

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter

**Iran** and **Israel** exchanged further missile and air strikes on Saturday, after Israel's [biggest-ever attack](#) on Iran's nuclear facilities and military leadership on Friday, adding to fears of a widening regional conflict. Explosions were reported in Tehran, Iran's capital, and across Israel, including in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, its biggest cities. More than 70 people have been killed in Iran, and at least three in Israel.

Israel Katz, the Israeli defence minister, said Iran's strike on civilian areas "crossed a red line" and that Iran would "pay a very heavy price". Meanwhile, in a video message recorded in English and Farsi, Israel's prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, urged **Iranians** to "stand up and let your voices be heard" because their country's regime "has never been weaker".

Markets fell on Friday, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average, a stock index, closing down by 1.8%. The price of **Brent crude**, a global benchmark, settled at around \$74 a barrel—a 7% rise compared with the start of the day—after peaking at more than \$78. [Iran could disrupt](#) the oil exports of Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia if it desires. The price of gold, a safe-haven asset, rose to near-record levels.

The **International Atomic Energy Agency** confirmed that Israel's initial attack destroyed Iran's above-ground nuclear enrichment plant in Natanz. Earlier the agency described the strikes as "deeply concerning"; Rafael Grossi, the head of the **IAEA**, asked "all parties to exercise maximum restraint". Separately the Kremlin condemned Israel's attack as a "dramatic escalation". Saudi Arabia accused Israel of "blatant aggressions" against Iran.

Authorities in **Los Angeles** said they were braced for [protests](#) that “may be unprecedented” on Saturday, after days of demonstrations against raids targeting illegal immigrants. The city’s police chief said his staff were “fully prepared”. Amid legal back and forth over the National Guard’s deployment, marines temporarily detained a civilian—the first known detention by active-duty troops deployed there.

A black box was found at the site in western India where a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner **crashed** on Thursday, killing 241 people on board and a still-unknown number on the ground. One passenger survived. [The Air India flight](#), which was heading to London, went down shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad. The tragedy will hinder Boeing’s efforts to recover from years of reputational damage after other crashes.

The strength of the **Earth’s** magnetic field seems to correlate to the amount of oxygen in its atmosphere, according to a study, published in *Science Advances*, that analysed geological records spanning 540m years. The mysterious discovery could help scientists better understand how the Earth’s deep interior influences its atmosphere, and eventually help them search for signs of complex life on other planets.

**Word of the week:** Coca machucada, an amped-up version of the coca leaf. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: EPA

## Trump's birthday clash

On Saturday America will celebrate 250 years of [its army](#). June 14th is also the day that America officially adopted the stars and stripes as its flag. And, serendipitously for Donald Trump, it is his 79th birthday. The president has promised a “spectacular” military parade in Washington, DC. While 7,000 soldiers march, he has said, “thundering tanks and breathtaking flyovers will roar through our capital city”. The price tag is certainly spectacular—up to \$45m, according to estimates by defence officials.

Many plan to RSVP to a very different event. At least 1,500 anti-Trump “No Kings” protests are planned across America and elsewhere in the world to counter the parade. Organisers expect millions to turn out, with attendance doubtless boosted by outrage over Mr Trump's [deployment of troops to Los Angeles](#). The president is not keen on the competition. This week he warned that protesters would be “met with very big force”.



Photograph: Getty Images

## Iran has few good responses to Israel

Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, promised that Israel would face "severe punishment" [for air strikes on Friday](#) that knocked out its air defences, damaged its nuclear-enrichment facility at Natanz and decapitated its military. Late on Friday and into Saturday it launched a barrage of ballistic missiles, sending Israelis across the country heading for bomb shelters.

More exchanges of fire will follow. Israel has promised a wave of strikes lasting for weeks, presumably targeting more of Iran's nuclear sites. Iran will want to hit back—both to avenge a humiliated regime and to compel Israel to stop. It has few good options. If its response is too weak, it will not deter Israel; too strong, and it might draw America into the war. The least risky course of action is to carry out further missile-and-drone attacks to wear down Israeli defences. But it can no longer rely on allied militias in the region: Hizbullah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza are exhausted by their own fronts with Israel.



