

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter

Police declared it unlawful to assemble anywhere in downtown [Los Angeles](#), ordering protesters who had gathered for a third consecutive day to go home. The **anti-deportation protests** had turned violent. Gavin Newsom, California's governor, said the state would sue the Trump administration for sending National Guard troops to the city; he said that the president wanted a "spectacle".

Ukraine's air force said that Russia launched its [largest drone attack](#) since the beginning of the war, hitting an airfield outside the city of Dubno, 60 km from the Polish border. The Ukrainians reported shooting down 460 of 479 drones. Meanwhile, the two sides swapped the first group of prisoners as part of a deal that could be the largest yet.

Warner Bros Discovery announced that it would split off its faster-growing streaming and studios businesses from its ailing cable television unit. The latter will be spun off into the new Global Networks company under Gunnar Wiedenfels, WBD's current Chief Financial Officer. [WBD](#) has recently undergone a restructuring to boost its falling share price as viewers move away from pay-TV.

Israel seized a boat carrying activists and aid as it headed towards **Gaza**. The *Madleen*, a British-flagged yacht, was intercepted by forces as it tried to break Israel's naval blockade of the territory. The Freedom Flotilla Coalition, the pro-Palestinian group operating *Madleen*, said the ship was "unlawfully boarded". [Israel](#) called the vessel a "selfie yacht" and said that its passengers (who include Greta Thunberg, a Swedish climate activist) would "return to their home countries".

China is hoovering up the world's **soyabeans**. The country imported an all-time high of 13.9m tons in May, more than twice the volume in April. The [world's largest buyer](#) now gets most of its imports from Brazil. It has sought to diversify away from American soyabeans—which are the country's biggest agricultural export to China—amid expectations that the trade war could raise prices.

A court in Seoul indefinitely postponed a trial of **Lee Jae-myung**, the [newly elected left-wing president](#), who is charged with violating election laws in 2022. A hearing was initially scheduled for late June, but the court cited the constitution, which generally exempts sitting presidents from criminal prosecution. The allegations against Mr Lee have made him a [divisive figure](#); he survived an assassination attempt last year.

China mandated that hospitals across the country should offer epidural anaesthesia during **childbirth** to promote a “friendly childbearing environment” for women and [boost birth rates](#). Though the World Health Organisation recommends epidurals to relieve pain during labour, they remain uncommon in China. Big hospitals must comply by the end of 2025; smaller ones have until 2027.

Figure of the day: 20, the number of types of amino acids that the body needs to grow, produce hormones and stay healthy. [Read the full story](#).



America and China make nice on trade

When Scott Bessent, America's treasury secretary, and Jamieson Greer, its trade representative, meet Chinese economic officials in London on Monday, they will be joined by Howard Lutnick (pictured), America's commerce secretary. That is probably a good thing. Mr Lutnick was absent from similar talks in Geneva last month, which struck a [fragile truce in the trade war](#). His department then clumsily spoiled the conciliatory mood a day later by warning companies worldwide not to use China's advanced chips.

That provocation may have killed any desire on China's part to speed up export licences for seven rare earths, and related products, that are essential for carmaking and other industries. Having spoken on Thursday to Xi Jinping, China's leader, Donald Trump seems confident that things have now been "straightened out". With luck the two sides can build on this momentum in London. And none of America's many economic agencies will go on to spoil the mood.

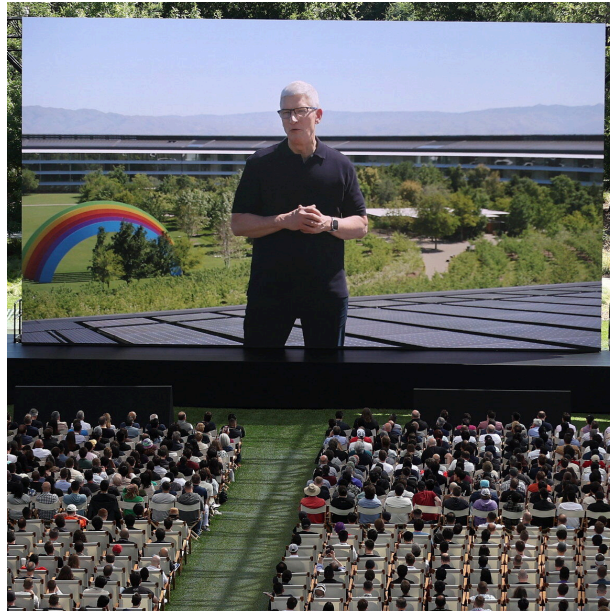


Photograph: Reuters

Iran's nuclear threshold

The board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN's nuclear watchdog, meets in Vienna on Monday. Iran will be high on the agenda. The agency's latest report found that Iran has enriched more than 400kg of uranium to 60% purity, nearly enough for ten nuclear bombs if refined further to weapons-grade. That stockpile has grown by almost 50% since February. European governments and America plan to ask the IAEA's board to censure Iran, which says such a measure would be a "mistake".

Another conflict looms. Earlier this year [Donald Trump](#) gave Iran a two-month deadline to negotiate a new nuclear pact, which would replace the one he abandoned in 2018. That deadline—at least according to Mr Trump's calculations—will arrive on June 12th. America and Iran have held five rounds of inconclusive negotiations since April. The two sides remain far apart on the question of whether a new agreement will allow Iran to continue enriching uranium.



