

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: EPA

**Donald Trump** said he was shortening Russia's deadline for making progress on peace with Ukraine to "ten or 12 days". Two weeks ago America's president said he would [impose secondary tariffs](#) on countries that buy Russian exports if no progress was made within 50 days. Mr Trump made the comments during a meeting in Scotland with Sir Keir Starmer, Britain's prime minister.

A ceasefire between **Thailand** and **Cambodia** came into effect. The agreement concludes [five days of violence](#) between the countries over a long-running border dispute. The conflict killed at least 35 people and displaced 300,000. The leaders of both countries thanked China and America, whose diplomats were present at the discussions.

Mr Trump said there is "real starvation" in **Gaza** and that America would set up food centres. Binyamin Netanyahu had earlier denied that people are starving. Meanwhile, Friedrich Merz, Germany's chancellor, said his country would airlift humanitarian aid into Gaza. On Monday Gaza's health ministry said that 14 people had died from [malnourishment](#) in the enclave in the past 24 hours.

François Bayrou, France's prime minister, said the **European Union's trade deal** with America had brought about a "dark day".

Germany's economy minister, Katherina Reiche, called the agreement "challenging" but said it provides certainty. The EU will face a 15% [tariff](#) on most goods including cars. The bloc also promised to buy more American energy and military equipment.

Aeroflot, **Russia's** largest airline, cancelled dozens of flights after a cyberattack. Silent Crow, a pro-Ukraine hacking group, claimed responsibility, adding it had worked with Belarusian hackers. On Sunday a Ukrainian [drone attack](#) forced St Petersburg's airport to shut for five hours. Russia launched 324 drones at Ukraine overnight, injuring at least eight people, according to Ukrainian officials.

**Samsung Electronics** reached a \$16.5bn deal with **Tesla** to make the next generation of artificial-intelligence chips for its electric vehicles. The chips will be manufactured in Texas. The announcement is a boon for South Korea's most valuable firm, which has [struggled to compete](#) with other chipmakers; its shares climbed almost 7% following the news.

**China** said it would provide a 3,600 yuan (\$503) subsidy to families for every child under the age of three. The handout is the latest [of several measures](#) that Chinese policymakers hope will increase the low birth rate. Several other countries, including Hungary and South Korea, have introduced similar policies, but such efforts [rarely work and are expensive](#).

**Figure of the day:** €85bn (\$100bn), the sales LVMH generated last year, making it four times as large as its closest luxury rivals. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Reuters

## China and America talk trade in Stockholm

After recent talks in Geneva and London, China's economic officials will meet their American counterparts on Monday in another attractive European city: Stockholm. The goal is to extend a [tariff truce](#) scheduled to expire on August 12th and lay the groundwork for a potential leaders' summit later this year.

America's negotiators may ask China to buy more of its farm goods and energy. China is expected to seek an easing of restrictions on importing American technology. The Trump administration surprised many earlier this month by allowing Nvidia to sell its H20 semiconductor chip to China. That's the kind of thing that makes the China hawks in the administration nervous. Although Donald Trump often accuses China of abusing America through its trade practices, he seems to admire the country's ruler, [Xi Jinping](#). They might even call it a form of Stockholm Syndrome.

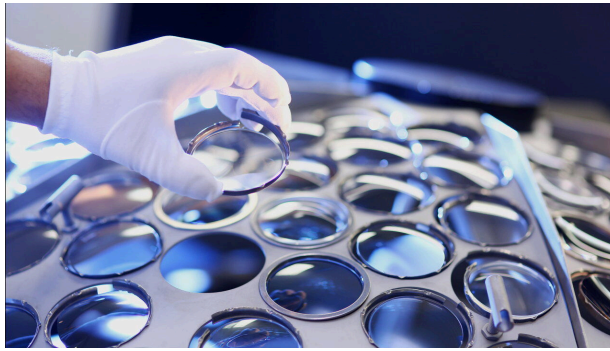


Photograph: Getty Images

## France tries to move the dial on Gaza

Emmanuel Macron, France's president, [announced](#) on Thursday that his country will recognise a Palestinian state at the United Nations General Assembly in September. On Monday his foreign minister, Jean-Noël Barrot, will formally present France's intention at the UN in New York, at a French-Saudi conference on a two-state solution. The event had originally been scheduled for June, but was postponed after Israel's strikes on Iran.

