

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: AFP

Twenty-six heads of state joined **Xi Jinping** to watch a [military parade](#) in Beijing. They [included many autocrats](#), including from Russia and North Korea, but no leaders of big Western democracies. Beforehand Mr Xi said mankind faced a choice between peace and war, and called China “unstoppable”. Donald Trump told China’s leader to “give my warmest regards to Vladimir Putin, and Kim Jong Un, as you conspire against The United States”.

A federal judge in Washington, DC ordered **Google** to share some data with rivals and to stop paying for exclusive distribution deals. But he stopped short of demanding that the search giant [break itself up](#); the Justice Department had sought, among other things, the sale of the firm’s Chrome browser. Last year the judge, Amit Mehta, ruled that Google’s search business was an **illegal monopoly**.

Pheu Thai, the ruling party in **Thailand**, sought royal approval to call a snap election. The country is in political chaos following a court ruling last week dismissing the prime minister, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, for an ethics violation. Moments before Pheu Thai’s announcement, People Power, the country’s biggest party, backed

Pheu Thai's former ally, Bhumjaithai, to form an interim government.

American forces struck a “drug vessel” leaving **Venezuela**, killing 11 people on board. Marco Rubio, America's secretary of state, said the boat was “operated by a designated narco-terrorist organisation”. The strike follows a sudden build-up of American naval vessels in the waters surrounding [Venezuela](#). On Monday Nicolás Maduro, the country's strongman leader, called that “the greatest threat the continent has seen in 100 years”.

Revenues at **Jane Street**, an American [trading firm](#), soared to \$10.1bn in the second quarter, surpassing the amounts earned even by big banks. Jane Street benefited from the trading frenzy triggered by Mr Trump's “liberation day” tariff announcement. The firm, along with its rivals Citadel Securities and Jump Trading, account for a growing share of trading on Wall Street.

The **Trump administration** illegally ordered the **National Guard** in Los Angeles to carry out domestic law enforcement, a federal judge in California ruled. About 300 National Guard remain in the city, nearly three months after 4,000 National Guard and 700 Marines were ordered to quell protests against immigration raids. The ruling directs the troops to limit their work to tasks such as patrolling federal buildings.

Aftershocks hit **Afghanistan** days after a big earthquake killed more than 1,400 people in the country's northeast. At least 3,000 people were injured and thousands of houses destroyed by the magnitude 6.0 quake that struck on Sunday. Afghanistan has been hit hard by Western countries' [cuts to aid](#) since the return of the Taliban administration.

Figure of the day: 1.3%. The worryingly low average inflation rate across ten Asian economies. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: IMAGO

Poland's Oval Office opportunity

When Karol Nawrocki, a [nationalist candidate](#) to be Poland's president, visited the White House in May he gloried in his affinity with Donald Trump. The Trump administration openly backed his campaign. President since August, Mr Nawrocki will return to Washington, DC on Wednesday for his first official visit. The former historian will try to use his ideological kinship with Mr Trump to strengthen ties between America and Poland.

Mr Nawrocki, a political neophyte, has spent the first weeks of his presidency [jousting with Poland's prime minister](#), Donald Tusk. Because of an apparent miscommunication, neither joined [talks at the White House](#) in August with Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine's president, and other European leaders. Ukraine will come up again on Wednesday. Although Poland has been one of its most stalwart allies, Mr Nawrocki has strained relations. He blocked several government bills that included benefits for Ukrainian refugees in Poland and money that enabled Ukraine to connect to Starlink, a communications network that helps its war effort.



Photograph: EPA

Mexico's balancing act with America

America's secretary of state, Marco Rubio, visits Mexico this week as part of a three-day trip to that country and Ecuador. Security is expected to be top of the agenda. Donald Trump's administration has taken a harsh line on drug gangs; it deployed the navy to the Caribbean to combat them. [Mexico's gangs](#) manufacture fentanyl and traffic it to the United States. Ecuador is also grappling with drug-related violence.

Mr Rubio and Claudia Sheinbaum (pictured), Mexico's president, are expected to sign a bilateral security agreement, but she has rejected the idea of unilateral American action against drug gangs. The pact is part of her strategy to mollify Mr Trump while restraining him from taking drastic actions, such as invading Mexico or raising tariffs from their already high levels. Her government will increase the range of levies on Chinese goods in the hope of dissuading Mr Trump from imposing new ones on Mexican exports in November. Mr Rubio's visit will test how successfully she is managing that balance.



