

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter

Israel's army said that it intercepted around 100 drones fired by Iran in response to Israel's [overnight strikes](#) on Iranian nuclear facilities and military sites. Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, said that his country's attack, which he called Operation Rising Lion, would continue for "as many days as it takes". Earlier Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, warned that Israel had "prepared a bitter fate for itself". Israel closed its airspace and declared a state of emergency.

Iranian state media said three top officials were killed by Israel's attack. They include **Hossein Salami**, the head of [Iran's](#) Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps. Mohammed Bagheri, the second-highest military commander after Iran's supreme leader, and Gholamali Rashid, the deputy commander-in-chief of the armed forces, were also reportedly killed. Some nuclear scientists and at least a dozen civilians are reportedly dead, too.

The **International Atomic Energy Agency** called **Israel's** attacks on an Iranian [nuclear site](#) in the city of Natanz "deeply concerning". Rafael Grossi, the head of the IAEA asked "all parties to exercise maximum restraint". Earlier Iran informed the atomic watchdog that there was no increase in radiation levels at the Natanz site and that its Bushehr nuclear plant was not targeted.

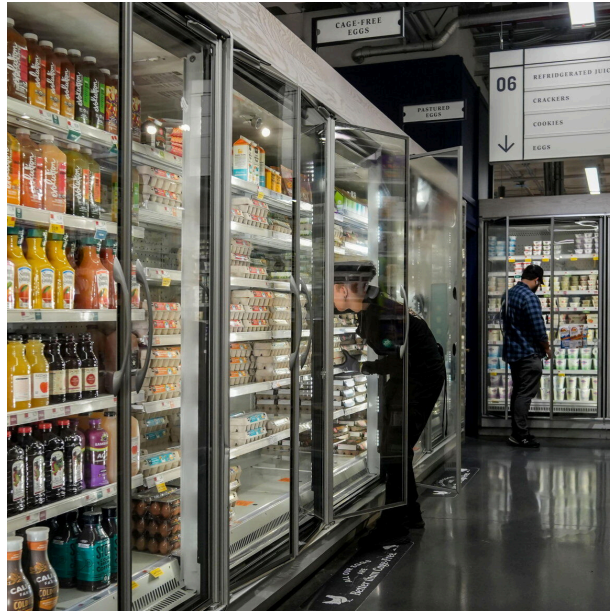
America said it was not involved in the strikes against **Iran**. Marco Rubio, America's secretary of state, said Israel believed the attack was "necessary for its self-defence". He urged Iran "not to target" [American interests](#) or personnel. Meanwhile **Saudi Arabia** condemned the attacks as "blatant Israeli aggressions" that violated Iran's "sovereignty and security" as well as "international laws and norms".

Oil futures saw their biggest intraday jump since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. Brent crude rose by 12% to \$77.6 a barrel. Iran could block significant swathes of the oil exports of Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia if it desires. Markets were also spooked by the attacks. Japan's Nikkei 225 index and American stock futures sank. The prices of safe-haven assets, including gold, rose.

After a day of back and forth in the courts, **California's National Guard** remains under federal control, at least for now. A judge had earlier ordered that the 4,000-odd troops [deployed](#) by the Trump administration in Los Angeles be placed back under the control of California's governor. An appeals court quickly stayed that decision and scheduled another hearing for Tuesday.

Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, visited the site where a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner plane crashed on Thursday, killing more than 260 people. One passenger survived the [Air India flight](#), which was heading to London. The aircraft crashed shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad, a city in west India. The tragedy will hinder Boeing's efforts to recover from years of reputational damage after crashes involving its other planes.

Figure of the day: 14%, the amount by which Tesla's shares fell on June 5th, the day of Elon Musk's public spat with Donald Trump. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Alamy

Down in the dumps: the American consumer

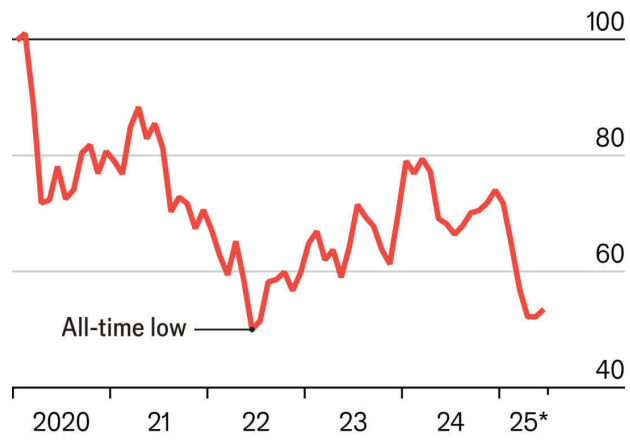
Consumer-confidence figures, released on Friday by the University of Michigan, are expected to confirm that Americans feel terrible about the economy. Optimism has tanked since January, when Donald Trump took office. It is possible that confidence will approach the all-time low reached in mid-2022 when inflation was raging.

