

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.

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.

Thailand's defence minister said the country had sent more troops to a disputed part of its border with Cambodia as tensions rise between the South-East Asian neighbours. A Cambodian soldier was killed when fighting broke out in the area late last month. Phumtham Wechayachai, who is also Thailand's deputy prime minister, claimed his Cambodian counterpart had rejected “constructive proposals” for de-escalation.

Riot police used pepper spray and tear gas to try to disperse angry crowds gathered in downtown **Los Angeles** as they conducted an immigration raid on a clothing wholesaler. At least three such sweeps were conducted there on Friday; dozens of people were reportedly detained. The Trump administration has vowed to crack down on [illegal immigration](#). More than 30% of Los Angeles's residents are immigrants.

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: Getty Images

Israel's new course in Gaza

This week Binyamin Netanyahu said that Israel had “activated clans in Gaza which oppose Hamas”, confirming what has been an open secret for months. The country’s security services have reportedly supplied Abu Shabab, an anti-Hamas militia in southern [Gaza](#), with weapons to create its own autonomous zone in the coastal strip. (The clan’s leader denies that Israel has armed it.)

In late May Israel established four hubs in Gaza, operated by American mercenaries, which are handing out rations. Aid groups say these hubs are insufficient to feed the 2.1m Gazans in the strip, and will instead facilitate a plan to de-populate other parts of Gaza. Israeli forces have shot dead dozens of people on the way to these hubs. (More than 50,000 Gazans have died since the start of the war.) As indirect [ceasefire talks](#) continue, Israeli officials believe that adding more militias to the mix will force Hamas to capitulate.



Photograph: Getty Images

Prabowo cosies up to Putin

[Russia's invasion of Ukraine](#) has left it with fewer friends. Luckily for President Vladimir Putin, one that is sticking around is the world's fourth most-populous country: Indonesia. Last year [Prabowo Subianto](#), then president-elect and defence minister, visited Russia and described it as “a great friend”. On Saturday he travels to Moscow for his first trip there as president, during which he will meet Mr Putin.

The pair will discuss their countries' growing defence ties. Russia sells fighter jets, helicopters and guns to Indonesia, and hopes to build nuclear-power plants there too. This year Indonesia became the first country from South-East Asia to join [the BRICS](#), a bloc that includes China and Russia. In truth, Mr Prabowo is unlikely to get too close with Mr Putin, in part because of Indonesia's long-held foreign policy of non-alignment. Still, in a more dangerous world his claim that Indonesia has only friends and no enemies will be put to the test.



Photograph: Getty Images

Shoreditch's festival of creativity—and AI anxiety

What kind of event brings King Charles and a BDSM musician known as Nymphorchidea together in the same billing? Answer: South by Southwest (sxsw). This week the tech conference cum music and film festival—which has been a fixture of Austin, Texas, since 1987—has decamped to east London for its European debut.

Few events have as much cool and cachet as sxsw, so the organiser's choice of London for its European edition is a coup for the capital's creative industries. Britain, and especially London, is bursting at the seams with creatives. Their output has grown about 50% faster than the wider economy over the past 20 years and now contribute some £125bn (\$170bn) to GDP (about 5%). But how will Britain's creative industries thrive in an age of [artificial intelligence](#)? That was the big question that the conference has pondered during much of the week.



Photograph: Kids Diana Show

Weekend profile: the 11-year-old Ukrainian YouTuber snapping at MrBeast’s heels

From Monday to Friday, Diana Kydysiuk’s life looks much like that of any other 11-year-old. But at weekends Diana becomes the star of extremely popular home-made videos. “Yeah,” she says shyly, “it’s weird.”

She is technically too young to watch YouTube without parental supervision, but Diana’s channel, “Kids Diana Show”, has more than 135m subscribers. Only five other channels have more, including YouTube’s most-followed, [MrBeast](#), who does elaborate stunts and competitions.

Diana’s entertainment career began in Kyiv when she was one year old. Her mother, Olena, and her father, Volodymyr, started using YouTube to share home videos with friends and family. Soon they began aiming at a wider audience, filming toy “unboxing” videos—catnip for pre-schoolers. The parents’ backgrounds in computer programming and marketing proved useful.

As their channel grew in popularity, the family made it a full-time job. In 2018 they switched the main language from Russian to English and left Ukraine, first for Miami and then for Dubai, where they have lived for the past five years.

The channel has nimbly adapted to YouTube's ever-changing algorithm. Its videos now are mainly roleplays, often with a loosely educational slant. The family's production set-up is [the usual YouTubers' mixture](#) of home-made and high-end. Diana's parents decline to talk about their finances. But the main channel is likely to make around \$10m a year from ads after YouTube takes its 45% cut, according to one estimate. The channel's biggest audience is in America—where YouTube's ad rates are among the highest.

Diana has travelled the world and tested more toys than most children will see in all their Christmases. But, she admits, “when I get noticed, it's kind of uncomfortable for me.” At meet-and-greets up to 5,000 people line up for a picture.

Children under 15 spend nearly twice as much time on video-sharing platforms as they do on subscription streamers like Netflix, and three times more than on live television, according to a recent study in Britain. Hollywood studios, chasing adult subscribers to their streaming services, seem to be losing the battle for young children's attention.

But [the rise of “kidfluencers”](#) has raised legal questions. Children on YouTube, whose clips are often recorded and uploaded by their parents, are in a grey area. Several American states have passed laws to protect their income following high-profile cases of exploitation.

Diana's looming teenage years [present a business conundrum](#), as she outgrows her core audience. Fortunately her brothers—aged 12, four and two—are taking part in videos too. At weekends, the children film on a rotating schedule to keep the content flowing. If

one child is unavailable, says Olena, “we simply switch to another kid.”



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.

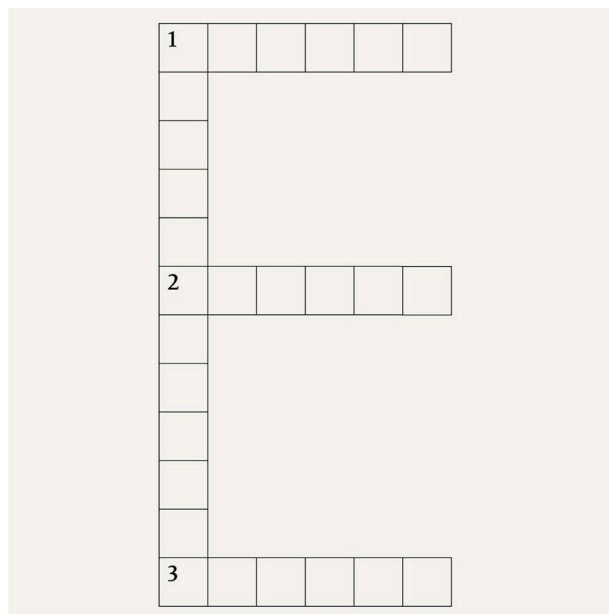


Image: The Economist



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

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.

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

E. M. Forster