

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter

Stockmarkets rallied after a federal court [blocked](#) many of Donald Trump's tariffs. The s&p 500 index of big American firms and the tech-heavy NASDAQ index both rose on opening. European and Asian stockmarkets climbed, too: Japan's Nikkei 225 index rose by nearly 1.9%. The judges ruled that Mr Trump's scheme to circumvent Congress in order to impose sweeping tariffs, by declaring a national emergency, was unlawful. The administration vowed to appeal.

Israel announced the creation of 22 new **settlements** in the West Bank, the biggest such expansion in decades. Israel's defence minister, Israel Katz, hailed the move as changing "the face of the region". The UN has condemned all such settlements as illegal under international law. Israel's move will further [strain relations with its allies](#), which are already taxed by the war in Gaza.

Viktor Orban, **Hungary's** prime minister, endorsed Karol Nawrocki, the nationalist opposition candidate in **Poland's** [presidential election](#). Speaking at CPAC, a right-wing get-together in Budapest, Mr Orban vowed that the populist right would "take Europe back from migrants" and preserve "Christian culture". Poland's foreign minister, Radoslaw Sikorski, mockingly congratulated Mr Nawrocki on the endorsement, asking whether he would emulate Mr Orban's pro-Russian policies.

Russia accused **Serbia's** military industry of selling weapons to Ukraine, claiming that it is trying to "profit from the blood of fraternal Slavic peoples". A [traditional ally](#), Serbia has exported nearly \$1bn of ammunition to Ukraine via third countries since Russia attacked Ukraine, according to Western media. The Balkan

country has denounced Russia's invasion but has not joined Western sanctions against the country.

Argentina raised \$1bn from foreign investors through local-currency debt, marking a return to global capital markets after seven years. The peso-denominated bond was issued with a coupon of 29.5% and can be purchased using dollars. It is part of a larger strategy to boost the country's currency reserves. Investors remain cautiously optimistic about Argentina's economic reforms under Javier Milei, its [libertarian president](#).

Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused the **Syrian Democratic Forces**, a Kurdish militia, of using "stalling tactics" to delay their integration with Syria's armed forces. Turkey's president is a strong supporter of the [integration deal](#) that Syria's new government signed with the group in March. The agreement would restore Syria's control over its north-east, which has been held by Kurdish groups for more than a decade.

Thousands took to the streets in Kathmandu, the capital of **Nepal**, to call for the restoration of the country's monarchy. Nepal's monarchy was abolished in 2008 after bloody protests, but successive governments have been [unpopular](#), too. Pro-monarchist demonstrations have grown in recent months: in March two people were killed after a rally descended into violence.

Figure of the day: Seven, the weight (in pounds) of the Double Gloucester used in England's annual cheese rolling competition. The government is mulling making the sport official. [Read the full story](#).



Photograph: Getty Images

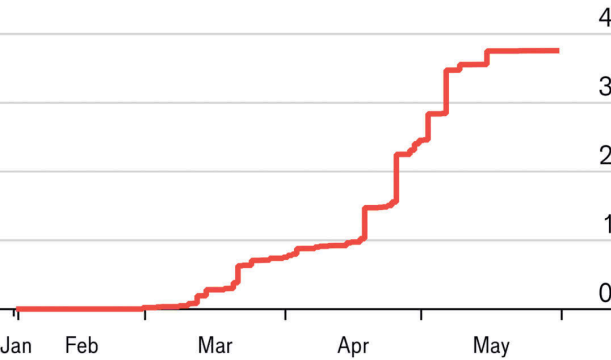
Trump's feud with Harvard worsens

A bitter conflict between Harvard, America's oldest university, and Donald Trump shows no sign of easing. Mr Trump, who sees elite universities as [hotbeds of woke liberalism](#), has rescinded all the institution's federal research [grants and contracts](#), sought to revoke its tax-exempt status and tried to ban its enrolment of international students. In response Harvard has sued the government, winning some reprieve. On Thursday a court will determine if the international-student ban should go ahead.

Even if it does not, Harvard faces a straitened future. Without billions of dollars in federal funding, Harvard's [world-leading researchers](#) will struggle to keep labs running as usual. And even if the courts hand back their current grants and contracts, they will eventually have to ask the government for more. They, and their colleagues at other institutions in similar situations, will be hoping Mr Trump picks another target soon. They should not hold their breaths.

