



Espresso

## Daily briefing

Take five minutes to catch up on today's essential news

### THE WORLD IN BRIEF

Updated 2 hours ago (10:50 GMT / 05:50 New York)

**Evergrande**, a huge and embattled Chinese property developer, suspended the sale of its shares on the Hong Kong stock exchange, saying only that it was pending the release of “inside information”. The firm’s struggle to service its \$300bn debt has [raised fears](#) of a financial crisis in China and beyond. Last week it missed a \$255m coupon payment. It has yet to release a recovery plan.

**Sudan’s** prime minister resigned after demonstrators took to the streets over the weekend demanding democracy and an end to military rule. Abdalla Hamdok, a civilian, had been reinstated as PM by generals in November following a coup. His transitional government was meant to usher in free elections. However, the army’s willingness to cede power has [always been in doubt](#).

**Twitter** permanently banned **Marjorie Taylor Greene’s** personal account for repeated violations of the social media platform’s policy on spreading covid-19 misinformation. The Georgia congresswoman had her account suspended temporarily in the past, but this is the first time a Congressperson has been kicked off the platform indefinitely. She took to Telegram, [a popular alternative](#), to decry Twitter as an “enemy to America”.

Another independent media outlet in **Hong Kong** threw in the towel, saying that it could no longer protect its staff in the face of the Chinese government’s [authoritarian national-security law](#). The demise of Citizen News—one of Hong Kong’s few remaining Chinese-language pro-democracy news sites—comes just days after police rounded up journalists working for Stand News, forcing its closure.



### Listen to The World in Brief

We break down what’s happening around the world each day.

Start listening →

Cases of covid-19 mounted in many countries as the **Omicron** [variant](#) spread. In **America**, which is averaging 400,000 new cases a day, the government's top health adviser warned of a "major disruption" to essential services. **France** became the sixth country to record more than 10m cases of covid but said it would be easing restrictions starting Monday. Similarly, **Australia** recorded its highest number of daily cases but said it would push ahead with reopening its economy because of Omicron's milder impact.

---

**LG Energy Solution**, a South Korean battery-maker, started taking orders for an IPO in which it hopes to raise \$10.8bn—which would be the country's largest-ever listing. This would value the company, which supplies [electric-vehicle batteries](#) to General Motors, Hyundai and Tesla at \$51bn-59bn. It plans to use the cash to ramp up production and repay debt.

---

**Richard Leakey**, a Kenyan-born paleoanthropologist, died aged 77. The fossils he unearthed, including "Turkana Boy", the most complete skeleton of an early human ever found, bolstered the case that Africa was the cradle of humanity. Mr Leakey later battled the ivory trade. As head of Kenya's wildlife service he authorised rangers to shoot armed poachers and burned 12 tonnes of tusks in protest.

---

**Fact of the day:** \$54m, the amount spent on plots of land in Users of Legacy, an NFT-powered recreation of London. [Read the full article.](#)

---

---

## TODAY'S AGENDA

*Updated 9 hours ago (04:11 GMT / 23:11 New York)*

---

### Joe Biden's predicament