The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter

Photograph: EPA

An American appeals court found most of **Donald Trump's tariffs** to be illegal. It upheld an earlier court ruling that the Trump administration did not have the authority to use emergency powers to impose tariffs without the consent of Congress. The appeal court's ruling will not come into effect until October 14th, giving the Trump administration time to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Mr Trump said he would block $4.9bn in federal funding for foreign aid programmes that had already been authorised by Congress. The tactic, known as a "pocket rescission", delays spending until the fiscal year ends, leaving lawmakers little time to act. Susan Collins, the Republican chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said the move was "a clear violation of the law".

India's GDP grew by 7.8% year-on-year from April to June, driven by a strong services sector. The figure beat the central bank's prediction of 6.5% by a wide margin. But the world's fastest-growing large economy now faces tariffs of 50% on exports to America. Economists warn the measures could shave 20-90 basis points off future growth.

The Court of Appeal in London ruled that **asylum seekers** can remain in a hotel in Essex. Council leaders had won a temporary injunction to close it, following protests after an asylum seeker was accused of sexually assaulting a local girl. Kemi Badenoch, the leader of the Conservative party, accused the government of putting "the rights of illegal immigrants above the rights of the British people".

Indonesia's president, Prabowo Subianto, called for calm as police struggled to quell protests across the country. Protestors are angry at lavish monthly housing allowances of around $3,000 being given to members of parliament. Some are also demanding higher wages. In Jakarta, the capital, demonstrators hurled Molotov cocktails and firecrackers at police headquarters after one person was killed by a police vehicle last night.

The **Trump administration** said it would deny and revoke visas from members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the **Palestinian** Authority ahead of the upcoming UN General Assembly. America's state department accused them of "undermining the prospects for peace". Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president, argued the decision contradicts international law. France, Canada and Britain are set to recognise a Palestinian state at the gathering.

Lawmakers in **California** struck a deal with **Uber** and **Lyft** on legislation that would allow ride-share drivers to unionise. The drivers would still be classified as independent contractors, but with the right to collectively bargain. Massachusetts became the first state to allow drivers on ride-hailing apps to unionise through a ballot initiative passed by voters in 2024.

Words of the week: *Wir schaffen das.* German for "we can handle this," the phrase that came to mark Angela Merkel's 16 years as chancellor. Read the full story.

Photograph: Reuters

A photo opportunity for Xi, Putin and Modi

Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin and Narendra Modi will meet this weekend in Tianjin, a city south of Beijing, for the annual Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) leaders meeting. Representatives from more than 20 other countries, mostly from the global south, will also attend.

Until now, the SCO has been a mostly irrelevant body, created by China in 2001 and lately expanded by Mr Xi to bolster his country's claims to global leadership. It is riven with division. As recently as May two of its members, India and Pakistan, were firing missiles at each other.

Yet some are finding common cause in responding to tariffs levied by Donald Trump, who this week slapped higher tariffs on India. Mr Modi is attending SCO in person for the first time since 2022; it is his first visit to China in seven years. Images of the leaders together may anger Mr Trump, who has railed against the BRICS, another grouping that includes India, Russia and China, which he regards as "anti-American".

Photograph: Shutterstock

Europe mulls new sanctions on Russia

European Union foreign ministers will meet in Copenhagen this weekend to discuss a 19th round of sanctions on Russia. Aimed at applying further pressure on Vladimir Putin's sputtering economy, the measures will target Russia's "shadow fleet" of embargo-busting tankers and companies helping the country evade sanctions. Details of the package are expected to be released next month.

Meanwhile, keep an eye on pro-Kremlin Hungary. It has long attempted to block Ukrainian aid. It recently sued the EU over a scheme that channels up to €5bn ($5.8bn) a year in assistance to Ukraine from frozen Russian financial assets. Hungary argues the bloc ignored its veto of the policy, and therefore breached EU law, by declaring it not to be "a contributing Member State". (It is a net recipient from the EU budget.) The outcome of the case could reshape countries' veto power within the bloc—but it might take years for European courts to reach a verdict.
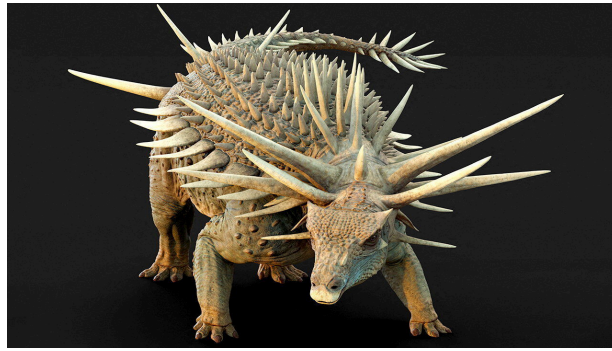
Photograph: Getty Images

Erdogan's empire state of mind

On Saturday Turkey celebrates Victory Day, the anniversary of the country's decisive battle in its War of Independence. The conflict began in 1919, after Turkey was occupied by the Allies following the Ottoman empire's defeat during the first world war. Fighting would end in 1922, when Turkish forces beat the Greeks in the battle of Dumlupinar. That would pave the way for independence: a modern republic was declared the following year.

Nostalgia for empire has been growing in some quarters. The country's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, believes that "Turkey is much bigger than Turkey". He has intervened in neighbouring Syria, repeatedly attacking Kurdish insurgents, helping topple a dictator and offering to provide the Islamist rebels now in charge with weapons and training. Turkey's strongman might not be out to recreate the Ottoman empire, as his critics allege. But Mr Erdogan's speech on Saturday may offer more insight into how he views his country's century-old borders.

