

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Senate Republicans unveiled a nearly 1,000-page bill that would cement Donald Trump’s tax cuts and ramp up immigration and defence spending. To offset the cost, they propose cuts to Medicaid and food aid. [The Senate](#) reconvenes Saturday at 2pm Eastern Time for a first vote. Republicans aim to pass the bill before July 4th.

Iran held a state funeral for around 60 “martyrs”, including military brass and nuclear scientists, [killed](#) during the 12-day war between Iran and Israel. Hossein Salami, commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards, and Mohammad Bagheri, the armed forces’ chief of staff, were among those buried. Earlier Iran’s foreign minister called Mr Trump “disrespectful” for claiming he had saved Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran’s supreme leader, from assassination.

A **Russian drone** struck a residential tower in **Odessa**, a port city in southern Ukraine, killing two people and injuring at least 14, including three children. Russia has [intensified strikes](#) on Ukrainian cities in recent months. Meanwhile Poland’s president, Andrzej Duda, arrived in Kyiv for talks with Volodymyr Zelensky. Mr Duda, a strong backer of Ukraine, leaves office in August.

Donald Trump said he was ending trade talks with **Canada** and would soon announce the tariff rate America would impose on its northern neighbour. The president said he abandoned negotiations after learning of Canada's plans to impose an "egregious" digital-services tax on American tech companies. The countries recently set a July deadline to reach a trade agreement.

Protesters gathered in **Bangkok**, Thailand's capital, demanding the resignation of **Paetongtarn Shinawatra**, the prime minister. A leaked call between Ms Paetongtarn and Cambodia's former leader, during which she criticised the army, has sparked a political crisis. Following resignations, her coalition now holds only a slim majority. The turmoil has also spooked investors: \$2.3bn-worth of Thai stocks has been dumped this year.

António Guterres, the secretary-general of the UN, said that humanitarian efforts in **Gaza** were being "strangled". He added that aid efforts that force Palestinians into military zones are "inherently unsafe". Hundreds of Palestinians have been killed at the aid-distribution hubs of an [opaque, American-funded aid programme](#). Independent analysis of some of the shootings points to Israeli troops.

Jim Ryan, the president of the **University of Virginia**, resigned, following pressure from the Trump administration. The *New York Times* earlier reported that the Justice Department was investigating the institution for failing to [ditch diversity initiatives](#). "I cannot make a unilateral decision to fight the federal government in order to save my own job," wrote Mr Ryan.

Word of the week: Sato, Japan's most common surname. Marriage laws require couples to share a name, raising fears that soon everyone could be a Sato. [Read the full story](#).



Photograph: Getty Images

Will Trump's Middle East gamble pay off?

Over the past week [Donald Trump](#) bombed Iran's nuclear programme and promptly imposed a ceasefire on Israel and the Islamic Republic—all without a single American casualty. Mr Trump claimed to have “obliterated” the Iranian programme. Within days he was contradicted by a leaked intelligence assessment that warned that Iran had been set back by only a few months. Other reports suggest the damage was more extensive.

Bombing alone was unlikely to verifiably destroy all Iran's facilities and was never going to eliminate Iran's nuclear know-how. The best way to stop Iran from building a nuclear weapon would be for Mr Trump [to reach a full nuclear agreement](#) with the regime. He can bolster it by pressing the Middle East to solve its problems through trade and investment, rather than preparing for wars. Those are daunting tasks, but if Mr Trump even partially accomplished them, he would have secured a prize that has eluded his predecessors. Much hard work lies ahead.



Photograph: Getty Images

Poland's hard right plots its next moves

On Saturday Poland's nationalist-populist Law and Justice (pis) party holds its annual congress. Jaroslaw Kaczynski, its leader for 22 years, will be gloating after his candidate, Karol Nawrocki, won this month's [presidential election](#). Mr Kaczynski is expected to reshuffle his deputies, bringing in some younger faces.

Then, to business: the party will discuss how to take advantage of having an ally in the presidential palace to weaken the liberal government of Donald Tusk and arrange for a comeback in the parliamentary election in 2027. Mr Nawrocki can use his veto to hobble Mr Tusk's reforms. But he is [not a pis loyalist](#). At 42, he marks a generational shift in the party, and leans further right. He also sympathises with Konfederacja, a hard-right party that came third in the election. It may end up joining pis in a coalition. But for now it is still pis's competitor for right-wing voters.



Photograph: Netflix

Is “Squid Game” really over?

“Squid Game” is the [most-watched television series on Netflix](#): viewers have spent more than 3.5bn hours watching the first two seasons, equivalent to nearly 400,000 years. The South Korean thriller follows debt-ridden contestants as they play traditional children’s games. Those who are successful win a prize of up to 45.6bn won (\$34m); those who fail are killed.

Hwang Dong-hyuk, the show’s creator, ramps up the brutality in its third and final season, starting this weekend. There are new games, and the players appear greedier and more self-centred than ever. Critics have interpreted the series as a “dark satire of capitalism”. It is ironic, then, that it has become a huge money-maker for Netflix. The streamer has created a [reality-TV version](#), and invested in live experiences and long lines of merchandise. After insisting the third season will be the end of the franchise, Mr Hwang recently hinted at a spin-off. Netflix will be eager for the games to begin.



Photograph: Getty Images

Rugby's Lions head down under

The [rugby](#) teams of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales are fierce rivals. But every four years the best players from each side join forces as the British & Irish Lions, a squad that tours one of the sport's southern-hemisphere giants. This year the team are touring Australia; their first game, against Western Force, a club from Perth, is on Saturday. By the tour's end they will play three matches against Australia's national team.

