

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Getty Images

**Donald Trump** looked set to remove Gregory Bovino from **Minneapolis**, apparently bowing to outrage at federal immigration officials’ aggressive action in the city. The Border Patrol Forces’ “commander” has offered truculent support for officers—including those who [killed](#) protesters—making him a focus of the unrest. His removal might call into question the position of Kristi Noem, the homeland security secretary and an ardent defender of Mr Bovino.

Mr Trump appointed **Tom Homan**, his border czar, to manage operations in Minnesota. The White House said the president “does not want any Americans to lose their lives”. It seemingly softened its line on two protesters shot dead by officers. It has labelled them terrorists. Mr Trump reported having a “very good call” with Tim Walz, Minnesota’s governor, whom he had previously excoriated.

The president said he would increase tariffs on some goods from **South Korea**—including cars, lumber and pharmaceuticals—from 15% to 25%. Mr Trump accused South Korea’s legislature of “not living up” to its end of a [trade agreement](#) he struck with Lee Jae Myung, his Korean counterpart, in October. Korean lawmakers have yet to approve the terms, which include a promise to invest \$350bn in America.

The **dollar** fell to a four-month low against other major currencies on Monday, while gold remained at record levels of more than \$5,000 an ounce. The **yen** strengthened against the greenback to around ¥154, as traders speculated that America and [Japan](#) would launch a co-ordinated intervention to support Japan's currency. That, along with fears of another government shutdown in America, is piling pressure on the dollar.

*USS Abraham Lincoln*, an American aircraft-carrier, reached the Middle East, days after Mr Trump said a naval "armada" was heading towards **Iran**. The president has stalled on [intervening in Iran](#) in response to the regime's crackdown on protests, but recently said he was watching the country "very closely". Iran has warned it would treat any attack as "[all-out war](#)".

**Israel's** army said it had recovered the remains of Ran Gvili, the last Israeli hostage whose body was still held in Gaza. The return of all the hostages had been a condition for Israel to proceed to the [second phase of Mr Trump's peace plan](#). Israel has said it would open the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt once Gvili had been returned.

**France's** National Assembly backed a bill that would ban under-15s from using **social media**. The legislation now goes to the Senate. If it passes, France would be the second country to impose such restrictions, after [Australia](#). President Emmanuel Macron wants the measures in place before the start of the new school year in September.

**Figure of the day:** \$17.7bn, the sum that startups in London raised in 2025, behind only the Bay Area, New York and Los Angeles. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: EPA

## **A long-awaited EU-India deal**

Two middle powers are turning to each other for comfort this week. On Monday Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, and António Costa, president of the European Council, were guests of honour at India's Republic Day. But they are not just in Delhi for pomp and parades; they will also take on the hard work of Trump-proofing their foreign policy and de-risking from China. On Tuesday Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, said that his country had signed "the mother of all" trade deals with the EU. At an India-EU summit he is expected to announce more details on the agreement, which has been almost two decades in the making.

But the talks will not be a love-in. Russia remains a bone of contention between the sides. Europeans have tightened rules blocking refined products made from Russian crude—which, until recently, made up about a third of India's oil imports. And Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, still has close ties with Vladimir Putin that make many in Brussels squirm.



Photograph: Reuters

## Honduras gets a Trump-approved president

Hondurans will get a new president on Tuesday when Nasry “Tito” Asfura, the conservative former mayor of the country’s capital, is sworn in. Donald Trump [openly supported](#) Mr Asfura’s campaign, and cried fraud (without evidence) when a rival candidate briefly took the lead during the vote count. Worries about the election’s integrity were heightened by rapidly shifting vote totals, delays in releasing precinct-level results and the courts’ hasty dismissal of requests for a recount by Mr Asfura’s opponents. International observers ultimately declared the election fair, however.

The outgoing president, Xiomara Castro, repeatedly rowed with America while strengthening ties with China and Russia and backing Nicolás Maduro, Venezuela’s dictator, whom Mr Trump toppled this year. Mr Asfura will hope that a better relationship with Mr Trump will benefit Honduras. He will co-operate with America on drugs and corruption but delivering results will be tricky. Honduras remains poor, violent and deeply unequal. Hondurans deeply distrust its weak institutions. A daunting set of challenges awaits the new president.



Photograph: Getty Images

## The world's largest luxury-goods firm is in crisis

LVMH is in an [unfashionable slump](#). In the first half of 2025 revenue fell by 4% year on year; net profit plunged by 22%. The luxury-goods company reports full-year earnings on Tuesday. Analysts have grown less confident about the company's outlook.

Scandal has struck some of LVMH's key brands: former staff accuse Moët Hennessy, its drinks division, of enabling bullying and sexual harassment. Loro Piana, its cashmere purveyor, is under judicial administration in Italy for using suppliers that allegedly violate labour rights. (Moët denies the accusations; Loro Piana admitted that overseeing its "whole ecosystem" was "a bit difficult"). Dramatic price hikes have annoyed customers. Some Louis Vuitton bags have doubled in price since 2019, though they look identical.

American tariffs and economic uncertainty in China have hurt the whole industry. But some luxury companies may be on the up. Those [expected to thrive in 2026](#), such as Hermès, are careful about the ethics (and optics) of their supply chains, and prudent about price rises. LVMH would do well to follow suit.



Photograph: Reuters

## **America is out of the Paris agreement (again)**

On Tuesday America will withdraw from the [Paris agreement](#), just as it did during Donald Trump's first term. (It rejoined under President Joe Biden.) The deal, struck in 2015, committed most of the world's countries to keeping global temperature rise "well below" 2°C above pre-industrial levels. America's exit means it no longer has to regularly submit plans on how it will mitigate against climate change, report on its progress, or help finance poorer countries' efforts.

Though the withdrawal process formally takes a year—Mr Trump issued the order last January—America has been acting as if it was already out. It has dramatically reduced climate funding as part of a general slashing of international aid, and in November declined to send a formal delegation to Brazil for COP30, the annual climate conference. Despite Mr Trump's rejection of climate diplomacy, [global emissions are levelling off](#), and investment in clean-energy sources now outstrips that in fossil fuels by two-to-one.





Illustration: Sandra Navarro

## Daily quiz

We will serve you a new question each weekday. On Friday your challenge is to give us all five answers and tell us the theme. Email your responses (and your home city and country) by 1700 GMT on **Friday** to [\[email protected\]](#). We'll pick three winners at random and crown them on Saturday.

**Tuesday:** What is supposedly James Bond's family motto, and also the title of a film starring Pierce Brosnan?

**Monday:** The press are sometimes referred to by which term, dating back to when the three main classes of society were the nobility, clergy and commoners?

*One of the secrets of life is that all that is really worth doing is what we do for others.*

---

***Lewis Carroll***