

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: AP

Donald Trump said he would meet with “various parties” at Davos, a summit of world leaders, on Wednesday to discuss **Greenland**, following a “very good” phone call with Mark Rutte, the head of NATO. Earlier Mr Trump shared a text message he said he received from Emmanuel Macron, in which the French president said “he didn’t understand” what **Mr Trump was doing** regarding the territory.

Mr Trump said **Britain’s** “great stupidity” in **ceding sovereignty** of the **Chagos Islands** to Mauritius proved that America should annex Greenland. Britain agreed to return the islands last year, though it and America will keep control of a military base there. Mr Trump, who at the time backed the deal, said the “act of total weakness” was another reason why “Greenland has to be acquired.”

Mr Trump confirmed that he had invited **Vladimir Putin**, Russia’s president, to sit on the “**Board of Peace**” intended to oversee peacekeeping in **Gaza**. Russia’s government said it was “studying” the offer. America’s president has invited several influential business and political figures, including Sir Tony Blair, a former British prime minister, to sit on the board.

Czechoslovak Group, a Czech armsmaker, said it aims to raise nearly \$4.5bn when it goes public on Friday, in what would be the largest ever **defence** listing. The firm, which makes ammunition and armoured vehicles, is a prominent supplier to Ukraine's army. It has grown rapidly as European governments [ramp up military spending](#). The IPO could value it at nearly \$30bn.

Britain's government gave the go-ahead to **Chinese** plans to build a large **embassy complex** in London after years of delays due to security concerns. Critics of the plan argued that its size and proximity to Britain's financial hub, [could facilitate spying](#). A member of the Conservative opposition party said the government's approval was "a disgraceful act of cowardice".

Israel's army razed buildings at a compound in East Jerusalem belonging to UNRWA, the UN's agency for Palestinians. Israel has [accused it](#) of collaborating with Hamas and banned it from operating in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank, where the building is located. The agency, which has not used the building in over a year, said the demolition was a "violation of international law".

France's prime minister, Sébastien Lecornu, said he would "with some regret" force his **budget** through parliament without a vote. He may now face a confidence motion. Mr Lecornu has made concessions in an attempt to make his plans palatable to left-wing parties, including increasing taxes for large companies. The budget, which aims to tame France's [unsustainable deficit](#), was first proposed in July.

Figure of the day: 1,800, number of applications for remote IT jobs from North Koreans that Amazon blocked last month. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Getty Images

Europe weighs retaliation over Greenland

European leaders are [scrambling to respond](#) to Donald Trump's threat to impose tariffs on the eight countries that sent a few dozen troops to Greenland. They could try and convince Mr Trump that the crisis is merely a misunderstanding. The mostly symbolic deployment was carried out last week at Denmark's request—and followed American calls for a stronger European presence in the Arctic.

That is unlikely to sway Mr Trump. Another option, then, is retaliation. European parliamentarians are prepared to suspend a trade deal struck last year, under which Europe agreed not to match America's steep tariffs. Levies on exports to America from the eight countries would rise from 15% to at least 25%. More dramatically, the EU could invoke its most powerful economic weapon. The “anti-coercion instrument” would allow broader retaliation against American firms and investments. But such tactics risk damaging co-operation over Ukraine or spiralling into a wider trade war. Abandoning a strategy of American appeasement will come with consequences.



Photograph: Getty Images

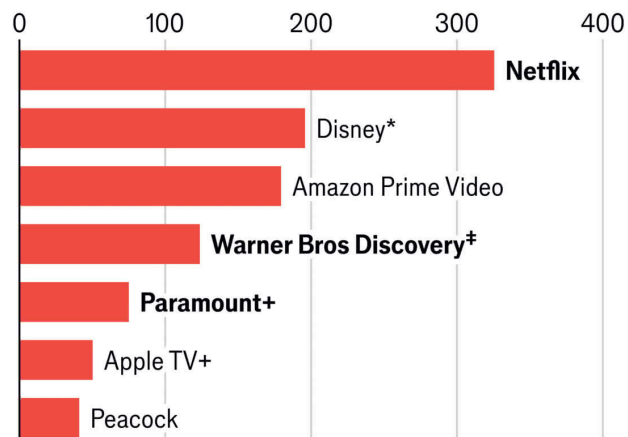
Netflix tests investors' faith

Netflix will report earnings on Tuesday, and update shareholders on its plans to get even bigger. The world's biggest streaming service, with more than 300m subscribers, hopes to [buy most of Warner Bros Discovery](#), which has over 100m streaming customers as well as one of Hollywood's biggest movie studios. Netflix had offered \$83bn in cash and stock but on Tuesday switched to an all-cash bid to fend off a rival approach from Paramount Global.

Some of the strongest doubts about the deal come from Netflix's own shareholders. The company's share price has dropped by more than a quarter since it started circling Warner last autumn. Some worry about the sheer scale of the acquisition; others see it as a sign that Netflix's existing growth engines are losing power. Tuesday's results will either steady nerves—or deepen concerns—over the company's boldest bet since it abandoned DVDs.

No business like showbusiness

Global streaming subscriptions, m
Selected companies, Q3 2025



*Disney+, Disney+ Hotstar and Hulu

‡Discovery+ and HBO Max

Source: Ampere Analysis



Photograph: Getty Images

Challenging the Ten Commandments in America's classrooms

On Tuesday America's Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals will weigh the constitutionality of laws in Texas and [Louisiana](#) that require public schools to display the Ten Commandments in every classroom. A three-judge panel at the Fifth Circuit rejected Louisiana's law last June; now all 17 active judges will weigh in.

Texas's attorney general, Ken Paxton, argues that displaying the commandments is "imperative" to uphold Christian values in America. Lower courts have blocked the laws on the grounds that they breach the First Amendment's ban on establishing religion. Judges cited *Stone v Graham*, a 1980 Supreme Court ruling that struck down a near-identical requirement. The states counter that *Stone* depends on a legal test the court has since discarded. The case now sits squarely at the centre of America's culture wars—and looks destined for the [Supreme Court](#).



Photograph: Reuters

Russia's view of the “Donroe Doctrine”

On Tuesday Sergei Lavrov, Russia's foreign minister, will review the past year in his country's diplomacy at a press conference in Moscow. The Kremlin has some reason to be cheerful. Russian officials have long sought to undermine NATO by trying to create divisions between America and its European allies. Now Donald Trump is doing it for them. The American president's desire to take over Greenland, an autonomous Danish territory, is threatening to [tear the alliance apart](#). Meanwhile, it is distracting from the plight of Ukraine, where Russia's full-scale invasion has nearly reached its fourth anniversary.

But a bellicose America poses tricky questions for Russia, too. The Kremlin could do nothing to stop America's capture of Venezuela's dictator, Nicolás Maduro, a long-time Russian ally. And while Mr Trump has retreated from threats to strike Iran, another Russian partner, he could return to the idea. Russia may like the sound of a might-makes-right world. But Mr Trump is hard to predict.



Illustration: Sandra Navarro

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 GMT on Friday to [\[email protected\]](#). We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

Tuesday: What was the popular name of the Chinese rebellion against Western occupation between 1899 and 1901?

Monday: Which actor, who appeared in many Hammer horror movies, called his autobiography “Tall, Dark and Gruesome”?

*Experience is what you get while
looking for something else.*

Federico Fellini