

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter

Donald Trump said **Russia** and **Ukraine** are “very close to [a deal](#)”, hours after Steve Witkoff, America’s envoy to Russia, met Vladimir Putin in Moscow. Yuri Ushakov, Mr Putin’s aide, said the discussions—which did not include Ukraine—were “constructive” and included the “possibility” of direct talks between Russia and Ukraine. European and Ukrainian leaders oppose elements of America’s plan, which they argue would legitimise Russia’s territorial gains.

Kash Patel, America’s **FBI** director, said in a social-media post that the agency had arrested a county **judge** in Wisconsin. The post was deleted, but federal law-enforcement officials confirmed that Hannah Dugan, the judge, was in custody. She is accused of obstructing immigration officials’ [attempt to arrest](#) an illegal migrant who was appearing in her courtroom in a separate case.

China said that some **American** imports would be exempt from its 125% tariffs, and asked businesses to submit lists of essential American goods. Earlier Mr Trump insisted that the two countries were engaged in [trade talks](#)—despite China’s denial that any such negotiations were taking place. Chinese officials have demanded that America “cancel all unilateral tariff measures” before beginning discussions.

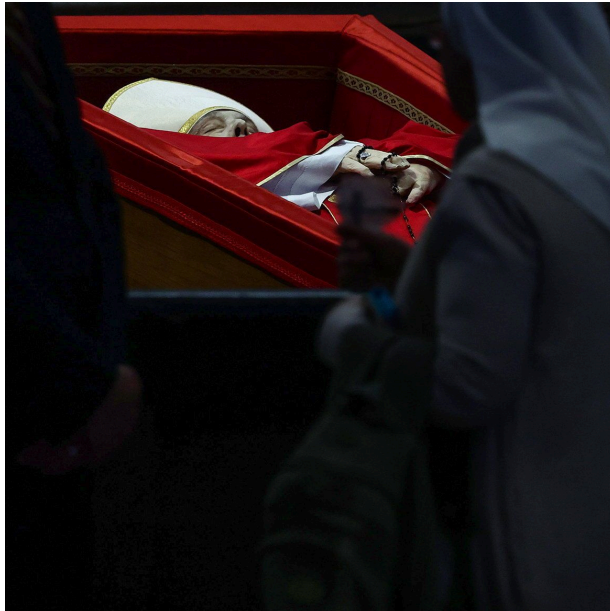
Spotify will reportedly raise subscription prices this summer across Europe and Latin America, but not in America. The [Swedish streaming giant](#) has recently hiked prices in the Netherlands and Luxembourg. It is also exploring a super-premium tier. Competitors, such as Apple Music, have also raised their prices in a bid to combat a slowdown in the sector’s revenue growth.

Indian and **Pakistani** soldiers exchanged fire for a second day. Tensions are rising between the nuclear-armed neighbours in the [aftermath of an attack](#) in India-administered Kashmir that killed 26 people—the bloodiest strike on tourists since an insurgency started there 36 years ago. Earlier Upendra Dwivedi, the head of India’s army, visited Srinagar, Kashmir’s largest city.

The **Trump administration** reversed its cancellation of around 1,500 **student visas**. Citing a decades-old immigration law, the government had [attempted to deport](#) students for infractions as minor as a speeding ticket. Some were targeted for allegedly participating in pro-Palestinian campus protests. Dozens of lawsuits were filed in response. The government said immigration authorities are developing the “framework” for a new policy.

Virginia Giuffre, one of the most prominent accusers of Jeffrey Epstein, died by suicide aged 41. She was one of the first women to call for criminal prosecution against Epstein, who was charged with sex-trafficking in July 2019 and died by suicide a few weeks later. In 2022 Ms Giuffre settled [a lawsuit](#) in which she accused Britain’s Prince Andrew of sexual abuse.

