

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter

China said it would “speed up” approval of licences for rare-mineral exports to some European companies, as concerns mount over global supply shortages. China introduced tighter limits on the exports in response to Donald Trump’s tariffs. But its commerce ministry now says it will establish a “green channel” for some export approvals. Earlier Mr Trump said America and China would hold [trade talks](#) on Monday.

The Trump administration said it would deploy 2,000 National Guard troops in a bid to quell a second day of protests in **Los Angeles**. Angry crowds gathered in response to at least three immigration sweeps conducted there on Friday, in which at least 44 migrants were arrested. The Trump administration has vowed to crack down on [illegal immigration](#). More than 30% of Los Angeles’s residents are immigrants.

Miguel Uribe, a presidential contender in **Colombia**, was shot in Bogota. His wife said he was “fighting for his life”. The 39-year-old senator was wounded by “armed subjects” during a campaign event, according to a statement released by the opposition conservative Democratic Center party, to which Mr Uribe belongs. Police arrested a suspect and offered \$730,000 for more information.

Russia accused Ukraine of indefinitely postponing a prisoner swap agreed to during recent peace talks in Istanbul. [Ukraine](#) denied the claims and called on Russia to complete the swap “in the coming days”. Meanwhile **Russian** drone and missile strikes killed at least four people in **Kharkiv**; officials said it was the biggest attack on Ukraine’s second city so far.

Israel said it had recovered the body of a Thai citizen captured during the attacks of October 7th 2023. Israel Katz, the defence minister, suggested that the Mujahideen Brigades, a militant group, killed Nattapong Pinta, a farm worker. [Israel's](#) armed forces continued their bombardment of Gaza. Palestinian health officials said Israeli strikes killed at least 95 people in the enclave on Friday and Saturday.

Iranian state media said the country's spy services had taken a big haul of "sensitive" state documents from **Israel**, including material related to nuclear facilities. The reports suggested that Israel had arrested two of its citizens for working with Iran in connection to the incident. Israel has yet to comment on the claims. Iran is in [talks with America](#) over its own nuclear programme.

Coco Gauff won the women's title at the **French Open**, the first American victory at the tennis tournament in ten years. The 21-year-old beat Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in a closely fought three-set match. It is the world number two's second Grand Slam title, having won the us Open in 2023.

Word of the week: *kriegstüchtig*, German for "war-ready". The country is spending big to bolster its army—and debating whether citizens must do their bit too. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Reuters

Dark clouds over Pride in America

After three weeks of fashion shows, drag story hours and, of course, a spectacular parade, WorldPride officially wraps up on Sunday. Every year the organisers of [Pride festivals](#) around the world select a city to host the flagship festival of queer culture. This year it's been Washington, DC.

Dark clouds have loomed over the festival. The Trump administration has made its contempt for queer people, and especially trans women, clear. It has announced measures both significant, such as prohibiting transgender people from military service, and petty, like deciding to announce during Pride month that a ship named for Harvey Milk, a Navy veteran and one of America's first openly gay public officials, would be rechristened. Corporations have sensed which way the wind is blowing—firms that once bragged about their support for Pride have this year fallen silent. Some would-be revelers have been unnerved by all this, but most refused to let the ill political weather ruin their parade. After all, showers bring out the rainbow.



Photograph: Getty Images

The thriving Murdoch empire

As the Murdochs, a family of media magnates, continue their decades-long, multi-billion-dollar family feud, the empire they are fighting over is [flourishing](#). Why are Fox Corporation and News Corp, legacy media companies, so popular with investors?

Start with Fox. Its share value has soared, in large part because of its content mix. In 2019 Fox sold its general-entertainment assets to Disney for \$71bn, deciding to focus on news and sport. It was the right call. And News Corp, which holds titles including the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Post*, is also thriving. That is mainly because the company has a 61% stake in REA Group, a publicly traded Australian property-listing platform.

But change could be on the way. Rupert Murdoch seems determined to pass his empire on to his eldest son, Lachlan. But a challenge by his three siblings could raise the chances of a sale or break-up. That too has stoked enthusiasm for the stocks in some quarters.



Photograph: AP

A star-studded Tonys

It's Broadway's biggest night of the year: the Tony Awards, held at Radio City Music Hall. Nominees include an unusual number of film stars, whose presence in a Broadway production boosts ticket prices. Those up for best actor in a play include Bob Odenkirk, who played the hapless Shelley Levene in [David Mamet's](#) bilious "Glengarry Glen Ross", and George Clooney, who played Edward R. Murrow in "Goodnight, and Good Luck". Sarah Snook of "[Succession](#)" is up for best actress for playing 26 roles in "The Picture of Dorian Gray".

