

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Getty Images

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”.

**Yields** on several long-term **bonds** issued by several countries rose amid a global sell-off. The yield on Britain’s 30-year gilt increased again to 5.75% during early trading on Wednesday after touching its highest level in nearly three decades the previous day. Long-term borrowing costs also rose in America and Japan. Investors are concerned by countries’ [ballooning debts and spending plans](#).

A federal judge ordered **Google** to share some data with rivals and said it could not pay browsers and phone manufacturers to use only its products. But he declined to force the search giant to [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. Before Pheu Thai's announcement, People Power, the country's biggest party, backed Pheu Thai's former ally, Bhumjaithai, to form an interim government.

**Turkey's** annual inflation rate eased to 33% in August, from 34% in July, according to government statistics. The drop was less than analysts had expected, as food prices continue climbing rapidly. In July the central bank lowered interest rates by three percentage points to 43%; it has warned that rent increases, which track past inflation, will take more time to bring down.

**Afghanistan** authorities have airdropped soldiers to pull survivors from the devastation caused by the magnitude 6.0 earthquake that struck on Sunday. At least 1,400 people have been killed and 3,000 injured. The country has ramped up efforts to deliver food, shelter and medical supplies—which were interrupted by a second 5.5 magnitude earthquake on Tuesday.

The **North Korean** dictator, Kim Jong Un, brought a special guest to President Xi Jinping's parade in Beijing: **Kim Ju Ae**, his daughter. It was her first major event abroad. The hermit king is rumoured to have several children, but Ju Ae, believed to be in her early teens, is the only one who has been officially acknowledged.

**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

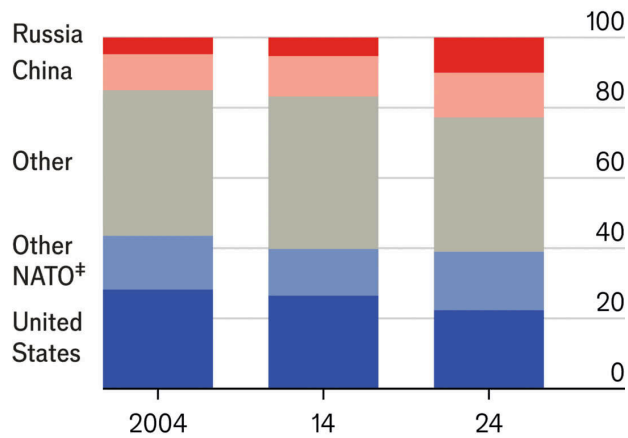
Thousands of troops goose-stepped through Tiananmen Square in Beijing on Wednesday, joining tanks, missiles and other weaponry. The parade—the first in the Chinese capital in six years—marked the 80th anniversary of the defeat of Japan at the end of the second world war.

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.*

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***Henri Rousseau***