Word of the week: *papabili*, an Italian term meaning “pope-able,” used to describe cardinals considered contenders to become the next pope. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Getty Images

Politics and mourning in the Vatican

World leaders will gather in front of St Peter's Basilica on Saturday for the funeral of Pope Francis. Italy's foreign minister, Antonio Tajani, has said that the event will not prompt a burst of informal diplomacy. But President Donald Trump reckons that other leaders are eager to meet him.

There are three things to watch for. The first is how Mr Trump might react to seeing Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky. In recent days America's president has [blamed Ukraine](#) for obstructing peace and berated Vladimir Putin for a deadly attack on Kyiv, Ukraine's capital. Observers will also wait to see whether Mr Trump meets Ursula von der Leyen, the boss of the European Commission. European officials are reportedly desperate to discuss trade.

Finally, look for gaffes. The Vatican's seating arrangements make for odd neighbours. At the funeral of Saint John Paul II, King Charles (then the Prince of Wales) was snared into shaking hands with a diplomatic pariah, Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's late president.



Photograph: EPA

Another round of nuclear talks

Now the hard part begins. Saturday will be the third round of [nuclear negotiations](#) between Steve Witkoff, America's Middle East envoy, and Abbas Araqchi, the Iranian foreign minister. It will also be the start of "technical talks" between experts from the two countries. The latter step marks important progress towards striking a new deal to constrain Iran's nuclear programme, and is another sign that America and Iran are serious.

Their initial positions, however, are far apart. Mr Witkoff has sent mixed signals about whether Iran could continue enriching fissile material. Marco Rubio, America's secretary of state, tried to resolve the confusion earlier this week. He said that Iran could import low-enriched uranium but would not be allowed to refine its own. America has similar arrangements with some of its allies, such as the United Arab Emirates. But Iran is unlikely to accept such a deal. If neither side is willing to budge, the experts may not have much to discuss.



Photograph: Getty Images

The Fourth Estate parties on

The White House Correspondents' Association hosts its annual dinner on Saturday. The usually festive event comes at a cheerless time for American journalism. Although Donald Trump is unusually accessible to the press, especially compared with his predecessor, he has shown greater hostility towards it than any president in recent memory. The WHCA traditionally manages the pool, or group of journalists, that covers the president. But Mr Trump's White House has bypassed the organisation, given priority to fawning right-wing media outlets and banished the Associated Press, which is suing the government over its blocked access.

As for the dinner, Mr Trump skipped every one during his first term and has no intention to attend this year. Usually a comedian provides the star turn, but organisers have cancelled the planned performance. According to the WHCA, the event will focus instead "on awarding our colleagues for their outstanding work". It may be short of jokes, but the show goes on.



Photograph: Intel

Weekend profile: Lip-Bu Tan, the man trying to save Intel

Robert Noyce, the first boss of Intel, America's semiconductor giant, invented the chip that gave [Silicon Valley](#) its name. Gordon Moore, who came next, etched his place in tech lore with a prediction—Moore's Law—that processing power would double every two years at no additional cost. Andy Grove, the third boss, turned Intel into a semiconductor juggernaut, driven by the mantra “only the paranoid survive.” The latest to join this lineage is Lip-Bu Tan, who took over in March. Reviving the firm may be [the hardest task](#) any of its leaders has faced.

Mr Tan is no stranger to chips—or to comebacks. Like many of today's semiconductor bosses, he traces his roots to South-East Asia. Mr Tan was born in Malaysia and brought up in Singapore. His father was a newspaper editor, and his mother was a teacher. He moved to America to study nuclear engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before earning a business degree in California.

In 1987 he launched Walden International, a venture-capital (vc) firm named after the pond made famous by Henry Thoreau, a 19th-century American writer whose contrarian spirit Mr Tan admires. At a time when most tech investors were chasing software start-ups, Mr Tan bet on unglamorous hardware. Walden was among the first vc firms to back Asia's emerging chip industry.

In 2009 he moved from investing in companies to running one. He became chief executive of Cadence Design Systems, a struggling chip-design software firm. By the time he stepped down in 2021, Cadence's revenue had more than tripled.

