

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Reuters

Republicans and Democrats traded blame over an impending **government shutdown**. America's vice-president, [J. D. Vance](#), said it was likely because "Democrats won't do the right thing." Meanwhile Chuck Schumer, the Democratic leader in the Senate, suggested that reaching a funding deal was "in the president's hands". A shutdown will start on Wednesday without an agreement.

Hamas said it would consider [Donald Trump's plan](#) to end the war in **Gaza**. The proposal's first phase includes a ceasefire and the exchange of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners. Israel's prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, approved the plan at a meeting with America's president on Monday. Mr Netanyahu will also have to win over religious nationalists in his government.

YouTube became the latest tech platform to settle with Mr Trump, paying \$24.5m to end a censorship case. The video-streaming website, owned by Alphabet, shut out Mr Trump after his supporters stormed the Capitol building in [January 2021](#). Meta and X also booted Mr Trump from their platforms, before reversing the ban and settling court cases. Since his re-election, once-hostile tech firms have been wooing the president.

Shares in **Zijin Gold**, an off-shoot of China's biggest mining company, rose by nearly 70% on their first day of trading in Hong Kong. The firm now has a market valuation of more than HK\$300bn (\$39bn). The price of **gold** has reached a record of more than \$3,867 per troy ounce.

Madagascar's president dissolved his government after days of youth-led protests, though he resisted calls for his own resignation. Andry Rajoelina said he understood “the anger, the sadness and the difficulties caused by power cuts and water-supply problems”. The UN said that 22 people were killed in clashes with the police. It criticised their “violent response”.

A court in **China** sentenced to death 11 members of a family found guilty of running scam centres in Myanmar, according to Chinese state media. Officials in Myanmar arrested them in 2023 and handed them over to China. The suspects reportedly worked in Laukkai, a town near the border with China that became a criminal hub. [Cybercrime is a mainstay](#) of Myanmar's economy.

“A nationwide telecoms blackout” imposed by the **Taliban** took effect in **Afghanistan**, according to Netblocks, a cybersecurity watchdog. TOLnews, an Afghan broadcaster, warned that its networks would “face disruptions”. This month [the Taliban](#) dismantled fibre-optic connections in parts of the country “to prevent immorality”. Since returning to power in 2021 the insurgents have introduced numerous restrictions and [rolled back women's freedoms](#).

Figure of the day: 49%, the decline in eviction cases filed by landlords in New York City between 2016 and 2024. [Read the full story](#).



Photograph: Reuters

America's warrior retreat

Hundreds of America's top generals and admirals will descend on the Marine Corps University in Virginia on Tuesday. The unusual and hastily-called gathering by the secretary of war, Pete Hegseth, has sown confusion and alarm among many in the top brass. [Mr Hegseth](#) is expected to speak about his vision of a "warrior ethos". Some are bracing for possible firings or demotions. Not to be outshone by Mr Hegseth, Donald Trump announced at the last minute that he would also be joining. "I want to tell the generals that we love them, they're cherished leaders," the president said.

The bizarre meeting comes at a fraught time for civil-military relations. Mr Hegseth has [purged](#) scores of military leaders. On Saturday Mr Trump ordered the deployment of National Guard troops to Portland on the pretext of suppressing protests, authorising the use of "full force" if necessary. Mr Hegseth's pep rally will do little to allay fears about the politicisation of America's armed forces.



Photograph: Reuters

The UN discusses the Rohingya crisis

Life for the 1m or so Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh—and for counterparts who remain in Rakhine state in neighbouring Myanmar—has long been grim. Yet lately a rash of [setbacks](#) has made conditions worse. On Tuesday the UN will hold a high-level conference on the persecuted Muslim group in New York, the first such meeting on their plight.

The most immediate problem concerns funding for the giant camps in Bangladesh. America, the biggest provider of cash, has slashed aid, causing health clinics and schools to shut down. Yet as money dries up, the number of Rohingyas seeking refuge continues to rise. Many have been forced from their homes in Rakhine during [fighting](#) between Myanmar's junta and the Arakan Army, an ethnic militia also accused of targeting Rohingyas. Few expect any long-term solutions to the Rohingya crisis to emerge from the UN meeting, but the hope is that fresh publicity about the forgotten crisis will at least get more aid flowing again into the camps.



Photograph: Getty Images

Optimism on America's economy

The prevailing narrative about the American economy over the first half of this year was that growth and the jobs market had been clobbered by Donald Trump's foolish tariff policies. Certainly, the levies did some damage. But the latest data suggest that the economy has been [more resilient](#) than expected.

New revisions to the GDP figures have knocked up growth over the first half of 2025, from an annualised rate of 1.2% in July's initial estimate to 1.6% as of the latest figures this month—hardly stellar, but not disastrous either. Recent consumer-spending statistics have been strong. Last month's purchasing-managers index surveys—a helpful, faster-moving gauge of growth—ticked up too. Job-creation numbers have been poor, but that may reflect slower immigration. New employment and PMI data over the coming week will help fill out the picture. Paradoxically, good economic news may be a pain for the Federal Reserve. Donald Trump [has pressed](#) the central bank to cut interest rates. If the economic environment looks better, that could force a nasty confrontation.



Photograph: Getty Images

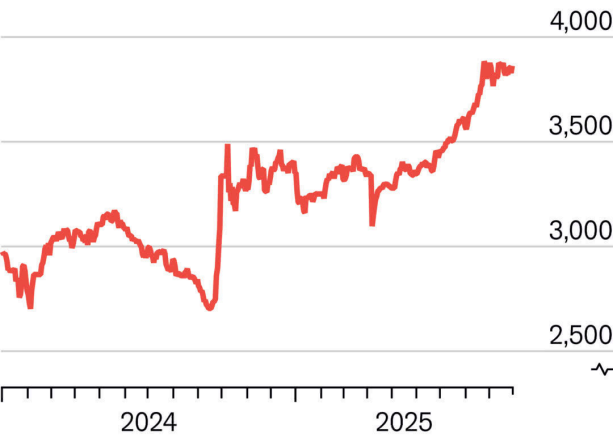
China's lacklustre economy

On the 15th day of the eight month of China's lunar calendar, when the moon is full, the country holds its mid-autumn festival. It falls on October 6th this year, and by tradition celebrates the harvest. This year many will be celebrating a different kind of bounty: [China's stockmarket](#) has risen by over 40% since last year's festival.

The market's revival has not, however, lifted the economy. A survey of purchasing managers, released on Tuesday by China's National Bureau of Statistics, suggested that services slowed in September, largely offsetting a modest improvement in manufacturing and construction. The central bank could cut interest rates to help the economy. But it will tread cautiously, because it does not want the stockmarket to get too hot. During the mid-autumn festival, people carry paper lanterns to light the way towards prosperity. No one wants them to catch fire.

Defying gravity

Shanghai composite stockmarket index,
December 1990=100



Source: LSEG Workspace



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.

Tuesday: Which British band's first hit was "You Really Got Me" in 1964?

Monday: Which band was responsible for most of the biggest hits of the "Saturday Night Fever" soundtrack?

If an artist is truly committed, the audience will be the first to grasp it and will respond accordingly.

Jessye Norman