

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Reuters

Israel rejected a statement from a group of 25 countries that called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and criticised the Israeli government's [system for delivering aid there](#). Signatories to the statement included Britain, France, Canada and Japan. Earlier, Israel launched air and ground operations on Deir al-Balah, a city in central **Gaza** where hundreds of thousands of people have been sheltering.

Volodymyr Zelensky said that **Ukraine** and **Russia** would hold fresh peace talks on Wednesday in Turkey. Negotiations in Istanbul in May and June [yielded little progress](#). Earlier **Russia** launched drone and missile strikes on Ukraine, killing two people and wounding 15 more. Ukrainian drone attacks, meanwhile, continued to disrupt **Moscow's** main airports; Russia said it downed 117 drones overnight.

China's exports of **rare-earth magnets** to America increased by 660% in June compared with May. However, export levels remain significantly lower than last year. The rise follows a trade agreement between the two countries. China had used its [dominance in rare earths](#) as leverage during the talks, imposing

export restrictions in retaliation for tariffs. The magnets are used in electric vehicles and wind turbines.

Stellantis said that it expected a €2.3bn (\$2.7bn) net loss in the first half of 2025 as it undergoes a pricey restructuring and shoulders the costs of [Donald Trump's tariffs](#). The European carmaker (whose largest shareholder, Exor, part-owns *The Economist's* parent company) also said its shipments declined by 6% year on year in the second quarter, in part because of tariff-related disruption.

BP appointed Albert Manifold, former boss of CRH, a building-materials supplier, as its chair. Mr Manifold will replace Helge Lund, whose six-year tenure at the British oil major [included several challenges](#), such as a pivot back to fossil fuels after a failed push into renewables. In 2023 BP's chief executive, Bernard Looney, resigned after failing to disclose personal relationships with colleagues.

A military plane crashed into a school campus in Dhaka, **Bangladesh's** capital, killing at least 19 people and injuring more than 160. Bangladesh's air force said a F-7 BGI training aircraft crashed shortly after take off. Bangladesh's interim leader, [Muhammad Yunus](#), called it a "moment of profound pain" for the country and said the government would investigate the crash's cause.

Polymarket bought QCX, a small regulated derivatives exchange—a move that will allow the prediction market to legally operate in America. Earlier this month American financial regulators dropped an investigation into the [online platform](#), which allows users to speculate on current affairs. Prosecutors were probing whether Polymarket allowed Americans to bet on the [2024 presidential election](#), despite not being registered.

Fact of the day: 433,000, the number of Chinese officials being probed in a crackdown launched in April 2024. Read the full story.



Photograph: Alamy

Jerome Powell sets out his case

Speculation about who will be the next chair of the Federal Reserve is getting more intense. On July 16th markets quaked because Donald Trump, [frustrated](#) by Jerome Powell's refusal to lower interest rates as fast as he wants, talked about sacking him before his term ends next May. He thought better of it. (The *Wall Street Journal* reported that Scott Bessent, the treasury secretary, who is a contender to replace Mr Powell, persuaded him to forebear.)

Mr Powell himself will give a speech on Tuesday. He has pushed a “wait-and-see” approach to assessing how tariffs might affect interest-rate decisions. Most analysts assume that a cut at the next Fed meeting, on July 30th, is off the cards—especially as [tariffs](#) have started to increase inflation. However, last week Christopher Waller, a Fed voting member and another possible successor to Mr Powell, gave a speech titled “The Case for Cutting Now”. That's what Mr Trump wants to hear, though Mr Waller's justification—weakening labour-market data—will please him less.

