

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter

**Sergey Lavrov** said the Russian-occupied [Zaporizhia nuclear power plant](#) in **Ukraine** was “in very good hands”. Russia’s foreign minister was responding to President Donald Trump’s suggestion that Ukraine and America could jointly control the plant after a ceasefire. Meanwhile Vladimir Putin, Russia’s president, hailed the “full defeat” in Kursk of Ukrainian forces, who partially occupied the Russian region last summer. Ukrainian officials denied the claim.

At least 11 people were killed and more than 20 wounded after a car drove into crowds at a street festival in **Vancouver**. Police said they had arrested the driver, a 30-year-old man, and that the attack “was not an act of terrorism”. The festival was being held for Lapu Lapu Day, an annual celebration in the Philippines.

**India** shared footage of its navy [testing missiles at sea](#) to demonstrate its readiness to carry out a “long-range precision offensive strike”. Tensions between [India and Pakistan](#) have risen since April 22nd when gunmen killed 26 people in Jammu & Kashmir, a Muslim-majority region that both countries claim. India has accused Pakistan of being involved in the attack.

[Jordan Bardella](#) told *Le Parisien* that he would be the candidate for the hard-right **National Rally** in France’s presidential election in 2027 if Marine Le Pen, his political mentor, is barred from standing. Ms Le Pen was found guilty of embezzlement in March and is appealing a five-year ban on running for public office. She denies wrongdoing.

Jens-Frederick Nielsen, the prime minister of **Greenland**, repeated his rejection of [Donald Trump’s offers to buy the territory](#), saying

that it is not “a piece of property”. Mr Nielsen was visiting Denmark, which has sovereignty over the self-governing island, to meet Mette Frederiksen, the country’s prime minister. On Monday King Frederik of Denmark will begin a four-day visit to Greenland.

**Binyamin Netanyahu** accused [Ronen Bar](#), the head of **Israel’s** domestic-security agency, of “lies and contradictions” after he alleged that Mr Netanyahu demanded his personal loyalty and ordered him to spy on anti-government protestors. Israel’s prime minister tried to sack Mr Bar in March but was blocked by the Supreme Court. Mr Bar’s agency has been investigating alleged corruption by Mr Netanyahu’s aides.

Some 75% of **Britons** think the [country’s economy](#) will get worse over the next 12 months, according to Ipsos MORI. The pollster’s figures suggest that Britons are the least optimistic they have been about the economy since it began collecting data in 1978. Sir Keir Starmer, Britain’s prime minister, has pledged to deliver the fastest-growing GDP per capita in the G7.

**Word of the week:** *papabili*, an Italian term meaning “pope-able,” used to describe cardinals considered contenders to become the next pope. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Getty Images

## Drills in the Philippines anger China

On Sunday America's armed forces begin the second of three weeks of exercises in the Philippines. They will rehearse a defence of the archipelago's northernmost islands neighbouring Taiwan. China's foreign ministry has condemned the drills; in a show of force, a Chinese aircraft-carrier strike group sailed within three nautical miles of the islands on April 24th.

America and the Philippines signed a treaty pledging to defend each other in 1951. The allies' annual drills, known as Exercise Balikatan—or “shoulder-to-shoulder” in Filipino—long focused on counter-terrorism and disaster relief. But since President Ferdinand Marcos [came to office in 2022](#), their emphasis has shifted to deterring [Chinese aggression](#) against the Philippines and Taiwan. This year, for the first time, America has deployed a new, highly mobile missile system capable of hitting Chinese ships in the Taiwan Strait and then getting away before China's armed forces can find them. China's hostile response may seek to make Mr Marcos reconsider his reliance on America, but it is more likely to drive them closer together.



Photograph: EPA

## **The frontrunner in South Korea's presidential election**

South Korea will hold snap presidential elections on June 3rd to replace Yoon Suk Yeol, who was impeached for declaring martial law late last year. But first the country's leading parties must select their candidates. The Democratic Party, the main left-wing opposition force, confirmed its nominee on Sunday. Lee Jae-myung, the long-time DP leader, emerged victorious.

The son of janitors, Mr Lee rose from abject poverty to become a human-rights lawyer and eventually to scale the heights of South Korean politics. He has dominated the DP since the last presidential elections in 2022, when he was also the nominee and narrowly lost to Mr Yoon. Throughout the party's blitz primary process he racked up overwhelming victories. Among the wider public he is a divisive figure; he survived an assassination attempt by a knife-wielding extremist ahead of parliamentary elections last year. But he will be the clear front-runner in the presidential contest.