Some economists worry that the Michigan survey is swayed by partisanship, with Democrats who dislike Mr Trump being hyperbolic in their answers. But the gloom does seem genuine. Americans are bracing for higher prices as a result of Mr Trump's tariff war. They may also worry about their job if their employers' costs rise.

Fortunately, however, the gloomy survey data does not appear to be infecting the real economy. Retail sales remain reasonably strong. Unemployment is still low, suggesting that few companies are letting people go. America may therefore be in store for another "vibecession": when a downturn is more imagined than real.

Buzzkill

United States, consumer-sentiment index
Q1 1966=100



Source: University of Michigan

*June estimate



Photograph: EPA

America's immigration-raid chaos

It is unclear whether Donald Trump's deportation efforts have racked up [many removals](#), but they have generated a number of *causes célèbres*. Friday marks a significant moment for two of them. Kilmar Abrego Garcia, whom the administration mistakenly deported to an El Salvadoran prison before the Supreme Court ordered it to “facilitate” his return, will be arraigned in Tennessee for smuggling illegal immigrants across state lines. Separately, a judge ordered the administration to release Mahmoud Khalil, whom it tried to deport because he led pro-Palestinian demonstrations, but stayed the order until Friday to allow it to appeal.

Now a new controversy is stealing the show. Immigration raids in Los Angeles last week sparked protests, leading Mr Trump to deploy the National Guard to make an example of California. On Thursday a judge ruled that illegal, only to have his order quickly stayed by an appeals court. Just another twist in the ever unpredictable Trump show.



Photograph: AFP

Turmoil in the Middle East

For over two decades, Israeli leaders have spoken of the need to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, if necessary by force. Now they have launched [a full-scale campaign](#) on Iran, without clear American backing, that could last for days. It plunges the Middle East into more turmoil. Israel claims it has struck now because it thinks Iran's nuclear programme has "reached the point of no return".

Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, has promised a "harsh response". The damage Iran might inflict on Israel will depend in part on the effectiveness of the initial strikes against Iran's ballistic missiles, and whether Iran now has enough left to overwhelm Israeli and American defensive batteries. Israel's strike on Iran has been many years in the making. The coming days will be a test of which country prepared for it better and whether America will be sucked into a conflict that it has long sought to avoid.



Photograph: Alamy

Assisted dying returns to Westminster

On Friday MPs resume scrutiny of landmark legislation that could [legalise assisted dying](#) for some terminally ill adults in England and Wales. Backed by a cross-party group in Parliament and a vocal public campaign, the bill has survived a fraught committee stage. Proponents argue it offers a compassionate choice; critics warn it could erode safeguards for vulnerable people.

The debate comes as some MPs are wavering: around a dozen have switched from support or abstention to likely voting against the bill. That is not yet enough to threaten the bill, which cleared a second reading with a majority of 55 in November. A third reading and decisive vote will probably follow on June 20th. If the bill passes, England and Wales would join a growing number of liberal democracies that have legalised some form of assisted dying. France is moving ahead; Scotland is also considering the change. If the bill fails, the most contentious social reform in half a century will return to square one.



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.

Friday: Which familiar household item comprises a molecule made of 12 atoms of carbon, 22 of hydrogen and 11 of oxygen?

Thursday: What popular term is used for the delivery of computer services, such as document storage, over the internet?



Illustration: The Economist

The winners of this week's crossword

Thank you to everyone who took part in our weekly crossword, published in the weekend edition of Espresso. The winners, chosen at random, were:

Brian Curran, Red Deer, Canada

Ian W. Makin, Oxford, Britain

Colin Hauck, Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

They all gave the correct answers of [Gallup](#), [Warsaw](#), [Scholz](#) and [Geert Wilders](#).

*Literature is the most agreeable
way of ignoring life.*

Fernando Pessoa