

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Reuters

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Charlie Kirk, an American conservative activist and a close ally of **Donald Trump**, was [shot dead](#) at an event at a university in Utah. Mr Trump confirmed the 31-year-old's death on social media. In 2012 Mr Kirk started Turning Point USA, a right-wing youth organisation known for hosting campus debates. The FBI said a suspect it had detained has been released.

Karol Nawrocki, Poland's president, said he had spoken to Mr Trump after 19 **Russian drones** [entered Polish airspace](#) during an attack on Ukraine on Tuesday night. America's president voiced frustration with Russia. Donald Tusk, Poland's prime minister, told parliament that the Polish and NATO planes shot down three or four of the drones. The foreign minister said he believed Russia "deliberately targeted" Polish airspace.

Mexico plans to impose a 50% tariff on **Chinese** cars as part of an effort to [appease America](#). The new levy is more than double the current rate and was presented to parliament in a package of new tariffs on some 1,400 products. The Trump administration is putting pressure on Mexico to reduce Chinese imports. Mexico is the biggest foreign purchaser of Chinese cars.

Larry Ellison became the world's richest person. The founder of Oracle saw his personal fortune rise to \$393bn as the software giant's stock jumped following surprisingly good quarterly earnings. The \$101bn increase was the biggest ever recorded in a single day by the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. [Mr Ellison unseated Elon Musk](#), a fellow tech titan worth \$385bn, from the top spot.

Israel attacked **Yemen's** capital, Sana'a, and a northern province, killing 35 people, according to the Houthi-run health ministry. Israel claimed it had struck military targets; a spokesperson for the [Iran-backed rebels](#) said the strikes hit "purely" civilian sites. Separately, **Qatar's** prime minister said that [Israel's strike on Doha on Tuesday](#) had "killed any hope" for the hostages in Gaza.

Klarna reportedly raised almost \$1.4bn in its initial public offering, which was more than 20 times oversubscribed. The Swedish [buy-now, pay-later](#) firm said it priced shares at \$40; they debuted at \$52, a 30% jump. The offering helped boost Klarna's valuation to more than \$17bn. The company paused its listing plans earlier this year because of market volatility caused by Mr Trump's tariffs.

Scientists think "leopard spots" on a rock collected on **Mars** by NASA's *Perseverance* rover may [have been made by ancient microbial life](#). Their analysis, published in *Nature*, says the rover detected "potential biosignatures". Further tests are needed, but NASA's Sean Duffy said the finding "could be the clearest sign of life that we've ever found on Mars".

Figure of the day: 40%, the proportion of children in Niue and the Cook Islands who are obese—the highest in the world. [Read the full story.](#)

How about some cruciverbalism with your coffee? We now publish our mini crossword, with a choice of straight or cryptic clues, every weekday. [Play the latest puzzle.](#)



Illustration: David Simonds

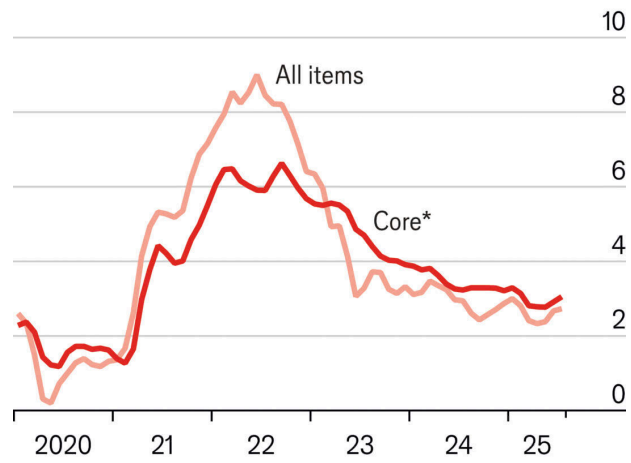
Tariffs fuel inflation in America

Five months after Donald Trump announced plans to [sharply raise tariffs](#), they are raising the prices that Americans pay in shops. On Thursday inflation data will show by how much.

