

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: AFP

Donald Trump introduced a fee of \$100,000 on applications for **H1-B visas**, which are largely used by tech firms to recruit [skilled foreign workers](#). Howard Lutnick, America’s commerce secretary, said the move would stop companies from “bringing in people to take our jobs”. The announcement will exacerbate [tensions between America and India](#). More than 70% of H1-Bs were awarded to Indians last year.

Earlier Mr Trump said he had “made progress” in a phone call with **Xi Jinping**, China’s leader, towards the approval of a **TikTok** deal, but he provided few details. America has extended a deadline for ByteDance, TikTok’s Chinese owner, [to sell the app’s American operations](#) four times—most recently this week. Mr Trump also said that he and Mr Xi would meet at the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum in South Korea next month.

Estonia said that three **Russian** fighter jets entered its airspace without permission, before **NATO** jets forced them away. Estonia lodged a protest with Russia’s highest diplomat in the country. The Kremlin insisted that Russian aircraft flew “in strict conformity with international rules”. The incident comes days after 19 [Russian drones breached](#) Poland’s airspace.

Argentina's central bank revealed that it had spent \$1bn over the past three days to shore up the **peso**. The currency has slumped against the dollar following a [shock defeat](#) for President Javier Milei's party in local elections two weeks ago. Mr Milei blamed the opposition for causing "political panic which is spiralling in the market".

A drone strike on a mosque in **Sudan's** Darfur region killed more than 70 people. Sudan's army blamed the Rapid Support Forces, a paramilitary group, for the "horrific crime". This week the brutal [civil war](#) between the two sides entered its third year. On Friday the UN said that around 3,400 civilians died in the conflict in the first half of 2025.

America's **Senate** failed to pass a short-term **spending bill** after each party blocked the other's version. Democrats voted against a bill that earlier passed the House of Representatives. Republicans, meanwhile, rejected Democrats' proposal, which reversed some [health-care cuts](#). Without stopgap legislation the government [could shut down](#) after September 30th, when funding expires. Senate Democrats are demanding that Republicans negotiate with them.

A federal judge in Florida rejected Mr Trump's \$15bn libel and defamation lawsuit against the **New York Times**, calling the lengthy complaint "decidedly improper", "repetitive" and "florid". Part of Mr Trump's suit argued a description made by *Times* reporters that he had been "discovered" for "The Apprentice" was inaccurate because he was already famous. The president can re-file, but the new complaint must be succinct.

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

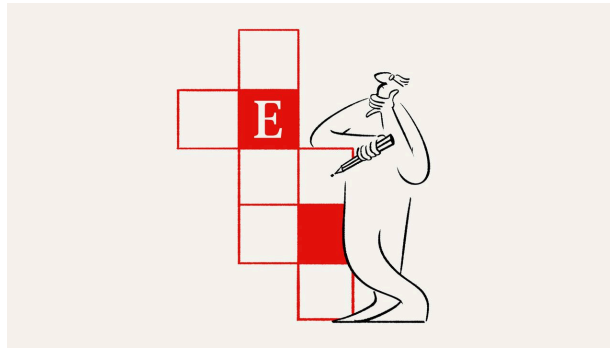


Illustration: The Economist

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 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 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.

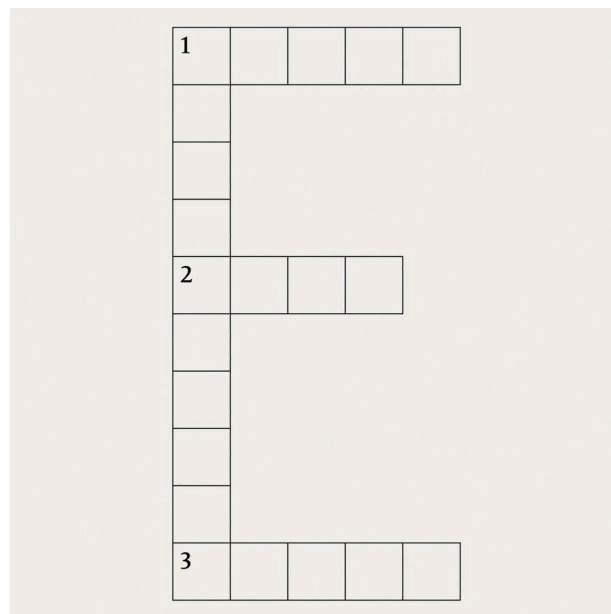


Image: The Economist



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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