

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Getty Images

Donald Trump said **Britain's** “great stupidity” in [ceding sovereignty](#) of the **Chagos Islands** to Mauritius proved that America should annex Greenland. Britain agreed to return the islands last year, though it and America will keep control of a military base there. Mr Trump, who at the time indicated he would back the deal, said the “act of total weakness” was another reason why “Greenland has to be acquired.”

Mr Trump shared a text message he said he received from Emmanuel Macron, in which the French president said “he didn’t understand” what [Mr Trump was doing](#) regarding **Greenland**. Mr Macron offered to set up a meeting of G7 countries on Thursday to discuss the American president’s insistence that America acquire the Arctic island. Earlier Denmark sent a “substantial contribution” of troops to Greenland.

Mr Trump confirmed that he had invited **Vladimir Putin**, Russia’s president, to sit on the [“Board of Peace”](#) intended to oversee peacekeeping in **Gaza**. Russia’s government said it was “studying” the offer. America’s president has invited several influential business and political figures, including Sir Tony Blair, a former British prime minister, to sit on the board.

France's prime minister, Sébastien Lecornu, said he would “with some regret” force his **budget** through parliament without a vote. He may now face a confidence motion. Mr Lecornu has made concessions in an attempt to make his plans palatable to left-wing parties, including increasing taxes for large companies. The budget, which aims to tame France's [unsustainable deficit](#), was first proposed in July.

Japan's 40-year bond yield rose to 4%, a record high, a day after the prime minister, Takaichi Sanae, called [a snap general election](#) for February 8th. Investors are concerned about Ms Takaichi's plan to cut a sales tax on food. The election may give her more authority to boost stimulus.

Micron, an American memory-chip developer, said it would buy a Taiwanese plant for \$1.8bn to help meet rising global demand. The share price of Powerchip, the builder of the factory, rose by nearly 10% on the news. Growing use of such chips in artificial-intelligence data centres has [squeezed](#) supply for the consumer-electronics industry, which also relies on them.

Valentino Garavani, the Italian founder of Valentino, a luxury fashion house, died aged 93. Known for its haute couture and use of a distinctive shade of red, his brand has dressed movie stars and other public figures since 1960, including Jacqueline Kennedy and Dame Elizabeth Taylor. His funeral will take place in Rome on Friday.

Figure of the day: 1,800, number of applications for remote IT jobs from North Koreans that Amazon blocked last month. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Getty Images

Europe weighs retaliation over Greenland

European leaders are [scrambling to respond](#) to Donald Trump's threat to impose tariffs on the eight countries that sent a few dozen troops to Greenland. They could try and convince Mr Trump that the crisis is merely a misunderstanding. The mostly symbolic deployment was carried out last week at Denmark's request—and followed American calls for a stronger European presence in the Arctic.

That is unlikely to sway Mr Trump. Another option, then, is retaliation. European parliamentarians are prepared to suspend a trade deal struck last year, under which Europe agreed not to match America's steep tariffs. Levies on exports to America from the eight countries would rise from 15% to at least 25%. More dramatically, the EU could invoke its most powerful economic weapon. The “anti-coercion instrument” would allow broader retaliation against American firms and investments. But such tactics risk damaging co-operation over Ukraine or spiralling into a wider trade war. Abandoning a strategy of American appeasement will come with consequences.



Photograph: Getty Images

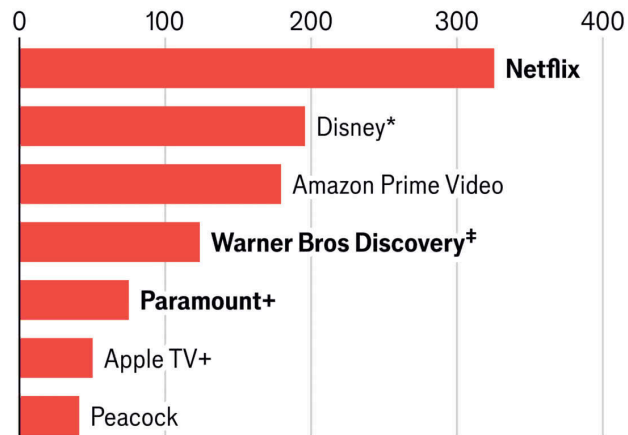
Netflix tests investors' faith

Netflix will report earnings on Tuesday, and update shareholders on its plans to get even bigger. The world's biggest streaming service, with more than 300m subscribers, hopes to [buy most of Warner Bros Discovery](#), which has over 100m streaming customers as well as one of Hollywood's biggest movie studios. Netflix has offered \$83bn in cash and stock and is now said to be weighing an all-cash bid to fend off a rival approach from Paramount Global.

Some of the strongest doubts about the deal come from Netflix's own shareholders. The company's share price has dropped by more than a quarter since it started circling Warner last autumn. Some worry about the sheer scale of the acquisition; others see it as a sign that Netflix's existing growth engines are losing power. Tuesday's results will either steady nerves—or deepen concerns—over the company's boldest bet since it abandoned DVDs.

No business like showbusiness

Global streaming subscriptions, m
Selected companies, Q3 2025



*Disney+, Disney+ Hotstar and Hulu

‡Discovery+ and HBO Max

Source: Ampere Analysis



Photograph: Getty Images

Challenging the Ten Commandments in America's classrooms

On Tuesday America's Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals will weigh the constitutionality of laws in Texas and [Louisiana](#) that require public schools to display the Ten Commandments in every classroom. A three-judge panel at the Fifth Circuit rejected Louisiana's law last June; now all 17 active judges will weigh in.

Texas's attorney general, Ken Paxton, argues that displaying the commandments is "imperative" to uphold Christian values in America. Lower courts have blocked the laws on the grounds that they breach the First Amendment's ban on establishing religion. Judges cited *Stone v Graham*, a 1980 Supreme Court ruling that struck down a near-identical requirement. The states counter that *Stone* depends on a legal test the court has since discarded. The case now sits squarely at the centre of America's culture wars—and looks destined for the [Supreme Court](#).



Photograph: Reuters

Russia's view of the “Donroe Doctrine”

On Tuesday Sergei Lavrov, Russia's foreign minister, will review the past year in his country's diplomacy at a press conference in Moscow. The Kremlin has some reason to be cheerful. Russian officials have long sought to undermine NATO by trying to create divisions between America and its European allies. Now Donald Trump is doing it for them. The American president's desire to take over Greenland, an autonomous Danish territory, is threatening to [tear the alliance apart](#). Meanwhile, it is distracting from the plight of Ukraine, where Russia's full-scale invasion has nearly reached its fourth anniversary.

But a bellicose America poses tricky questions for Russia, too. The Kremlin could do nothing to stop America's capture of Venezuela's dictator, Nicolás Maduro, a long-time Russian ally. And while Mr Trump has retreated from threats to strike Iran, another Russian partner, he could return to the idea. Russia may like the sound of a might-makes-right world. But Mr Trump is hard to predict.



Illustration: Sandra Navarro

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 GMT on Friday to [\[email protected\]](#). We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

Tuesday: What was the popular name of the Chinese rebellion against Western occupation between 1899 and 1901?

Monday: Which actor, who appeared in many Hammer horror movies, called his autobiography "Tall, Dark and Gruesome"?

*Experience is what you get while
looking for something else.*

Federico Fellini