

Catch up: Trump's short-lived tariff exemption; Xi in South-East Asia



Donald Trump indicated he would still apply **tariffs** to smartphones and other consumer electronics imported to America from China. “NOBODY is getting ‘off the hook,’” wrote Mr Trump on Truth Social, his social-media platform. On Friday the Trump administration exempted some electronic goods from steep “reciprocal” tariffs. But on Sunday Howard Lutnick, America’s commerce secretary, said the goods would be subject to future [levies](#) on semiconductors.

Xi Jinping warned there would be “no winner” from a “trade war and tariff war” as he began a visit to **South-East Asia**. China’s leader is in Vietnam, which Mr Trump hit with a 46% “reciprocal” tariff before announcing a 90-day pause on most levies. Later this week Mr Xi will travel to Malaysia and Cambodia. America’s chaos provides a chance for him to [wield influence](#) in the region.

Friedrich Merz, Germany’s incoming chancellor, said a [Russian attack](#) on the Ukrainian city of **Sumy** was a “deliberate and calculated war crime”. The assault killed at least 34 people. Mr

Merz said Ukraine needed help to “get ahead” in the war with Russia and reiterated his support for sending long-range Taurus missiles to the country. Germany has previously resisted pressure to supply the weapons.

Daniel Noboa won re-election as **Ecuador’s** president after beating Luisa González in a run-off vote. Mr Noboa, the 37-year-old son of a billionaire banana magnate, has been in power since he won a snap election in October 2023. Ms González, a 47-year-old leftist lawyer, also ran in 2023. Mr Noboa’s immediate priority is tackling the country’s [security crisis](#).

Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema was elected the president of **Gabon**. The election was Gabon’s first since General Oligui Nguema [led a coup](#) in 2023 that overthrew Ali Bongo, scion of a family that had ruled over the central African country since 1967, and became the “transitional president”. General Oligui Nguema won more than 90% of the vote, according to provisional results.

An Israeli air strike hit the Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital, the only hospital in **Gaza** city that is still operating. The Israel Defence Forces had issued an evacuation order before the assault, which it said was intended to knock out a Hamas “command and control” centre in the medical facility. Gaza’s Hamas-controlled ministry of health said that one patient died during the exodus.

He’s finally done it. **Rory McIlroy** won the Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia. The [Northern Irishman](#) is now one of just six male players with a career Grand Slam—a feat achieved by winning all four major championships. Before Sunday, Mr McIlroy had not won a major since 2014. “I started to wonder if this would ever be my time,” he said.

Figure of the day: 13m, the number of talented young people Canada might attract on net if all barriers to movement were lifted

and graduates were free to go where they pleased. [Read the full story.](#)

Donald Trump has begun his second term at a blistering pace. Keep up with his executive orders, legal challenges against them and what Americans think about it all on [our presidential tracker.](#)

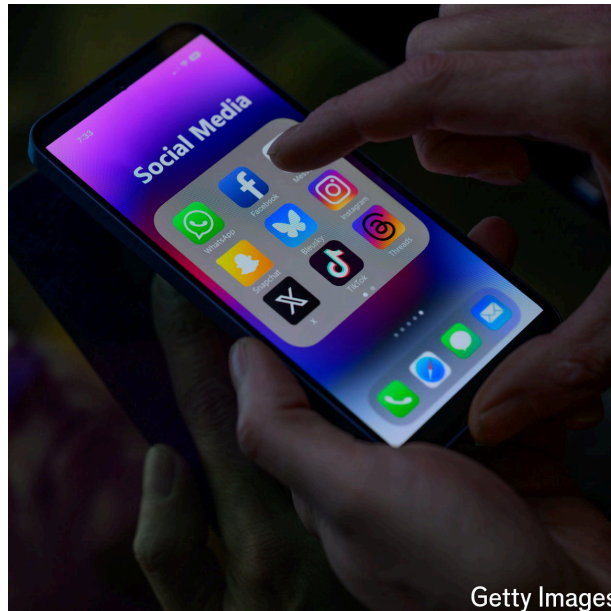
South Korea's ex-president on trial



Yoon Suk Yeol's time as South Korea's president officially ended on April 4th, when the constitutional court voted unanimously to [uphold his impeachment](#) for attempting to impose martial law in December. He, his wife and their myriad cats and dogs left the presidential residence a week later. Yet the disgraced Mr Yoon will not be allowed to slip quietly back into civilian life. His trial on charges of insurrection began today. If convicted, he could face life in prison or even the death penalty.

