

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Getty Images

The **Israeli army** urged residents to leave **Gaza city** and head to a “humanitarian zone” in the south of the strip, ahead of [a planned new offensive](#). The warning, posted on social media, did not specify when the offensive would start. It came after Hamas released a new video of two of the 20 Israeli hostages believed to still be alive in Gaza.

The leader of Britain’s insurgent hard-right party, **Reform UK**, sought to capitalise on the [resignation](#) of the deputy prime minister, Angela Rayner. At his party’s annual conference, Nigel Farage pledged he would stop migrant-carrying small boats crossing the English Channel and urged supporters to be ready for an early general election in 2027. Reform is [polling](#) at 31%, Labour at 21%.

Vladimir Putin warned that any Western troops stationed in **Ukraine** would be “legitimate targets for destruction”. Several Western powers have backed the idea of a “[reassurance force](#)” to deter future Russian aggression once a ceasefire is signed. Russia’s president thinks the idea unacceptable. Emmanuel Macron, France’s president, says 26 allies have committed to deploying troops.

Federal agents in America arrested 475 people during a massive **immigration raid** at the construction site of a **Hyundai** battery plant in Georgia. Most of those detained were **South Korean** nationals. South Korea's foreign ministry expressed "concern and regret". In July [South Korea](#) pledged to invest \$350bn in America, including \$26bn by Hyundai, as part of a trade deal reached with the Trump administration.

**Donald Trump** threatened to retaliate after the **European Commission** fined **Google** €2.95bn (\$3.46bn) for breaching the eu's antitrust rules. The commission found that [Google](#) "abused its power" by displaying its advertising technology services more prominently than those of smaller competitors. Mr Trump called the fines and taxes "very unfair", and threatened a trade probe that could lead to tariffs on European goods.

**Anthropic**, an artificial-intelligence company, agreed to pay \$1.5bn to a group of authors and publishers after an American judge ruled it had illegally downloaded and stored millions of [copyrighted](#) books. Anthropic will pay \$3,000 per work to 500,000 authors. The sum, according to the authors' lawyers, "will be the largest publicly reported copyright recovery in history".

**Elon Musk**, the world's richest person, could soon become the first trillionaire. The board of **Tesla**, Mr Musk's [electric-vehicle company](#), proposed a package that would increase his compensation to around \$1trn if the firm hits certain milestones, including increasing its market capitalisation to \$8.5trn, from around \$1trn today. The compensation would come in the form of new shares.

**Word of the week:** *hukou*, China's residency system that bars rural migrants from a range of urban benefits. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Reuters

## **Pro-Palestinian activists sail toward Gaza**

A flotilla of around 20 small ships carrying pro-Palestinian activists and supplies is steaming toward the eastern Mediterranean. Israel's navy will almost certainly stop them before they reach their destination—Gaza's coast—as it has done with previous such flotillas. (Greta Thunberg, a Swedish activist, was on a yacht intercepted in June; she is also travelling on this group of vessels.) The food the activists are carrying is, in any case, far from sufficient to make a dent in the [massive suffering under way](#) in the enclave.

But the goal of the flotilla is not to actually open a supply route; it is aimed at stoking public opinion in the West against Israel's offensive in Gaza. The Israelis realise this. Along with sending patrol boats and warships to interdict the flotilla, they will try to create a communications black-out to prevent the release of images of activists tussling with its sailors.



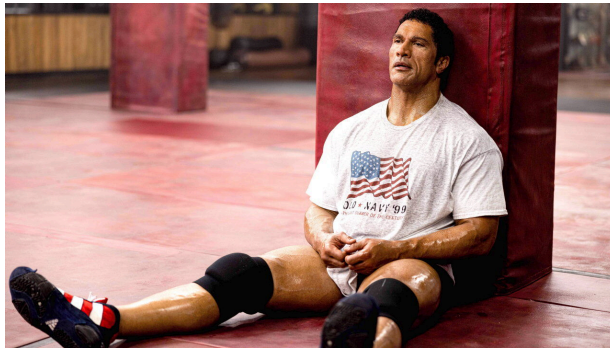
Photograph: Reuters

## Japan's Prince Hisahito comes of age

On Saturday Prince Hisahito, a member of [Japan's](#) imperial family, turned 19. A coming-of-age ceremony—featuring a visit to a shrine to greet the sun goddess Amaterasu, and a conferral of a headpiece called a *kanmuri*—will mark the occasion. Originally scheduled for last year, celebrations were postponed to avoid interrupting his university studies.

It will be the first such event in four decades. That is because the ritual is only for men and Japan's patrilineal imperial line has struggled to produce male heirs. Emperor Naruhito's only child is his daughter, Princess Aiko, so his heir-presumptive is his younger brother, Crown Prince Akishino, aged 59. Prince Hisahito, the crown prince's son, is second in line.

Naruhito's lack of a son has prompted calls to allow female emperors. Most Japanese people support such a change. But conservative politicians, including most from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, remain opposed. They are, of course, mostly men.



Photograph: Avalon

## Oscar contenders emerge in Venice

This year's Venice film festival—founded in 1932, it is the oldest of the “Big Five”—ends on Saturday. It has generated some surprising [Oscar](#) buzz. Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, a former professional wrestler, is an actor best known for glowering and chasing explosions. But in “The Smashing Machine” (pictured) he plays a mixed-martial-arts fighter addicted to opioids. The Venice audience gave him a long standing ovation for his nuanced, restrained turn.

