

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Getty Images

The leaders of Australia, Britain and Canada said their countries **formally recognised Palestinian statehood**. Sir Keir Starmer, **Britain's** prime minister, said the announcement was designed to revive hope for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Other Western countries, including France, are expected to follow suit on Monday during a conference at the **UN General Assembly**.

Several **tech firms** issued emergency guidance to their employees on **H1-B visas** in **America**, advising them to avoid leaving the country amid confusion over the Trump administration's changes to the **foreign-worker scheme**. On Friday Donald Trump imposed a fee of \$100,000 on **H1-B** applications; the White House later clarified that it would apply only to new applications.

Estonia requested an emergency meeting of the **UN Security Council** to discuss the incursion of three **Russian** fighter jets into its airspace on Friday. It is the first time the Baltic country has sought such a meeting since it gained independence in 1991. Estonia's foreign ministry said Russia aimed to "test the resolve of Europe and **NATO**". Russian drones have **recently also violated Polish** and Romanian airspace.

A bipartisan group of American lawmakers arrived in **Beijing** for talks with Chinese officials. The members of the House of Representatives, led by Adam Smith, a Democrat, met Li Qiang, China's prime minister, as the countries try to improve ties. This week Mr Trump said China's leader, Xi Jinping, approved a deal to sell the American operations of TikTok, a Chinese video-sharing app, though America's president gave few details.

The **Pentagon** threatened to revoke journalists' access unless they pledged not to publish information, even if it is unclassified, that has not been authorised. America's defence secretary, Pete Hegseth, wrote on X on Friday that the press "does not run" his department, recently renamed the Department of War, nor should it "roam the halls". The new rules also restrict journalists' movements in the building.

The **Democratic Republic of Congo** said it would lift a ban on cobalt exports in October, though it will still restrict supply. The central African country introduced the ban in February to [shore up the price of the metal](#), which is crucial for making batteries. Now miners will be able to export 96,000 tons per year in 2026 and 2027, according to Bloomberg.

Air travel in Europe was disrupted on Saturday after **cyber-attacks** hit several of the continent's busiest airports. Flights were delayed and cancelled at London's Heathrow, in Brussels and in Berlin. Hackers targeted Collins Aerospace, a provider of check-in and boarding systems, forcing staff to process passengers by hand.

Word of the week: *hukou*, or residency permit. It gives workers in China access to social benefits when they move around the country. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Getty Images

The aftershocks from Charlie Kirk's murder

Thousands will gather to mourn [Charlie Kirk](#) on Sunday. Turning Point USA, the conservative youth organisation he founded, will hold a memorial service at a stadium outside Phoenix, Arizona. The list of speakers—which includes the president, vice-president and three cabinet secretaries—is testimony to Kirk's influence within the Republican Party, and to his appeal among the MAGA faithful and the merely MAGA-curious.

Two big questions hang over the event. The first is safety. The Secret Service and the FBI have faced scrutiny over their response to attacks on Donald Trump and Kirk. The second is the tone of the event. It could influence how [the country moves on](#) from the murder, or doesn't. The president and his allies have threatened to [crack down on leftist groups](#) that supposedly encourage political violence. In Arizona, they can either foment division or seek to lessen it.



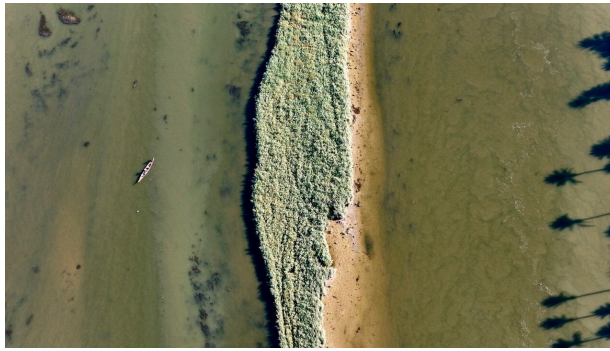
Photograph: EPA/Shutterstock

Discontent rises in the Philippines

Protesters gathered on Sunday on a major road in Manila, known as EDSA, the customary rallying point for uprisings against Philippine governments. More protests are being held nationwide.

Demonstrators are angry at the widespread corruption that left parts of the country unnecessarily exposed to flooding this rainy season. Legislators, officials and contractors are suspected of pocketing public money for flood defences that were never built or failed. The graft is estimated to have cost the economy up to \$2bn over two years.

President Ferdinand Marcos junior, who first exposed the scandal in a speech to Congress in July, has promised that an independent investigation will spare nobody. He says he shares the public's anger. But that sympathy appears calculated. Looking to recent civil disorder in [Indonesia](#) and [Nepal](#), Mr Marcos will want to avoid having the protests turn against him. The overthrow of his father, also called Ferdinand Marcos, as president in 1986 began on EDSA too.



