

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Getty Images

Donald Trump left the G7 summit early because of the Israel-Iran war. He urged an immediate evacuation of Tehran, Iran's capital, and denied America was helping to negotiate a ceasefire, saying he was "not too much in the mood" for talks. Meanwhile Israel and [Iran](#) continued to exchange fire: Iran claimed to hit a building linked to Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency, in Tel Aviv.

Mr Trump called for **Russia's** readmission to the G7 (which would restore the G8). He claimed that the war in Ukraine would "never have happened" had the group not expelled Russia in 2014 (as punishment for annexing Crimea). The president blamed Barack Obama and Justin Trudeau for expelling Russia (although the latter was not Canada's prime minister at the time). European leaders may today announce further sanctions on Russia, despite Mr Trump's unwillingness to join them.

Russia launched air strikes across **Ukraine**, killing at least 15 people and injuring at least 114 more. The greatest damage was in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, where a ballistic missile hit a residential block. Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, said Russia had fired more than 440 drones and 32 rockets in all. He said the strikes

showed that Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, wants the [war to continue](#).

America and **Britain** formalised parts of [a trade deal](#) that was announced last month. American tariffs on 100,000 British cars a year will fall from 25% to 10% and tariffs on some aerospace products will be removed. But the new provisions do not deal with levies on steel and aluminium, which were an important part of last month's agreement. Mr Trump said America's relationship with Britain was "fantastic".

An investment firm run by Daniel Ek, founder of Spotify, is leading a €600m (\$693m) investment in **Helsing**, a German defence start-up, according to the *Financial Times*. [Helsing](#) is starting to build military hardware, including drones, as European governments rearm to stave off the threat of Russian aggression. The deal puts Helsing's value at €12bn. Mr Ek's investment group bought its first stake in 2021 and is now "doubling down".

Vance Boelter, the man suspected of shooting two Democratic lawmakers in **Minnesota**, was charged with two counts of murder, for which he could face the death penalty. He was also charged with stalking and firearms offences. Melissa Hortman, the Democratic former speaker of Minnesota's House of Representatives, and her husband, were killed on Saturday; a Democratic state senator and his wife were also wounded.

More than half of Americans now get most of their news from **social media**, according to an annual report by the Reuters Institute. Engagement with traditional media continues to fall. The shifts were driven by the young. One-fifth of Americans heard commentary by Joe Rogan, a right-wing podcaster and supporter of Mr Trump, in the week following the American president's inauguration in January.

Figure of the day: 130, the number of listing applications under consideration by Hong Kong's stock exchange in April, up from fewer than 60 at the start of 2024. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Getty Images

The future of Iran's leaders

“Liberation,” promised Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel’s prime minister, calling on Iranians to [rise up against their regime](#) after his country’s attacks, which started on Friday. Many Iranians have scorned the army’s unpreparedness and derided the generals that Israel assassinated as “enemies of the people” for ordering the killing of some 500 protesters during anti-government protests in 2022. The government’s fears about dissent are such that it has limited access to social media. The attacks have revealed the extent of disloyalty in the regime: only insiders could have enabled Israel’s assassination of Iranian commanders in their bedrooms.

Yet the war may yet fortify Iran’s ailing rulers. The regime might be weak, but its subjects are weaker. Unlike during Iran’s past successful revolutions, the opposition lacks a leader. Shortages of water or blackouts in the stiflingly hot Tehran summer might tip dissent into protest. But the strikes could also trigger a latent patriotism if Iranians feel that [Israel is attacking their country](#), not just the regime.



Photograph: Alamy

Genetic data up for sale

23andMe, a [genetic-testing company](#), is due to appear in bankruptcy court on Tuesday. The firm, which made its name offering at-home DNA testing kits directly to consumers, went bust in March after failing to generate repeat business.

The most valuable asset up for grabs is the genetic data of millions of former customers. After a bidding process, 23andMe announced last week it had agreed to sell this, and other assets, for \$305m to TTAM Research Institute, a non-profit firm run by 23andMe's former co-founder and boss, Anne Wojcicki.

The judge must decide whether to let the sale go through. Many people would rather he did not: 27 American states filed an objection to the courts of any deal without the “explicit” consent of its customers. A privacy ombudsman hired by the courts also recommended that 23andMe should obtain consent before selling the data. TTAM says it will give customers the option to delete their data or opt-out. Adding in more stringent requirements may compromise the sale.



