

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Reuters

Donald Trump—once insistent that **Ukraine** would have to cede land for peace—said he believed it could now “win” its territory “back in its original form” from a Russia that is “fighting aimlessly”. His comments came after meeting Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine’s president, at the UN General Assembly in New York. Earlier Mr Trump said NATO countries might shoot down Russian aircraft that [enter members’ airspace](#).

Super Typhoon Ragasa slammed into **Hong Kong** with hurricane-force winds and torrential rain. At least 14 people were killed in Taiwan, which was hit by the storm’s outer rim. Ragasa is the world’s biggest cyclone this year and is headed towards Guangdong province in southern China, where hundreds of thousands have been evacuated. Airports in the region have cancelled more than 5,000 flights.

OpenAI announced plans to spend \$400bn on five new data centres in America. The investment would be part of [Stargate](#), the infrastructure project backed by the AI startup along with Oracle, an IT firm, and SoftBank, a tech investor. The group still needs to raise funds for the splurge, but Sam Altman, OpenAI’s boss, insisted that AI “will drive a new wave of unprecedented economic growth”.

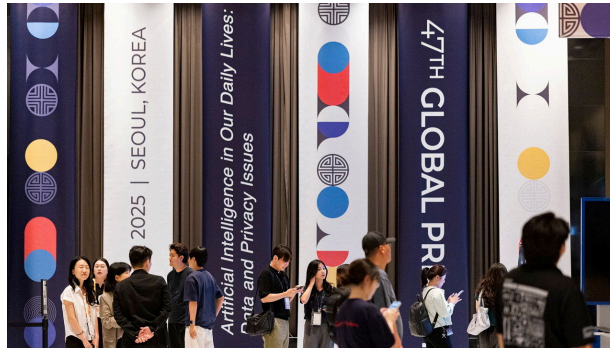
Jerome Powell suggested that **interest-rate cuts** in the coming months were not inevitable. The Federal Reserve chair said that balancing the risks of inflation and a weakening labour market made for a “challenging situation”. Last week the Fed cut its benchmark rate by a quarter of a percentage point, to 4-4.25%. Many economists—and an impatient American president—expected [further loosening](#) to come quickly.

Two of Scandinavia’s busiest airports, **Oslo** and **Copenhagen**, closed for several hours because of drone activity. [Mette Frederiksen](#), Denmark’s prime minister said she “cannot rule out in any way” that **Russia** was involved, calling the disruption “the most serious attack on Danish critical infrastructure to date”. Russia has [recently breached](#) Polish and Estonian airspace.

Wes Streeting, **Britain’s** health secretary, advised expectant British mothers to ignore Mr Trump’s call for pregnant women to avoid **paracetamol**, which in America is known as acetaminophen or Tylenol. “Trust your doctor, trust medical science,” said Mr Streeting. Mr Trump claimed paracetamol might cause autism in children. The science is [more complicated](#).

Jimmy Kimmel, an American comedian, returned to air a week after ABC suspended his programme over comments about [Charlie Kirk’s killing](#). Disney, which owns the television network, said his remarks were “insensitive”. But the ensuing backlash over [free speech](#) forced the firm to reinstate Mr Kimmel. That decision enraged Mr Trump, who—rather vindicating those fretting about freedom of expression—threatened to sue ABC.

Figure of the day: 85,000, the number of H-1B visas issued each year through a lottery system in America. [Read the full story](#).



Photograph: Getty Images

Who sets the rules on AI?

South Korea is using its presidency of the United Nations Security Council to push artificial-intelligence safety up the global agenda. On Wednesday it will lead a debate on the “complexities” and “responsible use” of AI.

Concerns about “runaway” AI—systems that might act malignantly, for example controlling weapons or destabilising societies—have faded as America and China push for [technological supremacy](#). America resists sweeping international regulations, arguing they would hold back innovation and help its rivals. At home, though, its firms still face relatively strong rules on privacy and liability. China, meanwhile, imposes strict controls on politically sensitive applications, but allows commercial developers to operate with looser oversight of privacy and data protection, while granting them access to vast state datasets.

For middle powers like South Korea, which lacks cutting-edge models of its own, old-fashioned diplomacy is one way to influence the global contest over who writes the rules for AI.



Photograph: Getty Images

Pedro Sánchez takes on Trumpism

Despite the alarm that Donald Trump inspires among voters in many democracies, few leaders choose to confront America's president publicly. Fear is one explanation. Another may be that Mr Trump's ideology is more popular worldwide than the man himself. Spain's socialist prime minister, [Pedro Sánchez](#), is a rare exception. He has urged the European Union to fight Mr Trump's "unjustified and unfair" tariffs, and promised to resist what he calls an alliance of "oligarchs and the far-right" behind "an international movement of hatred and lies".

On Wednesday Mr Sánchez will take his fight to New York. On the margins of the United Nations General Assembly he will co-host a roundtable for foreign dignitaries, alongside a frequent target of Trumpian scorn, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Brazil's president, titled: "In defence of Democracy. Fighting against extremism". The discussion will probably revolve around climate change, economic inequality, gender rights and the perils of nationalism. Do not expect many Western leaders to attend.



Photograph: Reuters

Trade warms to the Arctic

Maritime trade is under pressure. Attacks by the Houthis, a Yemeni militia, have choked traffic through the Suez Canal. For Asian exporters looking for new routes to Europe's big consumer markets, the warming Arctic offers an opening. Last year 92 ships traversed the Northern Sea Route, which hugs Russia's Arctic coast, up from just 19 in 2016. Many carried Russian commodity exports, such as natural gas, which are extracted in the country's high north.

Container shipping is now beginning to navigate the Arctic, too. On Wednesday Sea Legend, a Chinese shipping line, will send the *Istanbul Bridge* from Ningbo on China's east coast to Felixstowe, Britain's biggest port—its first voyage via the NSR. The journey takes 18 days, less than half the time required to sail around Africa's southern tip. One ship at a time, China's vision of a “[Polar Silk Road](#)” is getting closer to becoming a reality.





Photograph: Getty Images

Ukraine's minerals diplomacy

On Wednesday Ukrainian politicians, NGO leaders and bosses gather in Kyiv, the capital, for an international forum on the country's mining industry. "United by Mining" aims to drum up investment in Ukraine's critical-minerals sector, which officials hope can spur the country's eventual post-war economic recovery. The event is sponsored by America, with which Ukraine signed a [minerals deal in April](#). It established a shared reconstruction-investment fund to which Ukraine would give half of its revenues from future mineral extraction.

Ukraine hoped the deal could keep the Trump administration onside. There are some signs of collaboration: last week Ukraine and America said they would each invest \$75m into the fund; American officials have travelled to the country to research extraction sites. Still, it is unclear whether Ukraine's rare-earths sector could ever raise big revenues. Analysts query the Soviet-era projections of Ukraine's potential resources. And some of the richest deposits are in areas occupied by Russia.



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.

Wednesday: Which geographical feature covers around 165m square kilometres?

Tuesday: What travels at around 1,235 kilometres an hour?

*The more that you read, the more
things you will know. The more
that you learn, the more places
you'll go.*

Dr Seuss