

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: AFP via Getty Images

An **Israeli** negotiating team travelled to Qatar for indirect talks with Hamas about a possible [ceasefire](#) in **Gaza** and the release of hostages held in the enclave. Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, said Hamas had asked for "unacceptable" changes to an American-backed proposal. Mr Netanyahu will meet Donald Trump in Washington on Monday. Mr Trump said a deal on Gaza was "close" and could come this week.

America's treasury secretary, Scott Bessent, said countries that fail to secure trade [agreements](#) with America would see tariffs "boomerang" back to higher rates on August 1st. Mr Trump's 90-day reprieve from his highest tariffs is set to expire on July 9th. America's president said he would send letters to around 12 unspecified countries with "take-it-or-leave-it" offers on Monday.

Mr Trump also said he would put an additional 10% tariff on countries aligned with the "anti-American policies" of the **BRICS**, a group that claims to foster co-operation in the global south. **BRICS** officials are gathered in [Rio de Janeiro for a summit](#). But in a possible sign of its waning influence Xi Jinping, China's leader, is absent and Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, merely spoke by video.

At least 82 people were killed and dozens more are missing after **heavy floods** swept through **Texas**. Many of the victims were girls staying at a summer camp near the Guadalupe river; 27 are still unaccounted for. The White House described as “disgusting” accusations that the Trump administration’s cuts to the National Weather Service exacerbated the problem. Mr Trump said he would probably visit Texas on Friday.

Israel struck three ports and a power plant in **Yemen**. A spokesman for Israel’s armed forces said that one of the targets was the *Galaxy Leader*, a ship that **Houthi** rebels hijacked in 2023 and now uses to track shipping in international waters, Israel says. The attack was a response to the Houthis’ frequent firing of missiles towards Israel.

China said that it would stop buying some medical devices from European companies in response to similar curbs that the European Union announced last month. The decision affects contracts worth more than 45m yuan (\$6.3m) and won’t apply to European firms that build devices in China. On Friday China also imposed anti-dumping duties on most European brandy.

A court in **Australia** found Erin Patterson guilty of murdering three of her estranged husband’s relatives—and attempting to murder another—with a meal containing **toxic mushrooms**. Ms Patterson had pleaded not guilty. Among the ingredients in the beef Wellingtons she served her victims were death cap mushrooms. Her trial attracted huge global interest; several documentaries on the case are already in production.

Figure of the day: \$19, the price of an individually wrapped Japanese strawberry at Erewhon, a posh grocery chain in Los Angeles. [Read the full story](#).



Photograph: Getty Images

Will Netanyahu bring Trump the gift of a Gaza truce?

Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, is visiting Washington for the third time since Donald Trump returned to office. Ahead of their meeting on Monday evening, all eyes are on negotiations some 11,000km away in Doha. The indirect talks between Israel and Hamas in Qatar's capital aim to finalise a ceasefire agreement in Gaza. Mr Trump is hoping to announce the deal alongside Mr Netanyahu at the White House.

Both sides have agreed in principle to the deal: the first stage will include a 60-day truce and the release of half the Israeli hostages who have been held in Gaza for 21 months. Still, disagreements remain. Hamas is insisting on freedom of movement throughout the enclave during the first stage and firmer guarantees it will lead to a more permanent ceasefire. Israel is yet to provide those assurances. It may come down to how much pressure Mr Trump is prepared to exert.



Photograph: Getty Images

Hong Kong tightens the screws on prisoners

On Monday the Hong Kong government's security panel began debating a proposal that would restrict visiting rights for inmates convicted of national-security crimes. It suggests guards should be able to limit or even ban visitors, including religious figures and lawyers, suspected of using "humanitarian relief" as a pretext for encouraging resistance. It also proposes that people in custody awaiting trial should no longer be allowed to wear their own clothes or eat non-prison food.

Authorities have cracked down on dissent since 2020, when they introduced a sweeping national-security law following widespread pro-democracy protests. Since then almost every prominent democracy activist has [been put behind bars or gone into exile](#). But the government wants to show the central authorities in Beijing that it remains vigilant. In a statement for the national-security law's anniversary on June 30th, it promised an "ongoing and endless commitment" to the legislation. Even those already incarcerated will feel the screws twisting tighter.



