

Catch up: the EU's “strong plan” for Trump’s tariffs; BYD sales soar



Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, said the European Union has a “strong plan to retaliate” against [Donald Trump’s tariffs](#). America’s president is expected to announce a fresh round of tariffs on “all countries” on Wednesday; the White House said they would take effect immediately. Mrs von der Leyen said the EU still hoped for a “negotiated solution”.

BYD delivered nearly 1m cars in the first quarter of 2025, up 58% from one year earlier. The Chinese firm, which said that over 40% of the cars it shipped were electric vehicles, recently reported that its sales rose above \$100bn for the first time last year. BYD’s soaring sales come as those of [Tesla](#), its American rival, have fallen in Europe.

The judge who barred **Marine Le Pen** from public office was placed under police protection after receiving threats. The leader of France’s hard-right National Rally was [sentenced to four years in prison](#), two of them suspended and two under house arrest, on

Monday. Ms Le Pen accused the judge of making a “political decision”.

Pam Bondi, America’s attorney-general, instructed federal prosecutors to seek the **death penalty** in their case against **Luigi Mangione**, after Mr Trump reversed the Biden administration’s [moratorium](#) on federal executions. Mr Mangione was charged in December with murdering a health-care CEO. The killing and the ensuing manhunt captured national attention, as did the [“manifesto”](#) he penned against America’s health-care system. He pleaded not guilty.

During a visit to Moscow, **China’s** foreign minister, Wang Yi, told Russian state media that his country was ready to play a “constructive role” in achieving peace in Ukraine and that it welcomed warming relations between Russia and America. But he added that America would not divide [China and Russia](#), suggesting the countries were “forever friends, never enemies”.

The **euro zone’s** annual inflation rate was 2.2% in March, down from 2.3% in February, according to a flash estimate. The European Central Bank, which has [cut interest rates](#) six times since last summer, will decide whether to lower rates again at its next meeting on April 17th. The ECB aims for an inflation rate of 2%.

Cory Booker delivered a marathon speech in **America’s Senate** to rail against the Trump administration’s “recklessness”. The Democratic senator from New Jersey began speaking on Monday evening and vowed to continue as long as he was “physically able”. He was still speaking 22 hours later, disrupting business in the Senate, which was due to convene at noon local time.

Figure of the day: 4.8bn tonnes, the amount of coal China produces each year. [Read the full story.](#)

How is America's economy faring under Donald Trump? Assess the performance of stocks, the dollar, cryptocurrencies and other economic indicators on [our presidential tracker](#).

America's liberation from global trade



Rejoice! Freedom awaits Americans who have suffered from decades of unfettered trade with the rest of the world. That, more or less, will be Donald Trump's message in the White House's Rose Garden on Wednesday when he announces his broadest tariffs yet. He has called it "[Liberation Day](#)". Never mind that globalisation has brought stunning prosperity to America, or that the country is the main architect of international trade rules. Those are pesky facts.

The details of Mr Trump's announcement remain uncertain. The president has swung between hinting at lenience and pushing for a hard line. On the campaign trail he vowed to introduce a universal tariff of 10% or 20% on all imports. After taking office, he instead pledged "reciprocal" tariffs, with levies set to match those of other countries. But recently he has put universal tariffs back on the agenda. One thing is clear: Mr Trump wants tariffs and now he is getting them.

India tries to placate Trump



Countries around the world are steeling themselves for Donald Trump's forthcoming tariffs. [India](#) is especially wary. America is India's biggest trading partner, but it has attracted Mr Trump's ire for being a "tariff king". In 2024 India's trade-weighted average tariff on imports was 7.7%, according to the World Trade Organisation; America's was just 2.2%. Should Mr Trump narrow that gap, it would be a blow to India's economy, which has slowed in recent months.

For its part, India has sought to placate America. In February it slashed tariffs on several American goods including bourbon whisky and luxury cars. Last week Indian officials hosted their American counterparts to discuss a bilateral trade deal. According to Reuters, India has offered to cut tariffs on goods worth \$23bn, approximately half of its import bill from America. Yet it is unclear whether that will be enough to mollify Mr Trump. Indian investors are not hopeful: on Tuesday Indian markets plunged over fears of America's tariffs.

Netanyahu seeks comfort in Hungary



On Wednesday Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, flies to Budapest for meetings with his Hungarian counterpart, Viktor Orbán. The agenda reportedly includes Donald Trump's plan to evict Palestinians from Gaza. This will be Mr Netanyahu's first visit to a country that is a member of the International Criminal Court, which alleges that he has committed war crimes, since the court [issued a warrant for his arrest](#) in November. His only foreign trip since then was to America, which is not a signatory to the ICC's Rome Statute.

Mr Orbán, a nationalist like Mr Netanyahu, has said his guest has no need to fear arrest. If anything, Mr Netanyahu's legal situation is more threatening at home. He is facing charges that include accepting bribes and fraud, all of which he denies. And on Monday police questioned him in relation to influence-peddling allegations against his aides (Mr Netanyahu is not a suspect). Budapest may feel like friendlier territory.

Poland's push for a stronger Europe



The Warsaw Citadel—built by Russian occupiers in the 19th century and battered by successive invasions—is one of many reminders in Poland's capital of Europe's violent past. On Wednesday Poland's defence minister, Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz, will use the site (now home to an army museum) to host his counterparts from across the European Union to discuss bolstering Europe's security in the face of a new Russian threat.

Poland, which currently holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union, is [leading by example](#). Since [Russia](#) annexed Crimea in 2014, Poland has ramped up spending on military kit; in March the government said it would more than double the size of the army to 500,000 troops and train millions of reservists. Still, such national efforts only go so far in filling the void left by America's wavering commitment to Europe. Ministers will consider how to jointly build up the continent's defence industries and how to provide support to Poland's embattled neighbour, Ukraine.

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.

Wednesday: Which 1968 film starring Charlton Heston was the start of a long-running franchise that has generated 10 movies to date?

Tuesday: Which song, about a street in Liverpool, was on a double A-side single with "Strawberry Fields Forever"?

Where words fail, music speaks.

Hans Christian Andersen