

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Getty Images

**Russia** launched a large aerial attack on **Ukraine**. Drones and missile strikes reportedly killed six people in Kyiv, the capital, and two in Chornomorsk. Ukraine launched its own attack on the Russian port of Novorossiysk, forcing its oil depot to suspend exports. Oil prices rose by more than 2% in response. It is the latest of many [Ukrainian attacks on Russia's energy infrastructure](#).

America's justice department will investigate several Democrats, including former president Bill Clinton, for their alleged involvement with **Jeffrey Epstein**, a [deceased sex-offender](#). This week Democrats published emails from Epstein's estate that suggested **Donald Trump** spent time with one of Epstein's victims. In response Republicans released 20,000 more documents. Mr Trump and Mr Clinton have denied knowledge of Epstein's sex trafficking.

**Britain's** finance minister has reportedly decided not to raise **income tax** in her budget on November 26th. Rachel Reeves had previously indicated her willingness to break a Labour Party manifesto pledge not to raise such taxes. The news comes after a week of [turmoil within the party](#). British bonds fell, with yields on ten-year bonds rising by as much as 0.13 percentage points.

**Switzerland** said it had reached a deal with America to lower the tariff rate on its exports from 39% to 15%. In exchange Swiss companies promised to invest around \$200bn in America over the next three years. The Trump administration [took Switzerland by surprise](#) when it announced the hefty tariffs in July, decrying the country's outsize trade surplus with America.

**China's** government advised its citizens to avoid travel to **Japan**, and said Japan would face "crushing defeat" if it tried to defend **Taiwan**. The warnings come after Japan's new prime minister, Takaichi Sanae, suggested that Japan would consider an armed response if China invaded the self-governing island. Some American officials believe that China wants its armed forces to be [ready to invade](#) by 2027.

RedBird, an American private-equity firm, withdrew its £500m (\$670m) bid to buy the **Telegraph**, reportedly citing regulatory hurdles and newsroom opposition. The British broadsheet's future has long seemed [uncertain](#); it was [put up for sale in 2023](#) after its owners defaulted on their debts. Britain's government blocked RedBird's initial offer to purchase it in partnership with a state-backed fund in the United Arab Emirates.

**Walmart** announced that its chief executive would retire. Doug McMillon joined the company in 1984, and saw it rise to become the [world's largest](#), with 2.1m employees and an annual revenue of \$680bn. John Furner, who heads the company's America division, will replace Mr McMillon in February. Shares fell by as much as 3% in premarket trading.

**Word of the week:** Codas, the name researchers use for the series of clicks female sperm whales communicate by. [Read the full story](#).

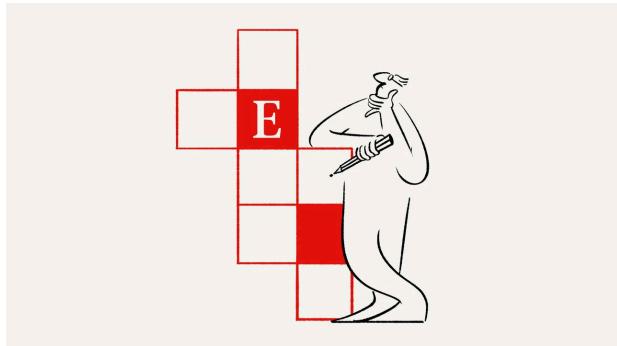


Illustration: The Economist

## 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* - Bill to permit medication (6)

*2 across* - Show hidden electrode origin (5)

*3 across* - DJ is unknown in day before party (6)

*1 down* - Self-proclaimed showgirl told garment-maker: “quick!” (6,5)

### Straight clues

*1 across* - The Scottish equivalent of fudge (6)

*2 across* - Drive famed for shopping in Beverly Hills (5)

*3 across* - Jacket traditionally only worn after 6pm (6)

*1 down* - Who performed 149 concerts on their most recent tour  
(6,5)

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



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:

**Marina Boevska**, Long Beach, California, America

**Ozlem Sumnu**, Barcelona, Spain

**Alun Hindle**, Banbury, Britain

They all gave the correct answers of: Los Angeles, Washington DC, Memphis, Portland and Chicago. The theme is that they are all cities to which President Trump has sent, or attempted to send, National Guard troops.

The questions were:

**Monday:** What city is home to the La Brea tar pits?

**Tuesday:** Which city was designed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant in 1791?

**Wednesday:** Which city, not known for its bear population, is home to the Grizzlies basketball team?

**Thursday:** Which city was built at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia rivers?

**Friday:** Which city can trace its origins to the building of Fort Dearborn?

*Poetry is the art of creating  
imaginary gardens with real  
toads.*

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***Marianne Moore***