

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: AFP PHOTO/KCNA VIA KNS

Kim Jong Un, North Korea's leader, arrived in Beijing to attend a military parade on Wednesday during "Victory over Japan Day" celebrations. China wants to show off its new weapons to world leaders. Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, who is also attending, said that he had reached "understandings" with Donald Trump in Alaska last month on ending the [war in Ukraine](#), but did not confirm peace talks.

A federal judge in **California** said that the **Trump administration** illegally deployed the **National Guard** to carry out domestic law enforcement. About 300 National Guard remain in Los Angeles, nearly three months after 4,000 National Guard and 700 Marines were ordered to quell protests against immigration raids. The ruling directs the troops to limit their work to tasks such as patrolling federal buildings.

Aftershocks hit **Afghanistan** days after a big earthquake killed more than 1,400 people in the country's southeast. At least 3,000 people have been injured and thousands of houses destroyed by the magnitude 6.0 quake that struck on Sunday. Afghanistan has been hit hard by Western countries' [cuts to aid](#) since the return of the Taliban administration.

A suspect was arrested in the case of the murder of a senior **Ukrainian** politician, **Andriy Parubiy**. Officials now allege that Russia was involved in the murder. On Saturday a gunman, disguised as a food-delivery worker, fired eight bullets at Mr Parubiy in central Kyiv. It's the latest in a string of killings of prominent Ukrainian politicians and activists.

Around 40,000 **Israeli** reservists are reporting for duty ahead of a new offensive in Gaza City, according to Israeli Army Radio. Some have already served for hundreds of days since the start of the war, but will now have to complete another three months. Despite warnings from senior ranks, Binyamin Netanyahu is pushing to accelerate the campaign that received cabinet approval last month.

British government **borrowing costs** have surged to their highest levels since 1998. The yield on 30-year **UK** government debt hit 5.7%. At the same time, the price of **gold** reached an all-time high of around £2,600 (\$3,500) during early trading in Asia. Investors, worried about rising geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty, see it as a safe-haven asset.

Kraft Heinz, an American **food giant**, said that it will split into two listed companies. One will sell fast-growing products such as sauces and spreads; the other will handle the sluggish grocery business. Miguel Patricio, the boss, said the breakup would “drive scale in our most promising areas.” The new companies have yet to be named.

Figure of the day: 2.5m. The forecast reduction in the number of people moving to America this year compared with 2024. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: AP

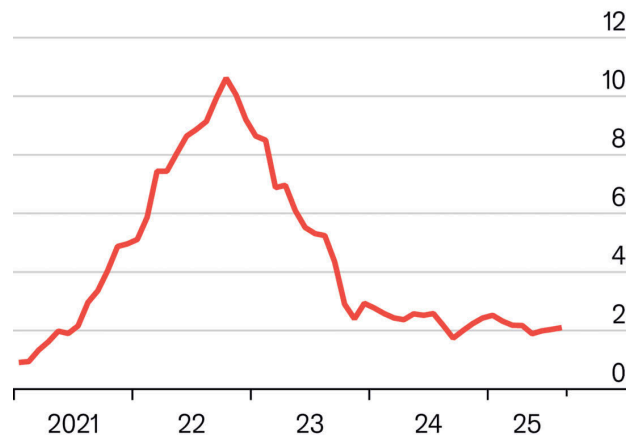
Euro-zone inflation hovers above target

As Europe returned from its holiday season to offices and shop floors, the outlook for the economy had been brightening. Despite American tariffs, sentiment among manufacturing businesses in the euro zone is at a 41-month high. But inflation data published on Tuesday may cool some of that optimism. Price levels rose slightly to 2.1% year on year in August. Analysts had expected it to stay at 2%, where it had settled for the past two months.

The new figures will dampen hopes for an interest-rate cut in the coming months. And even as euro-zone inflation hovers around target, outliers remain. Austria's inflation rate is 3.7%. Inflation in central and eastern Europe is higher—as expected when economies catch up—than the average in richer western countries. Past wage increases have kept inflation in services prices above 3%. But if the ECB's wage tracker is any guide, negotiated wage increases will dip below 2% in the last quarter of 2025.