Photograph: Reuters

China's display of military might

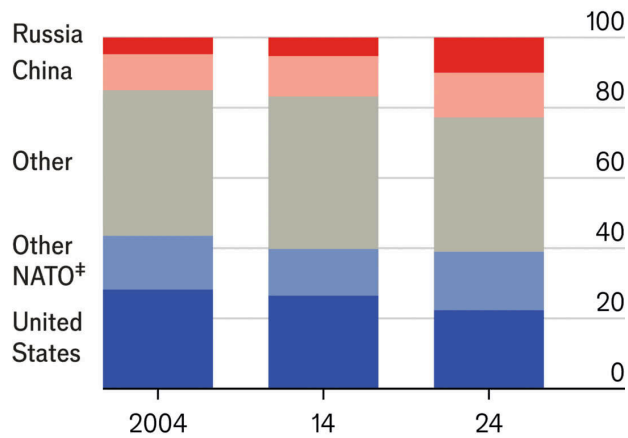
Thousands of troops goose-stepped through Tiananmen Square in Beijing on Wednesday, joining tanks, missiles and other weaponry. The parade—the first in the Chinese capital in six years—marked the 80th anniversary of the defeat of Japan at the end of the second world war.

More than two dozen world leaders attended, including Russia's Vladimir Putin, North Korea's Kim Jong Un and the president of Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian. But many others shunned the event, including the leaders of Japan and South Korea. The only one from a NATO country was Slovakia's prime minister, Robert Fico.

The West will still get the message: much of the weaponry on display has been designed with America in mind. The parade [flaunted big advances](#) in technology, including stealth drones and hypersonic anti-ship missiles. Missing, however, were several members of the military brass. A war on graft waged by China's leader, Xi Jinping, has been decimating the high command.

Red flag

Military spending at military purchasing-power parity*, % of world total†



*Adjusting spending to reflect cost and wage differences with the United States †Does not include all countries as estimates for some are unavailable, notably the UAE, Syria and Vietnam ‡2024 members, excluding United States
Sources: SIPRI; Peter Robertson; *The Economist*



Photograph: eyevine

Jamaica's political reshuffle

On Wednesday Jamaicans decide in a parliamentary election who will lead the country for the next five years. Andrew Holness (pictured), the prime minister, is campaigning to secure an unprecedented third term in power for his Jamaica Labour Party. It is running against the People's National Party, led by Mark Golding. The JLP, which currently controls 49 of the 63 seats in the lower house of parliament, promises to expand the economy, reduce crime and invest in infrastructure. The PNP pledges similar things, and promises to help the poor by building more houses.

Whoever wins, there may be change at the top in the island nation of 2.8m people. Jamaica may soon remove Britain's [king as its head of state](#). In December the government introduced a constitutional-amendment bill to install a Jamaican president. The PNP differs on the details, but agrees that Jamaica should be a republic.



Photograph: AP

Fashion's new vanguard

Anyone could apply to run the world's most famous fashion magazine by answering the advert on LinkedIn, but, perhaps inevitably, the job went to a veteran insider. Chloe Malle (pictured right) will succeed Dame Anna Wintour (pictured left) as editor of *American Vogue*. In 14 years at *Vogue* Ms Malle doubled website traffic, scored a pre-wedding interview with Lauren Sánchez, now Jeff Bezos's wife, and led the Dogue project, a canine beauty contest. As co-host of the magazine's podcast, "The Run-Through with *Vogue*", she is familiar to its audience; as editor of its website, she is a proven leader.

After Dame Anna's nearly four-decade reign Ms Malle seems determined to make the magazine her own. She has proposed transforming the monthly print edition into a collector's item that would appear a few times a year, printed on thicker paper and with a unifying theme. But any changes will be made under the gaze of her predecessor. Dame Anna will stay on as chief content officer at Condé Nast, *Vogue*'s publisher.



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.

Wednesday: Paul Stanley and Gene Simmons were founding members of which rock band?

Tuesday: Which birds are sometimes released at weddings and funerals as signs of love and peace?

The happiest is the person who suffers the least pain; most miserable the ones who enjoy the least pleasure.

Henri Rousseau