

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, Wladyslaw 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.

Where words fail, music speaks.

Hans Christian Andersen