

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: AFP

Scott Bessent said that **America** and **China** have agreed on a “positive framework” for **trade talks** between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping on Thursday. The American treasury secretary suggested that China would delay introducing an export ban on **rare-earth minerals**, and buy more American soyabeans, to avoid the threat of an additional tariff of 100% on Chinese exports to America.

Donald Trump said he would increase tariffs on **Canada** by 10% in retaliation for an advertising campaign by the province of Ontario. The advert, which aired on Friday, featured audio from Ronald Reagan, America’s president in the 1980s, advocating free trade. Mr Trump called it a “hostile act”. The announcement came two days after Mr Trump ended trade talks with Canada.

Binyamin Netanyahu said that **Israel** will decide on the make-up of any international security force in Gaza, reserving the right to exclude countries that it finds “unacceptable”. **Marco Rubio**, the American secretary of state, said on Saturday that several countries had volunteered troops for such a force, which would also monitor the ceasefire between Hamas and Israel.

After an 18-month-long **siege** the **Rapid Support Forces**, a **Sudanese** rebel militia, reportedly stormed the army headquarters

in el-Fasher, the main city of Darfur. The government has thus lost its last remaining base in the western region of the country. The RSF's victory could enable it to consolidate its control of the whole of Darfur and thus precipitate the de facto break-up of Sudan.

Mr Trump presided over the signing of an expanded ceasefire deal between **Cambodia** and **Thailand**. The two countries fought a [senseless border war](#) in July. Both countries' leaders thanked the American president for his role in negotiating a ceasefire. Shortly after, America signed trade agreements with Cambodia and Malaysia, which Mr Trump described as "a great deal for both countries".

Russian air strikes on **Kyiv** killed three people and injured at least 32 more, according to the city's mayor. The attacks mainly damaged residential parts of Ukraine's capital. With the approach of winter, Russia has stepped up attacks on civilian targets and energy infrastructure. Ukrainian authorities say it launched more than 1,000 drones just in the last week.

Two **suspects** have been arrested in connection with [the heist](#) last week at the **Louvre**, in which thieves made off with crown jewels worth €88m (\$102m). According to the **Paris prosecutor's office**, one man was stopped as he was waiting to catch a flight from Charles de Gaulle airport. The remaining jewels have been moved to a vault in the Bank of France.

Word of the week: Digital dementia, a kind of mental deterioration seen in older adults who use their phones too much.
[Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Getty Images

Donald Trump's priority in South-East Asia

Leaders from nearly 20 countries arrived in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's capital, for three days of regional [meetings](#) starting on Sunday. Donald Trump is there, too. But diplomats from the region say America's president is not interested in discussing the big geopolitical issues on the agenda, such as China's risky actions around Taiwan or in the South China Sea. Instead, almost immediately upon landing in Kuala Lumpur, he presided over the signing of a peace deal between [Thailand and Cambodia](#). That, he hopes, will bolster his reputation as a great peacemaker.

Mr Trump will fly out before most of the other meetings take place. That will leave China to dominate the final day of the summit, when it plans to sign an upgrade to its free-trade agreement with South-East Asia. The new terms will ease China's access to South-East Asia's market for green tech and digital services. China's approach, one negotiator suggests, is long-term and practical while America's is short-term and superficial.



Photograph: Reuters

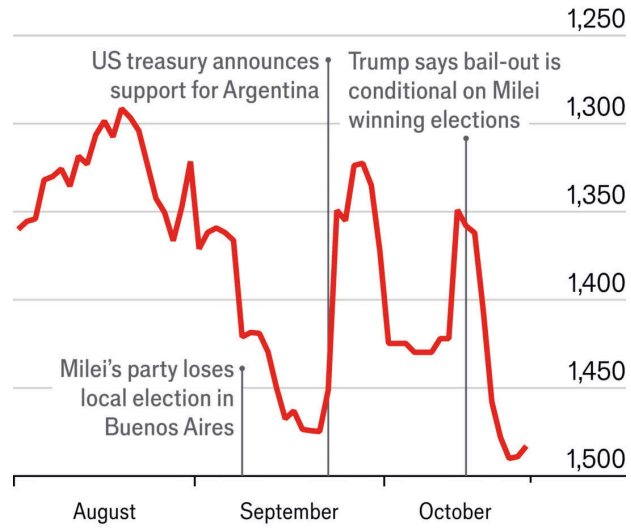
Milei's radical reforms face a test

Argentines have started voting in midterm elections. Half the lower house and a third of the senate are up for grabs. But the vote will probably also determine the fate of [Javier Milei's libertarian economic programme](#). Since becoming president in 2023 he has dramatically cut spending and brought down inflation. His strategy's weakness is that, to stop prices from spiralling in a country where few trust the government or the central bank, it relied on keeping the peso artificially strong. As markets began to fret about Mr Milei's electoral prospects, the currency sank. In an extraordinary move [America has stepped in](#), backing Mr Milei by buying pesos and providing a \$20bn swap line.

Mr Milei needs to marshal a third of seats in the lower chamber to guarantee a veto over spendthrift opposition bills. Polls give him a decent chance. But a stuttering economy and a slew of scandals have weakened him. If he loses badly markets may conclude that [his reform agenda is dead](#), causing a panic.

Peso peril

Argentine peso per \$, 2025, inverted scale



Source: LSEG Workspace



Photograph: Getty Images

Asia's giants fly closer together

India and China took another step towards normalising ties when direct flights between the two countries resumed on Sunday. Routes have been suspended since 2020, when border skirmishes killed several soldiers from both sides and plunged relations to their lowest point in decades.

