

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Reuters

Donald Trump said **America** would send Patriot air-defence systems, paid for by the European Union, to Ukraine. Last week he [reversed a ban](#) on sending weapons to the country. Mr Trump has teased another “major” announcement on Monday. Axios, a news outlet, reported that he may announce the provision of offensive weapons to Ukraine. Mr Trump has previously emphasised arms shipments were of “defensive weapons”.

Maros Sefcovic, the European Union’s trade commissioner, said trade between the **EU** and **America** would be “almost impossible” if Mr Trump implemented his proposed tariffs. On Saturday Donald Trump [threatened](#) a 30% levy on many EU goods entering America, starting on August 1st. Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, said that the European Union would not retaliate before then.

Emmanuel Macron pledged to raise France’s **military spending** by €6.5bn (\$7.6bn) over the next two years. It spent €59.6bn on defence in 2024—just 2% of its GDP. NATO has a target of 3.5%. Several European countries have recently boosted [their defence budgets](#) to counter Russia’s growing threat. “Since 1945, freedom has never been so threatened,” said France’s president.

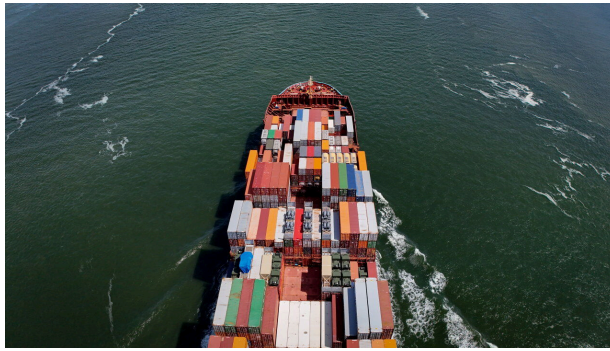
The value of **Bitcoin** rose above \$120,000 for the first time, climbing by more than 10% in the past week. The rally comes as America's Congress considers three crypto-friendly bills, including the GENIUS Act, which would make it easier for companies to issue [stablecoins](#). French Hill, the Republican chair of the House Committee on Financial Services, dubbed the legislative agenda "crypto week".

America's aviation regulator issued a notice saying that fuel-switch locks on **Boeing** aircraft are safe. The manually controlled locks, which protect a switch that turns off fuel to engines, were implicated in the [crash](#) of an Air India Boeing 787 jet that killed 260 people last month. The Federal Aviation Administration's bulletin was sent to other aviation regulators around the world.

An Israeli missile hit a refugee camp in **Gaza**, killing at least eight people, most of them children. The Israeli Defence Forces said that the projectile had malfunctioned and missed its target. The IDF expressed regret and said it was investigating the incident. Gaza's health ministry said on Sunday that 139 people had been killed in the territory in the past 24 hours.

**Buckingham Palace** confirmed that Mr Trump will make a state visit to Britain between September 17th and 19th. King Charles III will receive America's president at Windsor Castle. The House of Commons will be in recess, depriving Mr Trump of the chance of a speech to Britain's elected lawmakers. It will be his second state visit to the country, a rare honour; some Labour MPs have criticised the invitation.

**Figure of the day:** Over 100,000, the number of people who marched in Budapest's Pride parade, defying a government ban. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: EPA

## **The EU prepares for tough trade negotiations**

America's latest tariff rampage has reached the European Union. On June 12th Donald Trump announced that EU goods entering America would face a 30% tariff, starting from August 1st. That is much higher than the 20% rate imposed in April, which was reduced to 10%. On Monday the EU's trade ministers will meet to discuss their response, as well as tactics for an EU delegation visiting Beijing on July 24th.

The EU has had little success bargaining with either superpower recently. That is hardly surprising. The bloc has some leverage, but both of its negotiating partners have more. America can threaten to stop supporting Ukraine and pull away from Europe. China could increase its support for Russia. After all, the Ukraine conflict helps it by stretching the West's resources and keeping it busy. The EU's trade ministers know that upcoming trade talks are about a lot more than trade. The question is whether they can devise an approach to match.



Photograph: Getty Images

## Singapore's trade-war worries

Few countries have as much reason to worry about Donald Trump's disruption of global trade as Singapore. The city-state's trade-to-GDP ratio is more than 300%, among the highest in the world. Singapore's exports to America are subject to a 10% baseline tariff, which is lower than those on its neighbours. But threatened levies on semiconductors and pharmaceuticals could hit it hard.

