

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Getty Images

Nvidia's second-quarter earnings beat investors' expectations. The [American chipmaker](#), which has a market capitalisation of \$4.4trn, reported revenue of nearly \$47bn, up 56% on the same period a year ago. The company said it expects revenue of around \$54bn in the third quarter. Last week tech stocks, including Nvidia's, slid amid fears of an AI bubble.

The Trump administration said it had fired Susan Monarez, the director of the **Centres for Disease Control**, America's primary [public-health agency](#), despite her refusal to step down. Ms Monarez, a government scientist, was sworn into the job less than a month ago. Reports suggested that her attempted ousting is down to her pro-vaccine views. Four other senior CDC officials resigned on Wednesday.

Kim Jong Un, **North Korea's** dictator, will attend a military parade in **Beijing** on September 3rd along with 25 other heads of state including Vladimir Putin, Russia's president. The parade will commemorate the 80th anniversary of [the end of the second world war](#). Earlier this week Mr Trump said he would like to meet Mr Kim again.

A mass night-time **Russian** attack on **Ukraine's** capital, Kyiv, left at least four people dead, including a child, and 24 injured, according to Ukrainian officials. On Wednesday **Russia** launched one of its largest drone attacks in months, hitting energy and gas infrastructure and leaving more than 100,000 people without power. [Ukraine's](#) energy ministry accused Russia of targeting civilian infrastructure ahead of winter.

A shooter opened fire at a Catholic church in **Minneapolis** where pupils were attending the first Mass of the school year, killing two children. Seventeen people were injured, most of them children. Police said the attacker, a past pupil, died from a self-inflicted shot. The FBI said it was treating the incident as an act of domestic terrorism and hate crime targeting Catholics.

Tanzania's electoral commission barred the candidate of the second-biggest opposition party from standing in October's presidential election. The main opposition party, Chadema, was already blocked. That leaves Samia Suluhu Hassan, the president, a seemingly clear run. Since she took office in 2021, Mrs Samia has [tightened her grip on power](#). Her party has ruled Tanzania since independence in 1961.

Police who raided a house in **Argentina** looking for a painting [looted by the Nazis](#) said that it had disappeared. Giuseppe Ghislandi's "Portrait of a Lady", stolen in 1940 from a Jewish art dealer in Amsterdam, was spotted hanging on the wall of a property in Buenos Aires after an estate agent advertised the house. The property is owned by the daughter of Friedrich Kadgien, a deceased senior Nazi.

Figure of the day: 5.5%, the drop in the number of arrivals at American airports between May and July, compared with the same period a year earlier. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Getty Images

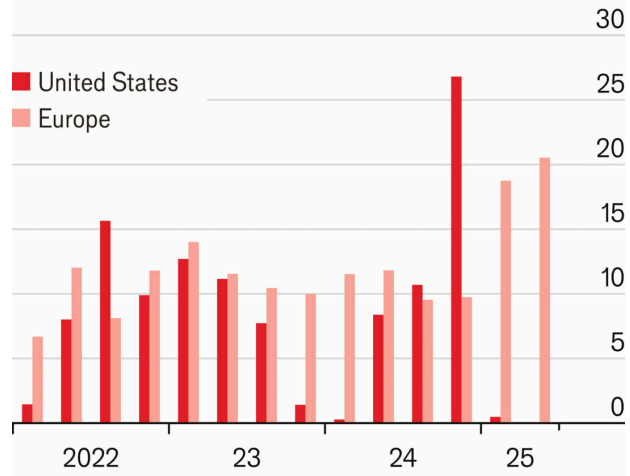
European defence in the shadow of Trump

On Thursday defence ministers from the European Union will meet in Copenhagen for a summit convened by Denmark, which holds the bloc's six-month rotating presidency. They will discuss [support for Ukraine](#) and enhancing Europe's military readiness. Under the leadership of Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, and Kaja Kallas, her deputy, the EU is growing its defence responsibilities in partnership with NATO. Since 2024 the EU has had a defence commissioner, Andrius Kubilius (pictured).

As the Trump administration cut America's support for [Ukraine](#) earlier this year, Europe accelerated. Between May and June, Europe allocated €10.5bn (\$12.2bn) in military aid to Ukraine. But divisions remain. Some countries, including France, Germany and Britain (which is outside the EU), are at least superficially supportive of Donald Trump's efforts to end the war. Other countries, including the Nordics and Baltics, are wary. The leaders of two, Hungary and Slovakia, are Russian sympathisers. But Europe has shown it can work around them to improve security.

Bombs away

Financial support for Ukraine, allocations, €bn



Source: Kiel Institute



Illustration: David Simonds

France and Germany learn to get along

Two years ago Olaf Scholz, then Germany's chancellor, treated Emmanuel Macron to fish sandwiches at a joint governmental meeting in Hamburg. On Thursday Mr Macron will honour the current chancellor, Friedrich Merz, with a more glamorous occasion: dinner at the French presidential retreat, the Fort de Brégançon, on the Mediterranean.

They dine on the eve of a joint cabinet meeting at the French port of Toulon. Under Mr Scholz, Franco-German ties were strained. Mr Merz and Mr Macron, by contrast, are readier to overcome their differences. They agree on the need to strengthen European competitiveness and boost security. They still differ on the EU's trade deal with Mercosur, a South American bloc—France worries about its impact on farmers, while Germany sees economic gains—and on industrial defence, including a stalled project to build a Franco-German fighter jet. Worries about the [stability of France's government](#) will cloud the event. But at a crucial time for Europe's security, it is a chance to reset the continent's most important partnership.



Photograph: Giles Keyte/Netflix

The rise of “cosy crime”

Richard Osman’s four “Thursday Murder Club” novels, about four retirees who solve crimes together, have sold more than 10m copies around the world. It is easy to see why: they are funny, shrewd and clear-eyed about ageing, taking in the good (lunchtime drinking, caring less about others’ opinions) and the bad (everything else). On Thursday a [film adaptation of the first book](#) premieres on Netflix. The cast includes Dame Helen Mirren, Sir Ben Kingsley, a dreadfully miscast Pierce Brosnan, Celia Imrie and David Tennant at his twitchiest.

The script is witty and Chris Columbus’s direction is pacey. The film is the sort of diverting mid-budget dramedy that Hollywood once delivered in spades. Fans of the book may be disappointed by subplots trimmed, subtlety flattened and a few too many clunky exposition-driven scenes—but better a lean film than the bloat that would have resulted from turning it into a TV series. The film’s last scene implies that more is to come.



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: In America, Amazon allows some users to select what delivery option if the item weighs five pounds or less?

Wednesday: Which Bobby Goldsboro song was the best-selling record worldwide in 1968?

*Liberty is the power that we have
over ourselves.*

Hugo Grotius