

## Catch up: Israel strikes southern Lebanon; China braces for more tariffs



**Israel** hit sites in southern **Lebanon** with artillery fire and air strikes. The army said it had acted after intercepting rockets that were fired earlier in the day into northern Israel. The incidents further weaken the [ceasefire](#) that Israel agreed on with Hizbullah, a Lebanon-based Shia militia, in November after a year of war. Each side has accused the other of violating the truce's terms.

**China's** prime minister, Li Qiang, said that his country was bracing for "unexpected shocks" from the intensifying trade war with America. Mr Li, China's top economic official, told global [business leaders](#) in Beijing that China's philosophy differs from America's. Countries should "open up markets" and companies should "share their resources" more. Donald Trump is expected to announce more tariffs on April 2nd.

**Pope Francis** made his first public appearance since he was hospitalised more than five weeks ago with a life-threatening case of double pneumonia. The 88-year-old pontiff waved to crowds and offered a brief Sunday blessing from a balcony of his hospital in

Rome. He is set to be discharged on Sunday for at least two months of rest and convalescence at the Vatican.

Thousands of protesters across **Turkey** continued to call for the release of **Ekrem Imamoglu**, the [opposition mayor of Istanbul](#). Authorities said people thought to be planning to attend rallies would be barred from the city. Police arrested Mr Imamoglu on Wednesday on corruption charges, days before he was set to announce his candidacy for Turkey's presidential election in 2028. He denies the allegations.

**Britain** launched an investigation into the power failure caused by a fire at an electrical substation that closed [Heathrow airport](#) on Friday. Britain's energy secretary, Ed Miliband, said the operator of the national electricity grid should draw lessons on "energy resilience for critical national infrastructure". Britain's largest airport was operating again on Saturday, but travel disruptions are expected for days.

Donald Trump rescinded **security clearances** and access to classified information for several of his political opponents, including **Kamala Harris**, Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden. [The president](#) also revoked the clearances of top Biden administration officials, including Antony Blinken, the former secretary of state. Mr Biden withdrew Mr Trump's security clearance soon after he left office in 2021.

**Venezuela** agreed to accept deportation flights from America once more. It stopped doing so last month, but changed course after 238 alleged Venezuelan gang members were deported to a prison in El Salvador. On Friday the Trump administration announced that it will revoke the temporary right to remain in America of more than 500,000 [migrants](#) from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

**Word of the week:** *Jingwai*, the ambiguous word that Lai Ching-te, Taiwan's president, used to refer to China on March 13th. [Read](#)

the full story.

*How closely have you followed the week's news? [Play our pint-sized news quiz](#) to see if you're truly clued up on current affairs, or if you've barely skimmed the headlines.*

# Turkey's turning-point



Protests have rocked Turkey in recent days, as outrage mounts over the [arrest on Wednesday](#) of Ekrem Imamoglu, mayor of Istanbul and the country's leading opposition politician. The authorities banned public gatherings shortly after the arrest, and restricted access to social media. But the protests could nonetheless swell over the weekend, especially if Mr Imamoglu is remanded in custody.

At a primary on Sunday, the Republican People's Party, to which Mr Imamoglu belongs, will almost certainly choose him as its candidate in the next presidential election. That is due in 2028, but widely expected to be held earlier. Unless he is released pending trial, Mr Imamoglu will receive the nomination behind bars. Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, believed to have ordered his biggest rival's arrest, will probably make sure he stays there for a long time. Turkish democracy is in grave danger.

## Getting set for an election in Canada



Mark Carney, Canada's prime minister for just over a week, is expected to call an election on Sunday to seek his own mandate. The former central banker is a political neophyte. But his election to lead Canada's Liberals, and thus become prime minister, has coincided with the party's [surge to the top of opinion polls](#), having long trailed Pierre Poilievre's Conservatives.

Two people not on the ballot, Justin Trudeau and Donald Trump, helped trigger the turnaround. Mr Trudeau, unpopular after nine years in office, announced his resignation as prime minister in January; supporters who had abandoned the Liberals thus returned. Meanwhile Mr Trump's imposition of tariffs on Canada and calls for the country to become America's 51st state have made Mr Poilievre's own populist style less appealing. Mr Carney will now fancy his chances in the election, which will probably be held on April 28th or May 5th.

# The problems of Syria's transition



Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, has publicly offered to co-operate with Syria's government, nearly four months after many of its members helped to topple his longstanding ally, Bashar al-Assad. His remarks followed a pledge of €5.8bn (\$6.3bn) from Western donors, led by the European Union, on March 17th. The funds, however, are conditional on Syria's authorities demonstrating a "credible" and "inclusive" transition.

Sanctions relief from America has so far been limited. But a delegation from Washington is soon expected to visit Damascus to outline conditions for easing financial restrictions. The Trump administration will probably focus on the protection of minorities, particularly Christians. Meanwhile Syria's president, [Ahmed al-Sharaa](#)—a former member of al-Qaeda, a terrorist group—is under growing political pressure. He has promised an independent report into sectarian violence that shook the coastal regions this month in the coming weeks. And his pledge to form a transitional government, originally by early March, remains unfulfilled.



