

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter

Israel launched a large “pre-emptive strike” on **Iran**, which officials said targeted nuclear facilities. Explosions were reported in Tehran, Iran’s capital. The attack is expected to incur swift retaliation. America has been [trying to negotiate](#) a limit on Iran’s ability to produce nuclear weapons. Israel’s leader, Binyamin Netanyahu, has long proposed using military force to do so.

America said it was not involved in the strikes against **Iran**. Marco Rubio, America’s secretary of state, said Israel believed the attack was “necessary for its self-defence”. He urged Iran “not to target” American interests or personnel and said America’s “top priority” is protecting its forces in the region. President Donald Trump is yet to comment.

Air India confirmed that 241 people had died on board a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner plane [that crashed](#) in Ahmedabad, a city in north-west India. One passenger survived. There were multiple casualties on the ground. The flight to London Gatwick crashed shortly after take-off. [Boeing’s fortunes](#) had been improving after the company worked to put other crashes and safety incidents behind it.

America’s armed forces said that around 700 marines will soon be deployed in Los Angeles to support [National Guard troops](#). Demonstrations against federal immigration-raids, [which started in LA last week](#), have spread to other cities. California’s governor, Gavin Newsom, has sued the Trump administration over its National Guard deployment; a federal court is expected to hear arguments in the case on Thursday.

Floods in **South Africa’s** Eastern Cape province killed nearly 80 people this week, with the death toll expected to rise as search

efforts continue. A cold front brought snow and heavy rain on Monday and Tuesday, leading a river to overflow. The province is among the country's poorest, hobbling the rescue operation.

Britain's economy shrank by 0.3% in April, the biggest monthly drop since October 2023 and more than economists expected. On Wednesday the chancellor, Rachel Reeves, [revealed](#) the government's departmental-spending plans for the next four years. Day-to-day budgets will increase by 2.3% in real terms across the period, but some big departments, like the Home Office, face real-term spending cuts.

Mattel and **OpenAI** announced a "strategic collaboration" that will allow the toymaking giant to design and power products using artificial intelligence. The manufacturer of [Barbie](#) and Hot Wheels did not specify just how it intends to "bring the magic of AI to age-appropriate play experiences". Last month Mattel withdrew its annual financial targets [amid trade uncertainty](#) and said it would increase some prices.

Figure of the day: 20%, China's rough share of the global alcohol market by volume in 2021. But the world's biggest market for booze is drying up. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: AP

Beware the bond vigilantes

Government-bond traders have had a jittery few weeks. Their next test comes on Thursday when America's Treasury department holds an auction for 30-year bonds with a total face value of \$22bn. The amount of such long-term borrowing has worried the market of late. In the past year America issued \$2trn in debt, roughly 7% of GDP. [Investors fear](#) for the stability of public finances, even before Donald Trump's budget bill raises borrowing by even more. As a result, bondholders have forced up yields, most of all for long-term debt, which is riskiest.

Auctions of new bonds test the appetite of traders. If demand is weak, that suggests to holders of existing bonds that they might be worth less than they had thought, [pushing prices down](#) and yields up. On May 21st a shaky auction for 20-year Treasuries sent the 30-year yield to its highest level since 2023. If demand falters again this time, watch out for more market trouble.

Yielding to pressure

United States, 30-year government-bond yield, %



Source: LSEG Workspace



Photograph: Alamy

The road ahead for Toyota

On Thursday the world's largest carmaker held its annual general meeting. One big issue was not formally on the agenda: Toyota's shareholders will want to know more about the company's ¥4.7trn (\$33bn) proposal to take Toyota Industries, a key affiliate, private. The deal is led by Toyoda Akio, [Toyota's chairman](#), who is a scion of the founding family. Some argue that the offer undervalues the company; they see it as a bid to tighten the family's grip on the group. Mr Toyoda has defended the deal as a return to "Toyota's roots".

Electrification will also be in focus. Mr Toyoda champions a "multi-pathway" approach to carbon neutrality, mixing hybrids, battery-powered EVs and hydrogen. That strategy appears savvy for now: Toyota kept its leadership of the global car market last year because [sales of hybrids](#) soared while those of EVs declined in Europe (but rose in America and China). But competition from Chinese carmakers is intensifying. Toyota's bosses will have to stay alert at the wheel.



Illustration: David Simonds

India's economy bounces back

Narendra Modi, who completed 11 years as India's prime minister this week, has reasons to boast about the state of the economy. It grew by 7.4% year on year in the first quarter of 2025, the fastest pace of expansion in a year, according to data released in May. The IMF suggests that the economy could soon become the fourth-largest in the world, overtaking Japan's.

Consumer-price data released on Thursday brought more cheer. The annual inflation rate fell to 2.8% in May, the lowest level in more than six years. India's central bank slashed interest rates last week to propel growth to "a higher aspirational trajectory". But the economy will [need to grow even faster](#) to meet Mr Modi's most ambitious target: to make India a developed economy by 2047.



Photograph: CHRISTOS KALOHORIDIS/NETFLIX

Schwarzenegger returns

“FUBAR”, an action comedy, returns for its second season on Netflix on Thursday (just three days before Father’s Day, which is part of the joke). Arnold Schwarzenegger reprises his role as a CIA agent who comes out of retirement to find his daughter in the same job, to the surprise of both. The show’s hybrid of family humour and high-octane action sequences owes an obvious debt to Mr Schwarzenegger’s 1994 hit film “True Lies”, in which family members also co-operate as secret agents.

In using a much younger ensemble cast alongside Mr Schwarzenegger, who is 77, “FUBAR” appears to be trying to appeal to both fans of Netflix’s recent hits and viewers from the pre-streaming era. Covering all the demographic bases, this new season features 57-year-old Carrie-Anne Moss, familiar to Gen X viewers from “The Matrix”, as Mr Schwarzenegger’s antagonist and romantic foil.



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.

Thursday: What popular term is used for the delivery of computer services, such as document storage, over the internet?

Wednesday: Which actress starred in the 1970s TV series “Police Woman”?

There is always more surface to a shattered object than a whole.

Djuna Barnes