Coaching a Lions tour is one of rugby's biggest challenges. True, the squad is made up of the best talent from four leading rugby nations. But the coach has just weeks to mould a team and impose a strategy. The side's opponents work together more regularly and have home advantage. This year's coach, Andy Farrell, chose an attacking style for last week's warm-up game against Argentina. Yet his side lost. He doesn't have long to tighten the defence.



Photograph: Eyevine

Weekend profile: Zohran Mamdani, Trump’s “worst nightmare”

Four days before New York City’s [Democratic mayoral primary](#), Zohran Mamdani, a 33-year-old democratic socialist, walked the length of Manhattan: 13 miles (21km) from Inwood Hill Park to the Staten Island Ferry terminal. “New Yorkers deserve a mayor that they can see, they can hear, they can even yell at,” he said.

Few had heard of Mr Mamdani when he entered the race in October. Yet on June 24th [he defeated Andrew Cuomo](#), the former governor of New York state and once among the biggest names in American politics. Mr Mamdani’s unexpected victory delighted progressives and, for different reasons, Republicans.

His win is in part a rejection of Mr Cuomo. In 2021 he resigned as governor because of allegations of sexual harassment and of undercounting the number of New Yorkers who died in care homes during the covid-19 pandemic (he denies wrongdoing). But Mr Mamdani’s triumph also represents a rejection of Democratic centrism and politics as usual.

Mr Mamdani is an immigrant, which may have helped in a city where 40% of the residents are foreign-born. He was born in Uganda and settled in America when he was seven. He grew up around Columbia University, where his father, Mahmood Mamdani, an expert on colonialism, taught. Mr Mamdani told the

New York Times that he had a privileged upbringing. But he also understands what it means to be stateless: his father was expelled from Uganda for several years because of his Indian ethnicity. Like his parents, Mr Mamdani has criticised [Israel's war in Gaza](#). He recently defended the phrase “globalise the intifada”, which many Jewish people consider to be a call for violence against them.

In an earlier life Mr Mamdani dipped his toe into hip-hop, as a rapper by the name of “Mr Cardamom”. (He was not successful.) He was also a foreclosure-prevention counsellor, helping people from minority backgrounds in Queens stay in their homes. He entered politics in 2020, when he became the first South Asian elected to the New York State assembly. Since then only three of his bills have become law.

Mr Mamdani's campaign theme was affordability. He wants to freeze rent, make buses free, open city-run supermarkets and hit the rich with higher taxes. He rewrote the city's political map, winning many of the districts that Donald Trump won in the 2024 presidential election.

Mr Mamdani calls himself the president's “worst nightmare—as a progressive, Muslim immigrant”. But Republicans may be as delighted by his victory as progressives are. After the primary Mr Trump called Mr Mamdani “a 100% Communist Lunatic”.

If Mr Mamdani defeats his Republican and independent rivals in November, he would be the first Muslim mayor in New York City's history, its youngest and the first immigrant in decades. More important, he would be the first political star of the left to emerge during Mr Trump's second presidency. What is not yet clear is whether Democrats of his kind will lead the party out of the wilderness or deeper into it.



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

1 across Ex-leader trapped in labyrinth, as in antiquity (6)

2 across Country I thought a little yucky, initially (5)

3 across The male principle, uncrowned, won city in Myanmar (6)

1 down A wish for the setter, perhaps: cheerful and strangely dry habit (5,8)

Factual

1 across Bangladesh's despotic former ruler (6)

2 across Where the ultra-rich have begun relocating (5)

3 across Where Aung Sang Suu Kyi spent her periods of house arrest (6)

1 down What legal same-sex marriage is not having in America (5,8)

Email all four answers, along with your home city and country, by 9am GMT on Monday to [\[email protected\]](#). We will pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners in next week's edition.

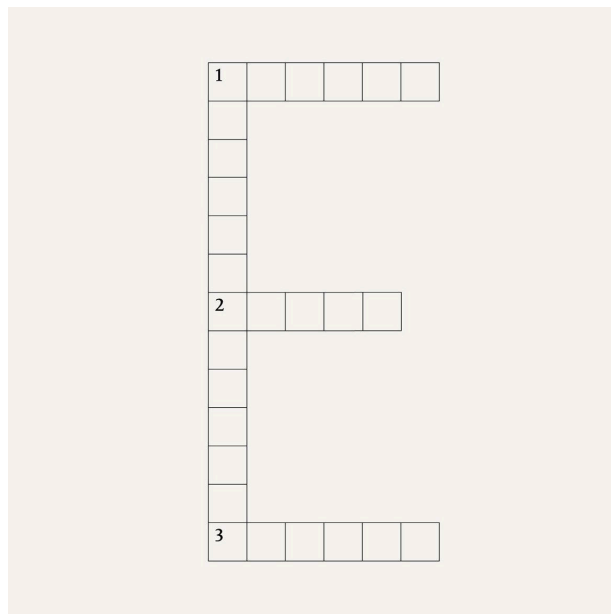


Image: .



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:

Raymond Martin, Tampa, Florida, America

Teresa Stewart, Nashville, Tennessee, America

Panagiotis Saragiotis, Angelochori, Greece

They all gave the correct answers of: a flood, search engines, Doris Day, a foot and the Flash. The theme is they are all types of light: floodlight, searchlight, daylight, footlight and flashlight.

The questions were:

Monday: Chapters 6 to 9 of Genesis describe which type of catastrophe?

Tuesday: DuckDuckGo and Startpage are types of what kind of software programme?

Wednesday: Which actress starred alongside Rock Hudson in a series of comedies (such as Pillow Talk) in the late 1950s and early 1960s?

Thursday: Which imperial measurement is equal to 0.3048 metres?

Friday: Ezra Miller starred as which DC action hero?

*Man is born free, and everywhere
he is in chains*

Jean-Jacques Rousseau