

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: AFP

Donald Trump claimed that **Israel** has agreed to the “necessary conditions” for a 60-day **ceasefire** in **Gaza**. America’s president credited Egyptian and Qatari officials for the proposal, which they will now deliver to Hamas. Mr Trump urged the militant group to accept the deal, warning that “IT WILL ONLY GET WORSE”. He said the truce would be used to “work with all parties to end [the War](#)”. Neither Israel nor Hamas have commented on the proposal.

America’s Senate [narrowly passed](#) Mr Trump’s “**One, Big, Beautiful Bill**”. Three Republicans defected, leaving the vote split at 50-50; J.D. Vance, the vice-president, broke the tie. The [tax and spending measure](#), which runs to nearly 1,000 pages, must now clear the House, where changes made by the Senate could face opposition. Mr Trump wants Congress to pass the legislation before July 4th.

British MPS voted 335-260 to advance **Labour’s welfare bill**—after the government offered last-minute concessions to party rebels. A controversial reform to disability benefits will be delayed at least until a review concludes next year. [Sir Keir Starmer](#), the prime minister, had already significantly reduced planned welfare

cuts after more than 120 Labour MPs [turned against him](#). Forty-nine still voted against.

The White House said that America will pause the shipment of some weapons to **Ukraine**, over fears that its stockpiles are running low. Interceptors used for air-defence and precision-guided missiles are among the arms being held back. There were no details about the timing or the number of weapons involved. Ukraine is currently facing Russia's [summer offensive](#) and [unprecedented](#) attack from the air.

Qantas said it had been hit by a massive **cyber-attack**, exposing the personal data of around 6m customers. The Australian airline said it took “immediate steps” to tackle the breach, but expected a “significant” portion of data to be stolen. There have been a spate of such data breaches in Australia recently. In April hackers targeted several superannuation funds.

Switzerland will hold a referendum on whether to introduce a 50% inheritance tax on assets above 50m Swiss francs (\$63m). Critics worry that the proposed measure would scare off the [super-rich](#), who are drawn to the country's low taxes. But despite government opposition, activists have gathered enough signatures to put it to a plebiscite on November 30th.

BTS announced a comeback, revealing plans for a new album and a world tour next year. The [South Korean](#) boy band has been on hiatus since 2022 while several of its members undertook mandatory military service. BTS was the first K-pop group to top the Billboard 200 chart in America and remain the most-streamed band on Spotify.

Figure of the day: 14%, the proportion of young Americans who would consider selling content on OnlyFans, a website that specialises in pornography. [Read the full story](#).



Photograph: Getty Images

The Quad squad meets

On Tuesday Marco Rubio, America's secretary of state, hosts counterparts from India, Japan and Australia. It will be an opportunity for America to turn its attention to Asia and the contest with China, which is supposed to be a higher priority than wars in Europe and the Middle East. The “Quad” partnership seeks to draw India closer to America's allies in Asia, though India pursues “multi-alignment” (for example, it is friendly with Russia and Iran). The ministers will prepare for a summit of their respective leaders in Delhi this year.

They will have much to discuss besides. India is irritated by America's boast that it brokered a halt to its fighting with Pakistan in June. Australia is nervous about the Pentagon's review of the AUKUS deal on nuclear-powered submarines and other weapons. Japan is irked by pressure from America to raise defence spending. All worry about America's threats of swingeing tariffs. The guests also want to know about Mr Rubio's status: how long can he act as both secretary of state and national security adviser?



Photograph: Getty Images

Is Russia's offensive in Ukraine faltering?

While the world's gaze was turned to the Middle East, Russia pushed on with its summer offensive against Ukraine, albeit with mixed results. Last week Ukraine's most senior commander, Oleksandr Syrsky, claimed that after two months the offensive was "faltering" and that attempts to create a buffer zone around the north-eastern territory of Sumy were "collapsing". He said Russia had failed to take the logistical hub of Pokrovsk, where it has concentrated about 110,000 troops.

