 A green means stop! (5)
 19 Heretic spouting insane rot (9)
 20 Support crazy sister about to be brought on board as businesswoman (12)
 24 17? No longer a maiden (4)
 25 Tip a laddie constructed for waste (10)
 26 Ordered to land, having discharged contents (4)
 27 Lowering of standards of fellows in phony debates (10)
- DOWN**
- 1 Soft drink without much colour (4)
 2 Priest being wicked, last character to get promotion (4)
 3 Erudite fellow, as St Paul was (3,2,7)
 4 Support godly person with something to get stuck into? (5)
 5 Soldiers on parade will have an inclination to obey this command (5,4)
 7 A superior god's trendy writing (10)
 8 Publishing job being convenient for educationist brought in (10)
 11 What could transform boudoir set? He possibly (7,5)
 13 Most disorganised and most aggressive? (10)
 14 Disorderly situation in which no one pays a price? (4-3-3)
 16 Unusual Argentine fruit (9)
 21 I laid into rodent with a rope (5)
 22 Unadorned pub with minimum of excitement (4)
 23 Port not drunk? (4)

MANUFACTURE CALIBRE [BR-CAL.323] • ±78-HOUR POWER RESERVE • CERTIFIED CHRONOMETER • 5-YEAR WARRANTY

NEW BR-X5
 ADVANCED TIME INSTRUMENTS

Bell & Ross