Two other films are getting favourable attention. Kathryn Bigelow's “A House of Dynamite” has thrilled critics. The scenario is terrifying: a nuclear missile, launched from the Pacific by someone unknown, will hit Chicago in 20 minutes. What should the American government do? The president (Idris Elba) and an intelligence analyst (Rebecca Ferguson) must figure that out. Guillermo Del Toro's adaptation of “Frankenstein” stars Oscar Isaac—sporting the 19th-century scientist's requisite unruly hair—as the ambitious but unhappy genius.



Photograph: John P. Fleenor/PEACOCK

## A familiar mockumentary for fans of “The Office”

The ship of Theseus is a thought experiment about change: is a ship that has had all its planks replaced over the course of its life still the same ship? “The Paper”, a comedy series from the producers of the American version of “The Office” released this week, poses a related question. What if just a couple of planks and most of the crew were replaced. Is it a different craft?

“The Paper” is, alas, almost wholly derivative of “The Office”. A bit of clunky narrative engineering in the new show’s first episode links the two series directly. “The Paper” uses the same fake-documentary format and is also set in a struggling post-industrial small city. The characters are different but the types are the same. “The Paper” may be devoid of novel ideas, but the popularity of franchises, reboots and [remakes](#) suggests that viewers crave familiarity. For many fans, a new ship is all well and good—but an old reliable one is even better.





Photograph: AP

## **Weekend profile: J.B. Pritzker, the billionaire governor who wants to lead the Democratic Party into battle**

J.B. Pritzker, the governor of Illinois, has become one of the most prominent Democratic critics of [Donald Trump](#). As America's president prevaricates on whether he will deploy the National Guard to Chicago, and federal agents arrive at a naval base in the northern suburbs of the city, the governor is getting his moment in the sun. Mr Pritzker has forcefully pushed back about using the National Guard to fight crime. "It is illegal, it is unconstitutional, it is un-American." He has also denounced the more likely possibility of immigration raids.

Mr Pritzker was born into privilege. The family name appears on everything from an elementary school to a prominent music pavilion in Chicago. His early life was not easy. When he was seven his father died of a heart attack; a decade later, his mother died too, in a horrendous car crash. As a child in the 1970s Mr Pritzker had attended women's-rights marches with her. Her activism, he has said, inspired him to get into politics.

In 1998, aged 33, Mr Pritzker poured his own money into a primary bid to win a seat in Congress. After a stinging defeat, he retreated to a career in business. His first win was in 2018 when he was elected governor. He has governed as a progressive, albeit a

rhetorically business-friendly one. He has signed laws expanding family-leave rights and eliminating cash bail from the state's jails. He has also tried to balance the state's precarious budget.

During last year's election he was a leading Democratic surrogate. With his "Think Big America" advocacy group, he helped candidates, but also offered less-than-subtle advice to the party on how he would run a presidential campaign. More recently he said the party's problem is "listening to a bunch of do-nothing political types who would tell you that America's house is not on fire even as the flames are licking their faces." He showed little interest in compromising to win over Trump voters.

Could Mr Pritzker turn this combativeness into the presidency? He seems to be hedging his bets. In June he announced that he intends to seek re-election for a third term, which would run past the next presidential election. If he were to become president, he would be the first Jew to sit behind the Resolute Desk. For now, he prepares to confront Mr Trump in Chicago. As to the White House, there is time.





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* A kiss with a Spanish girl and a non-German dude — it's ideal! (6)

*2 across* No way Iceland starts to be like Sweden or Norway (6)

*3 across* Musk's AI without its king — with no one! — is what the economy needs (6)

*1 down* Between letter and email, with no end of jingoism, he summoned the world's autocrats (2,7)

### Straight clues

*1 across* In Coleridge's poem, it is where Kubla Khan decreed his pleasure dome (6)

*2 across* A group of far northern European nations (6)

*3 across* In economics, it is the increase in the production of goods and services over time (6)

*1 down* The host of this week's Shanghai Co-operation Organisation summit (2,7)

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.

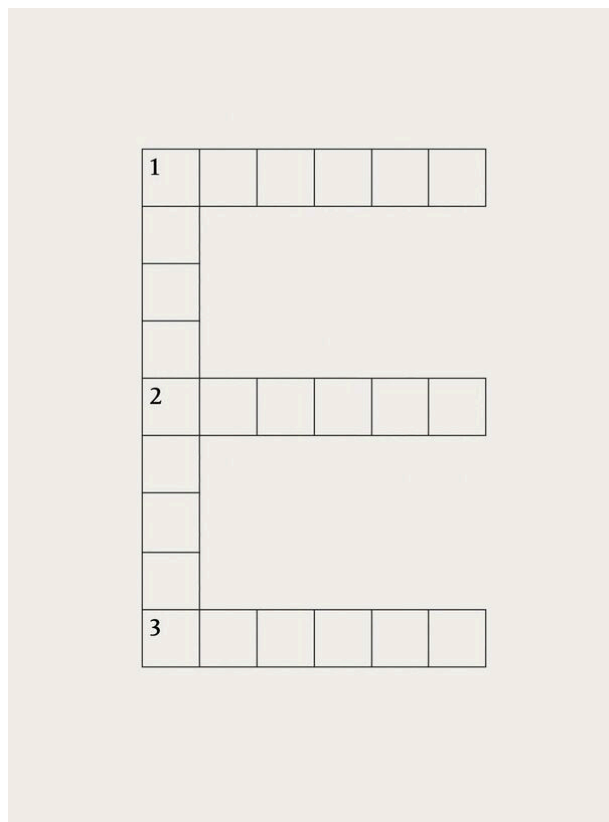


Image: Crossword



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:

**Martha Baker**, Überlingen, Germany

**Serban Ionescu**, Bucharest, Romania

**Jane Mund**, The Hague, Netherlands

*Friendship makes one love life,  
love gives taste to death.*

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***Sully Prudhomme***