

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Getty Images

Donald Trump said airlines should consider Venezuela's airspace "CLOSED IN ITS ENTIRETY". America's president also addressed his message to "Drug Dealers, and Human Traffickers". He has threatened military action against the regime of Nicolás Maduro, Venezuela's autocrat, and ordered strikes against [alleged drug-running boats](#). American aviation officials had already warned of the "potential hazardous situation" in Venezuela's airspace.

The Trump administration paused all asylum decisions and stopped issuing visas to **Afghans** following the shooting of two **National Guard** members on Wednesday. Earlier prosecutors said they would charge the [alleged attacker](#)—an Afghan citizen—with first-degree murder after one of the victims died of her injuries. Since the shooting President Donald Trump has vowed a crackdown on immigration from "third-world countries".

Ukraine destroyed two tankers in **Russia's** "shadow fleet", according to the country's domestic security service. Underwater drones struck the vessels off Turkey's Black Sea coast on Friday and Saturday. Meanwhile [Ukraine's government](#) said that three people died and dozens were injured in Russian air attacks on the

country. The strikes left more than 600,000 people in and around Kyiv, the capital, without power.

Airlines cancelled hundreds of flights around the world after **Airbus** announced that a “significant number” of its A320 planes, used for short- and medium-haul flights, needed an immediate software update. A recent incident—reportedly on a flight from Cancún, in Mexico, to Newark, near New York—had shown that “intense solar radiation may corrupt data critical to the functioning of flight controls”. About 6,000 planes are thought to be affected.

China’s emergency-management ministry said it would start a “campaign to investigate and rectify” fire risks and other dangers in high-rise buildings across the country. A fire in a residential block in Hong Kong killed at least 128 people on Wednesday. Around 200 other people are still missing. Officials have arrested 11 people so far on corruption and negligence charges.

Flooding and landslides in **Indonesia** killed more than 300 people in the past week, according to local authorities. More than 100 people are unaccounted for in Sumatra, a western island. Heavy rains have deluged areas of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand because of a tropical storm in the Malacca Strait. Indonesian officials said more troops would join the relief effort on Sunday.

Iran’s football federation said it would boycott the draw for the [World Cup](#), which takes place in Washington, DC, on December 5th. It said that the Trump administration had refused to grant visas to several officials. In the last World Cup in 2022, the Iranian and American teams were drawn in the same group. The Americans won the game 1-0.

Word of the week: *Nicisanak*, a Cree word for siblings, used to refer to inmates of Canada’s rehabilitative prisons. [Read the full story](#).



Photograph: AP

The quarrel between China and Japan

A [spat between Japan and China](#) is becoming more intense. On November 7th Takaichi Sanae, Japan's [hawkish prime minister](#), remarked in parliament that a Chinese invasion of Taiwan would be a "survival-threatening situation" for Japan. Under Japanese law, that could justify military action even if Japan itself were not attacked. China responded with threats. "If you stick that filthy neck where it doesn't belong, it's going to get sliced off," wrote China's consul-general in Osaka on social media.

This week the *Wall Street Journal* reported that Donald Trump told Ms Takaichi to soften her tone towards China, with which the American president recently agreed to a trade truce. Japan denies the report. The dispute is already affecting economic ties between China and Japan. China has advised its citizens to avoid travel to Japan. One estimate puts the potential economic damage at ¥1.7trn (\$11bn). China has also reimposed restrictions on Japanese seafood. Relations between the two neighbours could turn nastier.



Photograph: Shutterstock

Pope Leo's inaugural voyage

In the first foreign trip of his papacy, [Pope Leo XIV](#) will meet Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of the eastern Orthodox church, in Istanbul on Saturday. Both men have preached the need to overcome ancient divisions between the eastern and western branches of Christianity.

On Friday they reiterated the message at a prayer service near the ruins of an ancient basilica in western Turkey, where 1,700 years ago the Council of Nicaea upheld the doctrine that Jesus was not only the son of God, but of the same divine substance.

Although the faithful were to split into Catholics and Orthodox centuries later, the Nicene Creed continues to unite both, making the site a symbolic choice for a pope whose tenure so far has been marked by pleas for peace and reconciliation. There will be more such calls on the second leg of Leo's tour, which takes him to Lebanon, a hotbed of religious and regional tensions.



Photograph: Getty Images

Britain's squabbling socialists

Your Party, Britain's newest (and curiously named) left-wing outfit, holds its inaugural conference this weekend in Liverpool. Founded by Jeremy Corbyn, a former leader of the Labour Party, and Zarah Sultana, another Labour defector, [Your Party's launch in July](#) was met with excitement among left-wingers who think the Labour government is not radical enough.

Little of that optimism remains. A power struggle between the factions of Mr Corbyn and Ms Sultana has led to a string of recriminations and resignations. They hope to put their differences aside at the conference. The party's roughly 50,000 members will vote on an organisational strategy, a political direction—and a better name.

It may be too late. Since July, the proportion of voters willing to consider voting for Your Party has dropped by a third. Meanwhile the [Green Party](#), also to Labour's left, is polling at record highs. Ms Sultana has made anti-imperialism a dividing line between Your Party and the Greens. That is unlikely to win many votes.