Photograph: Getty Images

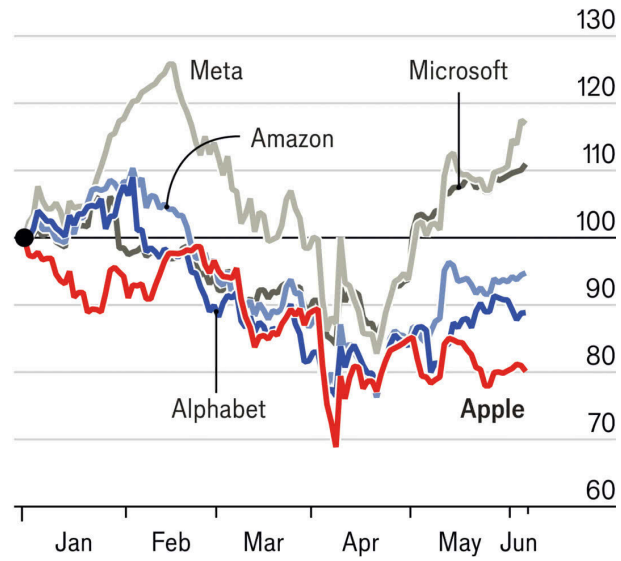
Tough times for Apple

Apple's annual Worldwide Developers Conference begins on Monday. Do not expect a repeat of the massive stock-price rally that followed last year's event, when the iPhone-maker unveiled Apple Intelligence, a suite of AI features for its gear. Tim Cook, the CEO, is unlikely to outline a bold AI strategy. The event will probably produce humdrum news, such as the renaming of operating systems to align with the upcoming release year, ie, 2026.

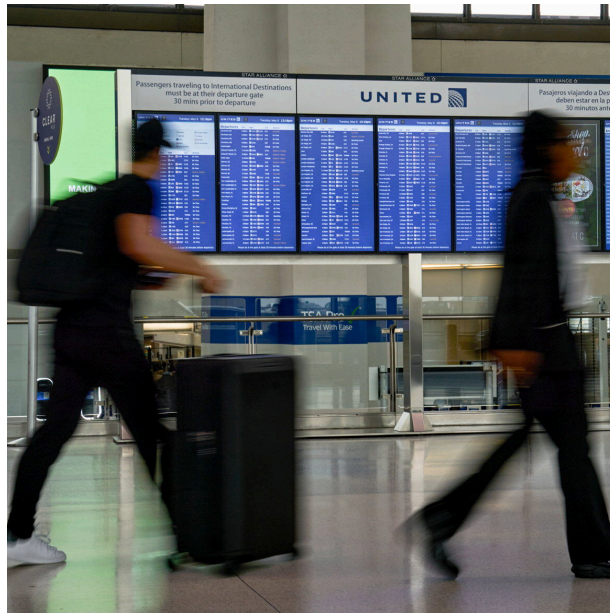
Apple's [problems are mounting](#). It has postponed the rollout of a refreshed Siri, and the much-ballyhooed Apple Intelligence has done little to accelerate iPhone sales. Meanwhile Donald Trump's trade war has exposed Apple's vulnerabilities in China. And the firm faces legal risks to the bumper search revenues it receives from Google and to its app-store commissions. Apple has a huge base of users who splash out on services such as apps. But as AI revolutionises those services, the firm risks being left behind.

UnderCooked

Share prices, Jan 1st 2025=100



Source: LSEG Workspace



Photograph: Getty Images

Trump's new and improved travel ban

On Monday Donald Trump's ban on most citizens of 12 countries entering America [came into force](#). People from seven more face increased restrictions. The countries are mostly in Africa and the Middle East, and many have frosty relationships with America. Mr Trump argues their governments do not offer sufficient information on their citizens for American officials to ensure that travellers are not a national-security risk. People from some of them, he added for good measure, tend to overstay their visas.

Mr Trump has tried this before. In his first term he banned travellers from seven countries whose citizens are mostly Muslims. Legal challenges made it to the Supreme Court, and the measure survived only after significant changes. The president seems to have learned from his mistakes—this ban's narrow focus on terrorism will probably make it more resistant to legal attacks, though it is not clear that the overstaying rationale is so secure. Expect lawsuits all the same.



Photograph: EPA

Oceans in crisis

On Monday more than 50 world leaders will be in Nice, a city on the French Riviera, for a United Nations summit on protecting the oceans. France is co-hosting the five-day event with Costa Rica. Participants are expected to sign the “Nice Ocean Action Plan”, an agreement to protect oceans from pollution, over-fishing and other threats. France and Costa Rica want countries to join a coalition that will protect 30% of the world’s oceans by 2030, up from 8% today. The organisers also hope to encourage countries to ratify the UN’s Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty, which protects marine biodiversity.

The Nice declaration will not be legally binding. Participating countries disagree on such issues as deep-sea mining and bottom trawling. America is not expected even to send a high-level delegation. Still, the summit could lead to action on what Li Junhua, the UN official in charge, calls “an unprecedented crisis”.



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: Which comic book hero fought Ming the Merciless?

*He who dares not offend cannot
be honest.*

Thomas Paine