Photograph: Getty Images

Trump's campus crackdown hits the courts

On Monday a trial begins at a district court concerning the American government's [targeting of pro-Palestinian protesters](#) for arrest and deportation. *American Association of University Professors v Rubio* was filed on March 25th in response to several controversial detentions. The most prominent was that of Mahmoud Khalil, a Columbia University graduate and legal permanent resident who organised protests against the Gaza war. In March federal immigration agents detained him for alleged “pro-terrorist” and antisemitic activity. Mr Khalil, who is challenging attempts to deport him, is now at home on bail.

The AAUP lawsuit claims the government's “ideological” policy is “terrorising” students and university staff for exercising their constitutional right to free speech. The government responds that no specific policy of detaining activists exists and argues that courts lack jurisdiction to review immigration-enforcement actions. The case turns on whether the court views this as a routine immigration matter—or as an attack on campus speech.



Photograph: picture alliance/dpa

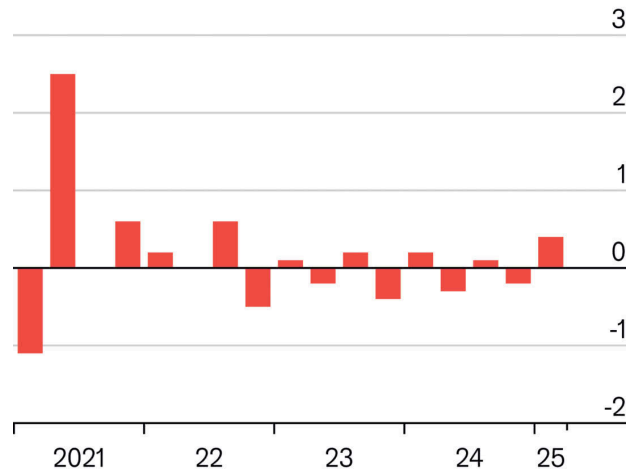
A tricky moment for the German economy

Germany's economy seems to have turned a corner. GDP grew 0.4% in the first quarter of 2025, a welcome sign after two years of recession. Still, data on industrial production and trade, due on Monday and Tuesday respectively, will probably be a mixed bag. In May industrial orders fell by 1.4% compared with the previous month. And both imports and exports are likely to be affected by Donald Trump's tariff threats.

The 90-day reprieve that America's president granted on his heftiest tariffs expires on Wednesday. The European Union is [negotiating with America](#) ahead of the deadline. The uncertainty is especially painful for Germany, Europe's largest exporter. Meanwhile perennial problems persist for German manufacturers: high energy prices, labyrinthine bureaucracy and high labour costs. The newish German government is considering subsidies for energy-intensive industries and, like its predecessors, promises to cut red tape. Despite signs of recovery, Germany is not out of the woods.

Flicker of light

Germany, GDP, % change on previous quarter



Source: Destatis



Photograph: Getty Images

The global fight over deep-sea mining

The council of the International Seabed Authority begins a session in Kingston, Jamaica, on Monday ahead of a full assembly of 169 member states plus the European Union later this month. Top of the ISA's agenda is an elusive code for mining minerals on the deep-ocean floor. At least 37 countries favour a moratorium, concerned about mining's impact on poorly understood ecosystems. Yet in April Donald Trump said [America would go it alone](#), issuing licences not only for American waters, but also for those beyond its jurisdiction.

That would be a breach of international law—the seabed beyond national jurisdictions is the “common heritage of mankind”. The move has given urgency to deliberations in Kingston, though big sticking points remain. One is agreeing on a set of rules and regulations for deep-sea mining. Another is how the benefits from mining might be shared equitably. One proposal is for a “common heritage fund”, yet much of its detail is still to be thrashed out.



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: Who abruptly resigned as governor of Alaska in July 2009?

*I should dearly love that the world
should be ever so little better for
my presence.*

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle