

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Anadolu via Getty Images

Israel's army said **Hamas** had handed over the first seven of 20 Israeli hostages held in Gaza who are due to be freed on Monday. People gathered in Hostages Square in Tel Aviv to await their return. Meanwhile Egypt will host a “**peace summit**” on Monday for more than 20 world leaders. [Donald Trump](#) will co-chair the meeting after visiting Israel to address the country's parliament.

American stock futures rose on Monday after Mr Trump wrote on social media that America's [sudden deterioration](#) in trade relations with **China** “will all be fine”. Meanwhile **J.D. Vance**, America's vice-president, said China should “choose the path of reason”. Earlier China accused the Trump administration of adding Chinese firms to a blacklist and defended its decision to impose fresh export controls on rare-earth metals.

France's prime minister, Sébastien Lecornu, unveiled a new cabinet. He unexpectedly resigned last week but was reappointed by Emmanuel Macron, the president, on Friday. The new cabinet will meet on Tuesday to confirm a draft budget for next year. France is suffering from [deep political turmoil](#) that has unnerved markets.

Volodymyr Zelensky, **Ukraine's** president, spoke with Mr Trump for the second day in a row about acquiring [long-range weapons](#). In recent weeks the Trump administration has said that it could supply Ukraine with Tomahawk cruise missiles. Earlier Dmitry Peskov, the Kremlin's spokesman, said that "the topic of Tomahawks is of extreme concern" to Russia, warning that "tensions are escalating from all sides".

At least 44 people died in **Mexico** after days of heavy rain caused widespread flooding. Two tropical storms, Priscilla and Raymond, triggered landslides and hit 139 towns across five states. Claudia Sheinbaum's administration is managing a response. The army helped evacuate people.

ANZ, an Australian bank, said it would end a stock buyback worth A\$800m (\$520m) and hire more staff as part of a new strategy to boost performance. It has faced regulatory penalties and a bond-trading scandal in recent years. But in 2025 ANZ's stock has outperformed domestic rivals. Its shares rose by nearly 3% on Monday.

Andry Rajoelina, **Madagascar's** president, warned in a statement of "an attempt to seize power illegally and by force" after an elite army unit joined anti-government protests. CAPSAT said its officers were taking control of Madagascar's army and urged soldiers to disobey orders to shoot protesters. Mr Rajoelina, whom CAPSAT supported in a coup in 2009, has faced protests against his rule since September 25th.

Figure of the day: 18, the number of world records recognised by the European Giant Vegetable Growers Association that are held by Britons, out of a total of 35. [Read the full story](#).



Photograph: Getty Images

Donald Trump travels to Israel

It will be a deserved victory lap. On Monday Donald Trump will make a quick visit to Israel to celebrate the [ceasefire agreement](#) that halted the fighting in Gaza. The centrepiece will be an address to the Knesset, Israel's parliament, where the American president will no doubt bask in adulation. Then he will fly to Egypt for a brief summit of world leaders.

By then the 20 living Israeli hostages still held in Gaza should be home after 737 days in captivity. The symbolism will be profound: it will be the eve of Simchat Torah, the Jewish holiday on which Hamas abducted them two years earlier.

Yet despite the optimism, [much uncertainty lies ahead](#). Negotiators from Israel and Hamas will need to discuss the complicated issues in the second phase of Mr Trump's ceasefire plan: whether Hamas will be disarmed, how Gaza will be governed, who will secure the territory. They agree on none of this. America will need to stay engaged long after Mr Trump's lightning visit to Jerusalem.



Photograph: Getty Images

The downsides of China's manufacturing might

China's industrial machine is a source of power and pride. The People's Daily, the Communist Party's newspaper, recently repeated the boast that China is the only country that makes something in every industrial category featured in the United Nations statistical system. China's dominance of two categories in particular—rare-earth refining and advanced batteries—constitutes a potent economic weapon, as illustrated by the [new export controls it announced on October 9th](#).

