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China's "project of the century" inspires admiration and anxiety. There are good reasons for both: leader, page 7. We unpick what motivates a vastly ambitious plan to connect the world, page 13

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to take part in "a severe contest between intelligence, which presses forward, and an unworthy, timid ignorance obstructing our progress."

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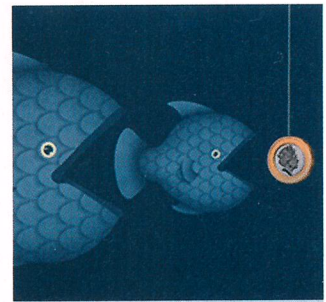
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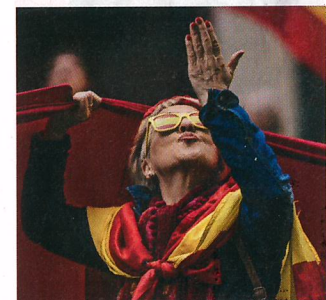
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