Untimely ends

United States, number of NSF and NIH grants terminated*, 2025, '000



*Includes 81 NIH grants that may have been reinstated
Source: Grant Watch



Photograph: Getty Images

Dell's AI success is a mixed blessing

Dell, a maker of computer hardware, reports quarterly earnings on Thursday. The firm has benefited from the artificial-intelligence boom. Its AI servers use chips made by [Nvidia](#), the world's most valuable semiconductor firm (which reported bumper earnings and revenue on Wednesday), a partnership that has helped boost sales. Morgan Stanley, a bank, reckons Dell could generate more than \$15bn in revenue from AI servers this year—around 15% of its total sales.

But margins on these machines are thinner than on Dell's other products. Shortages of Nvidia's latest chips have also created a backlog of orders. Trade tensions pose another risk: Dell relies on overseas suppliers to assemble servers, and tariffs could tighten the squeeze. Meanwhile, demand for Dell's other mainstay—personal computers—is expected to remain weak as consumers hold back. Even so, Dell is doubling down on AI infrastructure. It recently announced a deal with Nvidia to build “AI factories”: data centres designed to train and run the most advanced AI models.

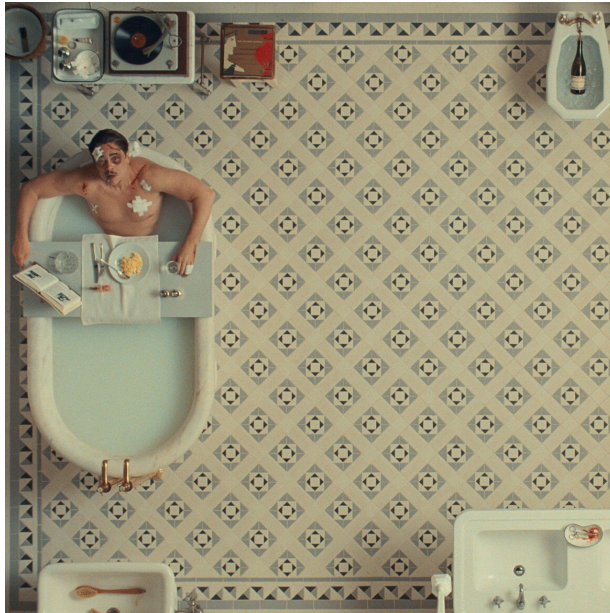


Illustration: David Simonds

An economic rough patch in South Korea

South Korean politics have been in turmoil since the former president, Yoon Suk Yeol, declared martial law in December. He was [impeached](#), and a snap election is scheduled for June 3rd. Meanwhile, Donald Trump's tariffs threaten turmoil for South Korea's export-driven economy; the value of trade is equivalent to nearly 90% of GDP. The economy shrank by 0.2% in the first quarter of 2025 from the previous three months. Earlier this year the Bank of Korea cut its growth forecast for 2025 from 1.9% to 1.5%. On Thursday the central bank cut interest rates, from 2.75% to 2.5%, as expected.

That is in part because inflation, at least, is no longer causing a ruckus. Last year, Mr Yoon marvelled at the "reasonable" price of spring onions at a subsidised market, triggering nationwide ["spring-onion protests"](#). But in April, consumer prices rose by just 2.1%, close to the central bank's target of 2%. That gives rate-setters room to help growth.



Photograph: Alamy

Wes Anderson goes full Wes Anderson

“The Phoenician Scheme” opens in a few American theatres this week, before its wider release on June 6th. Wes Anderson’s 12th feature film stars Benicio del Toro as a ruthless tycoon and Mia Threapleton, Kate Winslet’s oldest child, as his estranged, convent-raised daughter, along with the American director’s other stalwarts, including Willem Dafoe.

Mr Anderson’s films do not generate massive box-office returns. Still, he has amassed a devoted following for his tidy, intricate storylines, snappy dialogue, pervasive sense of melancholy and obsessive (if slightly airless) aesthetic. For this film he eschewed location shots in favour of building nearly everything, including Heaven, on a soundstage in Potsdam, Germany.

Trailers suggest that this may not be the best Wes Anderson film. But it certainly looks like the most Wes Anderson. Those not acclimated to his previous catalogue should brace themselves for potentially hazardous levels of tweeness and self-regard.



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.

Thursday: A mass audition for a showbiz event is colloquially known by what term?

Wednesday: The green circle on a darts board is commonly known by what term?

Freedom is indivisible, and when one man is enslaved, all are not free.

John F. Kennedy