"John Proctor is the Villain", about a group of high-school students reading Arthur Miller's "The Crucible", is a strong candidate for best play, but may be pipped by "Oh, Mary!", a camp comedy about Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln. The Tonys are more fun than the Emmys or Oscars, especially if Mr Clooney follows through on his promise to shave his head if his ghastly black dye job from "Good Night" has not grown out by then.



Photograph: Getty Images

A classic match-up on the Paris clay

Since mid-2024 Jannik Sinner (pictured) has become one of the most dominant athletes on the planet. The Italian tennis star has played 50 matches and won 48 of them. He is close to becoming the complete player: his forehand is enormous, his backhand is formidable and his serve has become ever more of a threat. He also appears to have the temperament for the biggest moments, as he has won all three of his Grand Slam finals.

On Sunday, in the French Open final, he plays his fourth, and against the only man to have beaten him during his 50-match run, his great rival Carlos Alcaraz, a young Spaniard who has already won four Grand Slams. This is the first time the pair have met in such a final, so it's the biggest match of their burgeoning rivalry. Given the ease with which Mr Sinner has dispatched his other opponents, tennis needs Mr Alcaraz to play at his best to keep some sense of competition going.



Illustration: The Economist

Quiz Winners

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

Iskriyana Vasileva, Berlin, Germany

Katie Cho, Palo Alto, California, America

Himmat Kalsia, New Delhi, India

They all gave the correct answers of: Diane Keaton, Carla Bruni, Sam, Jimmy Cliff and the norm. The theme is characters from the sitcom "Cheers": Diane Chambers, Carla Tortelli, Sam Malone, Cliff Clavin and Norm Peterson (played by the recently-deceased George Wendt).

The questions were:

Monday: Which actress won an Oscar for her performance in "Annie Hall"?

Tuesday: Which singer was the first lady of France from 2008 to 2012?

Wednesday: What was the name of the character who played the piano in “Casablanca”?

Thursday: Which Jamaican reggae artist sang “Many Rivers To Cross” and “You Can Get It If You Really Want”?

Friday: What is defined in mathematics as the product of a complex number and its conjugate? The term is also used as a synonym for something that is typical.



Illustration: The Economist

Mini crossword

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.

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 across Hurry up! It's a pollster, for crying out loud (6)

2 across Was not cooked standing up? Capital! (6)

3 across Nothing is missing from last educational establishment for ex-chancellor (6)

1 down Lewd register is not right for Dutchman (who is extremely so) (5,7)

Factual clues

1 across Firm whose polling in America showed support for stricter citizenship rules (6)
2 across City whose mayor just lost a presidential election (6)
3 across German who declared a “turning-point” in 2023 (6)
1 down Winner of Netherlands election, who has bailed without achieving much (5,7)

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.

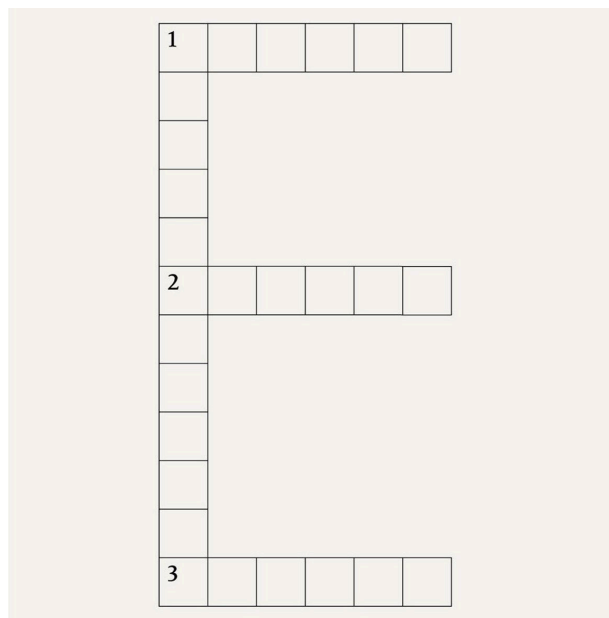


Image: The Economist

*It is the vice of a vulgar mind to
be thrilled by bigness.*

E. M. Forster