Photograph: Getty Images

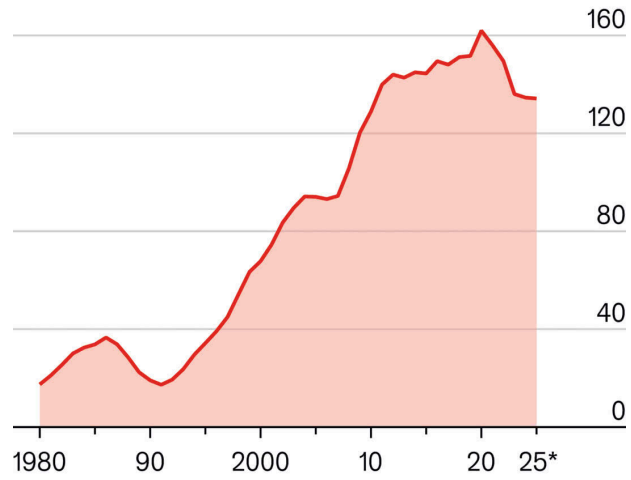
A dilemma for the Bank of Japan

Japan has long struggled to escape deflation. But with consumer prices rising by nearly 4% annually, its inflation rate is now among the highest in the G7. Yet when the Bank of Japan concluded its policy meeting on Tuesday, it decided not to raise its main interest rate from 0.5%. Meanwhile, it decided to slow down the pace of its bond-buying programme, probably to avoid further rattling the bond market; recently, yields on 30-year bonds surged to a record high of 3.2%.

For years, the bank hoovered up government debt under a quantitative easing programme. But it has begun reducing purchases—a step towards normalising the country’s enormous public debt. With a [net government debt](#) worth 135% of the country’s GDP, even small increases in interest rates impose an enormous burden. Ishiba Shigeru, the prime minister, warns that Japan’s fiscal situation is “worse than Greece”. That may be alarmist—but without a change the outlook is nevertheless grim.

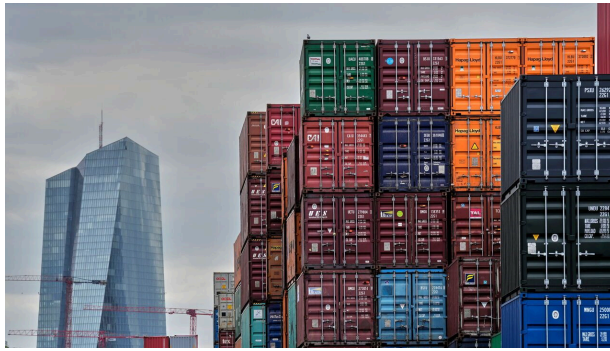
Mount liability

Japan, net government debt as % of GDP



Source: IMF

*Forecast

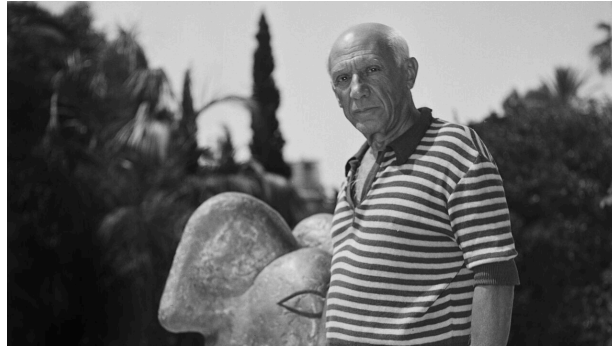


Photograph: AP

Some cheer for Germany's economy

After two years of recession Germany's economy seems to be improving. The better news was reflected in Tuesday's indicator of economic sentiment by the Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research. The monthly gauge of the mood of German companies showed a big improvement in June compared with May. Both the Kiel Institute for the World Economy and the Ifo Institute, two other leading research outfits, recently revised their forecasts for German economic growth upwards.

Even so, uncertainty over America's tariff policies continue to dampen the prospects of the extremely export-reliant German economy. Sales overseas are expected to decline significantly this year and increase only slightly next, according to the central bank. The silver lining for the domestic economy is the massive fiscal stimulus launched by the new government that will plough €500bn (\$580bn) into infrastructure projects over the next 12 years, on top of a vast increase in [defence spending](#). In short order, Germany has become the world's fourth largest military spender.



Photograph: Getty Images

The Genius Myth

If you have a brainwave in a forest, and no one to share it with, are you a genius? Not according to Helen Lewis, a British journalist, who argues in her new book “The Genius Myth” that genius is a social status. You are “a genius” because you are ascribed a place “somewhere between secular saint and superhero”.

In a witty survey she questions whether the genius label is sensible, since it “becomes a licensing scheme” for a range of eccentricities, from obnoxious behaviour to risky contrarianism. It is often assumed to be a “transferable skill”, encouraging the anointed to sound off on subjects beyond their competence, and others to listen to them.

A conviction that contrarianism is a mark of greatness. The belief that obnoxious behaviour is a price worth paying. Does all this remind you of anyone? For those living in the age of Elon Musk (“one of our great geniuses,” said Donald Trump), this is a spiky, clarifying read.



Photograph: 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.

Tuesday: Acts of hostility towards people because of their race, gender or sexual orientation are generally known by which two-word term?

Monday: Ye is the chosen name of which controversial rapper?

*My music is best understood by
children and animals.*

Igor Stravinsky