

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Corbis via Getty Images

**Emmanuel Macron** said 26 countries have committed to providing security guarantees to **Ukraine** when [the war](#) against Russia ends. The French president said that the mainly European countries “precisely” formalised their pledges during a summit in Paris; not all agreed to deploy peacekeeping troops in Ukraine. Afterwards European leaders held a video call with Donald Trump about increasing pressure on Russia to reach a peace deal.

**OpenAI** will reportedly produce its own artificial-intelligence chips next year in a partnership with **Broadcom**, an American [semiconductor firm](#). OpenAI would start by using the chips internally, according to the *Financial Times*. Separately Anthropic, OpenAI’s rival, said it would stop selling its AI services to majority-owned Chinese, Russian or Iranian groups, citing concerns that they would be used for military purposes.

**Thai** lawmakers arrived in parliament to vote for a new prime minister. **Anutin Charnvirakul**, a populist construction tycoon, is the frontrunner. Last week [Paetongtarn Shinawatra](#) was ousted as prime minister after a court found her guilty of ethics violations. Meanwhile Thaksin Shinawatra, her father and another former

prime minister, flew to Dubai for a medical appointment. He faces a court ruling next week that could see him jailed.

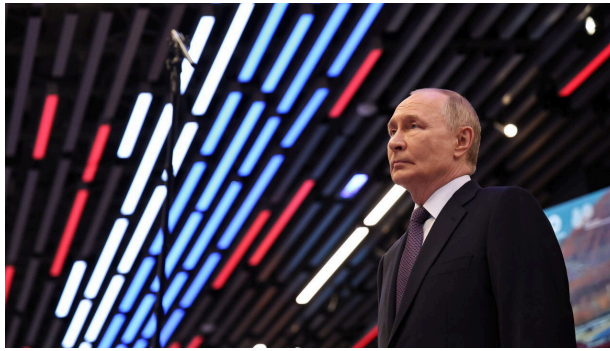
Mr Trump is expected to rebrand America's Department of Defence as the "**Department of War**" on Friday. According to a White House official, the new designation would be a "secondary title" while the Trump administration seeks congressional approval for a formal name change. Last week Mr Trump said the Pentagon should have a title that reflects its "unmatched power".

**Orsted**, a Danish **offshore-wind** developer, sued the Trump administration as it sought to restart work on its Revolution Wind project off of New England. In August officials [issued a stop-work order](#) on the \$4bn project, which is roughly four-fifths complete, as part of a larger campaign against what Mr Trump calls "windmills". Orsted argues that the administration's move violated due-process and regulatory laws.

**Marco Rubio**, America's secretary of state, said the Trump administration would designate two **Ecuadorian** gangs as terrorist organisations and announced \$20m in security commitments to the [Latin American country](#). He added that America was willing to put a military base in Ecuador. Earlier the Trump administration said it had launched a campaign against Venezuelan gangs, after ordering a strike on a "drug vessel".

**Giorgio Armani** died at the age of 91. The Italian designer founded his label in 1975, and the [company has since expanded](#) into fragrances and home decor. Best known for the "Armani suit" and women's "power suit", he shaped modern business wear. He originally developed a passion for design in the 1950s while working as a window-dresser at a department store in Milan.

**Figure of the day:** 25%. The surge in unemployed university students in Indonesia since August 2022. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: EPA/Shutterstock

## Russia hosts its new friends

On Friday President Vladimir Putin addresses the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, in Russia's far east. The Kremlin expects representatives from more than 70 countries to attend the investment drive. For Mr Putin, it provides another chance to claim that Russia is establishing a new global order to challenge the West's decades-long bullying.

As Russia's war rages in Ukraine, the theme of this year's forum is "co-operation for peace and prosperity". To allies of Ukraine, such rhetoric is shameful. But Mr Putin has others in his corner. This week he stood with the world's foremost autocrats, including Xi Jinping of China and Kim Jong Un of North Korea, at a [military parade in Beijing](#) to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the second world war.

Later Mr Putin claimed China and Russia had agreed to build a long-discussed pipeline that would send gas from Siberia to China via Mongolia. China has not commented, but Russia's new partnerships appear to be only growing.



