

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Getty Images

Officials from **Israel** and **Hamas** began discussing Donald Trump's peace plan for Gaza. Negotiations will continue in Sharm El-Sheikh, an Egyptian city, on Tuesday. Mr Trump said there was a "good chance of making a deal", but [differences remain between the two sides](#). Meanwhile Israel deported 171 activists who were arrested last week while heading to Gaza as part of an aid flotilla.

Emmanuel Macron, **France's** president, asked Sébastien Lecornu to work with other political parties to "define a platform for action and stability for the country" by Wednesday evening. Mr Lecornu resigned as prime minister on Monday after less than a month in the job and hours after appointing a cabinet. The move rattled markets and left Mr Macron with no good options for resolving [France's political stalemate](#).

Mr Trump threatened to use the **Insurrection Act**, a law enacted in 1807, to deploy troops to American cities "if people were being killed" or if courts, governors or mayors "were holding us up". Earlier a federal judge allowed the Trump administration to proceed, for now, with [sending the National Guard](#) to Illinois, after local officials sought to stop the deployment.

**Renewable energy** overtook coal as the world's biggest source of **electricity** during the first half of 2025. According to Ember, a climate think-tank, [solar and wind power](#) accounted for 34% of global electricity, edging coal's share (33%) and marking a "turning point". Renewables are now increasing "fast enough to meet the world's growing appetite for electricity", Ember said.

AMD, a chipmaker, agreed to sell chips with an overall power consumption of six gigawatts to **OpenAI**. The artificial-intelligence company will receive warrants for up to 10% of AMD's shares, which surged by more than 34% after the news, their biggest one-day gain in nine years. **Nvidia**, another chipmaker, recently announced [an investment of \\$100bn](#) in OpenAI to help it buy Nvidia's AI chips.

The **International Criminal Court** convicted a **Sudanese** militia leader for crimes committed [some 20 years ago](#) in **Darfur**. Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman was found guilty of ordering war crimes and other atrocities as a commander of the **Janjaweed**, an Arab militia notorious for raping women and ransacking villages. The ICC first sought his arrest in 2007.

**London's** Metropolitan Police said it had dismantled a gang suspected of smuggling around 40,000 **stolen phones** from Britain to China over the past year. The Met said the group could be responsible for smuggling nearly half of all [phones nicked in London](#), where roughly 70,000 devices were snatched in 2024. Britain accounts for 40% of phone thefts in Europe.

**Figure of the day:** five, the number of French prime ministers since President Emmanuel Macron's re-election in 2022. [Read the full story](#).



Photograph: Getty Images

## France's political chaos

France faces yet more political instability after Sébastien Lecornu, the centrist prime minister, [unexpectedly quit on Monday](#). He had been in office for less than four weeks. His resignation came after he unveiled a new government, which looked very much like the outgoing one. Too much so for opposition parties, which vowed to table a no-confidence motion. Even the government's coalition allies, the centre-right Republicans, threatened to walk out. Mr Lecornu said it was impossible to work with parties that behaved as if they each commanded a parliamentary majority. In reality, no political bloc has one.

President Emmanuel Macron has now lost four prime ministers in little over a year. In a last-ditch effort to get parties to work together, he has given Mr Lecornu until Wednesday to try again. If this fails, he could name yet another prime minister, possibly from outside his centrist grouping. Or he could call snap legislative elections. Yet his centrists would probably lose seats, and the main beneficiary would be Marine Le Pen's hard-right National Rally.



Photograph: Getty Images

## Stay home, Congressman

Listen to Mike Johnson, the Republican speaker of the House, and you could be forgiven for thinking [America's government shutdown](#) was no big deal. On Friday he told members of the House of Representatives to remain in their districts for another week instead of traipsing around Capitol Hill. Mr Johnson claims the House has already done its job by passing a stop-gap spending bill earlier in September. The House would return, he noted, when Chuck Schumer, the top Democrat in the Senate, voted to reopen the government.

But Mr Schumer looks unlikely to fold soon. He has doubled down on his demand for bipartisan negotiations on extending health-care subsidies. Lawmakers are now eyeing October 15th as a possible deadline for action: that is when active-duty soldiers are due to miss their first paycheque. Mr Johnson says he will give 48 hours notice if lawmakers are needed for a vote. That may not be for a while.



