

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Omar Havana/Getty Images

Donald Trump said **Pete Hegseth**, America's defence secretary, will present “irrefutable” evidence on Thursday about the **bombing** of **Iran's** nuclear facilities. Earlier Mr Trump momentarily softened his line that the sites had been “obliterated”, calling intelligence reports “inconclusive”, before quickly returning to his bullish position. The president said B-2 pilots were “devastated” that the effectiveness of their mission had been questioned.

NATO's members pledged to increase **defence spending** to 5% of GDP by 2035, **bowing to Mr Trump's demands**. Spain refused to endorse the target but did not block it. In a brief joint statement, the alliance's members reaffirmed support for Ukraine and their commitment to defending any ally under attack. Mr Trump, who has previously questioned Article 5, said that “if I didn't stand [with NATO], I wouldn't be here.”

Mr Trump said “great progress” was being made towards a **ceasefire** in **Gaza**. The president said **an agreement** was “very close”, while a senior Hamas official confirmed that talks had intensified. Israeli attacks killed at least 79 people in the territory on Wednesday, according to local officials. Israel, meanwhile, said that seven soldiers were killed in a bomb attack claimed by Hamas.

Shares in **Nvidia** touched a record high after a bullish forecast from its boss, Jensen Huang. During the chipmaker's annual shareholder meeting, Mr Huang said it would continue to grow because of the "multi-trillion-dollar opportunity" provided by artificial intelligence and robotics. The [rally](#) propelled Nvidia past Microsoft to become the world's most valuable company, with a market capitalisation of \$3.8trn.

A federal judge in America ruled that **Meta's** use of books to train its **artificial-intelligence** models did not violate any copyright law, a day after a court came to a similar decision in favour of Anthropic, a rival AI firm. Several authors had filed the lawsuit against the [tech giant](#), but the judge said they had failed to present sufficient evidence.

At least eight people died and hundreds were injured during anti-government protests across **Kenya**. One rights group said that police—who fired tear gas, water cannons and live ammunition—were responsible for most of the deaths. The demonstrations marked the anniversary of the start of weeks-long [anti-tax protests](#), during which more than 60 people were killed.

**Bumble**, an online dating platform, said it would cut its workforce by 30% to save around \$40m in annual costs. Match, a rival, recently announced staff cuts of 13%. Dating apps, which wooed [huge numbers of users](#) during the late 2010s, have failed to attract Generation Z. Bumble's market capitalisation has fallen from \$8bn when it listed in 2021 to around \$500m.

**Figure of the day:** 300m, the number of people who pay for content on OnlyFans. [Read the full story](#).



Photograph: Alamy

## Trump on the agenda at the EU summit

On Thursday European leaders will meet in Brussels for a European Council summit. They may be sick of summits, a day after a [high-stakes NATO meeting](#) in The Hague. There the alliance's members pledged to increase defence spending to 5% of GDP in a bid to appease Donald Trump.

America's president will continue to loom large. Mr Trump's erratic economic policies have presented the EU with challenges as well as opportunities. In Brussels leaders will weigh how to respond to his threat of steep tariffs on European goods. They will also discuss how to strengthen the international role of the euro as investors look beyond American assets (though German and Dutch opposition to joint borrowing could stymie such ambitions). The meeting will also cover a new sanctions package targeting Russia's financial sector and its oil-smuggling operations. European leaders are eager to help Ukraine at a time when American support for the country is wobbling.

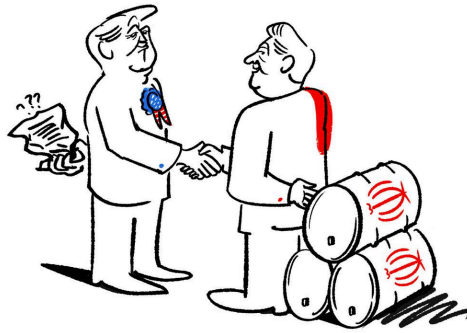


Illustration: Sandra Navarro

## How China views the Iran conflict

China may get a kick out of seeing America **embroiled** in a Middle Eastern conflict. The Communist Party is trying to capitalise by accusing America of violating international law, a position that may win sympathy in the global south. But China's priority is preserving its economic interests. They could suffer if the ceasefire between Israel and Iran collapses.

