

Brexit clouds, Covid in the Amazon and a poetry star is born

It's been a month since the UK formally left the European Union and for many consumers and small companies the realisation of what Brexit actually means is hitting home. In this week's cover story, Toby Helm meets the business owners who have realised that, in order for trade with customers in EU countries to remain viable, they will have to set up shop in the bloc at the expense of investing in the UK. As the complicated realities of post-Brexit life sink in for the public, will they also sink in for the politicians that pushed Britain's departure? **The big story** *Page 10* →

Last year we reported on the disaster in Manaus, the capital of Brazil's Amazonas state, where nearly 100 people a day were dying of Covid. Sadly, the city is facing a second coronavirus disaster, with hospitals running out of oxygen and a new strain of the virus having appeared, which has already spread beyond the city. This week, Tom Phillips reports on the "massacre" in a city which has already suffered more than most. We also look at how a lockdown in Chad has become tangled with the politics of a presidential election, before Nick Evershed crunches the numbers on what the South African and UK Covid strains mean for the spread of the virus. **Spotlight** *From page 15* →

Last week saw Donald Trump's departure from the Oval Office and the arrival of Joe Biden as the 46th US president. Suddenly things feel much ... calmer, at least until Trump's impeachment trial begins on 8 February. Richard Wolffe reports on the work Biden is doing in his first few weeks and who the key advisers surrounding him are. We also look at what the US rejoining the Paris climate accord means for the planet and Liesl Schillinger salutes the poetry of Amanda Gorman, who stole the show at Biden's inauguration with her recital of *The Hill We Climb*.

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On the cover
The sight of hundreds of lorries waiting to get into Europe from British ports is already a familiar post-Brexit sight. But for many British small businesses it's just the tip of a particularly messy iceberg, as this week's cover story finds out.
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