

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter

**Israel's** army said **Iran** fired around 100 drones towards it in response to **Israel's overnight strikes** on Iranian nuclear facilities and military sites. Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, said 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 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, including **Hossein Salami**, the head of Iran's **Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps**. Mohammed Bagheri, the second-highest 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.

**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 and said America's "top priority" is protecting its forces in the region. But Iran has vowed to respond harshly to both Israel and America.

**Saudi Arabia** condemned the attacks as "blatant Israeli aggressions" that violated Iran's "sovereignty and security" as well as "international laws and norms". Earlier **Oman** accused Israel of a "reckless" escalation. It has been **hosting** America and Iran for their nuclear negotiations. Iran said it would not participate in a sixth round, scheduled for Sunday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said that Israel had struck an Iranian [nuclear site](#) in the city of **Natanz**. Iran informed the atomic watchdog that there was no increase in radiation levels and that its Bushehr nuclear plant was not targeted. On Thursday the IAEA declared Iran was not complying with its non-proliferation obligations, though that was largely over historical issues.

Following the attack, **oil futures** saw their biggest intraday jump since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. Brent crude, the international benchmark, rose by 12% to \$77.6 a barrel, having briefly reached \$78.5 a barrel. Iran's location on the northern side of the Strait of Hormuz could enable it to block significant swathes of the oil exports of Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia if it desires.

**Stockmarkets** dropped in early trading in **Asia**. Japan's Nikkei 225 index was down 1.4%; South Korea's Kospi index fell by 1%. American stock futures also sank, by more than 1%. By contrast several safe-haven assets rose. The price of gold increased by around 1.5%; American government bonds gained.

**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.](#)

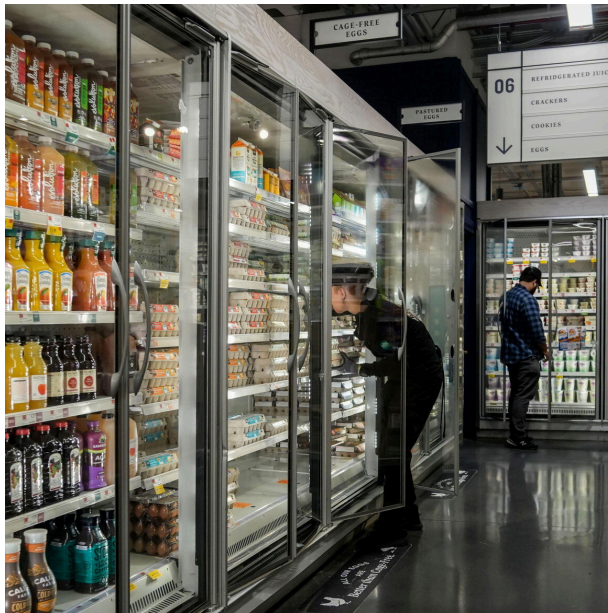


Photograph: AFP

## 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

## **Down in the dumps: the American consumer**

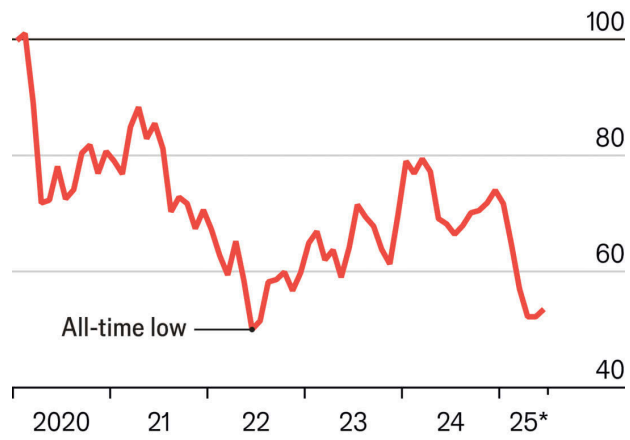
Consumer-confidence figures, released on Friday by the University of Michigan, are expected to confirm that Americans feel terrible about the economy. Optimism has tanked since January, when Donald Trump took office. It is possible that confidence will approach the all-time low reached in mid-2022 when 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 wracked up [many removals](#), but they have generated a number of *causes célèbres*. Friday marks a significant moment for two of them. Kilmar Abergo 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: 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.*

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***Fernando Pessoa***