Cooling down

Euro area, consumer prices,
% increase on a year earlier



Source: Haver Analytics



Photograph: AP

Brazil's extraordinary trial

Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil's hard-right former president, and seven of his closest associates will be put on trial on Tuesday. They are accused of masterminding a coup attempt to remain in power after losing an election in 2022. [The prosecution is an extraordinary moment.](#) Brazil has a long history of coups, but this is the first time someone has been put on trial for attempting one. Many expect the defendants to be found guilty; several could face decades in prison. The trial could wrap up as early as mid-September, though it can be extended until the end of the year.

Donald Trump, Mr Bolsonaro's idol, has [called the trial a "witch-hunt"](#) and slapped tariffs of 50% on many Brazilian goods, as well as sanctions on Alexandre de Moraes, the Supreme Court judge who has led the prosecution of Mr Bolsonaro, often with a heavy hand. Mr Trump could intensify the fight—but at home, many Brazilians are growing weary of the Bolsonaro circle.



Photograph: Getty Images

Ishiba treats Japan's war commemoration with caution

On September 2nd 1945 Japan signed the Instrument of Surrender on the *USS Missouri*, formally ending the second world war. In many countries, the day is celebrated as VJ (Victory Over Japan) Day. In Japan remembrance of the war remains politically fraught. Ishiba Shigeru, the prime minister who is a liberal within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, has expressed a desire to confront his country's wartime aggression more directly than his predecessors. But on the 80th anniversary on Tuesday, he held back a statement outlining Japan's role in the war—probably to avoid antagonising the party's right wing.

The political situation allows little room for that. At an [upper house election in July](#), the LDP lost its majority. On Tuesday the party held a post-mortem to analyse the election battering. Mr Ishiba has so far stated his intention to stay in the post, but his close aide decided to step down. With his position already shaky, he seems to have judged that reflecting on history is less urgent than keeping his job.



Photograph: Getty Images

Can Congress keep America's government open?

Congress returns from its summer break on Tuesday and must solve an urgent problem. The federal government is only funded until September 30th. If the two parties cannot agree to raise more money, it will shut down.

Democrats are tempted to use the ticking clock to stand up to Republicans. Many were furious when their leadership supported a spending bill in March to avert a shutdown, amid the administration's bonfire of the federal government. Since then Republicans forced through the [One Big Beautiful Bill Act](#), slashing funding for Democratic priorities such as Medicaid and the social safety-net. And Donald Trump cancelled some spending Congress approved. Although potentially illegal, he may again.

Some Democrats wonder why they should strike a deal if the president will defund whatever they get out of it. But they also baulk at the idea of a shutdown, which Republicans would blame on them. That could make the Democrats lose their nerve.



Photograph: Getty Images

NatCon meets in Washington, DC

From Tuesday to Thursday the biggest-ever National Conservatism conference will take place in Washington, DC. Speakers include Tulsi Gabbard, America's director of national intelligence, and Thomas Homan, Donald Trump's "border czar".

One attendee stands out: Nigel Farage, leader of Britain's hard-right Reform UK, the only British politician currently confirmed to speak. When NatCon was held in London in 2023, it was dominated by Britain's Conservative Party. The party's absence from this year's event underlines Mr Farage's dominance of Britain's right. Mr Farage's speech will focus on mass deportation. Last week Reform said it would create detention facilities to remove 24,000 people from Britain every month if it wins the next election that is expected by 2029, [echoing Mr Trump's ambitions](#). His party leads national polls. Whether Mr Farage's alignment with Mr Trump will help him domestically is uncertain. Such perceived ties didn't do much for politicians in [Australia](#) or [Canada](#), who lost recent elections.



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.

Tuesday: Which birds are sometimes released at weddings and funerals as signs of love and peace?

Monday: Which colour, generated from a dye made from sea snails, became associated with Roman emperors?

I always in writing start with a name. Give me a name and it produces a story, not the other way about normally.

J.R.R. Tolkien