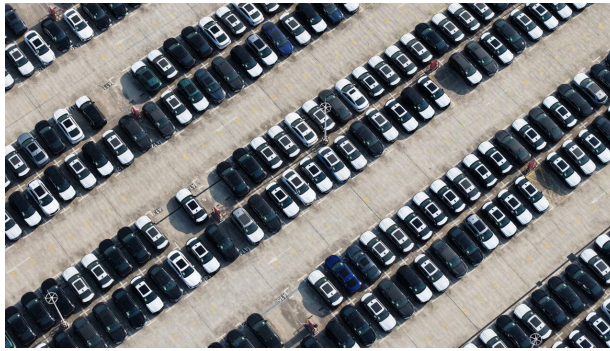


Photograph: EPA

Israel's next steps in Gaza

As expectations of a ceasefire in Gaza grow, Israel has been intensifying its [operations](#) in the strip. On Monday it launched an attack on Deir al-Balah, to the south of Gaza City. The town has largely remained out of the fighting during the war, which has been raging for over 21 months. There has also been a shocking rise in casualties, particularly near food-distribution centers, where Palestinian health authorities and international aid organisations claim over 800 people have been killed by Israeli fire. Israel denies these numbers.

Israel claims it is attacking members of the [Hamas](#) Islamist militant group that still controls parts of Gaza, but army officers admit in private that until they know if there is a ceasefire, there is scant military purpose to the operations. But, should the latest indirect talks between Hamas and Israel in Doha fail, Israel is planning an even larger—and more purposeful—assault.



Photograph: Getty Images

GM's struggles in the tariff dragnet

General Motors' second-quarter results, released on Tuesday, may start to reflect the potential cost of tariffs, which the company estimates at between \$4bn and \$5bn this year. President Donald Trump's efforts to [reshore carmaking](#) through levies on many foreign-made vehicles and parts, to encourage manufacturing at home, is likely to mean lower revenues and profits for the Detroit giant.

This comes despite bumper sales in the latest three-month period, including of electric vehicles, as well as a welcome surge in sales in China. GM has a plan to offset up to 30% of the impact of tariffs by investing \$4bn in manufacturing in America, as well as cutting costs while steering clear of price cuts to boost sales. Nonetheless, the administration's latest proposed tariff, of 50% on imported [copper](#), will add to the firm's problems; the red metal is used extensively in all cars, but particularly in electric vehicles. Mr Trump is still looming large.



Photograph: Getty Images

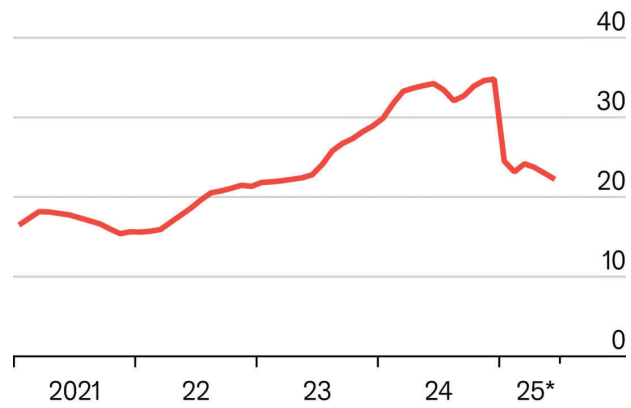
Nigeria's economy at a turning point

The monetary policy committee of Nigeria's central bank meets on Tuesday to set interest rates. Even if there is a cut, they are likely to remain high, as the country has been operating a tight monetary policy to bring down inflation. But the approach seems to be working: headline price growth fell for a third consecutive month to 22.2% in June, an almost two-year low.

After a tumultuous few years, Nigeria's currency appears to be stabilising. This comes despite a [drop in the price of oil](#), the country's main export. The Nigerian all-share index is up 18% and some analysts expect remittance inflows to rise from \$23.8bn last year to \$25.3bn this year. An oil refinery built by Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote, has reduced Nigeria's costly dependency on imported petroleum products. But there is room for caution: [food prices](#) have ticked up again. It will be a while before Nigerians feel better off.

Taming inflation

Nigeria, consumer prices,
% increase on a year earlier



*Series rebased

Source: LSEG Workspace



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: Who set his guitar on fire at the Monterey International Pop Festival in 1967, an event which cemented his fame?

Monday: Who placed an advert in Jazz News in 1962, inviting applicants to join an R&B band that became the Rolling Stones?

*Naught is too small and soft to
turn and sting.*

Emma Lazarus