Photograph: Getty Images

## What next for Gaza?

Israel's leadership is split over whether to [broaden](#) ground operations in Gaza. In two cabinet meetings last week, ministers demanded that the Israeli army capture more areas within the coastal strip where Hamas still holds sway. The chief of the Israel Defence Forces, Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir, is more wary of expanding operations. His hesitation is due partly to a lack of manpower for his exhausted army and also a concern for the safety of the Israeli hostages still held by Hamas.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the prime minister, has so far dithered. He has another reason to prevaricate. He is under pressure from the American and Egyptian governments to accept another ceasefire deal with Hamas. But Mr Netanyahu's main concern is that he has no influence in the [nuclear talks](#) between America and Iran. For now most of his attention appears to be there, leaving the war in Gaza rumbling on.





Photograph: Getty Images

## **Australia's dingoes are not going to the dogs**

[Dingoes](#), distant cousins of dogs, arrived in Australia from Asia thousands of years ago. Domestic dogs were brought over in recent centuries. Until recently, it was assumed these canines were enthusiastically interbreeding. Not so, according to recent genetic studies. They show the vast majority of wild-living canines to be “pure” dingo. Indeed, the dingo lineage is becoming a separate species entirely.

This discovery has implications for how Australia manages dingoes' threat to livestock. Culling programmes use the catch-all label “wild dogs”. But these are mostly dingoes (ecologically and culturally important) rather than mongrel hybrids (invasive pests). The state of Victoria has led the way in acting on the new science. But its approach is muddled, protecting one threatened dingo population in the north-west while continuing to cull dingoes in the east—despite listing all dingoes as “vulnerable”. An animal welfare group, concerned that the dingo might go the way of the dodo, filed legal proceedings in response.



Illustration: The Economist

## The winners of this week's quiz

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

**Bob Bell**, Roseville, California, Britain

**Ailsa Green**, Choma, Zambia

**Andrej Galogaža**, Zagreb, Croatia

They all gave the correct answers of Marriage Story, Jupiter, Don Quixote, the flute and kleine. The theme is works by Mozart: The Marriage of Figaro, Jupiter symphony, Don Giovanni, The Magic Flute and Eine Kleine Nachtmusik.

The questions were:

**Monday:** Which 2019 film, starring Adam Driver and Scarlett Johansson as a divorcing couple, saw Laura Dern pick up an academy award for best supporting actress?

**Tuesday:** The Great Red Spot is a centuries-old storm visible on which planet?

**Wednesday:** Alonso Quijano is better known as the title character of which famous novel?

**Thursday:** James Galway is a famous soloist on which instrument?

**Friday:** What German word can mean both “small” and “little girl”?





Illustration: The Economist

## This week's crossword

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*.

We now publish an interactive edition of our crossword twice a week, 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.

### Cryptic clues

*1 down* Once central bank chief, assess an endlessly scary currency u-turn (4, 6)

*1 across* A Tesla car is average, dull and silly, ultimately (5,1)

*2 across* In a trench in a country in a trade war (5)

*3 across* Throws in the towel—and profits! (6)

## Factual clues

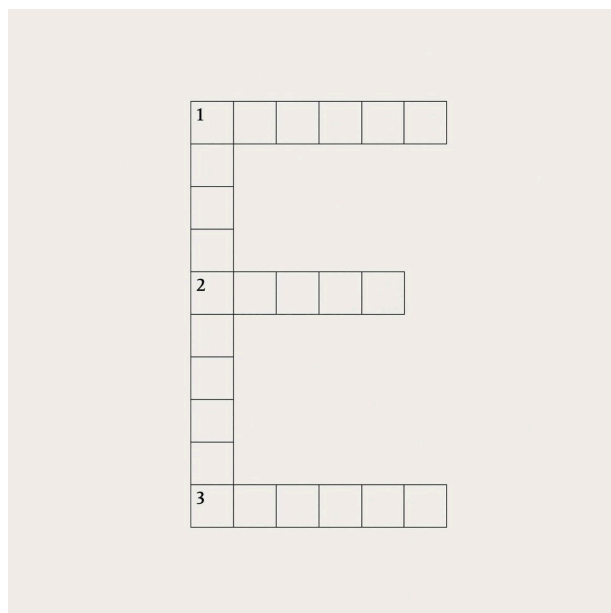
*1 down* The favourite to be prime minister after upcoming Canada's election (4,6)

*1 across* A Tesla vehicle even Republicans are failing to buy (5,1)

*2 across* The only country currently hit with Trump's "reciprocal" tariffs (5)

*3 across* These returns from American bonds are rising (6)

Email all four answers, along with your home city and country, by 9am BST on Monday to [\[email protected\]](#). We will pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners in next week's edition.



*How much more grievous are the consequences of anger than the causes of it.*

---

***Marcus Aurelius***