

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Getty Images

Israeli air strikes killed 12 people in Lebanon, according to Lebanese state media. Israeli officials said the attacks targeted Hizbullah. They are the deadliest since Israel signed a [truce](#) with the Iran-backed militia last year. Separately, Israel struck southern Syria, where the country's Sunni-led government had sent the troops to intervene in [sectarian violence](#). Israel said it was protecting the region's Druze minority.

China's GDP grew by a better-than-expected 5.2% in the second quarter of 2025, on a year-on-year basis. Healthy growth came despite American tariffs, which the government has sought to offset with [consumer](#) subsidies and higher infrastructure spending. Further monetary easing by the central bank is expected in the coming months.

Six members of an ultra-Orthodox party said they were quitting **Israel's** government over a [long-running dispute](#) about proposed changes to conscription laws. The resignations come into effect later in the week, giving Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, time to negotiate. The move would leave Mr Netanyahu with a majority of one in Israel's parliament. The far right also wants him to end ceasefire talks with Hamas.

Nvidia won approval from the Trump administration to resume sales of its H20 artificial-intelligence chips in China. The Commerce Department had restricted exports in April. The reversal follows a meeting between Mr Trump and Jensen Huang, Nvidia's boss, who reportedly convinced the president by saying sales would help keep American companies ahead of China in the [global AI race](#).

Anthony Albanese, **Australia's** prime minister, met Xi Jinping, China's leader, in Beijing. Mr Albanese's six-day visit to China comes at a delicate moment. He is balancing [competing pressures](#) from America, Australia's main security ally, and China, its largest trading partner. Australia's leader said the meeting was "very constructive", but added that he raised concerns over China's failure to alert Australia about naval exercises near its coast.

JPMorgan Chase, a bank, posted profits of \$15bn in this year's second quarter. Net income was down compared with the same period last year, but results were above analysts' expectations. BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, also reported a strong performance in the quarter. Its assets under management were worth a record \$12.5trn.

Volodymyr Zelensky, **Ukraine's** president, nominated Yulia Svyrydenko to become the country's prime minister. Ukraine's parliament is expected to confirm the appointment of Ms Svyrydenko, who is currently first deputy prime minister, this week. Denys Shmyhal, the current prime minister, is set to become defence minister. The reshuffle comes against a [worrying backdrop of political infighting](#).

Figure of the day: 1,600km, the length of the border between Iran and Iraq. Iran is losing its stranglehold over its neighbour. [Read the full story](#).



Photograph: Getty Images

Passing on the pain of Trump's tariffs

Donald Trump's latest volley of [tariff threats](#) includes a 50% levy on copper, 30% rates on the European Union and 50% on Brazil—all higher than his initial, “Liberation Day” offering on April 2nd. Firms have already started to pay higher levies: the effective tariff rate paid on American imports was around 10% in June.

So far, companies have mostly held off passing those higher prices on to consumers. But as inventories run short, that may start happening. One barometer is June's inflation figures, out on Tuesday. The headline annual inflation rate rose from 2.4% in May to 2.7%, slightly more than expected. The annual core inflation rate (which excludes volatile food and energy prices) was in line with expectations at 2.9%. There may be greater pain ahead for consumers. Goldman Sachs, a bank, expects that tariffs will add nearly a percentage point to core inflation by the end of the year.



Photograph: Getty Images

China launches “digital IDs”

Chinese apps usually require users to register with their real name and phone number. But the tech firms who run the apps have a bad record at keeping these data safe. So on Tuesday China’s government [launched a “digital ID” scheme](#), which allows people to log in to apps without revealing their personal details (tech firms will see just anonymised digits and letters). People can obtain a digital ID by submitting a raft of personal information to the police.

The scheme might help protect consumers. Many Chinese are deluged with phone calls from fraudsters. But critics fear the initiative will also make online snooping even easier for China’s police. They might use it to get a list of all the websites and apps each person uses, and one day plug it into a broader surveillance system. Although the scheme will be voluntary, that could change at the whim of authorities.



