

Catch up: Trump says tariffs will take effect; Europe's Ukraine strategy



Stocks fell after **Donald Trump** said that 25% **tariffs** on Canada and Mexico would **go into effect** on Tuesday. The president said there was “no room left” for either country to negotiate a deal to delay the levies, as they managed to do last month. The NASDAQ, one of America’s main stock indexes, dropped by 2.6%; the Dow fell by 1.8%, or nearly 800 points.

Britain’s prime minister, Sir Keir Starmer, told Parliament he would accelerate talks with allies over a peacekeeping mission in **Ukraine** as **Europe scrambles** to develop a strategy to end the conflict. Earlier, **France’s** president, Emmanuel Macron, proposed pursuing an initial one-month truce “in the air, at sea and on energy infrastructure”, though British officials said no such plan had been agreed.

Meanwhile Mr Trump **once again** accused **Volodymyr Zelensky** of not wanting peace “as long as he has America’s backing” after Ukraine’s president warned the end of the war remained “very far away”. Earlier Mr Zelensky suggested that Russia’s aerial attacks

on Ukraine showed it was not serious about pursuing negotiations. Following Mr Trump's statement he urged for peace "as soon as possible".

Police arrested a 40-year-old man who drove a car into a crowd of people in **Mannheim**, a city in south-west Germany. The incident killed at least two people and injured several others. Police did not confirm whether they thought the crash was deliberate. Germany has suffered several attacks involving vehicles recently; in February one collision killed a mother and child in Munich.

[The Vatican](#) said that **Pope Francis** had two episodes of "acute respiratory insufficiency", caused by a buildup of mucus in his airways and a bronchospasm, that required "non-invasive" ventilation. The 88-year-old pontiff has been in hospital for two weeks with pneumonia, and suffered another bronchospasm, similar to an asthma attack, on Friday. The Vatican said that the pope's prognosis remained "guarded".

TSMC said it would invest \$100bn to build new chip factories in America over the next four years. The Taiwanese chipmaker supplies the majority of the world's advanced semiconductors but until now kept most such technology and manufacturing at home; Mr Trump had previously accused Taiwan of "stealing" America's chip industry. TSMC has already invested \$65bn to construct three factories in Arizona.

At least one person died and several were injured in a shooting between security forces on the border between **Pakistan** and **Afghanistan**, according to Taliban officials. The incident occurred at the Torkham crossing, which Pakistan closed in February, stranding thousands of vehicles on either side. Pakistani and Afghan officials blamed each other for starting the [latest clash](#) on Monday.

Figure of the day: €210bn (\$218bn), the value of Russian assets frozen in European banks. [Read the full story.](#)

Trump's first address to Congress



Donald Trump will speak to a joint session of Congress on Tuesday evening for the first time since his re-election. Though not technically a State of the Union address, it is expected to outline his domestic and [foreign-policy agenda](#). Mike Johnson, the House speaker, invited Mr Trump to give the address to present his “America First vision” to a large television audience.

The keenest viewers may not be ordinary Americans, who’ve heard a lot about his plans already, but Europeans, still shocked by his fiery meeting with Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine’s president, on Friday. They’ll be listening for any elaboration on Mr Trump’s attitude towards the [war in Ukraine](#) and the alliance with Europe. Fireworks are always a possibility, but so is tedium. Mr Trump’s speeches to Congress in his first term were the longest on average of those delivered by any recent president.

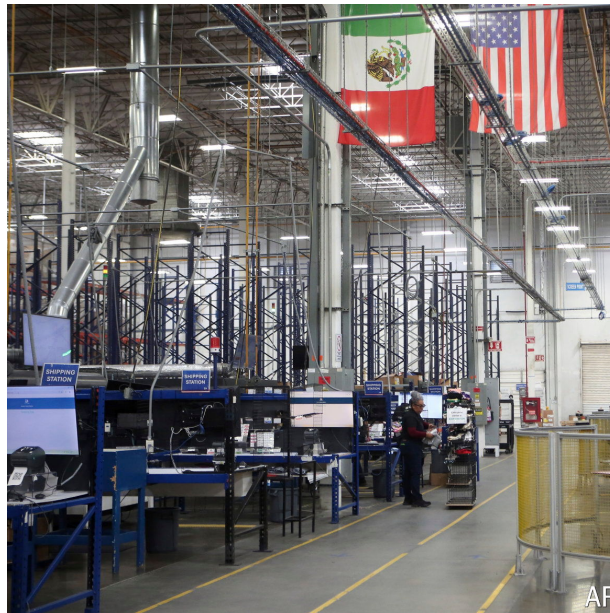
The Arab counter-plan for Gaza



When crisis strikes, the Arab League dawdles. Heads of state will gather in Cairo on Tuesday for what has been billed as an emergency summit. They will address [Donald Trump's wild talk](#) of depopulating Gaza and building a resort on the ruins. Never mind that he made his pitch a full month ago: the league has never been known for alacrity. Attendees will discuss an Egyptian counter-proposal to rebuild the enclave while keeping Palestinians on their land. They want to dissuade Mr Trump, but they also worry that America will saddle them with the task of reconstruction.