Israel and America's secretary of state, Marco Rubio, have fiercely criticised France's decision. But Mr Macron has been mulling it over, and talking about it with leaders in the Middle East and the Gulf, for months. He sees it as a necessary step towards a diplomatic solution to the [crisis in Gaza](#). France will become the 148th country, and the 12th member of the European Union, to recognise a Palestinian state. But it is the first in the G7 to do so.



Photograph: Pierre-Olivier/Capa Picture

## The maker of Ray-Ban keeps its focus

On Monday EssilorLuxottica, the world's biggest maker of spectacles, reported results that beat analysts' expectations for the first half of the year. Despite the impact of Donald Trump's trade war the Franco-Italian group, which in 2024 surpassed a €100bn (\$108bn) valuation for the first time, said that second-quarter revenue was up 7.3% from the same period last year.

Sales in America, Luxottica's biggest market, are holding up. The maker of Ray-Ban and Oakley sunglasses is betting on smart glasses that allow wearers to make phone calls, take photos and listen to music. Meta, an American social-media giant, recently acquired a 3% stake in EssilorLuxottica for €3bn and is reportedly eyeing an increase to 5%.

But the good times may not last. [Mr Trump's tariffs](#) have already prompted the company to increase prices in America, as much of its production is based in Italy. Further increases may follow. A lot depends on the outcome of trade negotiations between the European Union and Mr Trump.



Photograph: Alamy

## **Can the Marcos dynasty escape its authoritarian past?**

Ferdinand Marcos Junior, the president of the Philippines, delivered his annual address to congress on Monday. As well as setting out his programme of government, his broader aim was to convince voters that the [Marcos family](#) can govern capably without repeating the authoritarianism of his father, Ferdinand Marcos Senior.

That effort could be complicated by a political clash over the future of Sara Duterte, the vice-president, a probable challenger in the 2028 presidential election. Many lawmakers want to impeach her, which could eventually disqualify her from running. Ms Duterte is accused of several offences, including threatening to assassinate Mr Marcos, which she denies. On Friday the Supreme Court dismissed an initial attempt. Congress may yet try again. But Mr Marcos has little to gain from backing the effort: forcibly removing a rival could risk drawing comparisons to the strongman tactics of his father.





Photograph: AP

## **Colombia's former president on trial**

This week one of Colombia's most controversial court cases could finally draw to an end. A judge will shortly rule on whether Álvaro Uribe, the president from 2002 to 2010, is guilty of bribing witnesses and manipulating legal proceedings. If convicted, he faces up to 12 years in prison. He is the first Colombian head of state to be tried in a criminal court.

The saga began in 2012 when Iván Cepeda, a senator, accused Mr Uribe of supporting paramilitary death squads in the 1990s. Mr Uribe sued for defamation, but the Supreme Court dismissed the case and instead opened an investigation into allegations that witnesses were pressed to change their testimony and that false evidence was used in court. He denies all charges.

The trial has dragged on for years. A witness was murdered, dozens have testified and a prosecutor ended up in jail. The verdict will shape Mr Uribe's legacy—and show whether Colombia's judiciary can withstand political pressure from one of the country's most powerful figures.



Illustration: The Economist

## Daily Quiz

We will serve you a new question each day this week. On Friday your challenge is to give us all five answers and, as important, tell us the connecting theme. Email your responses (and include mention of your home city and country) by 1700 BST on Friday to [\[email protected\]](#). We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

**Monday:** Who is the hapless human protagonist in “The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy” series?



*What heaven can be more real  
than to retain the spirit-world of  
childhood, tempered and balanced  
by knowledge and common-sense.*

---

***Beatrix Potter***