

Johnson's tax gamble, Canada waits and a doomed offshore utopia

Boris Johnson began last week determined to be the leader who finally solved one of Britain's most intractable political issues: how to fund the country's rising social care bill. He ended it as the man who imposed a manifesto-busting £12bn tax rise, taking public spending to its highest-ever peacetime level. In doing so he invoked the wrath of many Conservatives and a right-wing press that had once lionised him. But Johnson's big tax gamble also asked questions of the opposition Labour party, which seemed to have been caught entirely off guard.

In our big story, Toby Helm and Phillip Inman ask what Johnson's role-reversal on tax could mean for the future of both parties, as well as for the prime minister himself.

The big story Page 10 →

Eyebrows were raised when Canada's Justin Trudeau announced a snap election last month, giving the country just 36 days to decide whether to back or sack the Liberal prime minister. As next week's vote looms it's unclear as to whether Trudeau's gamble will pay off, with polls showing him narrowly trailing his Conservative rival Erin O'Toole. Leyland Cecco sets the scene and profiles Jagmeet Singh, the progressive who could prove to be kingmaker.

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Got cash to burn, entrepreneurial spirit and want to live in a floating tech utopia beyond the constraints of international fiscal regulation? That's what a group of wealthy investors envisaged when they bought an old cruise liner with the intention of anchoring it off the coast of Panama. Unfortunately things only got more complicated from there, as Sophie Elmhirst reveals.

Sail of the century Page 34 →

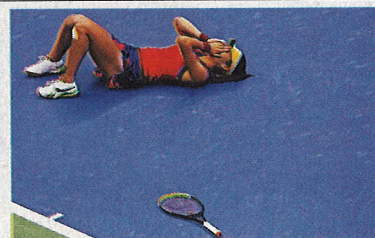


On the cover

Has Boris Johnson really gone red? It was a week when it seemed British politics could be changing profoundly, as the consequences of living with Covid-19 and reshaping care services had to be faced. But the mood on both sides of the Commons swung wildly amid the uncertainties, causing anxieties and a sense of dislocation.

Photograph: Neil Hall/EPA

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