That will not be the only item on the agenda. [Ahmed al-Sharaa](#), Syria's interim president, is expected to attend—even though Egypt, which loathes Islamist politicians, had tried to keep him away. It will be his first chance to meet many Arab leaders face to face, among them Egypt's Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi and Lebanon's Joseph Aoun. They will be keen to take his measure.

Due date for Trump's tariffs



For months Donald Trump has threatened to [impose hefty tariffs](#) on goods from Canada and Mexico, America's two biggest trading partners. Mr Trump has pledged that these will take effect on Tuesday. Yet a month ago he delayed the levies, citing promises from both countries to increase efforts to halt fentanyl trafficking. This time, he may point to the possibility of a single North American tariff wall, built to discourage imports from China.

Mr Trump's relentless threats of tariffs are themselves taking a toll. Consumers, worried about inflation, have turned gloomier. Uncertainty may also be discouraging investment by businesses. Even if Mr Trump backs off from tariffs on Mexico and Canada, he seems set on Tuesday to slap another 10% levy on Chinese goods, on top of the 10% he imposed last month. China has taken a harder line than America's neighbours, refusing to offer concessions until Mr Trump begins serious trade talks.

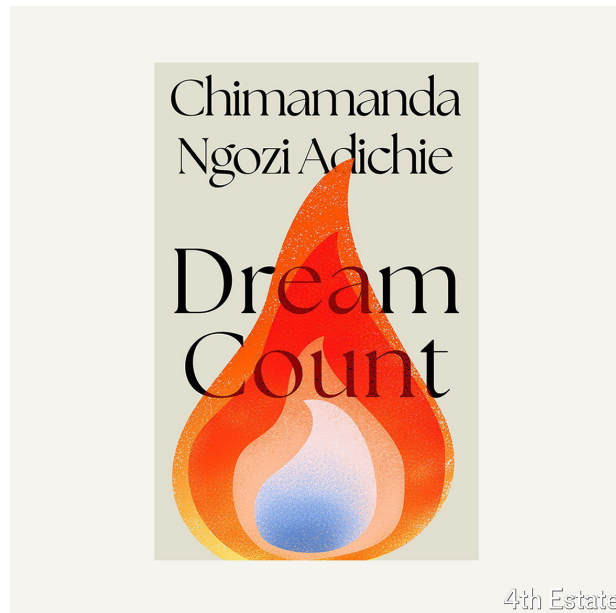
Mexico takes on American gunmakers



On Tuesday the Supreme Court of the United States will hear arguments in its first case about gun violence abroad brought by a foreign country. Mexico alleges that Smith & Wesson and six other American gun manufacturers, plus one distributor, are negligently, recklessly and sometimes unlawfully selling guns knowing that they are likely to end up in criminals' hands. The Mexican government in recent years began [legal action](#) against American gunmakers. At first American courts rejected the case, but a court of appeal then sided with Mexico.

Over 30,000 Mexicans have been murdered each year since 2017, many by gangs. Mexico has very strict gun laws; most of the arms come across its northern border. But President Donald Trump is no fan of restricting sales of American firearms. The unprecedented case opens a new arena in which the two [governments may clash](#). And if Mexico wins, other countries wracked by gun violence could follow suit.

We should not all be polemicists



Can you be a good polemicist and a good novelist? To judge by the praise offered to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, you can. The [Nigerian writer's](#) novels have been lavished with awards: “Americanah”, her third, was named one of the *New York Times's* 100 best books of the 21st century. Ms Adichie’s viral TED talk on feminism received an even more impressive accolade: Beyoncé sampled its lines.

Writers who are both great polemicists and accomplished novelists are rare (Emile Zola and Leo Tolstoy are among the exceptions). A polemic must tell you precisely what to think; a novel never should. A polemic is explicit; a novel implicit. In her new book, “Dream Count”, out on Tuesday, Ms Adichie tries to be both, unsuccessfully. The story of the interlocking lives of four women has too many characters, and sometimes they feel less like people than like parables.

Daily quiz



The Economist

We will serve you a new question each day this week. On Friday your challenge is to give us all five answers and, as important, tell us the connecting theme. Email your responses (and include mention of your home city and country) by 1700 GMT on Friday to QuizEspresso@economist.com. We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

Tuesday: Who briefly replaced Jay Leno as host of “The Tonight Show” from 2009 to 2010?

Monday: Which baseball team last won the World Series in 1991?

No one ever made a decision because of a number. They need a story.

Daniel Kahneman