But China's robust industrial production must contend with weak domestic demand. As a consequence, firms are cutting prices and avidly seeking overseas markets. Figures released on Monday showed that exports grew by more than 8% in September, compared with a month earlier, despite Typhoon Ragasa, which hit China's south coast on September 24th. And data released on Wednesday will probably show that factory-gate prices in Chinese industry fell in September for the 36th month in a row. China churns out every category of industrial good. And it has been rewarded with deflation in most.



Photograph: Getty Images

The rise of Tommy Robinson

On Monday Tommy Robinson will appear in court in London. The far-right activist is charged with refusing to comply with anti-terror legislation. Straight after the hearing he will fly to Israel on a trip paid for by the Israeli government, whose minister for diaspora affairs called him “a courageous leader on the front line against radical Islam”. [British Jewish groups](#) have condemned the invitation.

When Mr Robinson was imprisoned last year, his supporters compared him to Nelson Mandela (his past convictions include stalking, violence and fraud). His positions are too extreme for [Reform UK](#), a hard-right party riding high in the polls. Its leader, Nigel Farage, has said he is not welcome in the party. Yet Mr Robinson is fast becoming a rallying figure for the far right and populist nationalists beyond Britain. [Elon Musk](#), the world’s richest man and an ally of Donald Trump, is a fan. Mr Robinson’s trip to Jerusalem is a sign that his international appeal seems set to grow.



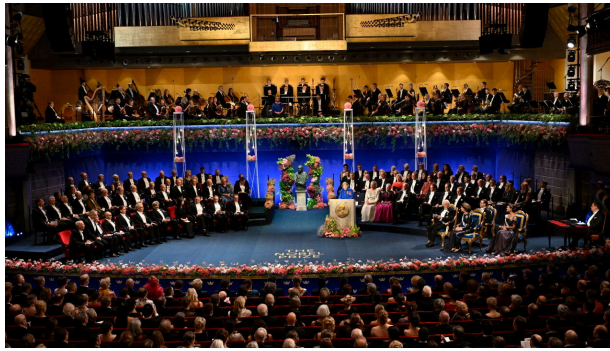
Photograph: Getty Images

France's former president heads to prison

On September 25th a Paris court found Nicolas Sarkozy guilty of “criminal association” in a trial over the illegal financing of his 2007 presidential campaign by Muammar Qaddafi, the former dictator of Libya. Mr Sarkozy was sentenced to five years in prison. Having been given a few weeks “to organise his professional life”, on Monday he will learn the date of his incarceration. He will become the first former French president in the modern era to serve time behind bars.

The ruling came as a shock in France. Mr Sarkozy was acquitted on three other charges, including corruption. He was given a sentence with immediate effect, so will serve time even pending his appeal. After the ruling, the 70-year-old said: “If I have to sleep in prison I will sleep in prison, but with my head held high. I am innocent.”

[President Emmanuel Macron](#) urged people to respect Mr Sarkozy's right of appeal, as well as the impartiality of the judges.



Photograph: Getty Images

Why economists are looking sharp

Some economics students may have noticed that their professors are looking sharper than usual. Academics are not normally a well-groomed bunch, but every October those with even the faintest hope of recognition from the Nobel committee tend to book in for at least a haircut.

On Monday the clumsily named Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel will be announced. (It is not simply called the “Nobel prize in X” because it is decades younger than the other prizes.) As is the case with [all the awards](#), predicting the winner is a fool’s errand. The pool of worthy candidates is deep—including people like Edward Glaeser of Harvard, for his work on the economics of cities, and Samuel Korton of Yale, for his work modelling trade. Judging by the volumes wagered in prediction markets, even bettors who have taken a flutter on the literature and peace prizes seem reluctant to take a punt on the economics prize.



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.

Monday: The Beaufort scale measures the intensity of what?

*Europe was created by history.
America was created by
philosophy.*

Margaret Thatcher