

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: AFP

President Donald Trump exempted several **foodstuffs**, including beef and coffee, from “reciprocal” **tariffs** imposed on imports to America. The president said that the levies were no longer needed, but the change seems more likely to reflect concerns among Republicans that tariffs have pushed up Americans’ cost of living.

Mr Trump said that he would sue [the BBC](#) for between \$1bn and \$5bn, “probably some time next week”, over its misleading edit of a speech he gave on January 6th 2021, the day of the Capitol Hill riot. Mr Trump had previously threatened to sue for \$1bn. The [BBC](#) has apologised for the edit, but rejected the president’s demand for compensation.

America’s justice department will investigate several Democrats, including former president Bill Clinton, for their alleged involvement with **Jeffrey Epstein**, a [deceased sex-offender](#). This week Democrats published emails from Epstein’s estate that suggested **Mr Trump** spent time with one of Epstein’s victims. In response Republicans released 20,000 more documents. Mr Trump and Mr Clinton have denied knowledge of Epstein’s sex trafficking.

China’s government advised its citizens to avoid travel to **Japan**, and said Japan would face “crushing defeat” if it tried to defend

Taiwan. The warnings come after Japan's new prime minister, Takaichi Sanae, suggested that Japan would consider an armed response if China invaded the self-governing island. Some American officials believe that China wants its armed forces to be [ready to invade](#) by 2027.

Switzerland said it had reached a deal with America to lower the tariff rate on its exports from 39% to 15%. In exchange Swiss companies promised to invest around \$200bn in America over the next three years. The Trump administration [took Switzerland by surprise](#) when it announced the hefty tariffs in July, decrying the country's outsize trade surplus with America.

RedBird, an American private-equity firm, withdrew its £500m (\$670m) bid to buy the ***Telegraph***, reportedly citing regulatory hurdles and newsroom opposition. The British broadsheet's future has long seemed [uncertain](#); it was [put up for sale in 2023](#) after its owners defaulted on their debts. Britain's government blocked RedBird's initial offer to purchase it in partnership with a state-backed fund in the United Arab Emirates.

Walmart announced that its chief executive would retire. Doug McMillon joined the company in 1984, and saw it rise to become the [world's largest](#), with 2.1m employees and an annual revenue of \$680bn. John Furner, who heads the company's America division, will replace Mr McMillon in February.

Word of the week: Codas, the name researchers use for the series of clicks female sperm whales communicate by. [Read the full story.](#)

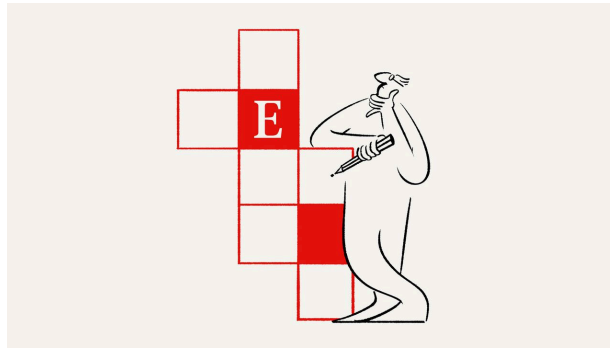


Illustration: The Economist

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 - Bill to permit medication (6)

2 across - Show hidden electrode origin (5)

3 across - DJ is unknown in day before party (6)

1 down - Self-proclaimed showgirl told garment-maker: “quick!” (6,5)

Straight clues

1 across - The Scottish equivalent of fudge (6)

2 across - Drive famed for shopping in Beverly Hills (5)

3 across - Jacket traditionally only worn after 6pm (6)

1 down - Who performed 149 concerts on their most recent tour
(6,5)

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



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:

Marina Boevska, Long Beach, California, America

Ozlem Sumnu, Barcelona, Spain

Alun Hindle, Banbury, Britain

They all gave the correct answers of: Los Angeles, Washington DC, Memphis, Portland and Chicago. The theme is that they are all cities to which President Trump has sent, or attempted to send, National Guard troops.

The questions were:

Monday: What city is home to the La Brea tar pits?

Tuesday: Which city was designed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant in 1791?

Wednesday: Which city, not known for its bear population, is home to the Grizzlies basketball team?

Thursday: Which city was built at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia rivers?

Friday: Which city can trace its origins to the building of Fort Dearborn?

*Poetry is the art of creating
imaginary gardens with real
toads.*

Marianne Moore