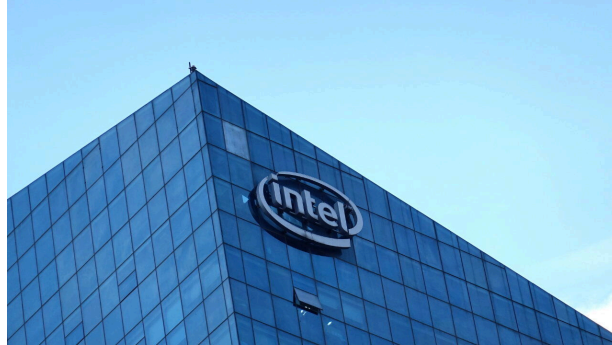


The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: VCG via Getty Images

Intel's share price closed 22% higher after **Nvidia**, a chipmaker, [said it would invest](#) \$5bn in its struggling rival. The deal will make Nvidia one of Intel's largest shareholders, owning around 4% of the company. Nvidia's stock rose by more than 3%. In August America's government and SoftBank, a Japanese firm, invested more than \$10bn in Intel.

Donald Trump and **Sir Keir Starmer** took opposing stances on Britain's decision to formally recognise a Palestinian state, which the government is expected to confirm this weekend. America's president said it was one of the "few disagreements" he had with the prime minister on his [state visit to Britain](#). He also suggested that Sir Keir could use Britain's armed forces to halt small-boat crossings.

Mr Trump said that **Vladimir Putin** "let me down" after their meeting in Alaska in August. The American president gave Mr Putin a [lavish welcome](#), but received no concessions over Ukraine in return. Meanwhile Russia's president hinted at tax rises to help pay for his war. Ukraine said it had seized back from Russia 160 square kilometres of land in Donetsk.

Hundreds of thousands of workers in **France** took part in protests against government budget cuts. Teachers, train drivers and doctors were among those who went on strike. François Bayrou, who resigned as prime minister this month, proposed the spending cuts. Protesters want [Sébastien Lecornu](#), his successor, to withdraw them.

The Trump administration took its quest to oust **Lisa Cook** from the Federal Reserve to the Supreme Court. It is appealing against a decision by a lower court, which allows Ms Cook to remain a governor while she challenges her dismissal. Because of that ruling, she was able to participate in this week's [monetary-policy](#) meeting.

Shares in **Novo Nordisk**, a Danish drugmaker, rose by more than 6% after late-stage trial results for its new obesity pill showed almost as much weight loss as its Wegovy jab. The results are a boost to the company which has faced growing competition in the weight-loss market from [Eli Lilly](#), an American rival.

Turning Point USA, a [conservative youth organisation](#), said that Erika Kirk would succeed her murdered husband, **Charlie Kirk**, as CEO and chair. The organisation vowed to become “more powerful and enduring than ever before”. On Sunday TPUSA will host a memorial service for [Kirk](#) in Arizona; Mr Trump and J.D. Vance will attend and deliver remarks.

Figure of the day: 82%, the share of children in one study who retained stable gender identities seven years after transitioning.
[Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Getty Images

America's fragile relationship with China

It can be hard to keep track of where Donald Trump stands on China. Depending on the day he either says he wants tariffs of 100%, if not higher, on its products or an ambitious trade deal with his “friend” Xi Jinping. On Friday the two leaders will hold their third phone call since Mr Trump’s election victory.

Recent bilateral trade talks have gone smoothly. The call will probably yield an agreement to sell the American operations of TikTok, a Chinese-owned short-video app, to an American investor consortium. China may also pledge to buy planes from Boeing, America’s largest aircraft manufacturer. In return it will seek [reduced American tariffs](#) and export controls. But one fruitful phone call will not mend their strained relationship. A lack of breakthroughs on the thorniest issues—including America’s view that China is failing to stanch the flow of fentanyl-related chemical exports—means any detente could quickly unravel.



