

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter

**Donald Trump** delayed imposing 50% tariffs on the **European Union** to allow time for [negotiations](#). America's president said it was his "privilege to extend the deadline" from June 1st to July 9th after a "very nice call" with Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the European Commission. The pair agreed that both sides would "rapidly get together" to work something out.

Mr Trump called Vladimir Putin "absolutely crazy" after **Russia** pounded **Ukrainian** cities with drones and missiles. The weekend's aerial assault, the largest of the war, killed at least 12 people and pushed Ukraine's air defences to [saturation point](#). Mr Trump also chastised Volodymyr Zelensky for complaining that "America's silence...only encourages Putin." "Everything out of his mouth causes problems," said the American president.

Emmanuel Macron, **France's** president, arrived in **Vietnam**, where he is expected to sign several deals to boost co-operation between the two countries. The trip is the first leg of a South-East Asian tour, in which France is expected to tout itself and the EU as "reliable" partners. The [region's countries](#) were among the hardest hit by Mr Trump's "reciprocal" tariffs last month.

**Syria's** new government promised to help **America** find and return its citizens who went missing during the Syrian civil war, which started in 2011—or their remains. It is another sign of thawing relations between the two countries. On Saturday America formally [lifted economic sanctions](#) imposed during the dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad.

**Israeli** air strikes killed at least 38 people in **Gaza** on Sunday, according to the territory's health ministry. It said that 3,785 people

have [now been killed](#) since Israel ended its ceasefire in March. The International Committee of the Red Cross said that two of its staff died in an air strike on Saturday.

The share prices of **Chinese electric-vehicle firms** fell amid concerns about the [sector's growth](#). Last week BYD, the industry leader, slashed prices on several of its cars, raising fears of a price war and causing its shares to fall by nearly 7% on Monday. EV sales growth in recent weeks has also slowed.

The two candidates in **Poland's** run-off [presidential election](#) on June 1st held big rallies in Warsaw. The capital's mayor, Rafal Trzaskowski, a social liberal, led what he called a "March of Patriots". His foe, the hard-right Karol Nawrocki, led a self-styled "March for Poland." The two are neck-and-neck in the polls.

**Figure of the day:** 120, the number of ground stations which command China's BeiDou satellite navigation system, versus just 11 for GPS. Read the full story [here](#).



Photograph: REX/Shutterstock

## Beachheads by stealth in the Philippines

American marines and their Filipino, Japanese and South Korean equivalents formed up in the Philippines on Monday for exercises in island defence. China might attack Japanese and Philippine islands because America could use them as bases to counter a Chinese attempt to take control of Taiwan, a self-governing, democratic island. [China claims Taiwan](#) as its own territory.

The American marines will use the 12 days of exercises to hone their new way of waging amphibious warfare: coming swiftly and stealthily ashore on territory belonging to their allies, the Philippines and Japan, before invaders can strike, then destroying intruding ships and aircraft with missiles.

Previously, the marines would storm beaches to recapture territory from occupiers. In the second world war that tactic liberated Japanese-occupied islands in the Pacific, but at great cost in lives. Now, American marines are advertising their new tactics to deter their Chinese adversaries from attacking allied territory in the first place.



Photograph: Getty Images

## Carney's debut in parliament

Mark Carney will convene his first session of Canada's legislature as prime minister this week. His Liberals won a minority mandate in an [election](#) one month ago. The former central banker has said his government will focus on the "generational challenge" of negotiating a new trade and security relationship with the United States.

Since a convivial White House meeting with Mr Carney earlier this month, President Donald Trump has talked less often about Canada's becoming the 51st US state. The presence of Britain's King Charles, Canada's head of state, to open parliament will be a strong assertion of Canadian sovereignty, cocking a royal snook at Mr Trump. It is the first time in almost 70 years that a sovereign has performed the ceremony. However, [American tariffs](#) are still biting into the Canadian economy. Mr Carney has asked for the tariffs to be removed and proposed a new partnership with Canada's largest trading partner, while also expanding trading relationships with European allies.



