

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Anadolu via Getty Images

**Israel** launched air strikes on southern **Gaza**, accusing Hamas of violating the ceasefire. Israel said that the group had shot at its forces, which have withdrawn to a buffer zone inside Gaza that runs along its border with Israel. Itamar Ben-Gvir, a far-right member of Israel's coalition government, said Israel should resume its offensive. Hamas and Israel have repeatedly accused each other of [breaching the ceasefire](#) since it began on October 10th.

Huge crowds gathered across America for a second day of “**No Kings**” **demonstrations**, four months after [the first](#). Protesters expressed anger at various policies of the Trump administration, such as deporting immigrants, and condemned its perceived slide towards authoritarianism. Organisers said that nearly 7m people attended rallies across America. Similar protests took place abroad, for example in Britain and Spain.

Xi Jinping, **China's** leader, congratulated Cheng Li-wun on her election as leader of the Kuomintang, **Taiwan's** main opposition party. Mr Xi said he hoped the KMT would “advance national reunification”. The KMT supports closer ties with the mainland. The Democratic Progressive Party, [Taiwan's](#) ruling party, accused China

of interfering in the KMT's election, an accusation the party dismissed.

**Afghanistan** and **Pakistan** signed a ceasefire agreement in Qatar after [more than a week of on-and-off fighting](#) that has caused dozens of deaths. Pakistan's defence minister said that the two sides would meet in Turkey for further talks this month. Pakistan claims that Afghanistan is harbouring militants who have been mounting attacks across the border. Afghanistan has made similar claims about its neighbour.

**Kering**, a luxury conglomerate that owns Gucci, is reportedly close to selling its beauty division to **L'Oréal**, the world's biggest beauty company, for around €3.4bn (\$4bn). A deal would be one of Kering's first big restructurings since Luca de Meo, a former boss of Renault, a carmaker, took the helm in September. Mr de Meo is [trying to raise profits](#) at the underperforming group.

Iran said it was no longer bound by the JCPOA, a [nuclear deal](#) it signed with six world powers in 2015. The deal, which expired on Saturday, restricted its uranium-enrichment programme in return for sanctions relief. But it has long been moribund. Mr Trump took America out in 2018, some sanctions had been reimposed and Iran had enriched uranium to not far off weapons-grade.

Masked men stole nine pieces of jewellery from the Apollo Gallery in the **Louvre Museum**, which has housed what remains of France's crown jewels since 1887. The heist took place shortly after the museum opened on Sunday morning; it closed thereafter. France's interior minister, Laurent Nuñez, said that the stolen objects are "priceless".

**Word of the week:** *Slop*, a pejorative label for uncanny videos, images and audio generated by artificial intelligence that are clogging the internet. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Reuters

## Devastation in Darfur

The misery in el-Fasher, the capital of Sudan's Darfur region, continues to deepen. For more than a year the famine-struck city has been [under siege](#) by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a paramilitary group battling the national army. In recent weeks life for el-Fasher's remaining residents has taken a particularly grim turn. The RSF has launched what appears to be a campaign of targeted attacks against civilians, according to open-source-intelligence analysts at Yale University's Humanitarian Research Lab.

Local activists say that 30 people on average are dying each day from violence, hunger and disease. At a refugee camp on the city's outskirts the RSF appears to be conducting house-to-house arson attacks. In late September Donald Trump's Africa envoy, Massad Boulos, said that an American peace plan for Sudan would soon go into force in [el-Fasher](#). There is scant sign of it yet.