Photograph: Getty Images

## America's high-stakes jobs-data report

Last month's employment data contained a nasty surprise for the American economy. Job growth in July was much weaker than expected, and several previous months of strong data were revised down. The two Federal Reserve governors, Chris Waller and Michelle Bowman, who had argued unsuccessfully for an interest-rate cut the previous week seemed vindicated. Donald Trump, outraged at the notion that [his policies could be hurting the economy](#), fired Erika McEntarfer, the head of the Bureau of Labour Statistics, which produced the figures.

So the jobs figures for August, due out on Friday, will be even more closely watched than usual. Forecasters think the economy created around 75,000 jobs, about the same as in July. But on Thursday ADP, a payroll processor, reported that the private sector had created 54,000 jobs, fewer than expected. Jobless-claims numbers also rose slightly. The Fed seems likely to cut interest rates this month, as Mr Trump wants, based on weak economic data that he may deem to be fake news.



Photograph: Getty Images

## Right-wing Koreans look to America

On Friday and Saturday South Korean right-wing evangelical Christians will gather in Ilhan, just north of Seoul, the capital. They will be there to attend “Build Up Korea”, a youth event dedicated to instilling “national identity and values” in the next generation of Koreans. They will be getting inspiration from American right-wingers such as [Charlie Kirk](#), a firebrand Christian nationalist, and Jack Posobiec, a spreader of wild and discredited conspiracy theories.

Older Koreans are also emulating American right-wingers. Like MAGA, the *Taegeukgi* movement—named after the Korean flags they wave at protests (along with American and Israeli flags)—obsess over internet conspiracy theories about communist infiltration and praise a subverter of the democratic order: Yoon Suk Yeol, South Korea’s impeached former president, who staged a failed coup last December. They often take to Seoul’s streets proclaiming his innocence. They have taken to using the phrase “*gatchi gapshida*”, long used by American and South Korean soldiers. It means “we go together” and never was it so true of the two countries’ right wingers.



Photograph: EPA/Shutterstock

## The future of British politics

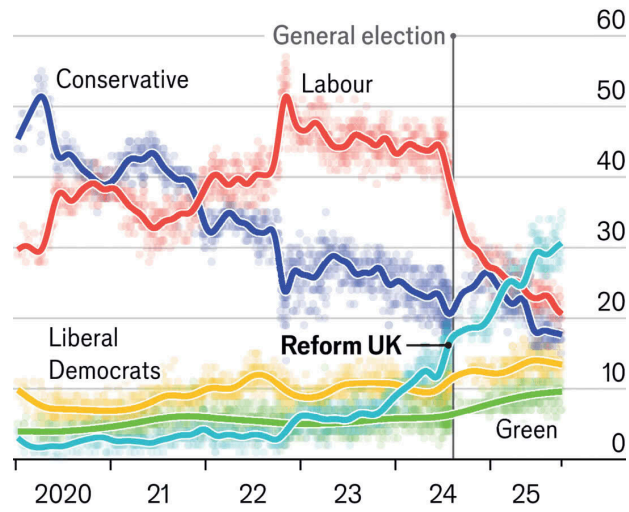
Reform UK, Britain's startup party of the populist right, meets for a two-day conference in Birmingham on Friday. [Nigel Farage, its leader](#), will be hailed as Britain's next prime minister. That is not fantastical, even though the party has just four MPs.

Reform leads in the national polls with support from 31% of the electorate, according to our tracker. A simple calculation based on a uniform national swing suggests that if an election were held tomorrow Reform would have almost a one-in-five chance of winning a majority in Parliament. And if Reform banded together with the listless Conservatives, they would probably hold a majority of seats.

One policy priority will dominate the conference: a pledge to end all irregular migration to Britain, backed up by a Donald Trump-inspired programme of mass deportations. Once, not long ago, Mr Farage's followers were dubbed fruitcakes and loonies. Soon, they may be in charge.

## The rise of great powers

Britain, voting intention, %



Source: *The Economist's* UK poll tracker





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:** Ceres and Eris are both what kind of body in the solar system?

**Thursday:** Douglas is the capital of which British crown dependency?





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:

**Elise Amerini**, Contern, Luxembourg

**Tor Alloway**, London, Britain

**Bernd Gebhardt**, Bamberg, Germany

They all gave the correct answers of Norway, Dakar, Irving and Narendra Modi.

*To understand a science it is  
necessary to know its history.*

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***Auguste Comte***