

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: AFP via Getty Images

Tyler Robinson, a 22-year-old from Utah accused of killing **Charlie Kirk**, will be formally charged on Tuesday, the Utah County attorney said. He is due to appear in court on the same day. On Friday the widow of the [right-wing activist](#) gave an address in which she asked Americans to join Mr Kirk's political organisation, Turning Point USA.

Police estimated that 110,000 people marched in central London in a rally organised by **Tommy Robinson**, a far-right activist, in one of the biggest gatherings of [hard-right](#) supporters seen in decades in **Britain**. About 5,000 joined a counter-demonstration. Hundreds of police were deployed and reported clashes after Mr Robinson's supporters tried to break through cordons.

**China's** commerce ministry opened two investigations into **American** policies on the trade in [chips](#). One is to examine whether American rules unfairly disadvantage Chinese companies. The other looks at whether American firms are selling analogue chips—used in devices like hearing aids and routers—at artificially low prices in China to squeeze local producers. Representatives of the countries are set to meet in Spain this week to discuss how to extend a [fragile trade truce](#).

**Donald Trump** said in a social-media post that he would be willing to place harsher sanctions on [Russia](#) if other NATO members stopped buying its oil and hardened their own sanctions too. On Friday the alliance said it would launch an “Eastern Sentry” operation on its eastern flank. It will deploy sensors and weapons to destroy drones after a Russian incursion into Polish airspace earlier this week.

**Taliban** figures said they held talks with an American delegation in Kabul about citizens imprisoned in **Afghanistan**. The visitors included Adam Boehler, the White House’s special envoy for hostages, and Zalmay Khalilzad, a longstanding envoy to the country. Officials say freeing Mahmood Habibi, an American citizen who has been missing since 2022, would be essential to improving ties. The [Taliban](#) insist they are not detaining him.

A **Turkish prosecutor** ordered the arrest of Hasan Mutlu, the mayor of Istanbul’s Bayrampasa district and a member of the main opposition [Republican People’s Party](#) (CHP), as well as 47 others in a corruption investigation. The arrests are part of a wider crackdown on the CHP. Its presidential candidate, Ekrem Imamoglu, the mayor of Istanbul, was [arrested](#) in March. A court ruling on Monday could remove the party’s leader.

Islamist militants ambushed a **Pakistani** army convoy near the Afghan border, killing 12 soldiers, officials said. Thirteen militants also died in the firefight. The [Pakistani Taliban](#) claimed responsibility. It said it seized weapons and drones from the soldiers during the ambush. The group has intensified attacks on security forces since the Afghan Taliban’s return to power in 2021.

**Word of the Week:** Nitazenes, a dangerous new synthetic opioid, stronger than heroin and sometimes fentanyl, that is sweeping America. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Reuters

## Israel presses on into Gaza city

Israel's air strike on Qatar [grabbed the headlines](#), but its military offensive in Gaza city continues apace. At least 50 Palestinians were reportedly killed in the city on Friday. The Israeli army continues to bomb high-rise towers there. It has also issued an evacuation order to all of the 1m people living in the city.

More than 100,000 people have fled the area over the past month, according to the UN, though some have already returned due to the bleak conditions in southern Gaza. Displacement camps are overcrowded: the average person has just half a square metre of space. The UN declared a famine in Gaza City last month and warns that it will spread to other parts of the territory. Ceasefire talks are on hold after the strike in Qatar. Many of Israel's top generals object to the offensive in Gaza city, fearing it will doom the surviving Israeli hostages. But Binyamin Netanyahu, the prime minister, shows no sign of changing course.



