

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Getty Images

The widow of **Charlie Kirk** urged people to join Turning Point USA, the right-wing activist's organisation, saying that her **murdered** husband's "wisdom will endure". Earlier, Spencer Cox, the governor of Utah, named the suspect arrested for the killing of Mr Kirk as Tyler Robinson, a 22-year-old from the state. Mr Cox thanked the family of the suspect for providing information to investigators.

NATO will bolster the defence of the **alliance's eastern flank** in an "Eastern Sentry" operation. The mission will involve deploying sensors and weapons to destroy drones after a **Russian incursion** into Polish airspace earlier this week. Denmark, France and Germany have sent fighter jets and other European countries have expressed willingness to support the operation.

Fitch, a credit-rating agency, downgraded **France's** debt from AA- to A+. The decision comes amid political turmoil in the country and will add to the **woes** of President Emmanuel Macron. This week the prime minister, François Bayrou, resigned after losing a vote of confidence in the National Assembly. He had been unable to pass a deficit-narrowing budget. His successor, Sebastien Lecornu, may fare little better.

America's **Environmental Protection Agency** proposed ending requirements for companies to report their **greenhouse-gas emissions**. The reporting programme has been collecting data from 8,000 polluters for 15 years. The rollback [follows efforts from the EPA](#) to weaken emissions and pollutant standards for power plants, renounce its ability to regulate greenhouse-gas emissions and stop updating research that helps firms calculate those emissions.

The **Trump administration** said an undocumented immigrant resisting arrest in **Chicago** was shot and killed by an immigration officer, who was also injured in the confrontation. Meanwhile, Mr Trump said he would send the [National Guard](#) to **Memphis**, a Democratic-run city he described as “deeply troubled”. Tennessee’s Republican governor voiced support. The National Guard has [already been deployed](#) to Washington, DC and Los Angeles.

Sushila Karki, **Nepal’s** former chief justice, was sworn in as the interim prime minister, making her the first woman to lead the country. She was named days after the former leader, K.P. Sharma Oli, resigned amid [widespread protests](#) sparked by a social media ban. Ms Karki was the preferred choice of protestors for her stance against corruption.

Giorgio Armani’s wills, outlining his wishes for his fashion empire, were made public. The documents instruct his heirs to sell stakes in his luxury group to one of three larger rivals: LVMH, EssilorLuxottica and L’Oréal. While he was alive, Armani resisted takeover attempts. The Italian designer, who drafted the wills earlier this year, [died aged 91](#) on September 4th.

Word of the Week: Nitazenes, a dangerous new synthetic opioid, stronger than heroin and sometimes fentanyl, that is sweeping America. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Reuters

Israel presses on into Gaza city

Israel's air strike on Qatar [grabbed the headlines](#), but its military offensive in Gaza city continues apace. At least 50 Palestinians were reportedly killed in the city on Friday. The Israeli army continues to bomb high-rise towers there. It has also issued an evacuation order to all of the 1m people living in the city.

More than 100,000 people have fled the area over the past month, according to the UN, though some have already returned due to the bleak conditions in southern Gaza. Displacement camps are overcrowded: the average person has just half a square metre of space. The UN declared a famine in Gaza City last month and warns that it will spread to other parts of the territory. Ceasefire talks are on hold after the strike in Qatar. Many of Israel's top generals object to the offensive in Gaza city, fearing it will doom the surviving Israeli hostages. But Binyamin Netanyahu, the prime minister, shows no sign of changing course.



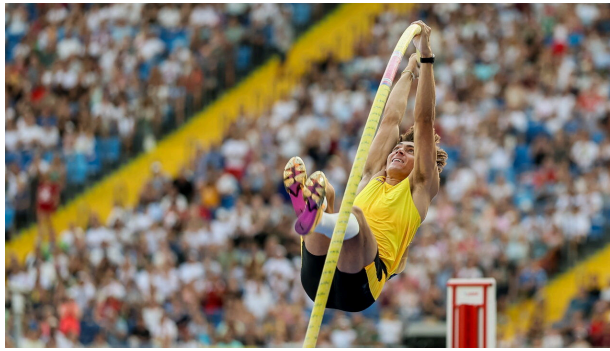
Photograph: ZUMA PRESS / MEGA

Is “radical-left” violence really on the rise in America?

This week [Charlie Kirk](#), a right-wing activist, was [shot dead](#) while speaking at a university in Utah. Although a suspect is in custody, the motive of the killer is still unknown. Donald Trump pinned the blame on rhetoric from the “radical left”.

Assessing which kinds of political violence are on the rise is subjective: analysts must determine what counts as political and assign ideological labels to attackers or victims. But one analysis found that, although extremists on both left and right commit violence, more incidents appear to come from right-leaning attackers. (See more coverage of the data [here](#).)

Fewer than one in ten Americans say they support political violence, with little difference between left and right. Yet that leaves potentially millions willing to condone violence—and some willing to commit it—in a country awash with guns. Researchers stress that violent attacks remain rare, although one has observed a different trend: attacks against political figures to get attention, not to advance a cause.



Photograph: Getty Images

World Athletics awaits Mondo magic

Little has happened in field athletics in recent years to put bums on seats. World records in men's long jump, high jump, triple jump and hammer have all survived intact for 30 years or longer, as have several women's equivalents. An absence of major stars (such as [track's new sensation, Gout Gout](#)) means that athletics startups, such as Michael Johnson's Grand Slam Track, have ditched field disciplines altogether.

There is, however, one big exception: a Swedish-American pole vaulter (who competes for Sweden), Mondo Duplantis. At the World Athletics Championships, which begin in Tokyo on Saturday, Mr Duplantis will dominate the competition. So far in his career, Mr Duplantis has added 13cm to the men's world record; it took his antecedents more than 25 years to increase it by the same margin. His easy charisma and side hustle as a pop singer have made him the most marketable figure in field athletics. The sport needs him to continue to reach new heights.