Photograph: Getty Images

Countries drag their feet on climate targets

In late September motorcades arriving for the UN General Assembly and surrounding events gridlock Manhattan's already congested streets. One of those events is "Climate Week", an environmental summit attended by activists, politicians and business leaders. There may be notable absentees this year. Delegates from some of the countries worst affected by climate change, including Chad, Somalia and Yemen, may fall foul of a travel ban on several Muslim-majority countries, introduced by Donald Trump.

Important climate discussions are happening at the UN itself. Countries are meant to submit more ambitious climate targets for 2035 and [plans for how to achieve them](#). Nearly 95% missed the original deadline in February, blaming political uncertainty and economic pressures. The EU is delaying again, though the bloc promises to have a comprehensive target in place before COP30, the UN climate conference in Brazil in November. The chances of that summit producing a meaningful outcome now looks, like New York's traffic, even worse than usual.



Photograph: AP

Guinea on the verge of tyranny

On Sunday Guineans will vote in a referendum on a new constitution. The document would allow Mamady Doumbouya, the head of the military junta, to run for the west African country's presidency. He had pledged not to do so when the army ousted the long-time president, Alpha Condé, in 2021. But since then General Doumbouya has taken steps to hold on to power: the junta missed a December deadline for Guinea to return to civilian rule and delayed elections by a year. After the coup the junta said its members would not run in elections. The new constitution says no such thing, and allows presidents to serve two seven-year terms.

Critics call the referendum a “farce”. Opposition parties were barred from campaigning against the constitutional changes. Protests are illegal, opposition leaders have been arrested and critics have been abducted and tortured. Independent media outlets have been suspended and dissidents forced into exile. General Doumbouya has all but cleared his path to electoral victory—and to long and unobstructed rule.



Photograph: Getty Images

A tricky time for the world's fastest marathon

Among the world's major marathons, Berlin's takes place on the flattest route and in one of the most temperate places. That lends itself to speed. Three of the five fastest times by men have been run in the German capital, along with the second-fastest by a woman.

Marathon-running could use a good news story at this year's event on Sunday. In February 2024 the sport was shocked by the death of the men's record-holder, Kelvin Kiptum, in a car accident. He was only 24 years old, and three races into his professional career. Then, in July 2025, Ruth Chepngetich was suspended after failing a drugs test. That casts doubt on her world record, set in Chicago last year. In Berlin watch out for Sabastian Sawe, a 30-year-old Kenyan who won the London marathon in April. Some think he has what it takes to be the first person to run a race-legal sub-two-hour marathon.



Illustration: The Economist

Mini crossword

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.

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*:

Cryptic clues

1 across - She has vacuous legal case (5)

2 across - Group amidst sabbatical (4)

3 across - Swagger on top of new summit (5)

1 down - Sophia, Chloe endlessly worried, is an insatiable consumer (10)

Straight clues

1 across - Who provided the fuel for the world's first transatlantic flight (5)

2 across - The best-selling band from continental Europe ever (4)

3 across - A quarter of a pound, once (5)

1 down - One who would not benefit from retail therapy (10)

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

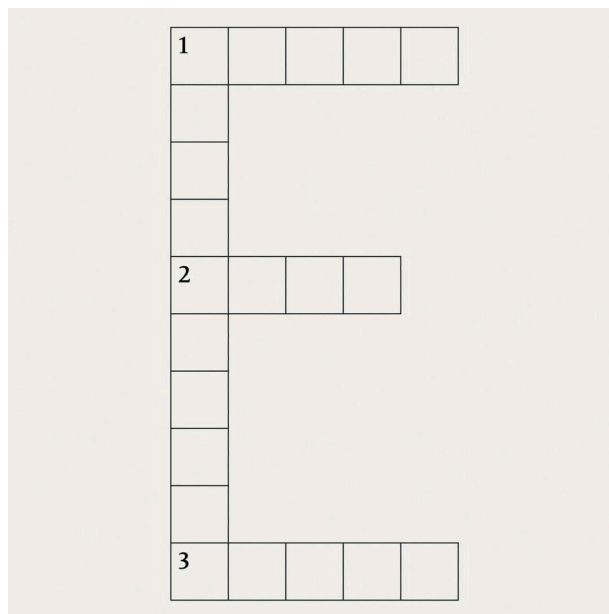


Image: The Economist



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:

Alex Barron, Mexico City, Mexico

Judy Malkin, Toronto, Canada

Rod Beards, Birmingham, Britain

They all gave the correct answers of: W.B. Yeats, Bram Stoker, Enya, Jonathan Swift and Richard Harris. The theme is that they are, or were, all from Ireland.

The questions were:

Monday: Which poet wrote "The Second Coming" with the lines "Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold"?

Tuesday: Which author is best known for his book "Dracula", published in 1897?

Wednesday: Which singer, formerly with the group Clannad, had her biggest hit with "Orinoco Flow (Sail Away)"?

Thursday: Which 18th century satirist wrote the essay "A Modest Proposal" suggesting the poor should sell their children to the elite for use as food?

Friday: Which actor played King Arthur in the film version of the musical "Camelot"?

*It makes no difference if I burn my
bridges behind me—I never
retreat.*

Fiorello La Guardia