Photograph: Getty Images

## The food crisis in Gaza

The roll-out of a new network for distributing food to Gaza planned for Sunday has been delayed owing to “logistical reasons”, according to the Israelis. They want to start distributing food through [special “hubs”](#) operated by American mercenaries under their protection, denying Hamas control of the supplies. The arrangement has been criticised by aid organisations for being inadequate and forcing the 2m inhabitants of Gaza into encampments around the hubs. On Monday the head of the group implementing the plan resigned, saying that it would be impossible to carry out without compromising “humanitarian principles”.

Meanwhile, chaos reigns in the strip as the few aid convoys Israel has allowed through have been looted. Israel blocked crossings into Gaza on March 2nd, claiming the supplies were being commandeered by Hamas. But, following reports of starvation, on May 18th it announced supplies would resume temporarily under the existing distribution system. Last week 495 trucks were allowed in, but that is still a fraction of what Gaza needs. Before the war around 500 trucks went in daily.





Photograph: Getty Images

## Africa's top development job is up for grabs

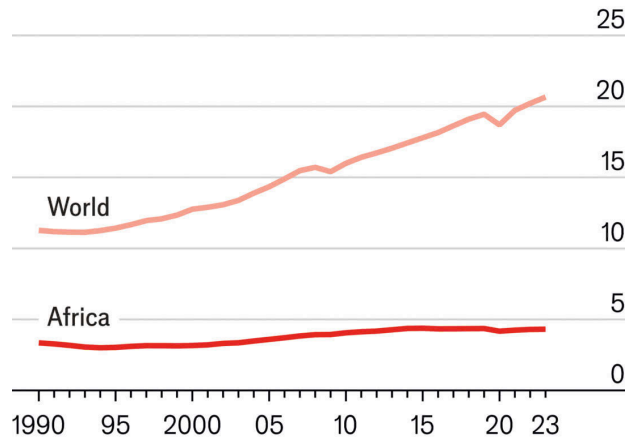
On Monday the African Development Bank will elect its [next president](#). The 60-year-old institution provides loans, grants and technical assistance across the continent. But it remains underpowered: it disbursed just \$6.1bn in 2023, less than half what its Latin American counterpart paid out.

All five candidates promise to boost jobs, trade and infrastructure. But the race is fractious. South Africa is backing Swazi Tshabalala, the bank's vice-president and the only woman on the ballot; other countries in the region are lining up behind Zambia's Samuel Maimbo. France and Senegal are split over Mauritania's Sidi Ould Tah and Senegal's own Amadou Hott—highlighting post-colonial tensions. Non-African donors have 41% of the vote.

Donald Trump plans to cut America's sizeable contribution to the bank and private capital is still not filling infrastructure gaps. Whoever wins will need to unite a divided board, attract fresh funding—and prove that the bank can rise to the continent's growing challenges.

## Crocked

GDP per person at PPP\*, \$'000, 2021 prices



\*Purchasing-power parity

Source: World Bank



Photograph: Getty Images

## CPAC in Poland

The Conservative Political Action Conference, the premier watering-hole of America's hard right, has weathered transitions from Reaganism to neo-conservatism to *MAGA*. In recent years it has begun staging events abroad to build bridges to ideological friends (notably in Hungary). Starting on Monday it holds its first-ever shindig in Poland. The event is well-timed to help the conservative candidate in the second round of Poland's [presidential election](#) on June 1st, which pits Rafal Trzaskowski, the liberal mayor of Warsaw, against Karol Nawrocki, a nationalist historian backed by the populist Law and Justice (*pis*) party.

Andrzej Duda, Poland's outgoing president, also aligned with *pis*, is expected to speak. So is Kristi Noem, America's secretary of homeland security. The event takes place outside Rzeszow, a city that has served as the main logistical hub for American military aid to Ukraine. Polish conservatives, who are adamantly anti-Russian, will be hoping for signals that their *MAGA* allies have not become too [enamoured with Vladimir Putin](#).





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.

**Monday:** MGM uses which animal as a symbol?

*Strange to see how a good dinner  
and feasting reconciles everybody.*

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***Samuel Pepys***