Photograph: AP

Brazil's Copa Libertadores dominance

The Copa Libertadores is [South America's](#) biggest club football tournament, but in recent years it has felt like a Brazilian competition. This year's final, which takes place in Lima, Peru's capital, is an [all-Brazilian affair](#), pitting Palmeiras against Flamengo. In the past seven years (including the current tournament), only two finalists have not come from Brazil.

Such dominance is unprecedented in the tournament's 65 years. Brazil's success has triggered angst in Argentina, its biggest rival. Its national team may be world champions, but only one Argentine club has won the Copa Libertadores in the past decade. The issue has been escalated. Javier Milei, the country's president, wants to draw foreign investment to raise standards—mirroring a move made by Brazil in 2021, when it allowed football clubs to accept outside investment. But it is a divisive idea. Many fans and the Argentine football association worry that it would harm the local roots of the country's football culture.



Photograph: IMAGO

Weekend profile: Yogi Adityanath, chief minister of Uttar Pradesh

For most of his life he has been a monk, renouncing worldly possessions, rising early to pray, meditate and feed sugary treats to cows at a temple in Gorakhpur where he is the head priest. For the past eight years he has also been one of the world's most powerful politicians, ruling an Indian state of 240m people.

Some people think [Yogi Adityanath](#), the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh (UP), is a possible future prime minister of India. Others balk at the notion. At the least, he represents an important strain in the country's politics: a muscular Hindu nationalism that lays a lot of asphalt. Businesses praise his efforts to build roads, pep up the electricity supply and crush crime. Critics accuse him of trampling on human rights and Muslims.

Since becoming India's youngest MP in 1998, aged 26, [Mr Adityanath](#) has championed a number of reactionary causes, such as banning cow slaughter and promoting the construction of a [temple to Lord Ram](#), a Hindu god, on the site of a 16th-century mosque that was destroyed by Hindu extremists in 1992. As an MP, he acquired a devoted following. His admirers reverently touch his feet and call him *maharaj*, or "great king".

Agrarian, landlocked, riven by caste and tortured by gangsterism, UP has long been one of India's poorest states. Under Mr

Adityanath, who has been chief minister since 2017, governance and growth have perked up. On his watch UP's economy has grown at an annualised rate of 6.9%, except during the covid pandemic. His infrastructure-building has helped, as have reforms to make UP an easier place to do business. However, the state has failed to attract labour-intensive industries such as garment-making that could absorb its giant workforce.

Mr Adityanath has cracked down on crime, too. The property of alleged criminals is routinely bulldozed, earning him the nickname "Bulldozer Baba". UP's Muslims complain that the bulldozers are especially active in their neighbourhoods. In general, they are frightened of Mr Adityanath. In speeches, he has accused them of waging a "love jihad", seducing Hindu women so they convert to Islam and bear Muslim babies. He founded a youth movement that many describe as a militia, only disbanding it five years after becoming chief minister.

He reassured *The Economist* that "there is no Hindu-Muslim conflict in Uttar Pradesh." He boasted that "in the past eight and a half years, there have been zero instances of rioting and no curfews." Mr Adityanath can sound diplomatic when he wants to, but his pitch for India is loud and clear. If you like your Hindu nationalism blunt and forceful, he's your man.



Illustration: The Economist

The winners of the week's quiz

Thank you to everyone who took part in this week's quiz. The winners, chosen at random, were:

Anand Mahajan, Mumbai, India

Cherie Blair, London, Britain

Teemu Riipi, Helsinki, Finland

They all gave the correct answers of: Pierre Trudeau, Bernard Montgomery, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, Andrew Lincoln and the Madison. The theme is US state capitals: Pierre (South Dakota), Montgomery (Alabama), Phoenix (Arizona), Lincoln (Nebraska) and Madison (Wisconsin).

The questions were:

Monday: Which long-serving Canadian prime minister won elections in 1968, 1972, 1974 and 1980?

Tuesday: Which British general achieved fame after his victory at the battle of El Alamein in 1942?

Wednesday: Which is the longest novel in J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" series?

Thursday: Who starred as “Rick Grimes” in the long-running cable-TV series “The Walking Dead”?

Friday: Which relay race in track cycling shares its name with one of America’s founding fathers?

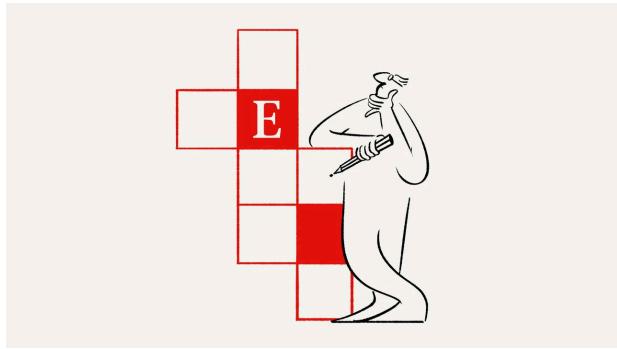


Illustration: The Economist

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](#).

Cryptic clues

1 across - Ms Klobuchar gets to bed down for immunity (7)

2 across - Outfit fee sounds like you and me (7)

3 across - Space and time led Dorothy initially to this city (7)

1 down - Airtight case? Ha! Crack'd by this dame (6,8)

Straight clues

1 across - Absolution or forgiveness (7)

2 across - Fancy dress; uniform (7)

3 across - Green gemstone (7)

1 down - Prolific crime writer (6,8)

*Take each other for better or
worse, but not for granted.*

Arlene Dahl