Photograph: Tokyo Gendai 2025

Japan's art-market ambitions

The art world descends on Japan this weekend for Tokyo Gendai, a big contemporary-art fair now in its third year. The great and the good will wander through 66 blue-chip galleries, most of which focus on Asian art. The show aims to eventually cement Japan's position "as a major player in the global art market", said Magnus Renfrew, its co-founder.

That looks increasingly possible. Long burdened by onerous tax and customs regulations, Japan accounts for only around 1% of the global art trade, despite being the world's fourth-biggest economy. But a few years ago the government created carve-outs, allowing Gendai's shoppers to circumvent such taxes. And while global art sales are estimated to have slumped by 12% in 2024, Japan notched a 2% rise. Sales in its gallery sector rose by a whopping 7%. That is down in part to a weaker yen, which has made international purchases from Japanese galleries cheaper.



Photograph: Getty Images

Weekend profile: Lachlan Murdoch, media's newest mogul

It was a memorable 54th birthday for Lachlan Murdoch. On September 8th his family announced that it had resolved a [decades-long dispute](#) over who will control its television and newspaper empire when Lachlan's father Rupert, who is now 94, dies. Lachlan, the third-eldest of six Murdoch children, will inherit a controlling stake in Fox and News Corp. Their combined market value is \$42bn; their combined influence—with brands including Fox News, the *New York Post* and *Wall Street Journal*—is greater still.

Lachlan's ascension to the inky throne has been half a lifetime in the making. A gap-year stint at the printing presses in Sydney marked Mr Murdoch's entry to the family firm. After graduating from Princeton University, he went to work for the Murdoch newspaper business in Australia. He later moved to Fox in New York. But he fell out with Roger Ailes, the late, since-disgraced head of Fox News. He quit in 2005 and moved back to Australia to pursue his own investments. James, his more liberal younger brother, moved into pole position.

Lachlan eventually returned to the fold and re-established himself as the favourite. When Rupert retired in 2023, Lachlan was named chief executive of Fox and chairman of News Corp. The recent

success of Fox and News Corp (their combined value has appreciated by 50% in two years) reflects clever past decisions by his father, but Mr Murdoch junior deserves credit, too. News Corp's bull run has been driven by its stake in an Australian property-listing platform which he rescued from near-bankruptcy in 2001. At Fox he has pushed experiments in digital technology—never the strong suit of his father, whose main online investment was in Myspace, just before it flopped.

Though born in London and raised in New York, Lachlan has said that he considers himself Australian. He moved to Sydney with his family in 2021. He is more blokeish than his brother, with an interest in rugby and rock-climbing. But he is less frugal than his father. Whereas Rupert amused Hollywood executives in the 1980s with his Walmart shirts, Lachlan recently bought himself one of the most expensive homes in California, Chartwell Mansion, a ten-acre Bel Air pile.

Under the deal agreed this week, Lachlan's elder siblings each gave up their votes in the companies in exchange for a \$1bn pay-off. Fox and News Corp will surely continue on their profitably conservative path. The resolution of the family feud could open the door to more expansive moves—combining the two companies into one, or bulking up Fox. With succession settled, the Murdoch empire may be ready for more dealmaking.



Illustration: The Economist

Mini crossword

We now publish an interactive edition of our crossword, allowing you to enter and check the answers, and see explanations, instantly. Try it [here](#). Or, if you prefer to do things the old-fashioned way, use the grid below.

Our crossword has two sets of clues, one for seasoned cruciverbalists and the other for less experienced solvers. Both give the same answers, all of which feature in articles in this week's edition of *The Economist*:

Cryptic clues

- 1 across* Place occupied by settlers I hear: why (6)
- 2 across* E's very loud in court and gets result (6)
- 3 across* Uncle, I switched seats (6)
- 1 down* Call her pop, an exuberant singer (8,4)

Straight clues

- 1 across* Commune or outpost, perhaps controlled by others (6)
- 2 across* Consequence or upshot of an action (6)
- 3 across* Centres, specifically of cells (6)
- 1 down* American songstress behind hits like Femininomenon and Pink Pony Club (8,4)

Email all four answers, along with your home city and country, by 9am GMT on Monday to [\[email protected\]](#). We will pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners in next week's edition.

1						
2						
3						

Image: The Economist



Illustration: The Economist

The winners of this week's quiz

Thank you to everyone who took part in this week's quiz. The winners, chosen at random, were:

Jani Mikkola, Espoo, Finland

Nedko Kyuchukov, London, Britain

Chinghan Wong, Subang Jaya, Malaysia

They all gave the correct answers of: Archduke Franz Ferdinand, Emperor of France, Joy Division, "Moonlight" and Elise Stefanik. The theme is works by Ludwig van Beethoven: the Archduke Trio, Emperor piano concerto, "Ode to Joy", "Moonlight sonata" and "Für Elise".

The questions were:

Monday: Which Austrian dignitary was assassinated, along with his wife, in Sarajevo on June 28th, 1914?

Tuesday: What title did Napoleon Bonaparte assume in December 1804?

Wednesday: Which British rock band had a hit single with "Love Will Tear Us Apart" before reforming as New Order?

Thursday: Which film was really awarded the Oscar for best movie in 2017, after the presenters mistakenly announced the winner as “La La Land”?

Friday: Which New York congresswoman was nominated by President Donald Trump to be ambassador to the United Nations, only for her nomination to be withdrawn?

*“If it is art, it is not for all, and if
it is for all, it is not art.”*

Arnold Schoenberg