The fallout from Mr Yoon's fiasco will shape the presidential election scheduled for June 3rd. Lee Jae-myung, the leader of the main opposition force, the Democratic Party, is the front-runner. Mr Yoon's People Power Party has yet to coalesce around a new standard-bearer. With a deeply polarised electorate, the campaign will be hard-fought. Whoever wins will have to strike a careful balance: between the need for accountability and the need for healing.

Meta's make-or-break antitrust case



James Boasberg, the judge presiding over the Federal Trade Commission's antitrust case against Meta, once said that the outcome was “anyone's guess”. As it goes to trial on Monday, that remains true. The regulator accuses Meta of crushing competition in social media and illegally reinforcing its dominance by buying Instagram in 2012 and WhatsApp in 2014. It wants to sever the two units from Facebook. Meta's rebuttal: what monopoly?

Competition is fierce, especially when you look beyond family-and-friends networks, such as Snapchat, to the broader landscape, which includes TikTok and YouTube.

The case has political intrigue, too. Andrew Ferguson, Donald Trump's new head of the FTC, is a foe of big tech. Mark Zuckerberg, Meta's boss, has cosied up to the president, reportedly to seek a settlement. Even Mr Boasberg has achieved political significance—Mr Trump has called him a “radical left lunatic judge” for his rulings in [a deportation case](#). It will be a gripping courtroom drama.

Saudi Arabia's volatile oil policy



In 2014 Saudi Arabia stunned the world by dumping huge amounts of oil on global markets. The intended price crash was a punishment for then-new shale drillers in America. Now the kingpin of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is again creating an oil glut. It surprised observers by expanding the output of OPEC and its allies for May to three times the previously agreed pace in an effort to discipline fellow cartel members, such as Kazakhstan, which have been cheating on production quotas.

The extra oil comes at a precarious moment. Donald Trump's trade wars have raised the risk of a global economic contraction. That would depress oil consumption and risk a price collapse. Since Mr Trump's initial announcement of tariffs on April 2nd prices are already down by \$10 to roughly \$65 a barrel. OPEC's monthly oil report, expected on Monday, should provide clues about whether Saudi Arabia will continue to pump freely.

El Salvador's president visits the White House



Nayib Bukele, El Salvador's autocratic president, will meet Donald Trump in Washington on Monday. The MAGA movement took a shine to Mr Bukele even before he started housing deportees from the United States in high-security prisons. Three flights—carrying mostly Venezuelans alleged by American officials to be gang members—have landed in El Salvador.

The deportations allow Mr Bukele to make money for El Salvador while ingratiating himself with Mr Trump. He is keen to go further, offering to take not just migrants but American prisoners. Mr Trump says he loves the idea, though even he concedes that the law may not allow it. Several legal challenges to his deportation policies are [in the works](#). In one case America's Supreme Court told the administration to “facilitate” the return of a man mistakenly sent to El Salvador. America's president may envy Mr Bukele. Having taken control of his country's institutions, the Salvadorian president needn't worry about such constraints.

The WNBA's big draft



A year ago Caitlin Clark was picked first in the Women's National Basketball Association draft. Ms Clark, who was named college basketball player of the year twice, lifted the league to new heights, despite her team's mediocre season. Ratings surged, helping the WNBA to a domestic broadcasting deal worth four times as much annually as its previous one.

This year's draft, on Monday in New York, will command even more attention. Again, there is an obvious first pick. Earlier this month Paige Bueckers, a guard, led the University of Connecticut to win the National Collegiate Athletic Association championship for the first time since 2016. She will probably be drafted by the Dallas Wings. Dominique Malonga, a French centre, will also probably be picked in the first round. At just 19 years old she is younger than players from the American college system. But she is already an Olympic medallist, having won silver at the Paris games last year.

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 BST on Friday to QuizEspresso@economist.com. We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

Monday: Which English poet wrote the memoirs “Cider with Rosie” and “As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning”?

But surely there must be something deeper?

Mary Warnock