

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Getty Images

Donald Trump signed his Middle East [peace plan](#), which aims to build on the Gaza ceasefire to help establish regional stability. The American president was at a summit in **Egypt** alongside leaders from Europe and Arab states including Qatar. Yet even as Mr Trump hailed a “historic dawn”—and the final Israeli hostages were released—**Hamas** was trying to [reassert its control](#) over Gaza.

OpenAI said it would buy artificial-intelligence chips with a total power consumption of 10 gigawatts from **Broadcom**. The two American companies will develop the chips and accompanying data-centre technology together. It is the latest in a string of AI-infrastructure deals struck by the [developer of ChatGPT](#), following similar arrangements with **AMD** and **Nvidia**. **Broadcom**’s stock rose nearly 10% on the announcement.

Andry Rajoelina, **Madagascar**’s president, said he was sheltering in a “safe place” after fleeing the country. He did not reveal his location, but said that a “group of military personnel and politicians” had planned to assassinate him. Earlier reports suggested he was evacuated by a French military plane. Mr Rajoelina’s grip on power had weakened since [anti-government protests](#) broke out in September.

Emmanuel Macron, France's president, said rivals who "destabilised" Sébastien Lecornu, the prime minister, were "solely responsible" for the disorder in the country's politics. Mr Lecornu resigned as prime minister last week, but Mr Macron [reappointed him](#) on Friday. He formed a new cabinet on Sunday. Mr Lecornu will deliver what could prove a make-or-break policy speech to France's parliament on Tuesday.

Tommy Robinson, a British far-right activist, said **Elon Musk** was paying his legal costs for a trial that began in London on Monday. Police accuse [Mr Robinson](#) of refusing to give his mobile-phone PIN to an officer who stopped him under counter-terrorism laws. Mr Musk, the world's richest man, appeared via video link at a rally organised by Mr Robinson in September.

Venezuela will close its embassies in Norway and Australia as part of what it called a "strategic re-assignment of resources" of its diplomacy. Last week the Nobel committee, based in Norway, awarded Venezuela's opposition leader, [Maria Corina Machado](#), its Peace Prize. Norway, which once mediated talks between Venezuela's autocrat, Nicolás Maduro, and the opposition, called the move regrettable.

The price of **silver** futures hit a record \$52.21 a troy ounce, eclipsing a high that was set during a market scandal in 1980. Prices have risen nearly 10% in a week, as investors fret about dwindling supply in Britain, a centre for silver trading. The cost of the metal in London is now running at a huge and unusual premium compared with New York, another big market.

Figure of the day: 78%, the rise in the price of the menu at Benu, a three-Michelin-star restaurant in San Francisco, since 2015. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Getty Images

America's risky backing of Argentina

President Javier Milei of Argentina will meet Donald Trump in the White House on Tuesday. They will put the seal on Mr Trump's [bail-out](#) of Argentina. America's Treasury has promised a \$20bn swap line to the Argentine central bank. It bought Argentine pesos on October 9th, despite America's federal-government shutdown.

The peso has been under huge [pressure](#). Markets think it is overvalued and have been betting against it, draining the Argentine government of precious dollars. Fears that Mr Milei's allies may fare badly in midterm elections on October 26th supercharged the sell-off. For now, America's financial package has calmed markets. And Mr Trump may also announce a trade deal with Argentina, which would be another political boost for Mr Milei. Yet Mr Trump's gamble on the overvalued peso is risky. Markets will dump pesos if Mr Milei suffers a big electoral loss—regardless of American backing.



Photograph: Getty Images

The trade war takes to the seas

America and China will open another front in their [trade war](#) on Tuesday, when each country slaps fees on the other's ships. Mr Trump will levy a fee of \$50 per tonne of cargo on Chinese vessels docking in American ports. China has said it will retaliate by charging 400 yuan (\$56) per tonne—a fee that will gradually increase. The taxes will affect a tenth of the world's large crude and liquid-natural-gas fleets, and will cost the largest Chinese carrier, cosco, an estimated \$2bn next year.

The Trump administration wants to revive American shipbuilding, an industry that China now dominates. China's shipbuilding capacity is more than 200 times greater than that of America. Because there are so few ships built in America, China will target shipping firms that are at least 25% owned by American investors. China's response exemplifies its new [tactic](#) of matching American trade measures tit for tat.



Photograph: AP

Profit and peril on Wall Street

Several of America's biggest financial firms will kick off the third-quarter earnings season on Tuesday. Banks such as JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Citigroup and Goldman Sachs, as well as BlackRock, an asset-management giant, are due to announce their [results](#). Most have had a strong year: the KBW index of bank stocks is up 15% so far.

Despite market ructions caused by Donald Trump's tariff policies, banks have profited from an uptick in mergers and acquisitions, revenue from volatile trading and all-time highs in the stockmarket. But analysts and investors will be on the lookout for signs of weakness, especially from exposure to low-income consumers and lower-rated corporate borrowers. Recent bankruptcies of Tricolor, a subprime-car-loan firm, and First Brands, a car-parts manufacturer, suggest that danger may lurk in [credit markets](#).

Banking on profits

United States, KBW bank index,
January 1st 2025=100



Source: LSEG Workspace



Photograph: AP

Europe's sick man?

Germany is struggling. Its economy, which has been [battered](#) by an industrial slump and high energy costs, is in search of good news. On Tuesday the Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW), a think-tank, publishes its monthly economic-sentiment index for October. The index gauges the six-month economic outlook of institutional investors. Destatis, Germany's statistics agency, will also release definitive inflation figures for September; it expects to confirm that the annual rate was 2.4%.

The euro zone's largest economy has struggled with weak growth for years. America's tariffs have added to the burden. Despite grand promises, the government of [Friedrich Merz](#) has so far shown little progress with its "autumn of reforms". Yet there are traces of rising investor confidence. ZEW's index rose unexpectedly in September. The research centre says financial markets are cautiously optimistic. The outlook has also improved for export-reliant industries such as carmaking, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Today's index will show whether this optimism continues to prevail.



Photograph: Getty Images

Lessons from the crash of all crashes

Andrew Ross Sorkin has already chronicled one of the two major financial crises of the past century. His book “[Too Big to Fail](#)”, published in 2009, explored the global financial crisis that rocked the banking system in 2008. With his latest, “1929,” published on Tuesday, he takes on the other crash. The book tells the story of the 1920s stockmarket boom, the ensuing disaster when markets crumbled in October 1929, and the regret of bank executives, master speculators and the politicians who failed to respond.

All of the story’s main characters, including Thomas Lamont, the acting head of JPMorgan & Co (as it was then known), and Charles “Sunshine Charlie” Mitchell, head of the National City Bank, have been dead for decades. Yet Mr Sorkin brings a lively journalistic pace to the tale. The book examines not just the crash itself, but the damage done to the reputation of America’s top bankers and the entire [financial industry](#).



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.

Tuesday: Which British newspaper was founded in 1785 under the initial title of “The Daily Universal Register”?

Monday: The Beaufort scale measures the intensity of what?

Evil thrives on apathy and cannot survive without it.

Hannah Arendt