

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Alamy

America's Senate narrowly voted to advance a bill that would cement Donald Trump's tax cuts and ramp up immigration and defence spending. Two Republicans voted against the controversial "Big Beautiful Bill"; several who earlier declined to back Mr Trump fell into line. [Senate](#) Republicans aim to pass the bill before July 4th, but it still faces significant hurdles.

Russia launched one of its biggest drone and missile [attacks](#) deep inside **Ukrainian** territory. A Ukrainian F-16 fighter jet was lost while helping to fend off the overnight assault; the pilot was killed after failing to eject. Ukraine's armed forces said that they had downed 436 drones and 38 missiles, while six apparently got through.

The head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog said that **Iran** could start producing enriched uranium again "in a matter of months". Rafael Grossi told CBS News that while it was clear American strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities had caused "severe damage", it was "not total". Mr Trump insists Iran's nuclear programme was "obliterated" and "set back decades".

Israel's army told residents in [Gaza City](#) and several other neighbourhoods in northern **Gaza** to evacuate and head south. An

Israel Defence Forces spokesman said it was “operating with extreme force in these areas” and that operations were about to escalate. Hopes of a ceasefire may rest with Mr Trump, and his newly won leverage over Israel’s prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu.

Donald Trump claimed that he has found a group of “very wealthy people” to buy **TikTok**. A federal law requiring the Chinese social-media platform to be sold (to a non-Chinese buyer) or banned (on grounds of national security) was **paused** by Mr Trump soon after he took office. Mr Trump said he would reveal the group in about two weeks.

Yoweri Museveni, Uganda’s long-serving, authoritarian president, announced that he would contest next January’s election. If he wins (which is not really in doubt), the 80-year-old will extend his rule to over 50 years. His ruling party has twice changed the constitution to allow Mr Museveni more terms of office. Human-right groups have often accused him of using the security forces to vanquish opposition to his rule.

Viktor Orban accused the EU of orchestrating an LGBTQ+ Pride march in Budapest on Saturday that he described as “repulsive”. Offering no evidence, Hungary’s hard-right prime minister said the EU had encouraged opposition politicians to turn the event into one of the biggest anti-government demonstrations of his rule. An estimated 100,000 participants defied a police ban to join the demonstration.

Figure of the day: \$10bn, the amount a majority share in the LA Dodgers is being sold for. It still looks like a bargain. Read the full story.



Photograph: EPA

China's economy defies the odds

The first half of this year has [gone better](#) for China's economy than anyone could have expected a couple of months ago. Despite American tariffs, exports have continued to grow. And despite low consumer confidence, retail sales have picked up, thanks partly to a recent online shopping festival and government subsidies for consumers who trade-in old products for new. This week Citigroup, an American bank, raised its growth forecast for 2025 to from 4.2% in early April to 5%.

The purchasing-managers' indices released on Monday by China's statistics bureau are likely to confirm this stability, registering little change from May to June. But worries remain. The property market is still fragile and deflationary pressures linger. China's steady growth could also lull the country's policymakers into delaying further fiscal stimulus. The economy has started the year well. But if China's leaders take too much encouragement from that fact, it may finish the year badly.



Photograph: Getty Images

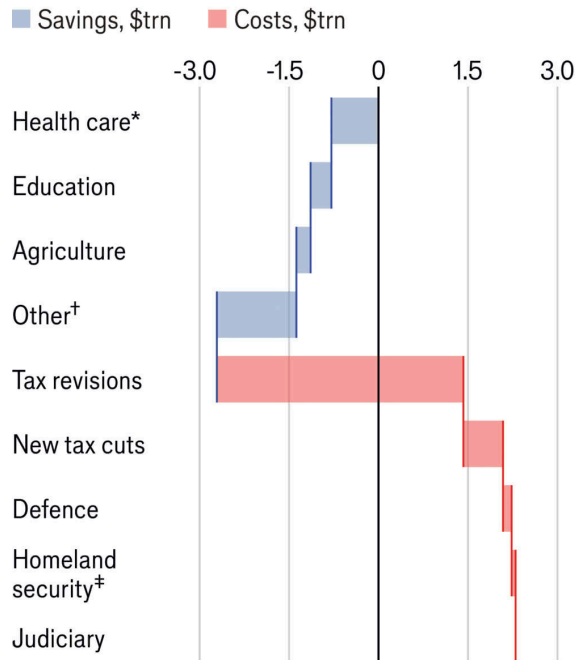
Republicans push to deliver a bill

The end may be in sight for Donald Trump's sprawling budget bill. Republicans in the Senate won a tricky preliminary vote late on Saturday, and could take a final poll as early as Monday. John Thune, the top Republican in the upper chamber, faced a daunting task: some of his members balked at the cost, others objected to the cuts to [Medicaid](#) (government health insurance for the poor). But a few last-minute tweaks—a fund to help rural hospitals, for example—appears to have helped pull a few sceptics back into line.

For months Donald Trump has been talking about passing the One Big Beautiful Bill Act by July 4th. But merging the Senate's version with the one that the House of Representatives passed earlier could be [harder still](#). More than a dozen congressmen have already said the Senate's Medicaid cuts are a deal-breaker. There are more negotiations to come, probably even beyond Independence Day, before the saga ends.

One big bill

United States, budgetary impact of House tax and spending bill, 2025-34, \$trn



*Including Medicaid †Energy, environment, communications, natural resources, transport and infrastructure, finance, oversight, and others

‡Including immigration

Source: Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget



Photograph: Getty Images

Back to the bloody impasse in Gaza

With the [war between Israel and Iran](#) apparently over, attention has returned to Gaza. Israel's bloody offensive is dragging on into its 21st month amid reports that Israeli soldiers have been shooting at civilians trying to get food from the controversial distribution hubs of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. Hundreds have been killed, adding to a death-toll that [surpasses](#) 55,000.

Israeli forces now control around a third, or more, of the strip. The chief of staff of the Israel Defence Forces reckons that Israel will soon “reach the lines” of its aims in Gaza. But this contradicts the ambitions of the far-right parties in Israel's government. They want to occupy Gaza in perpetuity. While Israel's stance remains unclear, and Hamas still refuses to accept a 60-day truce, President Donald Trump has weighed in. He posted on his social media channel “MAKE THE DEAL IN GAZA. GET THE HOSTAGES BACK!!!” In Iran he succeeded in imposing a ceasefire this way. In Gaza it may be more difficult.



Photograph: EPA

Soured cream on the Wimbledon strawberries

This year, like every year, Wimbledon will look [pristine](#), blooming flowerbeds offsetting the crisp Ralph Lauren uniforms. But underneath the sheen, the tournament, which begins on Monday, faces complaints from some of its players. The Professional Tennis Players' Association, an organisation co-founded by Novak Djokovic in 2020, is suing the sport's governing bodies that set the rules and organise the calendar. The operators of the four grand slams, including the All England Lawn Tennis Club, which runs Wimbledon, are also named as "co-conspirators".

The PTPA wants a shorter calendar and more prize money. It has a case. The off-season is just six weeks. Wimbledon paid out £50m to players in 2024, which is around 12% of the AELTC's revenue. In America's National Basketball Association and National Football League, collective bargaining agreements ensure that the players receive around 50% of total revenue. The PTPA has given the grand slams three months to negotiate before it adds them to its lawsuit.



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: Horology is the study of what?

Failure seldom stops you. What stops you is the fear of failure.

Jack Lemmon