Intel's investors hope he can repeat the feat. Once the world's largest chipmaker, it missed the mobile-chip boom of the 2000s by focusing too narrowly on personal computers. In the mid-2010s, repeated manufacturing slip-ups allowed AMD, a domestic rival, to claw away a share in its core business of central processing units. At the same time, Intel ceded the lead in advanced-chip manufacturing to TSMC, the Taiwanese titan. Most damaging of all, it has been largely absent from the booming market for specialist AI chips, now dominated by [Nvidia](#).

Barely a month into the job, Mr Tan has promised to strip out layers of management and turn Intel into "a big startup". He appears committed to keeping Intel's chip design and manufacturing arms under one roof, which will not be easy. Intel is trying to compete with Nvidia in AI chips and with TSMC in fabrication—two very different businesses. It also remains heavily reliant on handouts from the American government to fund its new factories. And trade tensions with China, which generates nearly a third of Intel's revenue, add to the risk.

Mr Tan is not easily rattled. "He doesn't like to lose," says one associate. If that resolve can steer Intel out of its slump, he may yet earn his place alongside the company's greats.



Illustration: The Economist

Weekly crossword

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*.

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.

Cryptic clues

1 down Once central bank chief, assess an endlessly scary currency u-turn (4, 6)

1 across A Tesla car is average, dull and silly, ultimately (5,1)

2 across In a trench in a country in a trade war (5)

3 across Throws in the towel—and profits! (6)

Factual clues

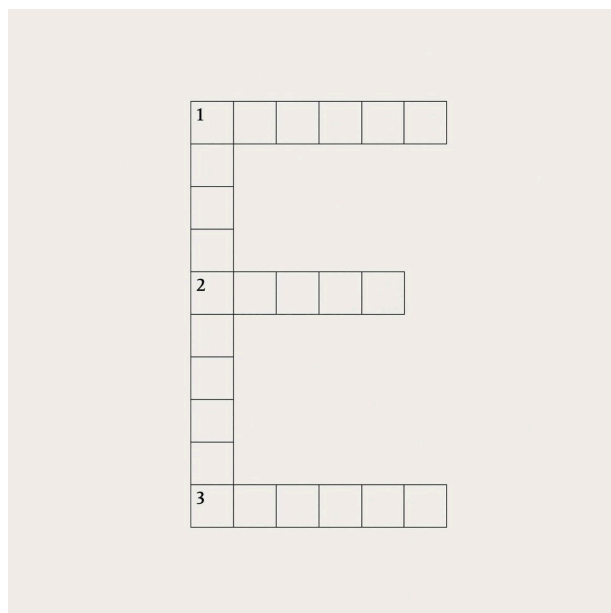
1 down The favourite to be prime minister after upcoming Canada's election (4,6)

1 across A Tesla vehicle even Republicans are failing to buy (5,1)

2 across The only country currently hit with Trump's "reciprocal" tariffs (5)

3 across These returns from American bonds are rising (6)

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





The winners of this week's quiz

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:

Bob Bell, Roseville, California, Britain

Ailsa Green, Choma, Zambia

Andrej Galogaža, Zagreb, Croatia

They all gave the correct answers of Marriage Story, Jupiter, Don Quixote, the flute and kleine. The theme is works by Mozart: The Marriage of Figaro, Jupiter symphony, Don Giovanni, The Magic Flute and Eine Kleine Nachtmusik.

The questions were:

Monday: Which 2019 film, starring Adam Driver and Scarlett Johansson as a divorcing couple, saw Laura Dern pick up an academy award for best supporting actress?

Tuesday: The Great Red Spot is a centuries-old storm visible on which planet?

Wednesday: Alonso Quijano is better known as the title character of which famous novel?

Thursday: James Galway is a famous soloist on which instrument?

Friday: What German word can mean both “small” and “little girl”?

*How much more grievous are the
consequences of anger than the
causes of it.*

Marcus Aurelius