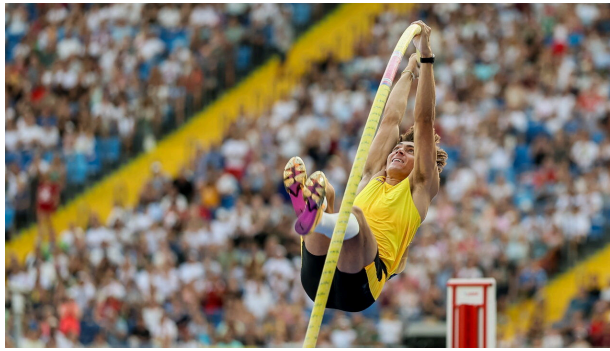
Photograph: ZUMA PRESS / MEGA

## Is “radical-left” violence really on the rise in America?

This week [Charlie Kirk](#), a right-wing activist, was [shot dead](#) while speaking at a university in Utah. Although a suspect is in custody, the motive of the killer is still unknown. Donald Trump pinned the blame on rhetoric from the “radical left”.

Assessing which kinds of political violence are on the rise is subjective: analysts must determine what counts as political and assign ideological labels to attackers or victims. But one analysis found that, although extremists on both left and right commit violence, more incidents appear to come from right-leaning attackers. (See more coverage of the data [here](#).)

Fewer than one in ten Americans say they support political violence, with little difference between left and right. Yet that leaves potentially millions willing to condone violence—and some willing to commit it—in a country awash with guns. Researchers stress that violent attacks remain rare, although one has observed a different trend: attacks against political figures to get attention, not to advance a cause.



Photograph: Getty Images

## World Athletics awaits Mondo magic

Little has happened in field athletics in recent years to put bums on seats. World records in men's long jump, high jump, triple jump and hammer have all survived intact for 30 years or longer, as have several women's equivalents. An absence of major stars (such as [track's new sensation, Gout Gout](#)) means that athletics startups, such as Michael Johnson's Grand Slam Track, have ditched field disciplines altogether.

There is, however, one big exception: a Swedish-American pole vaulter (who competes for Sweden), Mondo Duplantis. At the World Athletics Championships, which begin in Tokyo on Saturday, Mr Duplantis will dominate the competition. So far in his career, Mr Duplantis has added 13cm to the men's world record; it took his antecedents more than 25 years to increase it by the same margin. His easy charisma and side hustle as a pop singer have made him the most marketable figure in field athletics. The sport needs him to continue to reach new heights.



Photograph: Tokyo Gendai 2025

## Japan's art-market ambitions

The art world descends on Japan this weekend for Tokyo Gendai, a big contemporary-art fair now in its third year. The great and the good will wander through 66 blue-chip galleries, most of which focus on Asian art. The show aims to eventually cement Japan's position "as a major player in the global art market", said Magnus Renfrew, its co-founder.

That looks increasingly possible. Long burdened by onerous tax and customs regulations, Japan accounts for only around 1% of the global art trade, despite being the world's fourth-biggest economy. But a few years ago the government created carve-outs, allowing Gendai's shoppers to circumvent such taxes. And while global art sales are estimated to have slumped by 12% in 2024, Japan notched a 2% rise. Sales in its gallery sector rose by a whopping 7%. That is down in part to a weaker yen, which has made international purchases from Japanese galleries cheaper.





Photograph: Getty Images

## Weekend profile: Lachlan Murdoch, media's newest mogul

It was a memorable 54th birthday for Lachlan Murdoch. On September 8th his family announced that it had resolved a [decades-long dispute](#) over who will control its television and newspaper empire when Lachlan's father Rupert, who is now 94, dies. Lachlan, the third-eldest of six Murdoch children, will inherit a controlling stake in Fox and News Corp. Their combined market value is \$42bn; their combined influence—with brands including Fox News, the *New York Post* and *Wall Street Journal*—is greater still.

Lachlan's ascension to the inky throne has been half a lifetime in the making. A gap-year stint at the printing presses in Sydney marked Mr Murdoch's entry to the family firm. After graduating from Princeton University, he went to work for the Murdoch newspaper business in Australia. He later moved to Fox in New York. But he fell out with Roger Ailes, the late, since-disgraced head of Fox News. He quit in 2005 and moved back to Australia to pursue his own investments. James, his more liberal younger brother, moved into pole position.

