

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Getty Images

The **UN Security Council** endorsed Donald Trump's proposals for peace in **Gaza**, which include establishing an international stabilisation force in the enclave. China and Russia abstained but the council's 13 other members, including several Arab countries, voted in favour. Hamas rejected the resolution, saying the international force would become "a party to the [conflict](#) in favour of the occupation".

Profits at **Xiaomi**, a Chinese tech giant, rose 81% year on year in the third quarter. Its electric-vehicle and AI division posted its first quarterly profit, with sales of more than 108,000 cars, a record since the firm [started selling them](#) last year. Its smartphone arm has struggled to compete with Apple in recent months, weighing on investor sentiment.

**Canadian** lawmakers narrowly voted in favour of advancing Mark Carney's first budget. It is a big win for the prime minister's Liberal Party, which does not have a majority in parliament. If the government had lost the preliminary vote, it could have triggered another election. The budget includes support for businesses [hurt by American tariffs](#) and a plan to cut the federal workforce by 10%.

**Mr Trump** said he would “probably” talk to Nicolás Maduro, Venezuela’s president, but refused to rule out sending American troops to the country when asked about it. He also suggested launching strikes in Mexico “to stop drugs” and said he would be “proud” to conduct similar attacks in Colombia. His administration is deploying the [world’s largest aircraft-carrier](#) to Latin America to counter “narco-terrorists”.

AkzoNobel, the Dutch owner of Dulux, a **paint** brand, and Axalta Coating Systems, an American firm, agreed to merge to form a paint behemoth worth \$17bn in annual revenue. The firms brushed off any investor concerns by promising savings of up to \$600m over three years. Regulators are not expected to take the gloss off the deal; they may approve the merger next year.

**Novo Nordisk** slashed direct-to-consumer prices for **Wegovy**, its blockbuster [weight-loss drug](#), undercutting rivals amid growing competition. It will reduce costs by 30% for existing patients, and temporarily discount the price for new patients to \$199 a month. Insurance coverage for these drugs is spotty in America, so many pay out-of-pocket. Mr Trump recently struck deals with Novo and **Eli Lilly** to offer [discounted medicines](#).

**Jeff Bezos**, [Amazon’s founder](#), has reportedly launched a new **AI startup** that he is jointly leading. It is unclear when the new firm, called Project Prometheus, was established, but the *New York Times* reported that it is focused on using AI to manufacture products in fields including aerospace. The startup has already raised \$6.2bn.

**Figure of the day:** Ten, the number of feet at which Target employees are instructed to wave and smile at a customer. [Read the full story](#).



Photograph: Getty Images

## Trump welcomes Saudi Arabia's crown prince

Muhammad bin Salman does not travel light. The Saudi crown prince is bringing hundreds of aides and almost his entire cabinet to Washington, DC this week. When he arrives at the White House on Tuesday—for his first visit in seven years—he will also carry a long wish-list. He will ask Donald Trump for a defence pact, a nuclear-co-operation agreement, and a deal to purchase F-35 fighter jets.

He will get some of it—Mr Trump said on Monday that America will sell F-35s to Saudi Arabia. That is a testament to the [kingdom's](#) improved standing in Washington. Joe Biden once promised to make Prince Muhammad a “pariah” because of the war in Yemen and the murder by Saudi Arabia of Jamal Khashoggi, a journalist. But in recent years the Saudis have pursued a pragmatic foreign policy and promised to invest enormous sums in [America](#), placating some of their harshest critics (it does not hurt that they are doing deals with Mr Trump's family, too). Prince Muhammad is not ready to normalise ties with Israel, a goal Mr Trump hopes to achieve during his second term. But the kingdom's relationship with America is thriving anyway.



Photograph: Getty Images

## Uncertainty in Bangladesh after a historic verdict

In 2009 Sheikh Hasina established a tribunal in [Bangladesh](#) to investigate war crimes committed during the war of independence in 1971. Now the former prime minister herself has become the most famous person to feel the weight of the court's justice. On Monday it sentenced Sheikh Hasina to death *in absentia* for her role in clamping down on [protests](#) that ousted her government last year, forcing her to flee to India. She has called the trial “biased and politically motivated”.

Many Bangladeshis celebrated, but there are still tensions within Bangladesh, which is due to hold elections in February. Sheikh Hasina and her Awami League retain pockets of support; it is unclear how those loyalists will respond to the sentence. It is unlikely to be carried out. During her increasingly autocratic 15-year rule she forged close relations with India, which is now sheltering her. India said it has “noted” the verdict, but has so far ignored requests for extradition.