Photograph: Getty Images

## What might happen to oil prices?

The Middle East has been a tense place for the past two years. But so long as a full-blown war between Israel and Iran was avoided, oil prices remained calm. That all changed when Israel launched its offensive on Friday. Further attacks threaten to inflame the Gulf, which pumps a third of the world's oil. [How high might prices go?](#)

In the case of de-escalation, the risk premium would evaporate, leaving Brent prices between \$65 and \$70 a barrel, according to experts contacted by *The Economist*. A more probable continued tit-for-tat would hurt the Iranian oil supply, nudging up prices by a few more dollars. But in more desperate scenarios, such as if Iran were to shut the Strait of Hormuz, through which 30% of the world's seaborne crude and 20% of its liquid natural gas travel, Brent may rush past \$100. Worse still, if Iran were to bomb the Gulf's largest oil-production sites, \$120 could be in sight.





Photograph: Getty Images

## Ferrari defends its title at Le Mans

The 24 Hours of Le Mans takes place in France on Saturday. The race is the most prestigious of motor racing's endurance events, held annually since 1923 (with a roughly ten-year hiatus in the 1930s and 40s because of labour strikes and war). The team that covers the most distance in one day wins.

[Ferrari](#) (whose biggest shareholder, Exor, also part-owns *The Economist's* parent company) was one of the most successful teams at Le Mans in the event's early years; it won the first time that it competed, in 1949. But Ferrari stepped back from endurance racing in 1973 to focus entirely on [Formula One](#). In 2023 the team returned to compete in the new hypercar category, which permits a broader design brief. That year one of Ferrari's two teams delivered a stunning victory over Toyota, which had dominated in recent years, and prevailed again in 2024. Ferrari will be hoping to secure an unlikely hat trick.



Photograph: AP

## **Weekend profile: Gavin Newsom, a governor with an opportunity**

Normally, Gavin Newsom is loose. The Democratic governor of California [talks](#) with a staccato cadence, often flitting from one incomplete thought to the next. But on June 10th he was clear and direct. “This brazen abuse of power by a sitting president inflamed a combustible situation,” he said during a televised address after President Donald Trump [deployed nearly 5,000 troops](#) to Los Angeles to quell protests over immigration raids.

Mr Newsom was already a national figure. But the protests give him the chance to establish—or damage—his credentials. Born in 1967, he is a fourth-generation San Franciscan. His father was a lawyer before becoming a judge. His parents divorced when he was young and Mr Newsom often talks about his mother working at several jobs to raise him and his younger sister. Dyslexia meant that he struggled in school; he went to university on a partial baseball scholarship.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s he rose through San Francisco’s cut-throat, Democrat-dominated politics. Republicans now paint

Mr Newsom as a bleeding-heart liberal, but in true blue San Francisco he was considered a moderate, pro-business Democrat. But he was still provocative. After he was elected mayor in 2003, Mr Newsom issued marriage licences to same-sex couples at City Hall even though state law defined marriage as a contract between a man and a woman. Republicans used the episode to convince social conservatives to vote against John Kerry, the Democratic candidate in the 2004 presidential race.

After eight years as lieutenant-governor, he was elected in 2018 to California's top job, and won re-election in 2022. The governor's podcast, first aired in March, has Californians wondering how he has so much free time. In "This is Gavin Newsom", he asks right-wingers and Democrats alike where his party went wrong in 2024. Progressives are suspicious that Mr Newsom's chummy conversations with MAGA leaders are a bald attempt to try to [win back the bro vote](#), and presage a move to the centre ahead of a possible presidential run in 2028.

Certainly, Mr Trump's deployment of troops to Los Angeles—which one federal judge has ruled is illegal—offers Mr Newsom a political opportunity. The [president looks reckless](#); the governor, like a responsible adult. By condemning violence and trying to safe-guard Californians' right to protest, he is striking a balance that could resonate with Americans beyond the Golden State, and perhaps help unite a Democratic Party that has seemed fractured and aimless since 2024.

