

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter

**Iran and Israel** traded missiles and airstrikes on Saturday after Israel launched its [biggest-ever attack](#) on Iran's nuclear facilities and military leadership on Friday. Explosions were heard in Tehran, Iran's capital, including two in its Mehrabad airport, while strikes were also reported across Israel, including in Tel Aviv, its capital. There are fears of a widening regional war.

**Israel Katz**, the Israeli defence minister, said Iran's strike on civilian areas "crossed a red line" and that Iran would "pay a very heavy price". Meanwhile, in a video message recorded in English and Farsi, Mr Netanyahu urged Iranians to "stand up and let your voices be heard" because Iran's regime "has never been weaker".

Markets fell on Friday, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average, a stock index, closing down by 1.8% The price of **Brent crude**, a global benchmark, settled at around \$74 a barrel—a 7% rise compared with the start of the day—after peaking at more than \$78. [Iran could disrupt](#) the oil exports of Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia if it desires. The price of gold, a safe-haven asset, rose to near-record levels.

The **International Atomic Energy Agency** confirmed that Israel's initial attack destroyed Iran's above-ground nuclear enrichment plant in Natanz. Earlier the agency described the strikes as "deeply concerning"; Rafael Grossi, the head of the IAEA, asked "all parties to exercise maximum restraint". Separately the Kremlin condemned Israel's attack as a "dramatic escalation". Saudi Arabia accused Israel of "blatant aggressions" against Iran.

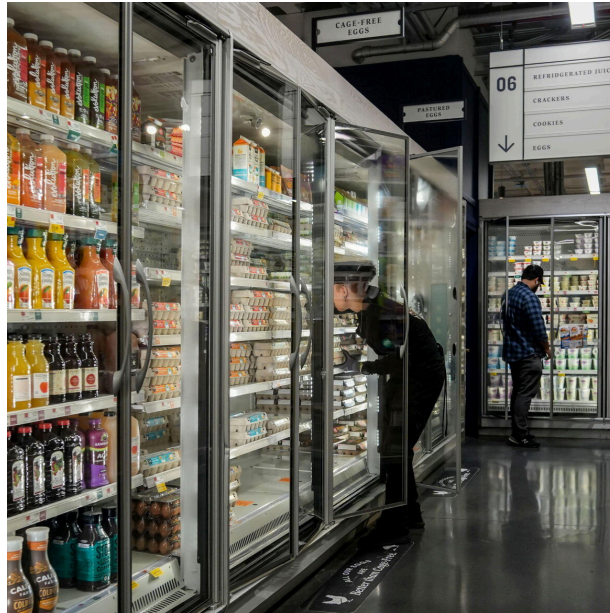
After a day of back and forth in the courts, **California's National Guard** remains under federal control, at least for now. A judge had

earlier ordered that the [4,000-odd troops](#) deployed by the Trump administration in Los Angeles be placed back under the control of California's governor. An appeals court quickly stayed that decision and scheduled another hearing for Tuesday.

**Britain's Supreme Court** dismissed a case in which private schools and parents of students accused the **Labour government** of violating their human rights with a [value-added tax on fees](#). The 20% levy was introduced on January 1st. The court said the argument, despite being "superficially attractive", did not "withstand analysis".

**Narendra Modi**, India's prime minister, visited the site where a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner plane crashed on Thursday, killing more than 260 people. One passenger survived the [Air India flight](#), which was heading to London. The aircraft crashed shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad, a city in west India. The tragedy will hinder Boeing's efforts to recover from years of reputational damage after crashes involving its other planes.

**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: Alamy

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

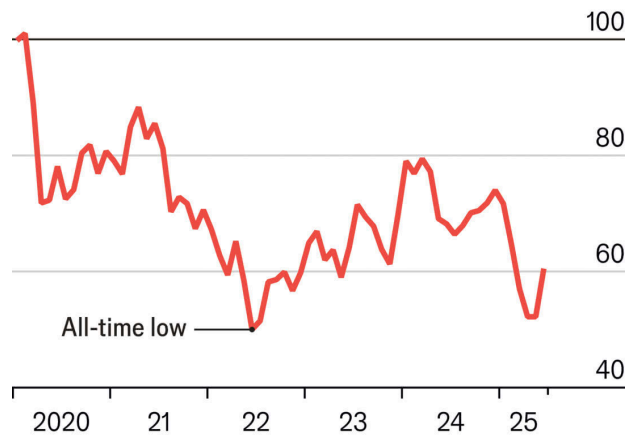
Consumer-confidence figures, released on Friday by the University of Michigan, have confirmed that Americans feel bad about the economy. Optimism has tanked since January, when Donald Trump took office. Confidence rose significantly from the previous month, but still remains a long way below the long-run average.

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



Photograph: EPA

## America's immigration-raid chaos

It is unclear whether Donald Trump's deportation efforts have racked up [many removals](#), but they have generated a number of *causes célèbres*. Friday marks a significant moment for two of them. Kilmar Abrego 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: 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

## 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***