Photograph: Reuters

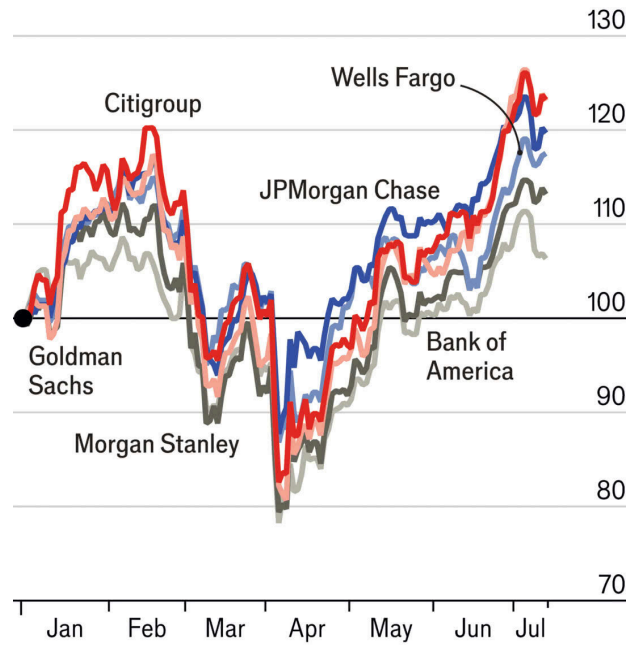
Wall Street's tariff trading wins

Market volatility is not good news for many companies. But for the trading arms of big banks, choppy markets are often profitable ones. JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Citigroup reported their second-quarter earnings on Tuesday; Bank of America, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley follow on Wednesday. The volatility following President Donald Trump's tariffs announcements in early April generally boosted trading revenues: JPMorgan Chase, said its markets revenues rose by 15% year on year, to \$8.9bn; Citi Group's increased by 16% year on year, to \$5.9bn.

Still, tariffs created uncertainty in other lines of business for America's biggest lenders. Trade-policy turmoil did less to hold back an expected recovery in dealmaking this year than analysts had feared. JPMorgan's boss, Jamie Dimon, suggested its investment-banking activity "gained momentum" after a "slow start" in the quarter. He also said the American economy was resilient, though he added that risks remain owing to tariff uncertainty and high fiscal deficits.

Bouncing back

Share prices, January 1st 2025=100



Source: LSEG Workspace



Photograph: Mirrorpix

Rachel Reeves's big night in the City

Besides the budget's parliamentary pomp, Britain's chancellor has another annual moment in the limelight: at the Mansion House, in the City of London, where Rachel Reeves will speak on Tuesday. She came to office last July promising to revive economic growth and mend the public finances. Neither is [proving easy](#). The economy is sluggish, and recent government climbdowns over payments to pensioners and disabled people have made her ambitious fiscal targets harder to hit.

Ms Reeves is likely to focus on how the financial industry can boost growth. In a strategy document published ahead of her speech, she promises to cut regulations that her City audience finds irksome, speeding up approvals for new firms and certification of senior managers, and to review banks' capital requirements. Ms Reeves has resisted a call from some financial firms to reduce a tax break for cash savings in order to favour shares. But an industry-led advertising campaign will try to coax more savers into the stockmarket.



Photograph: Getty Images

The faded power of Condé Nast

Look at this list: Pedro Almodóvar. April is the cruellest month. Manolo Blahnik. For a long time I used to go to bed early.

How did you do? If you were able to identify a filmmaker, the opening of a modernist masterpiece, a shoemaker and the first line of a work by Proust, then congratulations: you have (partially—the full list had 174 more items) passed an old test for a job as an assistant at American Vogue. That bestowed entry into what a new book by Michael Grynbaum, a journalist, calls the “Empire of the Elite”.

For a short time in the 20th century, Condé Nast’s magazines like Vogue and Vanity Fair decided what was hot and what was not by peddling a glamorous Gatsby-ish world of fashion, sex, money and culture (which, as that list shows, was often just snobbery in spectacles). Then the internet arrived and this influence collapsed. Mr Grynbaum shows how this happened first gradually—then suddenly.



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 surrealist painter produced “The Treachery of Images” with the subtitle “Ceci n’est pas une pipe”?

Monday: Which cyclist, considered one of the greatest of all time, won an unequalled 11 grand tour events, including five Tour de France?

*Justice and judgement lie often a
world apart.*

Emmeline Pankhurst