## McLaren sets the F1 pace



The first Formula One grand prix of the year is always revealing. Pre-season testing is so limited that it takes an actual race to determine which cars (and drivers) will be competitive. At Australia's season-opener last weekend, McLaren seemed to have the edge. Its car was both a second quicker per lap than the rest of the field and notably lighter on its tyres. That enabled one of its drivers, Lando Norris, to seize the advantage in the final stretches. Red Bull's serial champion, Max Verstappen, drove well but his car lagged behind; Ferrari's new recruit, Sir Lewis Hamilton, was stuck in the middle of the grid.

Fans will get another chance to survey the field at this weekend's race in Shanghai. The forecast is dry and sunny, in contrast with the wet conditions in Melbourne. If Mr Norris is top of the podium again, he will probably become the favourite for this season's championship.

# Victor Hugo's forgotten drawings



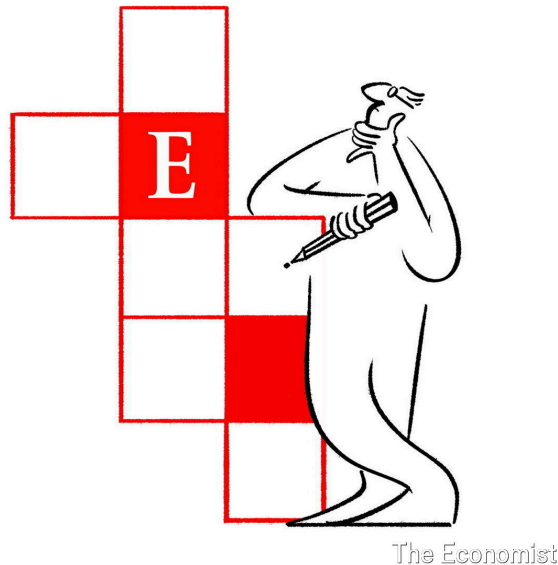
CC0 Paris Musées/Maisons de Victor Hugo

In 1890 Vincent van Gogh described Victor Hugo's works as "astonishing things". You might suppose the Dutch painter was complimenting the French author's novels. Hugo's reputation rests on classics such as "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" (1831) and "Les Misérables" (1862). But art historians wonder whether van Gogh had in mind Hugo's surreal drawings, which were exhibited for the first time in Paris in 1888, three years after the writer's death.

The Royal Academy in London takes van Gogh's phrase as the title of a new exhibition. "Astonishing Things" assembles 70 rarely displayed drawings. In the margins of manuscripts Hugo penned murky landscapes and haunting towers with leftover ink. Yet his visual style couldn't be more different from his literary one. In his novels he created what Roland Barthes, a French philosopher, later dubbed the "illusion of reality". Hugo's drawings focus on fantasy: spectres, spiders' webs and sea creatures fill his scenes. Viewers may, like van Gogh, find themselves astonished.



# Weekly crossword



We now publish an interactive edition of our crossword, allowing you to enter and check the answers, and see explanations, instantly. Try it [here](#). Or, if you prefer to do things the old-fashioned way, use the grid below.

Our crossword has two sets of clues, one for seasoned cruciverbalists and the other for less experienced solvers. Both give the same answers, all of which feature in articles in this week's edition of *The Economist*:

## Cryptic clues

*1 down* Trump's controversial promise of French wine and a horrible stain with an egg in it (12)

*1 across* Little Deborah, Tom said initially, must be paid off (5)

*2 across* Tesla, formerly cash central, is a state (5)

*3 across* Sounds like appropriate thing to make cars out of (5)

## Factual clues

*1 down* Actions taken against alleged Venezuelan gang members in America last week (12)

*1 across* Liabilities being racked up by several countries to pay for defence, among other things (5)

*2 across* True-blue southern state, whose economy is growing fast (5)

*3 across* One of the domestic industries Donald Trump is trying to protect through tariffs (5)

Email all four answers, along with your home city and country, by 9am GMT on Monday to [crossword@economist.com](mailto:crossword@economist.com). We will pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners in next week's edition.

## The winners of this week's quiz



*The Economist*

Thank you to everyone who took part in this week's quiz. The winners, chosen at random, were:

**Ewoud Roes**, Bucharest, Romania

**Mark Kelly**, Dublin, Ireland

**Jakob Vielsoe-Nielsen**, Naestved, Denmark

They all gave the correct answers of 16, farewell, "The Favourite", mountain, and Maria Callas. The theme is songs in "The Sound of Music": "Sixteen Going On Seventeen", "So Long, Farewell", "My Favourite Things", "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" and "Maria".

The questions were:

**Monday:** How many fluid ounces equal a pint in America?

**Tuesday:** How is Haydn's 45th symphony generally known?

**Wednesday:** Olivia Colman won an Oscar for playing Queen Anne in which 2018 film?

**Thursday:** Fold, dome and plateau are all types of which geographical feature?

**Friday:** Angelina Jolie recently played which opera singer in a movie biopic?





**Do not the most moving moments of our  
lives find us all without words?**

*Marcel Marceau*