Photograph: Getty Images

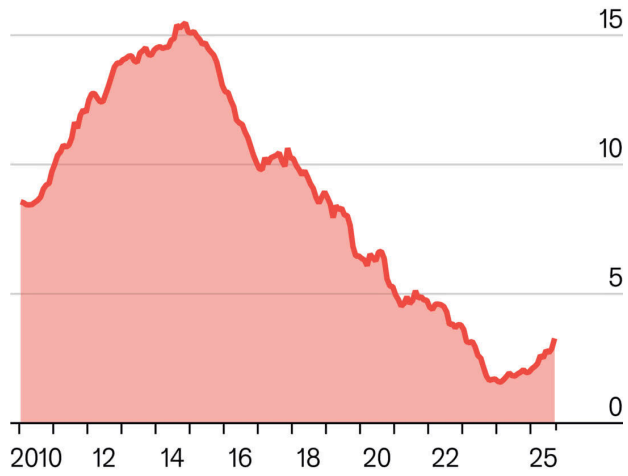
## Bolivia's choice between right and right

On Sunday Bolivians will [choose](#) their next president in a run-off election between Rodrigo Paz, a centrist senator, and Jorge Quiroga, a conservative former president. The election ends the two-decade reign of the Movement to Socialism (MAS) party, which has weakened itself through infighting and economic mismanagement. The question now is how far right Bolivians will go.

Whoever wins will inherit a [mess](#). The Bolivian government has all but run out of dollars. The official exchange rate is a mirage; the boliviano has lost half its value on the street. Fuel is scarce, inflation has spiked and public debt has bulged. Mr Paz and Mr Quiroga both promise change. Mr Paz has attracted former MAS voters by proposing merely to trim state spending, whereas Mr Quiroga wants to hack it back.

## Currency crisis

Bolivia, net reserves, \$bn



Source: Haver Analytics

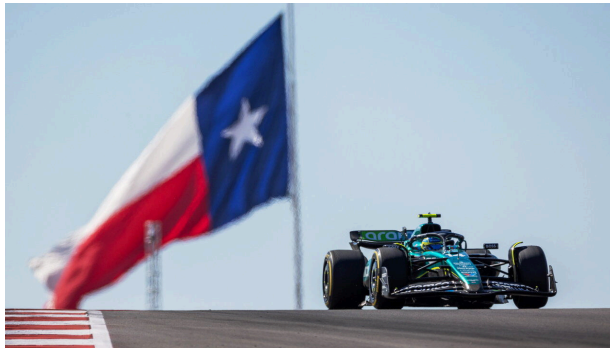


Photograph: Melinda Sue Gordon/Apple TV+

## A film-maker in front of the camera

Martin Scorsese is associated with murderous sociopaths (“Taxi Driver”, 1976), mobsters (“Goodfellas”, 1990) and egomaniacal fraudsters (“The Wolf of Wall Street”, 2013). “Mr. Scorsese”, a five-part documentary released this week, offers a gentler, intimate portrait of one of America’s most influential film-makers. The 82-year-old reflects on his childhood in a Sicilian enclave in Manhattan, his former desire to become a priest and his infatuation with [cinema](#).

Rebecca Miller, the documentary’s director, uses archival footage to tell the story behind Mr Scorsese’s most celebrated films. Many of his collaborators, from Robert De Niro to Leonardo DiCaprio, praise his craft. Yet this is no mere puff piece: Mr Scorsese talks openly about his professional failures—which he believes include films like “Boxcar Bertha” (1972) and “New York, New York” (1977)—as well as his depression and [drug](#) abuse. What emerges is a thoughtful, honest depiction of a man whose work grapples with morality and vice.



Photograph: Getty Images

## McLaren's pitstop power struggle

Only six races remain in the Formula One season, including Sunday's US Grand Prix. This year's frontrunners for the driver's title are two McLaren hotshots: Australia's Oscar Piastri and Britain's Lando Norris. [F1 teams](#) often order their driver with the fewest points to sacrifice their ambitions in order to boost a teammate's prospects. So far McLaren's team principal, Andrea Stella, has avoided choosing a number one. But that even-handed approach is now under strain.

McLaren's policy was tested last month at the Italian Grand Prix where a slow pit stop forced McLaren to swap the two drivers' positions, and again after a race in [Singapore](#), where the drivers collided on the first lap. McLaren has already secured this season's Constructors' Championship, awarded to the most successful team. But the individual prize is the one every driver wants—and may take breathtaking risks to secure.