Photograph: eyevine

## A sorrowful anniversary for Israel

On Tuesday Israel marks the second anniversary of Hamas's massacre of nearly 1,200 people and its taking of 251 hostages. It will not be a moment of national unity. The families of the remaining 48 hostages in Gaza accuse Binyamin Netanyahu's government of prolonging the war against Hamas by refusing to accept a ceasefire deal. The Israeli government will not be organising a memorial event for October 7th; the relatives of the massacre's victims will hold one instead.

Meanwhile, international condemnation of Israel's actions has replaced the sympathy that followed the October 7th attack. Israel's offensive in Gaza has so far killed more than 66,000 people—most of them civilians. Hopes are growing that [talks with Hamas](#), which began on Monday in Egypt, will finally end the Gaza war, but significant hurdles remain. Some time after the fighting stops, a reckoning may come for the Israeli government's failure to anticipate Hamas's attack and for its conduct of the war.



Photograph: Getty Images

## Canada lobbies its difficult neighbour

Donald Trump says he loves a deal. By erecting the highest tariff wall around America since the 1930s and inviting other countries to persuade him to poke holes in it, he now has the opportunity to try to strike lots of them. [Mark Carney](#), Canada's prime minister, arrives at the White House on Tuesday to do just that.

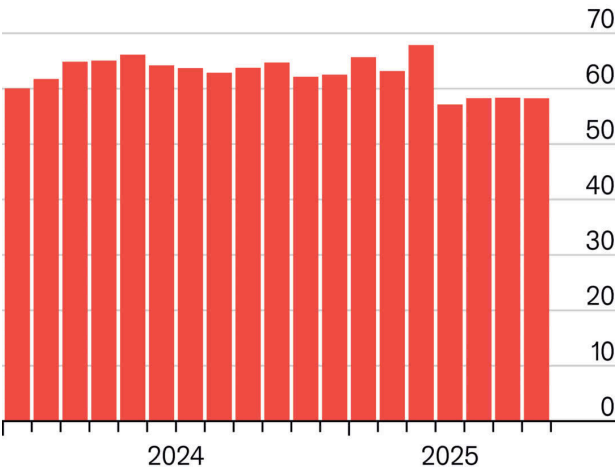
So far Canada has gotten off comparatively lightly. The Yale Budget Lab, a research centre, estimates that Canada's effective tariff rate is 6.7%, compared with 16.7% for the rest of the world. It also suggests that Canada may eventually be a net beneficiary of American tariffs, since that lower rate may allow it to steal market share from competitors.

Still, Mr Carney hopes to sweeten Canada's deal, reportedly asking for Mr Trump to lower steel tariffs. One bargaining chip could be the rescinding of Canada's Digital Services Tax, which mainly affects big American technology firms—and is a fixation of Mr Trump's.



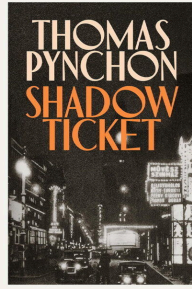
# Taking a hit

United States, goods-trade with Canada, \$bn



Source: US Census Bureau





Photograph: Jonathan Cape/Penguin Books

## Thomas Pynchon loses the plot

Thomas Pynchon is among America's most acclaimed living novelists. He has a National Book Award for "Gravity's Rainbow" and an adjective ("Pynchonesque") to describe the strange mashups of history, conspiracy, science and pop culture that fuel his books. Now 88 years old, he could rest on his many laurels; instead, today his ninth novel, "Shadow Ticket", goes on sale.

Unfortunately, it is not among his best. Like "Inherent Vice" and "Bleeding Edge", it takes the rough form of a detective novel: Hicks McTaggart, a private eye in 1930s Milwaukee, gets dispatched to Hungary to track down an heiress to a cheese fortune. But plot has never been one of Mr Pynchon's strengths, and here he seems to forget about it for long stretches. His dialogue is as snappy as ever, but all the characters sound the same. Pynchon obsessives will no doubt find things to like about it. It's unclear whether anyone else will.





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 James Joyce novel describes events over a single day in June 1904?

**Monday:** Which martial arts star became a global icon before dying at age 32 from a brain edema in 1973?

*Without forgiveness there is no future.*

---

***Desmond Tutu***