Increasingly, Russian attacks are carried out by soldiers on motorbikes attempting to cause havoc behind Ukrainian lines. Few get through, most being picked off by [nimble drones](#). But Ukraine estimates that Russia is producing 66% more ballistic missiles than a year ago and that it is aiming to increase one-way attack drone production from 2,000 to 5,000 a month. On Sunday, Russia launched more than 500 aerial weapons at Ukrainian cities in its largest attack of the war. Such barrages are becoming more frequent—and deadly.



Photograph: Getty Images

The euro zone's inflation summit

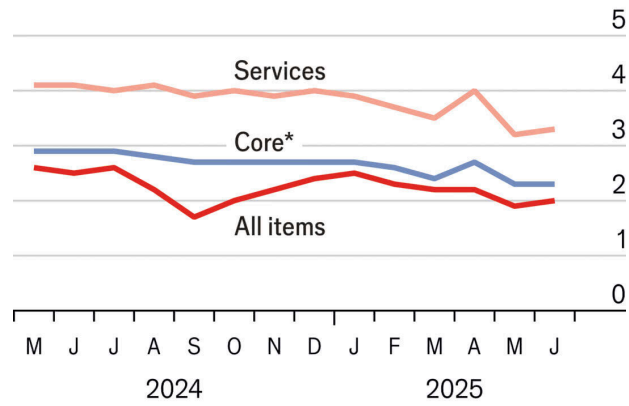
The European Central Bank's top brass, accompanied by a handful of journalists, academics and financial-market analysts, gather in Portugal's high-perched town of Sintra this week for their annual conference. Panels will discuss labour markets, trade and monetary policy. But euro-zone inflation estimates released on Tuesday will divert attention, as the annual rate crawled up to 2% in June, from 1.9% in May.

The new figures alone are not worrying: the ECB's target is 2%. But an uptick has come as a surprise in some countries, including France, which reported service prices rising by more than expected, to 2.4% from last year, up from 2.1% in May. In Spain annualised core inflation accelerated to 2.2% in June. Meanwhile, it fell slightly to 2.7% in Germany, from 2.8% the previous month. The higher euro-zone figures cast doubt on the ECB's next, and possibly final, rate cut in this cycle, much anticipated by the markets. That's plenty to chew over at lunch.

Spikes and hikes

Euro area, consumer prices

% increase on a year earlier



*Excludes energy, food, alcohol and tobacco

Sources: LSEG Workspace; Eurostat



Photograph: Getty Images

Toppling the Shinawatras

Two court cases in Thailand threaten to unseat the family that has governed on and off for the last quarter of a century. On Tuesday, the constitutional court suspended Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the 38-year-old prime minister, after less than [a year in office](#). She was accused of misconduct for criticising her generals in a leaked phone call with Hun Sen, the former prime minister of Cambodia, and for calling him “uncle”. The two countries are having one of their occasional border disputes. Senators filed a petition asking for her removal.

Ms Paetongtarn’s father was in court, too, to answer charges of insulting the monarchy in an interview in 2015. If convicted, Thaksin Shinawatra could face up to 15 years in jail. Politics, not the law, are driving both verdicts. If conservative forces in the army and palace decide that they have had enough of the Shinawatra family’s populist grandstanding, they are sure to be convicted.



Photograph: Getty Images

Britain's government hands out concessions

Sir Keir Starmer, Britain's prime minister, headed off the biggest rebellion of his premiership on Tuesday—but only by making last-minute concessions to his own Labour MPs. The House of Commons passed the Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment Bill, designed to curb the [surging cost of Britain's benefits](#) by cutting payments to sick and disabled people. But to secure its passage Sir Keir agreed to further gut the [already diluted](#) bill. Kemi Badenoch, the leader of the opposition Conservatives, wrote that the revised bill was an “utter capitulation”, suggesting that it “saves £0”.

The episode makes for a miserable first anniversary for the government, which since its election victory on July 4th 2024 has disappointed its supporters, with public satisfaction nearing a record low for any modern Labour administration, according to a survey published by Ipsos last week. No wonder it has fallen behind Nigel Farage's populist Reform UK party in the polls.



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: Plymouth, Puget and Roanoke are all examples of which geographical feature?

Monday: Horology is the study of what?

*Music is a hidden arithmetic
exercise of the soul, which does
not know that it is counting.*

Gottfried Leibniz