

## Catch up: Israeli air strikes hit Beirut; G7 defence ministers support Ukraine



**Beirut**, the capital of Lebanon, was hit by at least 12 Israeli air strikes. These followed a drone attack in Israel by Hizbullah earlier in the day, directed at Caesarea, the northern town where Israel's prime minister, **Binyamin Netanyahu**, lives. One drone struck a building, but Mr Netanyahu was away from his house and no deaths were reported.

**Ukraine** dominated the agenda at the first-ever meeting of **defence ministers of the G7** group of rich countries, held in Naples, Italy. The meeting issued a statement pledging “unwavering support” for Ukraine. The G7 is to lend it \$50bn, to be repaid out of the profits generated by frozen Russian assets.

**North Korea** said it had found a **South Korean** military drone, which it suggested had crashed on a mission to drop propaganda on its territory. Since May the North has sent thousands of balloons filled with rubbish to be dumped south of the border. On Thursday it said it had destroyed some road and rail links with the South, calling it a “hostile state”.

A [strike over pay at Boeing](#) by 33,000 workers could end next week. The strikers have been offered a package that includes a pay rise of 35% over four years; they will vote on it on Wednesday. Strikes aside, Boeing has been struggling with a daunting list of problems, including reduced or delayed production of several plane lines.

The entire island of **Cuba** was plunged into darkness for the second time in two days. The power grid initially shut down on Friday, which the energy minister blamed on a power-plant failure. Electricity was restored in some areas that night, but early on Saturday morning the grid failed again. Dated generators and a lack of fuel have made power cuts a [frequent occurrence](#).

Two opposition figures in **Mozambique** were shot dead in Maputo, the capital. The killings came days after Podemas, the opposition party, accused Frelimo, which has ruled the southern African country since 1975, of fraud during a general election on October 9th. Both the victims were associated with Podemas. Results for the election are due on October 24th.

The area of land in **Colombia** dedicated to growing coca, the raw ingredient for **cocaine**, increased by 10% in 2023. According to a new UN report, the 253,000 hectares planted with the crop had the potential to produce 2,644 tonnes of cocaine. Gustavo Petro, the country's president, has shifted his government's focus from halting coca cultivation to stopping [cocaine production](#) and shipments.

**Word of the week:** *Aotearoa*, the Maori word for New Zealand, and the name of one of just a handful of ships in the country's navy. [Read the full story.](#)

*American politics matters intensely to the rest of the world. Read [The US in brief](#)—a daily update to help you keep on top of the*

*political stories that matter. [Sign up here](#) to receive it as a newsletter, each weekday, in your inbox.*

# Moldova votes to turn towards the West



On Sunday Moldovans will vote in a presidential election and referendum on constitutional amendments aimed at promoting their country's accession to the European Union. [Russia](#) has been working hard to derail Moldova's path to European integration and to defame its president, [Maia Sandu](#), who is seeking a second term. The police recently said they had uncovered a \$15m vote-buying scheme funded by a pro-Russian oligarch.

The polls show that 63% of Moldovans support their country's accession ambitions. Ms Sandu will probably win, although the presidential vote may go to a second round. Some 2.7m Moldovans are registered to vote; nearly half of these are thought to live abroad, mostly in the EU and Britain. The government has been encouraging the diaspora to cast their ballots. But there will be no voting in [Transnistria](#), a breakaway territory that is supported by the Kremlin.

# How will Indonesia's new president lead?



[Prabowo Subianto](#) will finally be inaugurated as president of the world's fourth-most-populous country on Sunday. The [former general](#), who has rebranded himself as a [cuddly grandpa](#), won Indonesia's presidential election in February. He takes over from Joko Widodo (or Jokowi), who has been in charge for a decade.

Mr Prabowo has some similarities to his predecessor. Like Jokowi, he advocates infrastructure-led development. He has promised to “continue and, if possible, finish” Jokowi's plan [to build a capital city](#) in the jungles of Borneo. Mr Prabowo picked Jokowi's son to be his vice-president.