Oil is China's big worry. Iran supplies 15% of China's crude. If Israel bombed Iran's export facilities, or if Iran blocked the Strait of Hormuz, China's fuel imports would be threatened and its economy would suffer. China would also be hurt if America tightened sanctions on Iranian oil. Donald Trump has offered some hope, suggesting that China could "now continue to purchase Oil from Iran". If he means that America might relax sanctions on Iranian oil in exchange for Iran's adherence to the ceasefire, that would provide China with another reason to hope that peace prevails.

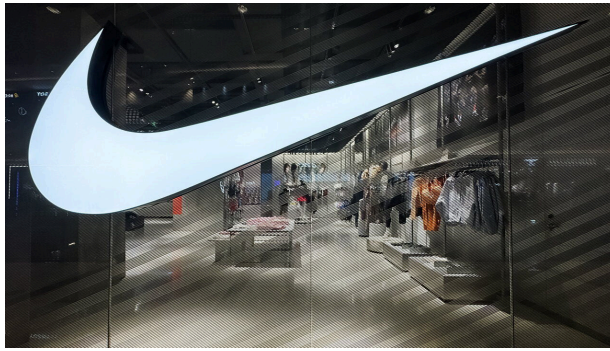


Photograph: Getty Images

## Wagner's grip on the Central African Republic

On Thursday the United Nations Security Council will discuss the [Central African Republic](#), site of one of Africa's longest-running conflicts. One of the UN's few remaining peacekeeping forces on the continent is deployed there. The blue helmets were dispatched to the country 11 years ago to halt violence that threatened to become genocide. They are still struggling to bring stability. Rebels have attacked the mission thrice this year. A UN peacekeeper was killed in the most recent assault on June 24th.

Further complicating matters is the Wagner Group. The Russian mercenary outfit, which arrived in 2018, has become the CAR government's main security partner. Elsewhere in the region Wagner is being formally replaced by the Africa Corps, a new umbrella organisation for multiple quasi-state expeditionary forces, which answer to Russia's ministry of defence. This month Wagner announced it was withdrawing from Mali. But in the CAR, despite scuffles with UN troops, it shows no signs of going anywhere.



Photograph: Getty Images

## Can Nike get back on track?

Nike announces earnings for March-May on Thursday. Investors are bracing for bad news. The company's share price plunged in March after it warned that Donald Trump's tariffs would raise costs and hurt sales. Nike is [vulnerable](#) to the American president's levies on China, where nearly a third of its products are made. At the same time, economic uncertainty is causing consumers to reduce spending. Analysts expect Nike's earnings to decline 88% year on year.

The company has worries beyond the trade war. Nike tried to bypass retailers and sell products through its own shops. That gambit led to weaker sales. The company has also lost ground to Adidas and nimble rivals like On, Hoka and Lululemon, partly because of a move into casualwear that made Nike seem uncool. [Elliott Hill](#), who became Nike's boss in October after it withdrew its full-year profit forecast, will hope to convince investors that he is the person to help the brand find its footing.

## Losing its grip

Nike, share price, \$



Source: LSEG Workspace





Photograph: Apple TV+

## Can Formula One win over American fans?

This week one of the most expensive films ever made roars into cinemas. Financed largely by Apple, at a reported cost of \$300m, the unimaginatively named “F1 the Movie” stars Brad Pitt as a washed-up American race-car driver with one last Grand Prix in him. Beyond the redemptive storyline and the flash-bang effects is a very expensive promotion for the world’s most popular motorsport.

[Formula One](#) has long excelled at turning itself into entertainment, attracting all kinds of audiences beyond its mostly European male base. A hit Netflix docuseries, “Drive to Survive”, turbocharged global interest by exposing paddock rivalries (some argue unrealistically).

In particular Formula One is winning new American fans. Since Liberty Media, an American firm, took over in 2017, the sport has added two new American races and drawn record crowds. TV viewership has nearly doubled since 2019. Now, with a Hollywood blockbuster, it hopes to keep the momentum going.





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.

**Thursday:** Which imperial measurement is equal to 0.3048 metres?

**Wednesday:** Which actress starred alongside Rock Hudson in a series of comedies (such as “Pillow Talk”) in the late 1950s and early 1960s?

*When good people in any country  
cease their vigilance and struggle,  
then evil men prevail.*

---

***Pearl S. Buck***