

Biden on a hot streak, Partition 75 years on and Rushdie stabbing

Joe Biden's political capital is riding high after a key plank of his legislative programme came to fruition. But the US president has greeted this "hot streak" in his usual quiet fashion. For his predecessor, it was a decidedly rough week after his home was raided by the FBI, looking for official documents that Donald Trump had held on to after his presidential term had ended. The reaction was a typical explosion of rage and accusation. David Smith, our Washington bureau chief, follows this compare-and-contrast theme to see which of the two men, who at this juncture still look likely to face each other again in the 2024 presidential election, came out on top.

The big story [Page 10](#) →

We report on two anniversaries in one region this week as Monday marked 75 years since the Partition of India, as well as a year since Afghanistan returned to Taliban rule. Our world affairs editor, Julian Borger, examines the extent to which Pakistan and India are still scarred by a final, brutal colonial flourish that divided communities, while a photo essay from Kabul focuses on how women's rights have been eroded in the past year.

Spotlight [Pages 15 and 20](#) →

The shocking news of the stabbing of Salman Rushdie reminded the world of the importance of free speech and how the efforts of ideological fanatics to curb it must be resisted. As Margaret Atwood writes on our Opinion pages, attacks on writers are a cheap populist distraction, while on the news pages we look at how Rushdie's novel *The Satanic Verses* triggered hatred against him.

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On the cover

Joe Biden has reasons to be hopeful, for the planet's future and the Democrats' prospects in autumn's midterms after his "Bidenomics" bill passed both Houses of Congress. Our cover reflects Biden's unshowy style, in contrast with the fury of his predecessor Donald Trump's reaction to an FBI raid on his home.

Photograph: John Locher/AP