Illustration: The Economist

## Mini crossword

We publish a new interactive edition of our crossword daily, allowing you to enter and check the answers and see explanations. Try it [here](#). Or, if you prefer, use the grid below.

There are two sets of clues, one for seasoned cruciverbalists and the other for less experienced solvers. Both give the same answers.

### Cryptic clues

*1 across* - Am I scared? Snarling Ursus rarely heads back to the country (6)

*2 across* - A final bit of usury after good fortunes, I hear, is very nice (6)

*3 across* - Chair for Charles chuckled, I hear (6)

*1 down* - Messrs Orbison and Jolson, with some plum intel, are coining it (5,4)

### Straight clues

*1 across* - Bellicose state pushing NATO's limits (6)

*2 across* - A class of asset that the very rich are turning their back on (6)

3 across - Whereupon a king or queen might sit (8)

1 down - Coiner of British money, on whose former site China wants to build an embassy (5,4)

Email all four answers, along with your home city and country, by 9am BST on Monday to [\[email protected\]](#). We will pick three winners at random and crown them in next week's edition.

We'd like to hear from you to improve the crossword. Do you play the interactive version of our mini crossword, published daily? If not, why? How useful do you find the grid image? Do you prefer cryptic or straight clues? Are our puzzles too easy or hard, and is the difficulty consistent? And is there anything else you think about the crossword? Please tell us at [\[email protected\]](#).

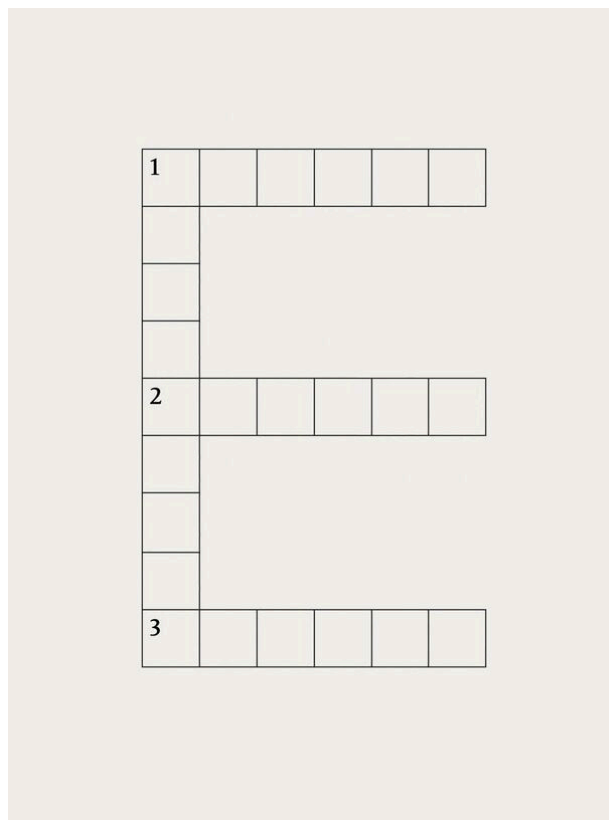


Image: Crossword



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:

**Don Shanks**, Thunder Bay, Canada

**Natalia Georghiou**, Alnwick, Britain

**Subash Bijlani**, Gurgaon, India

They all gave the correct answers of: wind, The Times, Masters and Johnson, The Woman in Black and the tambourine. The theme is songs by Bob Dylan: Blowin' in the Wind, The Times They Are A-Changin', Masters of War, Just Like A Woman and Mr Tambourine Man

The questions were:

**Monday:** The Beaufort scale measures the intensity of what?

**Tuesday:** Which British newspaper was founded in 1785 under the initial title of "The Daily Universal Register"?

**Wednesday:** Which two-person team wrote the controversial study "Human Sexual Response"?

**Thursday:** Which ghost story by Susan Hill was turned into a 2012 film starring Daniel Radcliffe?

**Friday:** In the Abba song “Dancing Queen”, which instrument does the character “feel the beat of”?

*The metaphor is perhaps the most  
fruitful power of man*

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***José Ortega y Gasset***