GDP estimates for the second quarter, released on Monday, showed that Singapore's economy is holding up. Year-on-year growth was 4.3%, up from 3.9% in the first quarter. But Gan Kim Yong, the city-state's trade minister, has warned that a "front-loading effect", from a surge of exports to America to avoid impending tariffs, will diminish. Growth, he says, will probably slow. Mr Gan plans to visit America this month for trade negotiations. But, as those who have tried before can attest, striking a good deal is easier said than done.



Photograph: Getty Images

## **Afghans lose their right to live in America**

In May America's Department of Homeland Security said that Afghans will no longer be eligible for Temporary Protected Status, which allows people who have fled wars or natural disasters but may not qualify for asylum to stay in the country. On Monday they lose their right to live in America. Many who left Afghanistan after America's withdrawal in 2021 may now have to return to live under Taliban rule. Some of them helped during America's occupation.

During his presidency Joe Biden relied on temporary protections to help migrants from dangerous places. Reforming immigration law would have been harder. In 2024 1.1m people had TPS. Donald Trump has now cancelled that status for Afghans, Haitians, Hondurans, Nicaraguans, Venezuelans and others. Some have lived in America for decades. By making these legal migrants illegal, Mr Trump has made them vulnerable to his [mass-deportation programme](#). And he has revealed the flaw in Democrats' tactic: as the name suggests, TPS is just temporary.



Photograph: IMAGO

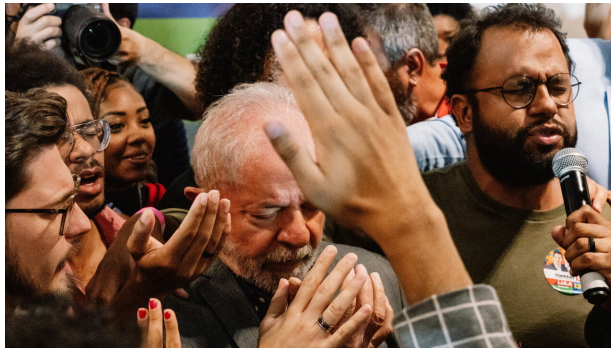
## Another twist in Sudan's civil war?

Fighting is intensifying in North Kordofan, the state immediately to the west of Khartoum, Sudan's capital. The Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces, a paramilitary group, are warring over el-Obeid, the state capital. In February, after nearly two years, the army broke an RSF siege of the city, which has a military garrison and straddles an important motorway. Now the rebels are trying to take el-Obeid again.

Victory would be yet another swing in [Sudan's see-sawing civil war](#). The RSF, which has been accused of genocide, is again on the offensive. Since losing control of Khartoum in March it has secured a vital supply route from Libya and made advances in the south. However the fighting goes, Sudan's civilians will continue to suffer. The battle for el-Obeid has already forced thousands from their homes. Food is scarce and cholera is spreading.







Photograph: Netflix

## Apocalypse in the tropics

Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil's [former president](#), and Donald Trump, America's president, have much in common. Both are brash, unapologetic demagogues who fulminate against opponents in fire-and-brimstone sermons. And both stir up such fervour that, when they lost elections, their followers stormed the seats of their countries' governments. The two hard-right populists share another trait—they are popular among evangelical Christians.

According to “Apocalypse in the Tropics”, a documentary directed by Petra Costa that premieres on Netflix on Monday, the similarity between American evangelicals' embrace of MAGA and evangelical support for *bolsonarismo* is no coincidence. Ms Costa, an Oscar nominee, ascribes the rise in the proportion of Brazilians professing to be evangelical Christians—from 5% in 1970 to 27% now—to American missionaries. The Nixon administration sent evangelical preachers to Brazil in the 1970s to combat “liberation theology”, a Marxian creed popular among progressive Catholic priests. Messrs Trump and Bolsonaro, vocal anti-Marxists, would doubtless have shared enthusiasm for that mission.





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.

**Monday:** Which cyclist, considered one of the greatest of all time, won an unequalled 11 grand tour events, including five Tour de France?

*It's not only the question, but the way you try to solve it.*

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***Maryam Mirzakhani***