Lachlan eventually returned to the fold and re-established himself as the favourite. When Rupert retired in 2023, Lachlan was named chief executive of Fox and chairman of News Corp. The recent

success of Fox and News Corp (their combined value has appreciated by 50% in two years) reflects clever past decisions by his father, but Mr Murdoch junior deserves credit, too. News Corp's bull run has been driven by its stake in an Australian property-listing platform which he rescued from near-bankruptcy in 2001. At Fox he has pushed experiments in digital technology—never the strong suit of his father, whose main online investment was in Myspace, just before it flopped.

Though born in London and raised in New York, Lachlan has said that he considers himself Australian. He moved to Sydney with his family in 2021. He is more blokeish than his brother, with an interest in rugby and rock-climbing. But he is less frugal than his father. Whereas Rupert amused Hollywood executives in the 1980s with his Walmart shirts, Lachlan recently bought himself one of the most expensive homes in California, Chartwell Mansion, a ten-acre Bel Air pile.

Under the deal agreed this week, Lachlan's elder siblings each gave up their votes in the companies in exchange for a \$1bn pay-off. Fox and News Corp will surely continue on their profitably conservative path. The resolution of the family feud could open the door to more expansive moves—combining the two companies into one, or bulking up Fox. With succession settled, the Murdoch empire may be ready for more dealmaking.





Illustration: The Economist

## Mini crossword

We now publish an interactive edition of our crossword, allowing you to enter and check the answers, and see explanations, instantly. Try it [here](#). Or, if you prefer to do things the old-fashioned way, use the grid below.

Our crossword has two sets of clues, one for seasoned cruciverbalists and the other for less experienced solvers. Both give the same answers, all of which feature in articles in this week's edition of *The Economist*:

### Cryptic clues

- 1 across* Place occupied by settlers I hear: why (6)
- 2 across* E's very loud in court and gets result (6)
- 3 across* Uncle, I switched seats (6)
- 1 down* Call her pop, an exuberant singer (8,4)

### Straight clues

- 1 across* Commune or outpost, perhaps controlled by others (6)
- 2 across* Consequence or upshot of an action (6)
- 3 across* Centres, specifically of cells (6)
- 1 down* American songstress behind hits like Femininomenon and Pink Pony Club (8,4)

Email all four answers, along with your home city and country, by 9am GMT on Monday to [\[email protected\]](#). We will pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners in next week's edition.

1						
2						
3						

Image: The Economist



Illustration: The Economist

## The winners of this week's quiz

Thank you to everyone who took part in this week's quiz. The winners, chosen at random, were:

**Jani Mikkola**, Espoo, Finland

**Nedko Kyuchukov**, London, Britain

**Chinghan Wong**, Subang Jaya, Malaysia

They all gave the correct answers of: Archduke Franz Ferdinand, Emperor of France, Joy Division, "Moonlight" and Elise Stefanik. The theme is works by Ludwig van Beethoven: the Archduke Trio, Emperor piano concerto, "Ode to Joy", "Moonlight sonata" and "Für Elise".

The questions were:

**Monday:** Which Austrian dignitary was assassinated, along with his wife, in Sarajevo on June 28th, 1914?

**Tuesday:** What title did Napoleon Bonaparte assume in December 1804?

**Wednesday:** Which British rock band had a hit single with "Love Will Tear Us Apart" before reforming as New Order?

**Thursday:** Which film was really awarded the Oscar for best movie in 2017, after the presenters mistakenly announced the winner as “La La Land”?

**Friday:** Which New York congresswoman was nominated by President Donald Trump to be ambassador to the United Nations, only for her nomination to be withdrawn?

*“If it is art, it is not for all, and if  
it is for all, it is not art.”*

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***Arnold Schoenberg***