But Mr Trump will try to convince Americans that the governor is protecting dangerous illegal immigrants from deportation. Scenes of disorder and burning cars in LA fit a narrative some Republicans have been pushing for years: that Democratic-run cities are lawless, and their leaders irresponsible. Mr Newsom is concentrating on his home state now, but 2028 isn't far away.





Illustration: The Economist

## Mini crossword

We now publish an interactive edition of our crossword twice a week, allowing you to enter and check the answers, and see explanations, instantly. Try it [here](#). Or, if you prefer to do things the old-fashioned way, use the grid below.

Our crossword has two sets of clues, one for seasoned cruciverbalists and the other for less experienced solvers. Both give the same answers, all of which feature in articles in this week's edition of *The Economist*:

### Cryptic clues

*1 across* Heads of Altman Inc go after unsecured venture founded by Elon Musk (6)

*2 across* Teeny-weeny NATO lacks direction and something that could make its voice heard (6)

*3 across* Sell old wine (6)

*1 down* Nazi-themed thriller does badly, as life is messed up (6,4)

### **Straight clues**

*1 across* Sam Altman's artificial-intelligence firm (6)

*2 across* A type of energy than can be weaponised (6)

*3 across* Product or service sold abroad (6)

*1 down* Frederick Forsyth thriller about the hunt for an ss concentration-camp commander (6,4)

Email all four answers, along with your home city and country, by 9am BST on Monday to [\[email protected\]](#). We will pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners in next week's edition.

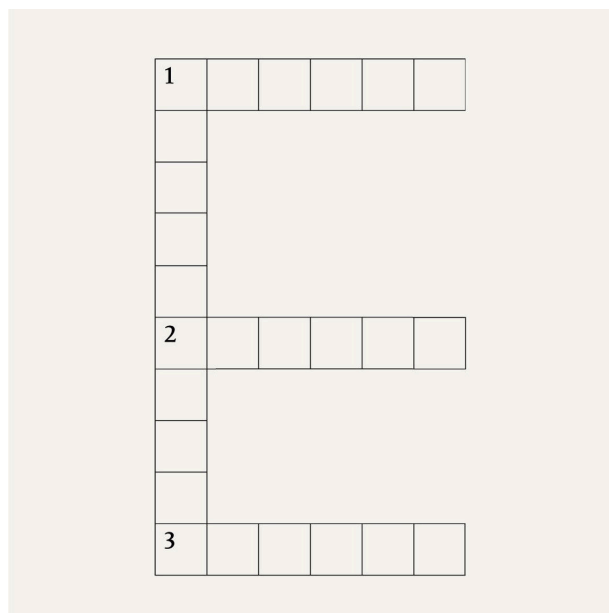


Image: .



Illustration: The Economist

## The winners of this week's quiz

Thank you to everyone who took part in this week's quiz. The winners, chosen at random, were:

**Joel Embry**, Jacksonville, Florida

**Katia Butrimova**, Toronto, Canada

**Pranav Kumar**, Tunbridge Wells, Britain

They all gave the correct answers of: Flash Gordon, The Devil Wears Prada, Angie Dickinson, the cloud and sugar. The theme is Rolling Stones songs: Jumpin' Jack Flash, Sympathy for the Devil, Angie, Get Off of My Cloud and Brown Sugar

The questions were:

**Monday:** Which comic book hero fought Ming the Merciless?

**Tuesday:** What title did Lauren Weisberger give to her novel about life in the fashion publishing industry?

**Wednesday:** Which actress starred in the 1970s TV series “Police Woman”?

**Thursday:** What popular term is used for the delivery of computer services, such as document storage, over the internet?

**Friday:** Which familiar household item comprises a molecule made of 12 atoms of carbon, 22 of hydrogen and 11 of oxygen?

*Justice and judgment lie often a world apart.*

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***Emmeline Pankhurst***