

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Reuters

Donald Trump said he would send weapons worth “billions” of dollars, including Patriot air-defence missiles, to **Ukraine** through NATO. He also threatened “very severe tariffs” on [Russia](#) unless it agreed to a peace deal with Ukraine within 50 days. During a meeting with Mark Rutte, NATO’s secretary general, Mr Trump added that the “secondary” levies would be “at about 100%”.

**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.

**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](#).

**Israel** struck southern **Syria**, where [sectarian clashes](#) have killed at least 30 people since breaking out on Sunday. Israel’s defence

minister, Israel Katz, said his country was acting to protect Syria's [Druze minority](#), who are fighting with Sunni Bedouin groups. Syria's Sunni Islamist government said it had deployed security forces to quell the violence.

Maros Sefcovic, the European Union's trade commissioner, said trade between the EU and **America** would be "almost impossible" if Mr Trump implemented his proposed tariffs. On Saturday [Donald Trump](#) threatened a 30% levy on many EU goods entering America, starting on August 1st. Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, said that the European Union would not retaliate before then.

**Andrew Cuomo** will run as an independent in **New York City's** mayoral election in November. The moderate former governor was the favourite to win the Democratic primary in June [but lost to Zohran Mamdani](#), a [33-year-old Democratic Socialist](#). Eric Adams, the current mayor, is also running as an independent. He was indicted on corruption charges in September, though these have since been dropped.

The value of **Bitcoin** rose above \$120,000 for the first time, climbing by more than 10% in the past week. The rally comes as America's Congress considers three crypto-friendly bills, including the GENIUS Act, which would make it easier for companies to issue [stablecoins](#). French Hill, the Republican chair of the House Committee on Financial Services, dubbed the legislative agenda "crypto week".

**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 will be June's inflation figures, out on Tuesday. Forecasters expect only a modest rise in the headline annual inflation rate, from 2.4% in May to 2.6%. Still, tariff-exposed categories like furniture could start showing the impact of rising prices. And there may be greater pain ahead for consumers. Goldman Sachs, a bank, expects that tariffs will add nearly a percentage point to core inflation (excluding food and energy) 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

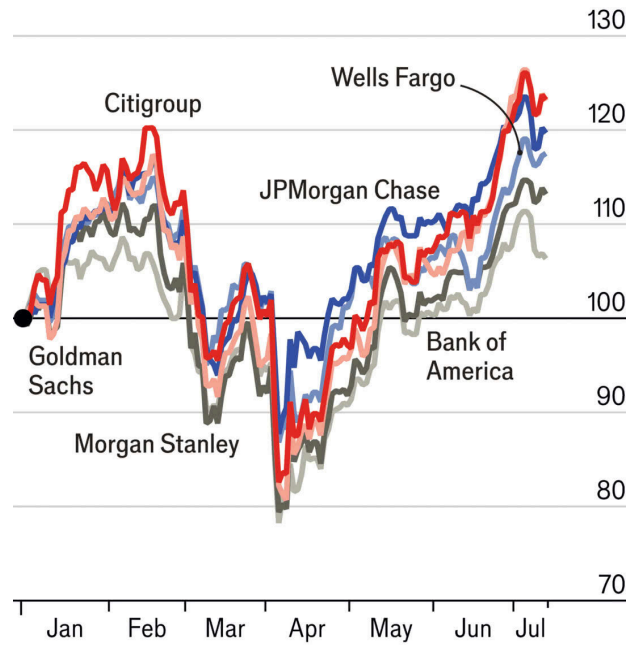
## Wall Street's tariff trading wins

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 report their second-quarter earnings on Tuesday; Bank of America, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley follow on Wednesday. Analysts expect big global banks to have received a 10% bump in trading revenue after President Donald Trump's tariff announcements roiled markets in early April.

Still, tariffs haven't boosted other lines of business for America's biggest lenders. Trade-policy turmoil halted an expected recovery in dealmaking this year, as companies delayed initial public offerings and mergers. Despite an uptick in IPO activity in June, tariff uncertainty is still weighing on firms hoping to list on public markets. Meanwhile analysts and investors will be listening out for hints about how strong the banks expect the American economy to be in the months ahead.

## 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. Rachel Reeves's speech on Tuesday will be scrutinised closely. 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 may cut back regulations that her City audience finds burdensome, for example on the appointment and responsibilities of senior managers in financial firms. She may also announce a further review of pensions: the state system is creaking and many Britons are saving too little in private schemes to afford a decent retirement. Some in the City would also like her to direct more pension money towards potentially better-paying, if riskier, assets.





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.*

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***Emmeline Pankhurst***