In the first few months of Mr Trump's second term inflation moved tantalisingly close to the Federal Reserve's target of 2%, which had been out of reach since 2021. But the last reading put the annual inflation rate in July at 2.7% and the core rate, which excludes volatile food and energy costs, at 3.1%. Businesses have been passing on the costs of tariffs to consumers. And more price pain is probably on the way. Forecasters think that headline inflation rose to 2.9% in August, and that core inflation remained at 3.1%. That will pose a dilemma for the Federal Reserve as it mulls whether to cut interest rates. It is now balancing rising inflation and a weakening jobs market.

Ticking up

United States, consumer prices,
% increase on a year earlier



*Excluding energy and food
Source: Haver Analytics



Photograph: Getty Images

Japan and the Philippines try to deter China

An accord between Japan and the Philippines came into effect on Thursday. Their Reciprocal Access Agreement allows the armed forces of each country into the territory of the other. It is the latest in a network of similar accords bringing together their forces with those of America and Australia. The purpose: to deter China from going to war to assert its claims to [disputed parts of the Pacific](#) and, ultimately, Taiwan.

China is already engaged in unarmed, grey-zone confrontations with Japan and the Philippines in contested waters. Chinese forces use intimidation rather than lethal weapons to shoo away foreign vessels. The RAA may serve as a deterrent by facilitating joint Japanese and Philippine patrols. Filipino officers observe that, whenever some combination of American, Australian, Japanese, Philippine or other friendly warships patrols a disputed area, Chinese forces nearby tend to act less aggressively.



Photograph: AP

The ECB to stay on hold

The first meeting after the summer break promises to be an easy one for the European Central Bank. On Thursday its top mandarins come together to assess the economy, financial conditions and inflation, and decide whether to cut its main interest rate from 2% to 1.75%. Analysts expect them to do nothing.

The ECB's main aim—to keep inflation steady at 2%—is roughly on target. The annual rate was 2.1% in August, and 2% in the two months before that, low enough for bankers to turn their attention to the question of economic growth. There are some signs of improvement. Manufacturing sentiment is finally signalling growth again, in spite of American tariffs. But big government spending promises on defence and infrastructure, [especially in Germany](#), will take time to trickle down. Before the guns and mortar materialise, the ECB may need to lend the economy a helping hand with another rate cut.



Photograph: AFP

Can Adobe keep up on AI?

Adobe, an American maker of software for creative types, risks being left behind in the artificial-intelligence frenzy. The [new technology](#) has cast the competitiveness of the firm's digital-editing tools into doubt, and threatens to put lots of graphic designers, among its main customers, out of a job. Adobe's share price is down 39% in the past year; on Thursday it publishes third-quarter earnings.

The company has been trying to integrate AI into its products, but investors complain that upstarts are running rings round it. OpenAI rolled out its AI-video generator in February, when Adobe's own, Firefly Video, was still in testing. The company also faces competition from design apps like Canva and CapCut, which are easy to use on smartphones. In September Adobe said it would make its video editor, Premiere, available on iPhones. But skittish investors will need more convincing that Adobe can cut it (and paste it) in an AI world.



Photograph: Getty Images

America's constitutional rut

In his quest to remake America, Donald Trump has yet to try amending the constitution. Perhaps wisely. Of nearly 12,000 amendments proposed since 1789, only 27 have been ratified. In “We the People”, a book out on Thursday, Jill Lepore argues that America’s constitution has become too hard to change. The historian notes that Thomas Jefferson wanted conventions every 19 years, doubting that one generation had “a right to bind another”. The framers of the constitution adopted James Madison’s counterproposal, which made amendment much harder. Under Article v it requires two-thirds votes in both houses of Congress and the assent of three-quarters of states.

The last meaningful change, in 1971, lowered the voting age. With only a glancing reference to the way America’s constitutional rut contributes to its current political strife, “We the People” is not a road map for repair. But it offers an arresting chronicle of Americans striving—if sometimes failing—to redesign their republic.



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: Which film was really awarded the Oscar for best movie in 2017, after the presenters mistakenly announced the winner as *La La Land*?

Wednesday: Which British rock band had a hit single with “Love Will Tear Us Apart” before reforming as New Order?

Life is ours to be spent, not to be saved.

D. H. Lawrence