The former general has his own grand plans. He wants to increase government borrowing, partly to pay for free meals for schoolchildren, a way of reducing malnutrition. He is also keen to boost economic growth from around 5% to 8%. Some worry, though, that Mr Prabowo could further damage Indonesian democracy, which has eroded under Jokowi. He has said that Indonesia needs an authoritarian leader.

# Canada's embattled prime minister



Canadians are turning against [Justin Trudeau](#) as he heads into an election year. They include a growing number of the prime minister's parliamentary colleagues. MPs from his Liberal Party have been asking pointed questions about Mr Trudeau's leadership since the party lost formerly safe seats in two recent by-elections. A large number of them are reportedly circulating a letter calling on Mr Trudeau, who has been in office for nine years, to resign.

On Thursday four cabinet ministers said they would not stand for re-election in 2025. Mr Trudeau will thus have an opportunity to quell the Liberal rebellion by appointing some restive MPs to vacant cabinet seats. But he cannot offer jobs to enough of his opponents to silence [calls for change](#).



# Formula One sprints ahead



Under Liberty Media, its American owners since 2017, F1 is enjoying a golden period. [Max Verstappen](#) is as good a driver as the sport has ever seen. The success of the Netflix docuseries “Drive to Survive” has helped generate the buzz in America that the racing competition sought for decades. F1 is also daring to try different things. This weekend’s US Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, features another sprint race, a 100km dash held the day before the main event that offers additional world-championship points.

Organisers argue that the sprints are exciting and provide fans who have bought expensive tickets with extra racing. Critics, who include Mr Verstappen, argue that they make the Grand Prix less intriguing by revealing which teams are the most competitive earlier in the weekend. Possible solutions could be putting the sprints into a separate competition and opening them to test or rookie drivers.

## A celebration of Latin culture



Festival-goers at one of the world's biggest performing-arts festivals, in Guanajuato, a city in Mexico, will be looking forward to a headline act by Céu on Sunday. Since releasing her first album in 2005, the Brazilian singer has become a big figure in her country's [music scene](#). She has won three Latin Grammy awards; a single from her most recent record, "Malemolencia", has nearly 45m streams on Spotify. In Guanajuato she will be playing her new album, "Novela". Her songs incorporate a range of influences, from samba to hip-hop and electro-jazz.

Over two weeks the Festival Internacional Cervantino will bring together more of the region's theatre, music, dance and cinema. Launched in 1972 to celebrate Miguel de Cervantes, the early-modern Spanish author and playwright who wrote "Don Quixote", the festival takes over the mountain city's narrow streets and colonial buildings every October. Each year the organisers honour a different country and Mexican state; this year's choices are Brazil and Oaxaca.



## 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:

**Bill Frenke**, Oakville, Canada

**Ffinlo Shakya**, London, Britain

**Andrej Galogaža**, Zagreb, Croatia.

They all gave the correct answers of 49, 25, 144, 36 and nine. The theme is square numbers.

The questions were:

**Monday:** Joe Biden is the 46th president. How many vice presidents have there been?

**Tuesday:** What is the minimum age to be a member of the US Congress?

**Wednesday:** How many US open tennis championships have there been?

**Thursday:** How many inches are in a yard?

**Friday:** How many US states have double letters in their names?

# 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*.

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

## Cryptic clues

- 1 down* City's casinos awash with old French money (3,9)
- 1 across* Land is paradise after extremes of sorrow (6)
- 2 across* Amid scandal, go rescue an American politician (2,4)
- 3 across* Position of spoiled aloofness (6)

## Factual clues

- 1 down* American city that recently announced it would close several schools (3,9)

*1 across* A country whose NATO membership bid was held up by Turkey (6)

*2 across* A favourite Democratic candidate of Pamela Churchill's (2,4)

*3 across* What Justin Trudeau assumed in 2015 (6)



# Aotearoa

*The Maori word for New Zealand, and the name of one of just a handful of ships in the country's navy.*

*Read the full story.*

**No wise man ever wished to be younger.**

*Jonathan Swift*