Photograph: Reuters

Russia's oil infrastructure takes a battering

Doubts as to whether [Ukraine](#) could maintain the tempo of attacks against Russian oil infrastructure have been dispelled. In the past few days Ukraine has [hit several refineries](#) producing a variety of petroleum products. Russia's largest, in Ufa, is about 1,400km from the front line. Saratov, another target that is about 600km from the fighting, was reportedly attacked by special forces as well as kamikaze drones. Ukrainian officials claim that the site supplied Russia's armed forces with fuel.

Ukraine's strategic air campaign is "generating compounding effects on Russia's ability to finance its war", according to The Institute for the Study of War, an American think-tank. Equally significant was a massive drone strike on Russia's largest Baltic Sea oil terminal at Primorsk on September 12th. Four days later, Reuters reported that Transneft, a state-controlled petroleum firm, had warned that the damage may have forced oil producers to cut output.



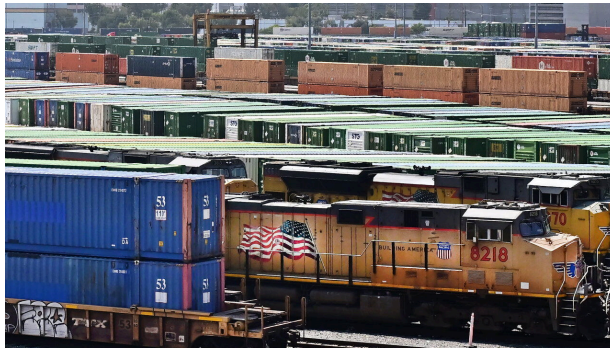


Photograph: Getty Images

The Bank of Japan's cloudy outlook

The Bank of Japan concluded its two-day policy meeting on Friday, keeping interest rates steady at 0.5%. Since ending its decades-long policy of keeping rates negative last year, the bank has been inching towards monetary normalisation. The annual inflation rate is now around 3%—above the bank's 2% target—putting pressure on officials to raise rates again, for the first time since January this year.

But trade tensions with America have made policymakers cautious. Domestic politics is adding to the uncertainty. This month Ishiba Shigeru [announced his resignation](#) as Japan's prime minister. A leadership contest will be held on October 4th. Mr Ishiba wanted to reduce Japan's budget deficit and [public debt](#), which now stands at 135% of GDP on a net basis. His successor is likely to be less fiscally conservative. One of two front-runners, Takaichi Sanae, wants looser fiscal policy and has criticised the idea of raising interest rates. Last year, she said the central bank would be “stupid” to do so.



Photograph: Getty Images

Tariff clash coming to SCOTUS

Over the summer three federal courts told Donald Trump he [lacked the authority](#) to rewrite America's tariff schedules. So the president asked the Supreme Court to rescue the “most significant economic and foreign policy initiative” of his administration. On September 9th the Supreme Court agreed to resolve the controversy on an unusually breakneck schedule. Mr Trump's briefs are due to the justices on Friday. Responses from the challengers—including a wine retailer and an educational-toy company—are due in October. Oral arguments will take place during the first week in November.

Mr Trump claims leeway to adjust tariffs in the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, a law from 1977 that allows presidents to regulate imports to “deal with any unusual and extraordinary threat”. Crises stemming from fentanyl trafficking and “large and persistent” trade deficits justify the duties, he says. The challengers condemn Mr Trump's “extravagant interpretation” of the act. They contend that tariffs are the constitutional prerogative of Congress, not the president.



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 GMT on Friday to [\[email protected\]](#). We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

Friday: Which actor played King Arthur in the film version of the musical “Camelot”?

Thursday: Which 18th-century satirist wrote the essay “A Modest Proposal” suggesting the poor should sell their children to the elite for use as food?



Illustration: The Economist

The winners of this week's crossword

Thank you to everyone who took part in our weekly crossword, published in the weekend edition of Espresso. The winners, chosen at random, were:

Amelia Cheng, Coquitlam, Canada

Gregory Sanial, Grand Rapids, Michigan, America

Thierry Rajaobelina, Alès, France

They all gave the correct answers of colony, effect, nuclei and Chappell Roan.

We now publish a [new mini crossword](#) every day.

*If the power to do hard work is
not a skill, it's the best possible
substitute for it.*

James A. Garfield