

Catch up: America's tariff chaos; Russia's strike on Sumy



Howard Lutnick, America's commerce secretary, said that although certain electronics, including phones and computers, were now exempt from Donald Trump's [145% tariffs](#) on Chinese goods, they would be subject to future levies on semiconductors. Earlier China described the exemption, which was announced on Friday, as a "small step" towards correcting America's "wrongful action". Mr Lutnick said chip tariffs would probably arrive in "a month or two".

A Russian missile strike killed at least 34 people in Sumy, a city in north-eastern **Ukraine**, according to Ukrainian officials. Each side has accused the other of violating an American-brokered moratorium on attacks on energy and infrastructure. On Friday [Steve Witkoff](#), a negotiator for Donald Trump, met Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, to relay a message: "get moving" on a ceasefire deal.

Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema was elected the president of **Gabon**. The election was Gabon's first since General Oligui Nguema [led a](#)

[coup](#) in 2023 that overthrew Ali Bongo, scion of a family that had ruled over the central African country since 1967, and became the “transitional president”. General Oligui Nguema won more than 90% of the vote, according to provisional results.

Josh Shapiro, the governor of Pennsylvania, and his family were evacuated from the governor’s residence after someone set fire to it. Mr Shapiro, who was once in contention to be Kamala Harris’s running-mate in the 2024 presidential election, was at the residence celebrating the Jewish holiday of Passover. Police say that they are investigating the incident as arson.

America and **Iran** said they had held “positive and constructive” talks in Oman about the Iranian nuclear programme. The countries also said that they had agreed to reconvene next week for further discussion. On March 30th Mr Trump threatened to bomb Iran, which is alarmingly close to developing the nuclear bomb, if it did not [agree to a deal](#).

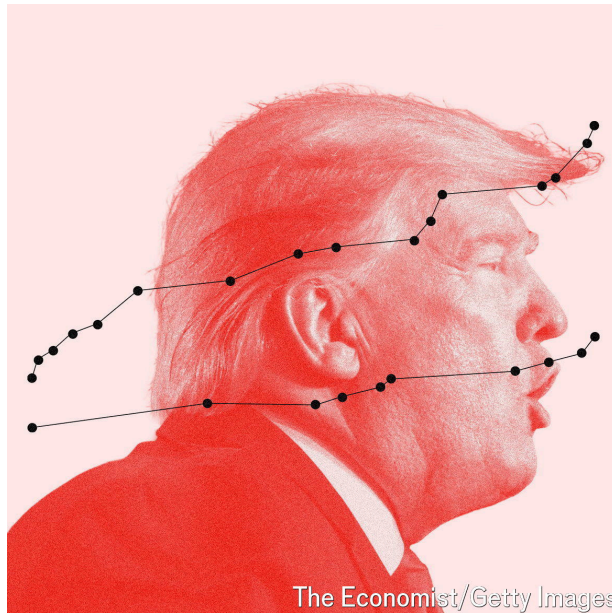
An Israeli air strike hit the Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital, the only hospital in **Gaza** city that is still operating. The Israel Defence Forces had issued an evacuation order before the assault, which it said was intended to knock out a Hamas “command and control” centre in the medical facility. Gaza’s Hamas-controlled ministry of health said that one patient died during the exodus.

Thousands of **Hungarians** protested in Budapest against a ban, passed by parliament last month, on the annual Pride march. Fidesz, the party of prime minister [Viktor Orbán](#) and the dominant force in parliament, say the LGBT+ festival could harm children. The Hungarian government has long sought to suppress homosexuality. Critics alleged the ban is part of an attempt to curb civil liberties before elections next year.

Word of the week: Steel porcupine, what Europe hopes to turn Ukraine into. [Read the full story](#).

*In a turbulent week of news, have you kept up with the headlines?
Play this week's [pint-sized news quiz](#) and find out what you may
have missed.*

Trump's ratings take a hit



Most presidents begin their term with a honeymoon period, during which the public is enamoured with its leader. In this, as in so much else, Donald Trump is an exception. More Americans viewed him unfavourably than favourably for the entirety of his first term in office—and that remained true when he was re-elected in November. That briefly changed in December and early January, but his net favourability barely turned positive.

His popularity has declined ever since. His announcement of damaging global tariffs on April 2nd sent his net favourability plunging as stocks plummeted and bond yields spiked. Will he regain some popularity now that he has paused some of the measures? You can see his standing on our [presidential tracker](#), which shows Mr Trump's latest polling numbers, based on YouGov surveys for *The Economist*. We're also monitoring economic data, executive orders and the legal challenges facing his government.