Some [rapprochement began earlier this year](#) as overland trade routes reopened and meetings between senior officials resumed. In August Wang Yi, China's foreign minister, visited Delhi and said the countries should be "partners" rather than "adversaries". Donald Trump's tariffs have added strategic importance to mending regional ties.

Yet for all the recent thawing, India's policymakers and public remain suspicious of China. That sentiment deepened when China provided diplomatic and military support to Pakistan in May. Meanwhile, border disputes between India and China still fester in many places. It may be a while yet before relations can truly take off.



Photograph: picture alliance

Mamdani takes the stage

Zohran Mamdani will headline a rally at his favourite live-music venue, Forest Hills Stadium, on Sunday. The Democratic-Socialist frontrunner in New York City's [mayoral race](#) will be joined on stage by a line-up of progressive power-hitters, including Bernie Sanders, Vermont's senator, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a New York Congresswoman. The left-leaning trio aim to motivate their base ahead of the election on November 4th.

The rally's theme, "New York is not for sale", is a nod to a similar slogan used by Mr Sanders when he ran for mayor of Burlington, Vermont in 1981. New York, Mr Mamdani has said "is not for sale to corporations".

His main rival, Andrew Cuomo, a former governor running as an independent, was beaten by Mr Mamdani in the Democratic [primary](#). Mr Mamdani's hopeful [promises](#)—which include free buses, freezing rent and taxing the rich more—have resonated with many New Yorkers. Even hard-nosed sceptics who detest his ideology find him charming.



Photograph: ERIN SIMKIN/NETFLIX

Everybody wants this Netflix show

In “Nobody Wants This” a ravishing rabbi (played by Adam Brody) and an agnostic sex podcaster (Kristen Bell) fall in love. The first series of the romantic comedy was a hit: it was among Netflix’s ten most-watched shows for six consecutive weeks in the autumn of 2024. The second season, which aired on Netflix this week, focuses on the day-to-day challenges faced by the couple.

Many of their problems are mundane: they worry about the appropriate lighting for a dinner party and discuss the merits of different bedside tables. But the rabbi cannot bury the question: will his girlfriend ever convert to Judaism? The series has a stellar supporting cast, including Justine Lupe (of “Succession”) and Timothy Simons (best known for “Veep”). There are guest appearances by Seth Rogen, Kate Berlant and Leighton Meester, who is Mr Brody’s wife in real life. Witty and wise, “Nobody Wants This” has proven to be a show that, really, everybody wants.



Illustration: The Economist

Mini crossword

We publish a new interactive edition of our crossword daily, allowing you to enter and check the answers and see explanations. Try it [here](#). Or, if you prefer, use the grid below.

There are two sets of clues, one for seasoned cruciverbalists and the other for less experienced solvers. Both give the same answers.

Cryptic clues

1 across - On-air obituary has mention of capital (7)

2 across - Initially seven, eventually nine (actually ten) oust Republican politician (7)

3 across - Platform where sheep, I hear, take the underground (7)

1 down - “No cozy lair?”, asks corrupt former president (7,7)

Straight clues

1 across - Recently jailed French politician (7,7)

2 across - A member or legislator whose name derives from ‘senex’, Latin for ‘elder man’ (7)

3 across - The most-watched platform in the world (7)

1 down - Recently jailed French politician (7,7)

Email all four answers, along with your home city and country, by 9am GMT on Monday to [\[email protected\]](#). We will pick three winners at random and crown them in next week's edition.

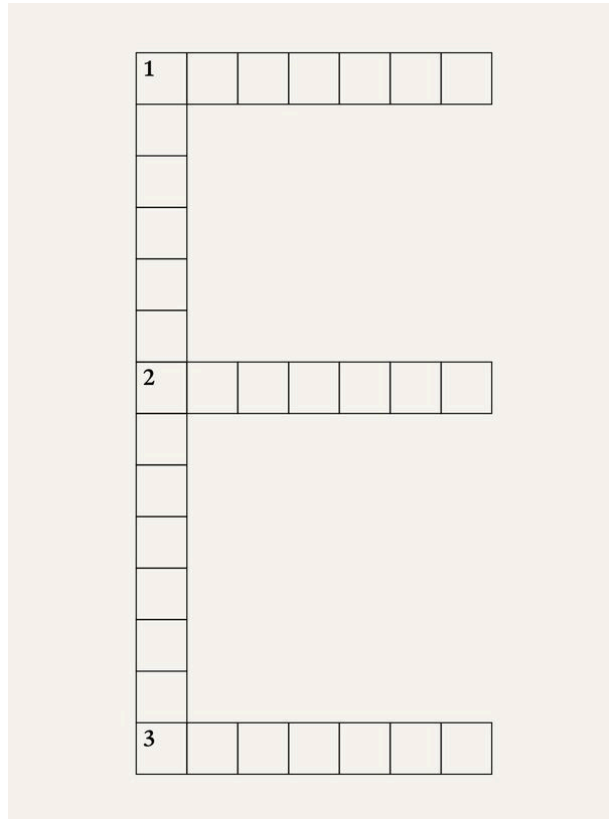


Image: .



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:

Iskriyana Vasileva, Berlin, Germany

Donna Singmaster, Pebble Beach, California

Andrej Galogaza, Zagreb, Croatia

They all gave the correct answers of: Tom Jones, Anthony Hopkins, Richard Burton, Michael Sheen and David Lloyd George. The theme is that they are all Welsh, including Lloyd George who spoke Welsh as his first language.

*Every act of creation is first an
act of destruction.*

Pablo Picasso