Photograph: Reuters

The discovery of a very spiky dinosaur

Ankylosaurs were the armoured knights of old. The bodies of these five-tonne dinosaurs were covered in bony plates and they had vicious clubs for tails. Knightly armour came in two sorts: field armour won battles, while parade armour was for showing off. Until now, ankylosaurs' armour was seen as purely the field variety. A fossil unearthed recently in Morocco suggests otherwise.

Dating back 165m years ago, *Spicomellus afer* is the earliest known ankylosaur and the only example to have been found in Africa. The new specimen, described in *Nature*, has a panoply as elaborate as that of any knight on parade. Bony spikes protruded from every rib. Its neck sported more, some almost a metre long. And its tail club was spiked, too. These features smack of showing off—luxuriant displays of fitness equivalent to a peacock's tail. No doubt *Spicomellus* armour was also good in a fight. But its decorative appendages probably evolved to wow the opposite sex.

Photograph: AP

Weekend profile: Lisa Cook, the Fed governor Donald Trump is trying to fire

Lisa Cook is the first black woman to sit on the Federal Reserve's board of governors. She is now under fire: on August 25th President Trump said he had sacked Ms Cook, citing allegations of mortgage fraud. The head of the Federal Housing Finance Agency claimed that Ms Cook fraudulently gained favourable terms on mortgages for three properties. Ms Cook is suing Mr Trump. Her lawyer insists that he has "no authority" to sack her. If the allegations against her turn out to be true, they would undermine her credibility as a financial regulator.

Mr Trump's attack is an escalation of his wider war with the Fed, which he argues has been too slow to cut interest rates. "The irony is she is probably one of the governors most inclined to endorse lowering interest rates at any sign of major weakening of our economy," says William Darity, an economist at Duke University and one of Ms Cook's mentors.

She was born in Georgia in 1964, during the civil-rights era. Her father was the first black chaplain at the state's central hospital. Her mother was the first African-American to join the nursing faculty of Georgia College & State University. Their small Southern town fiercely resisted integration. Rather than comply with court orders to open the swimming pool to black residents, officials filled it

with concrete. As a child Ms Cook was close to Martin Luther King junior's family.

She studied at Spelman College, a historically black women's institution, as well as at Oxford University and in Senegal. While an economics doctoral student at the University of California, Berkeley she learned Russian and travelled to Moscow to research banking in post-Soviet Russia.

Ms Cook has built a career researching the cost of discrimination. In one paper she demonstrated how segregation, lynchings and race riots between 1870 and 1940 led to a steep drop in patents filed by black inventors. Ms Cook served on President Barack Obama's Council of Economic Advisers. In 2022 President Joe Biden nominated her to the Fed's board of seven governors, who (alongside five Federal Reserve Bank presidents) vote on interest-rate policy.

Republicans attacked her then. One senator called her "grossly unqualified" because she is not an expert in monetary policy. Democrats retorted that she had valuable expertise in international economics.

The new administration dislikes everything she stands for. Its assault on Ms Cook is not a war against woke: control of monetary policy looks like the aim. But it is hard not to see it also as a proxy battle in America's bitter culture wars.

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 Salesman or wayfarer conceals European destination (6)

2 across Delta, alias Romeo, in African port (5)

3 across This Welsh novelist is a Scotsman (6)

1 down Iron man dared to become national leader (8,4)

Straight clues

1 across Country in the single market but not the EU (6)

2 across West African port and capital city (5)

3 across Californian university city (6)

1 down Leader who often lapses into Hindu chauvinism (8,4)

Email all four answers, along with your home city and country, by 9am BST on Monday to . We will pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners in next week's edition.
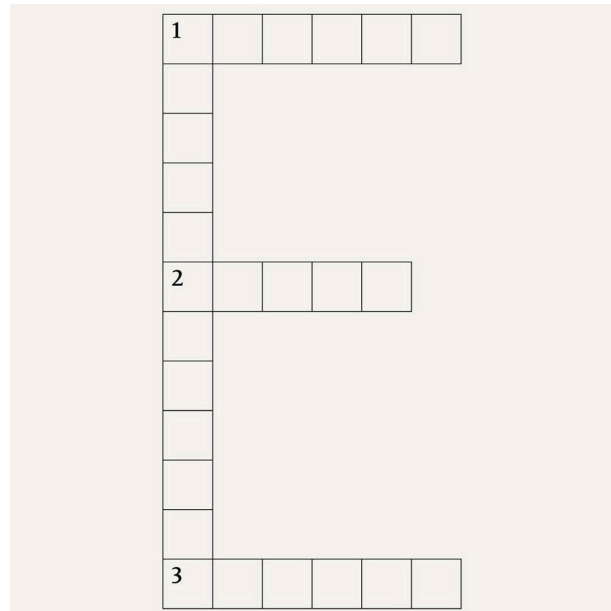
Image: The Economist

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:

Hana Katsenes and **Berthold Schindler**, Munich, Germany

Alok Mohan, Dubai, UAE

Russell Williams, Basseterre, St. Kitts & Nevis

They all gave the correct answers of: Queen Elizabeth II, workers, Honey, a drone and Bumble. The theme is bees: queen, workers and drones are all categories of bees, some bees produce honey and a bumblebee is a specific species.

The questions were:

Monday: In 2008, who pointedly asked "Why did nobody notice it?" when given an explanation about the origins of the global financial crisis at the London School of Economics?

Tuesday: What type of people did Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels call upon to "unite" in the Communist Manifesto?

Wednesday: Which Bobby Goldsboro song was the best-selling record worldwide in 1968?

Thursday: In the US, Amazon allows some users to select what delivery option if the item weighs 5 pounds or less?

Friday: Which dating app, in its original form, required women rather than men to make the first contact in opposite-sex pairings?

"Wherever law ends, tyranny begins."

John Locke