

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter

**Donald Trump** and **Volodymyr Zelensky** spoke in St Peter's Basilica before the [funeral of Pope Francis](#) in Rome. Thousands of people attended the service, including leaders from around the world. Mr Trump later wrote on his social-media platform, of Vladimir Putin, "maybe he doesn't want to stop the war, he's just tapping me along, and has to be dealt with differently."

**Russia** claimed [success on the battlefield](#), asserting that all **Ukrainian** troops had been forced out of Russia's Kursk region. The troops entered Russia last summer and at one point occupied 1,200 square kilometres. But the Russian army, supported by North Korean soldiers, has had them in retreat for some time. Ukraine denied Russia's claim, calling it a "propaganda ploy".

A number of people were killed or wounded after a car drove into crowds at a street festival in **Vancouver**. The event was held in the Canadian city in honour of Lapu Lapu Day, an annual celebration in the Philippines. Police said the driver, reportedly an Asian man in his 20s, had been taken into custody.

Officials from **America** and **Iran** held a third round of talks about [Iran's nuclear activities](#). Few details emerged afterwards, though an Iranian spokesman said his country remained "extremely cautious" about the chances of success. A deal could link the limiting of Iran's nuclear programme to the granting of sanctions relief. Donald Trump tore up Barack Obama's nuclear deal, the JCPOA, in his first term.

A huge explosion in Bandar Abbas, **Iran's** biggest port, killed at least 18 people and wounded more than 750. Iranian state media blamed the blast on the negligent storage of flammable materials.

One maritime-risk firm suggested that shipping containers holding fuel for Iran's ballistic missiles had exploded. Masoud Pezeshkian, Iran's president, said his government would launch an investigation.

**Virginia Giuffre**, one of the most prominent accusers of Jeffrey Epstein, died by suicide aged 41. She was one of the first women to call for criminal prosecution against Epstein, who was charged with sex-trafficking in July 2019 and died by suicide a few weeks later. In 2022 Ms Giuffre settled a lawsuit in which she accused Britain's Prince Andrew of sexual abuse.

More than 1,000 survivors and their families will attend a commemoration ceremony on Sunday at the site of the **Bergen-Belsen** concentration camp to mark the 80th anniversary of its liberation. Between 50,000 and 70,000 people died in the Nazi camp during [the second world war](#), including Anne Frank, a child diarist. Britain's deputy prime minister, Angela Rayner, will give the opening speech.

**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, will confirm its nominee on Sunday. Lee Jae-myung, the long-time DP leader, should emerge 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

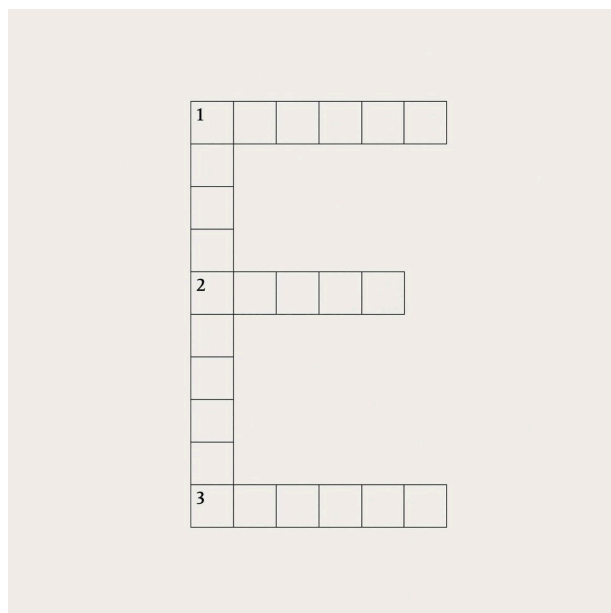
*1 down* The favourite to be prime minister after upcoming Canada's election (4,6)

*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.*

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***Marcus Aurelius***