

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Getty Images

Donald Trump looked set to remove Gregory Bovino from **Minneapolis** amid outrage at anti-immigration operations. The Border Patrol “commander” vociferously defended federal agents, including those who [killed](#) Renee Good and Alex Pretti. Tim Walz, Minnesota’s governor, said that Mr Trump had agreed to withdraw some agents from the state. Senior Democrats called for the impeachment of Kristi Noem, the homeland security secretary.

India and the **European Union** said they had signed the “mother of all trade deals”. India will [reduce tariffs](#) on more than 95% of EU goods, including gradually lowering levies on cars from 110% to 10%. The bloc expects its exports to India to more than double by 2032 as a result. The EU will also lower tariffs on more than 95% of Indian goods.

Mr Trump said he would increase tariffs on some goods from **South Korea**—including cars, lumber and pharmaceuticals—from 15% to 25%. Mr Trump accused South Korea’s legislature of “not living up” to its end of a [trade agreement](#) he struck with Lee Jae Myung, his Korean counterpart, in October. Korean lawmakers have yet to approve the terms, which include a promise to invest \$350bn in America.

USS Abraham Lincoln, an American aircraft-carrier, reached the Middle East, days after Mr Trump said a naval “armada” was heading towards **Iran**. The president has stalled on [intervening in Iran](#) in response to the regime’s crackdown on protests, but recently said he was watching the country “very closely”. Iran has warned it would treat any attack as “[all-out war](#)”.

Israel’s army said it had recovered the remains of Ran Gvili, the last Israeli hostage whose body was still held in Gaza. The return of all the hostages had been a condition for Israel to proceed to the [second phase of Mr Trump’s peace plan](#). Israel has said it would open the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt once Gvili had been returned.

France’s National Assembly backed a bill that would ban under-15s from using **social media**. The legislation now goes to the Senate. If it passes, France would be the second country to impose such restrictions, after [Australia](#). President Emmanuel Macron wants the measures in place before the start of the new school year in September.

Xiao Xiao and Lei Lei, the only two **pandas** in Japan, left Tokyo for **China**. The official reason for the bears’ return is that their loan from China is expiring—an arrangement that holds even though they were born in Japan. But the fact that China is not replacing them reflects worsening Sino-Japanese relations: China has been [sending pandas to Japan](#) since 1972.

Figure of the day: \$17.7bn, the sum that startups in London raised in 2025, behind only the Bay Area, New York and Los Angeles. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: EPA

A long-awaited EU-India deal

Two middle powers are turning to each other for support this week. On Monday Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, and António Costa, the president of the European Council, were guests of honour at India's Republic Day. Despite Delhi's pomp and parades, the real purpose of their visit was clinching a pact that has been almost two decades in the making.

On Tuesday they announced “the mother of all [trade deals](#)”. It will remove or reduce levies on almost 97% of European exports to India, giving the EU much more access to one of the world's fastest-growing economies. Both sides hope the agreement will reduce economic dependence on China and circumvent America's punitive tariffs.

It is also meant to be the beginning of what Ms von der Leyen described as a “new chapter of EU-India relations”, meant to make both more resilient in an increasingly volatile world. The two sides also signed a new security and defence partnership.



Photograph: Reuters

Honduras gets a Trump-approved president

Hondurans will get a new president on Tuesday when Nasry “Tito” Asfura, the conservative former mayor of the country’s capital, is sworn in. Donald Trump [openly supported](#) Mr Asfura’s campaign, and cried fraud (without evidence) when a rival candidate briefly took the lead during the vote count. Worries about the election’s integrity were heightened by rapidly shifting vote totals, delays in releasing precinct-level results and the courts’ hasty dismissal of requests for a recount by Mr Asfura’s opponents. International observers ultimately declared the election fair, however.

The outgoing president, Xiomara Castro, repeatedly rowed with America while strengthening ties with China and Russia and backing Nicolás Maduro, Venezuela’s dictator, whom Mr Trump toppled this year. Mr Asfura will hope that a better relationship with Mr Trump will benefit Honduras. He will co-operate with America on drugs and corruption but delivering results will be tricky. Honduras remains poor, violent and deeply unequal. Hondurans deeply distrust its weak institutions. A daunting set of challenges awaits the new president.



Photograph: Getty Images

The world's largest luxury-goods firm is in crisis

LVMH is in an [unfashionable slump](#). In the first half of 2025 revenue fell by 4% year on year; net profit plunged by 22%. The luxury-goods company reports full-year earnings on Tuesday. Analysts have grown less confident about the company's outlook.

Scandal has struck some of LVMH's key brands: former staff accuse Moët Hennessy, its drinks division, of enabling bullying and sexual harassment. Loro Piana, its cashmere purveyor, is under judicial administration in Italy for using suppliers that allegedly violate labour rights. (Moët denies the accusations; Loro Piana admitted that overseeing its "whole ecosystem" was "a bit difficult"). Dramatic price hikes have annoyed customers. Some Louis Vuitton bags have doubled in price since 2019, though they look identical.

American tariffs and economic uncertainty in China have hurt the whole industry. But some luxury companies may be on the up. Those [expected to thrive in 2026](#), such as Hermès, are careful about the ethics (and optics) of their supply chains, and prudent about price rises. LVMH would do well to follow suit.

Bags of trouble

LVMH, share price, €



Source: LSEG Workspace



Photograph: Reuters

America is out of the Paris agreement (again)

As of Tuesday America has officially withdrawn from the [Paris agreement](#), just as it did during Donald Trump's first term. (It rejoined under President Joe Biden.) The agreement, struck in 2015, committed almost all of the world's countries to keeping global temperature rise "well below" 2°C above pre-industrial levels. America is no longer obliged to regularly submit plans on how it will mitigate against climate change, report on its progress, or help finance poorer countries' efforts.

Though the withdrawal process formally takes a year—Mr Trump issued the order last January—America has been acting as if it was already out. It has dramatically reduced climate funding as part of a general slashing of international aid, and in November declined to send a formal delegation to Brazil for COP30, the annual climate conference. Despite Mr Trump's rejection of climate diplomacy, the [global growth of emissions is slowing](#), and investment in clean-energy sources now outstrips that in fossil fuels by two-to-one.



Illustration: Sandra Navarro

Daily quiz

We will serve you a new question each weekday. On Friday your challenge is to give us all five answers and tell us the theme. Email your responses (and your home city and country) by 1700 GMT on **Friday** to [\[email protected\]](#). We'll pick three winners at random and crown them on Saturday.

Tuesday: What is supposedly James Bond's family motto, and also the title of a film starring Pierce Brosnan?

Monday: The press are sometimes referred to by which term, dating back to when the three main classes of society were the nobility, clergy and commoners?

One of the secrets of life is that all that is really worth doing is what we do for others.

Lewis Carroll