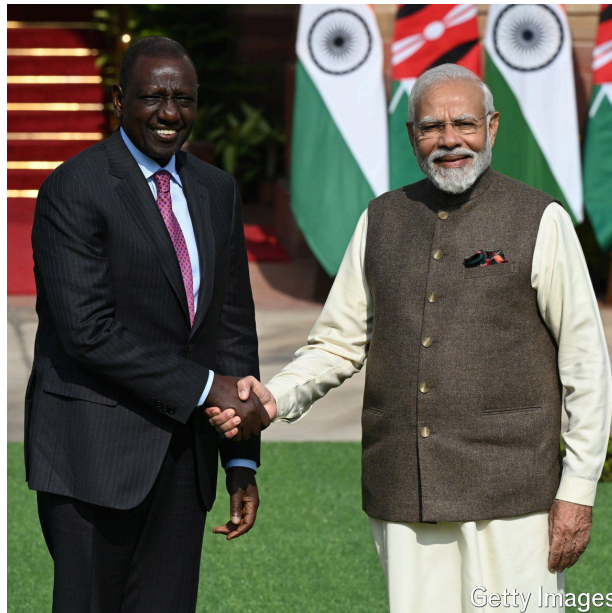
Ecuador's uncertain election



On Sunday Ecuadorians vote in a [presidential run-off](#) between Daniel Noboa, the 37-year-old incumbent, and Luisa González, a leftist and ally of Rafael Correa, a former president. Mr Noboa comfortably defeated Ms González in the October 2023 snap election. But this time around she has been polling slightly ahead of him.

One reason is Ecuador's deepening crisis of gang violence. Mr Noboa has taken a hardline approach, deploying the army and emulating El Salvador's president, Nayib Bukele. The murder rate initially fell but has since leapt, and reports of abuses by soldiers are growing. Meanwhile, the economy is sluggish, despite Mr Noboa's push for free-trade deals. Critics say that Mr Noboa, the son of one of Ecuador's richest men, is out of touch. Ms González offers a return to Mr Correa's populism. He governed the country for a decade but fled to Belgium in 2017 to dodge corruption charges. No matter who wins, Ecuadorians have reason to worry.

India looks to deepen ties with Africa



On Sunday India kicks off joint naval drills in the Indian Ocean with ten African countries, including Kenya and South Africa. Two features of Indian statecraft will be on display. The first is an [obsession with acronyms](#). The exercises, dubbed AIKEYME (which means “unity” in Sanskrit but also stands for Africa-India Key Maritime Engagement), are part of a new foreign-policy doctrine of MAHASAGAR (“ocean”, or the “Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions”).

More substantively, the war games will demonstrate India’s keenness to deepen co-operation with countries in Africa—where its rival China already has a strong presence. India believes the drills, which will be held every two years and broadened to include other countries, will consolidate its role as the “preferred security partner” in the Indian Ocean, which is crucial for global trade. Amid Trump-induced uncertainty, India is also looking for other export markets. It hopes the exercises can boost trade with Africa, especially through greater defence exports.

Power shifts in the Vatican



Christians mark the start of the holiest week in their calendar today on Palm Sunday, and will end it with Easter, the commemoration of Jesus's resurrection. It is typically a time when Roman Catholics look to Rome and the pope—especially in a jubilee year like 2025, marked by special celebrations.

[Pope Francis](#) is still recovering from a life-threatening case of pneumonia. But on Saturday he crossed Rome to pray at the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. That followed an unexpected appearance in St Peter's Square on Thursday and an equally unexpected meeting the day before with King Charles III and Queen Camilla during the British monarch's state visit. Pope Francis's determination to be seen is understandable. But is it wise? His immune system has been weakened and his doctors worry he may be infected again if he interacts with too many people. But as one of them said: "He decides. He is the pope."

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 Weird handiwork cult with big influence over the global economy (6, 7)

1 across Desire distorts her gun (6)

2 across A chunk of wood in charge? Does that make sense? (5)

3 across Estonian heard heartless diva (6)

Factual clues

1 down Trump official with hardline views on tariffs

1 across What Viola Davis's character in a new film has a plan to end

2 across What is wanting in Scott Bessent's approach to trade

3 across Politician whose brainchild is a way to support Ukraine's military efforts

Email all four answers, along with your home city and country, by 9am GMT on Monday to 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:

Lars Bergkvist, Stavanger, Norway

James Salvin-Keech, Inverurie, Britain

Alexandra Sivov, Poitiers, France.

They all gave the correct answers of Nicole Kidman, Bette Midler, Jason Momoa, Bruno Mars and Barack Obama. The theme is that they were all born in Hawaii.

The questions were:

Monday: Who won an Oscar for appearing in “The Hours” and Emmys for her roles as producer and actress in “Big Little Lies”?

Tuesday: Which singer won Grammy awards for “The Rose” and “Wind Beneath My Wings”?

Wednesday: Which muscular actor played Khal Drogo in “Game of Thrones” and Aquaman in various DC movies?

Thursday: Which singer-songwriter was born Peter Gene Hernandez?

Friday: Which politician became junior senator for Illinois in the 2004 election?

Steel porcupine

*What Europe hopes to turn Ukraine into.
Read the full story.*

The surest test of discipline is its absence.

Clara Barton