

## Catch up: Musk's millions fail in Wisconsin; Liberation Day dawns



Susan Crawford, a liberal judge, won a pivotal **Supreme Court race** in Wisconsin, beating Brad Schimel, a conservative backed by [Elon Musk](#) to the tune of \$21m. The result maintains the court's 4-3 liberal majority. The race was by far the most expensive judicial contest in America's history and widely considered an early verdict on the Trump administration.

**Donald Trump** is finalising what look set to be America's most expansive [tariffs](#) in a century. He is expected to announce them on Wednesday at 4pm local time. The White House said the tariffs on "all countries" would take effect immediately. Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, said the European Union had a "strong plan to retaliate", though it still hoped for a "negotiated solution".

**Israel** said it would broaden its military operation in **Gaza** in order to "crush and clear the area of terrorists". It said it plans to [seize "large areas"](#) of the enclave, and incorporate them "into Israeli security zones". Residents were ordered to evacuate. Israel

resumed its offensive on March 18th, shattering a two-month ceasefire with Hamas.

**Marine Le Pen's** hopes of running for the French presidency in 2027 rose after Paris's court of appeals said it should be able to rule on a challenge to [her conviction for embezzlement](#) by mid-2026—earlier than expected. The leader of France's hard-right National Rally was sentenced to four years, two of them suspended and two under house arrest, on Monday. She claims the verdict was politically motivated.

The **European Union** fined 15 **carmakers**, including giants such as [Volkswagen](#) and Stellantis (whose largest shareholder part-owns *The Economist's* parent company), a total of €458m (\$494m) for operating a recycling cartel. The EU said that between 2002 and 2017 the firms conspired not to pay outside firms to dismantle cars, or to let on how much of a vehicle was recyclable, allowing them to profit from the processed parts.

**China's** navy conducted live-fire exercises in the **Taiwan Strait**, as it continued the surprise military drills it began on Tuesday. The People's Liberation Army said it was testing its ability to perform “joint blockade and control” over the [self-governing island](#), simulating strikes on “key ports and energy facilities”. The manoeuvres are intended to “serve as a stern warning” against Taiwanese independence.

**Newsmax's** stockmarket valuation soared by more than 2,200% after its public listing debut on Monday. The Trump-aligned cable-TV company had a market capitalisation of nearly \$30bn on Tuesday—surpassing that of Fox Corp, the owner of its rival, Fox News—even though records show that it made a loss last year. Analysts said retail investors were behind the surge.

**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, 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.

## 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](mailto: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*