Photograph: Getty Images

## America's statistical hangover

In the end, America's government shutdown lasted 43 days—the longest on record. Undoing the damage from switching off the machinery that [measures the economy](#) will take far longer. Only now are the first trickles of official data about to resume. The Census Bureau will publish delayed August manufacturing data on Tuesday. The September jobs report, originally due in early October, will be released three days later.

September's numbers are relatively easy to salvage: most data had already been collected before the shutdown, and only processing was interrupted. October is a different story. Households and firms never received surveys, and the Bureau of Labour Statistics' price-collectors were unable to work. Karoline Leavitt, the White House press secretary, said last week that October's releases may never appear; recreating them retrospectively could be impossible. And the calendar keeps moving: the first batch of November data is due in just a few weeks.



Photograph: Alamy

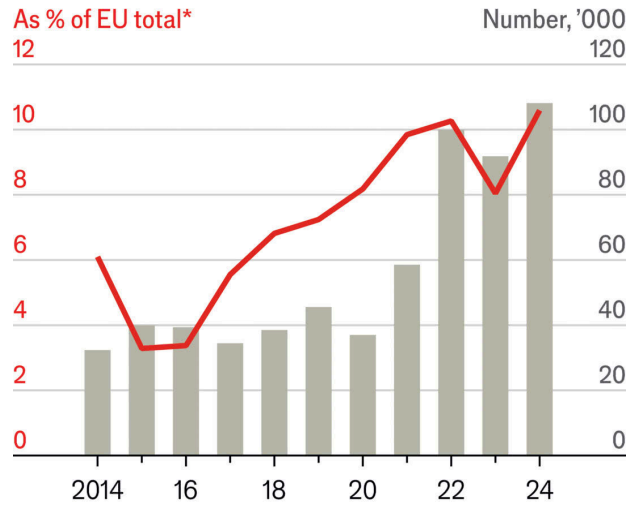
## Britain braces for another migration battle

Britain's struggling government announced an overhaul of its [asylum system](#) on Monday. Shabana Mahmood, the home secretary, said the government would no longer grant refugee status indefinitely and would send [refugees](#) to their home countries if it judges them to be safe. She also warned that Britain will stop issuing visas to citizens of Angola, Namibia and the Democratic Republic of Congo if their governments fail to help remove rejected asylum claimants.

The Labour government is acting because it has failed to halt the flow of people on small boats over the English channel—and because of the growing popularity of Reform UK, a right-wing populist party. Ms Mahmood says that illegal migration is “causing huge divides” in Britain, but Labour is also divided. Despite a majority of 169 in Parliament, it is unclear whether the government can pass the legislation. The proposals were denounced by some Labour MPs as draconian, and criticised by the Green Party, which hopes to attract voters put off by Sir Keir Starmer's increasingly illiberal tone.

## Channel hopping

### Asylum applications in Britain



\*Including Britain

Sources: Eurostat; Home Office





Photograph: Ubisoft

## **A Saudi instalment of “Assassin’s Creed”**

From Tuesday players of “Assassin’s Creed: Mirage”, a suspenseful video game, will be able to download a free new set of missions set in Al Ula, a historic city that Saudi Arabia is promoting as a tourist destination. The update follows reports that Ubisoft, the game’s French developer, has struck a partnership with Saudi Arabia’s state-owned gaming-investment company.

It is the latest sign of the kingdom’s [push into gaming](#). Its sovereign wealth fund is part of a group buying Electronic Arts, the maker of series like “Madden” and “FC”. Saudi Arabia already owns the gaming arm of Niantic, maker of the Pokémon mobile games, and large stakes in companies including Nintendo and Take-Two.

The kingdom sees entertainment as a way to create jobs and diversify the economy. But it is also a tool of soft power. Hollywood spread American influence in the 20th century. Whoever dominates gaming may reap similar rewards in the 21st.





Illustration: The Economist

## 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 BST on Friday to [\[email protected\]](#). We'll pick three winners at random and crown them on Saturday.

**Tuesday:** Farrah Fawcett, Kate Jackson and Jaclyn Smith were the original cast members of which TV show?

**Monday:** A man who decided to become a Cistercian or Carthusian would have chosen what profession?

*The culture of any country is  
gauged first by its progress in art.*

---

***Ignacy Jan Paderewski***