

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Reuters

Anutin Charnvirakul was elected as the new prime minister of Thailand. The populist construction tycoon secured 273 votes in parliament—more than the required 247. Last week [Paetongtarn Shinawatra](#) was ousted as prime minister after she was convicted of ethics violations. Meanwhile Thaksin Shinawatra, her father and another former prime minister, flew to Dubai; a court could order his imprisonment soon.

David Lammy was appointed to become **Britain's** deputy prime minister after **Angela Rayner** [resigned over an ethics violation](#). An independent enquiry found the Labour politician had fallen short of “the highest possible standards of proper conduct” in the purchase of a flat, having failed to pay the proper tax on the transaction.

America's economy added just 22,000 jobs in August, much less than the expected 75,000. Unemployment rose to 4.3%, up from 4.2% a month earlier. The report also revised gains in June, showing instead that America's economy lost 13,000 jobs—the first such decline since December 2020. The disappointing figures suggest that the [Federal Reserve](#) will probably cut rates this month.

Emmanuel Macron said 26 countries have committed to providing security guarantees to **Ukraine** when [the war](#) against

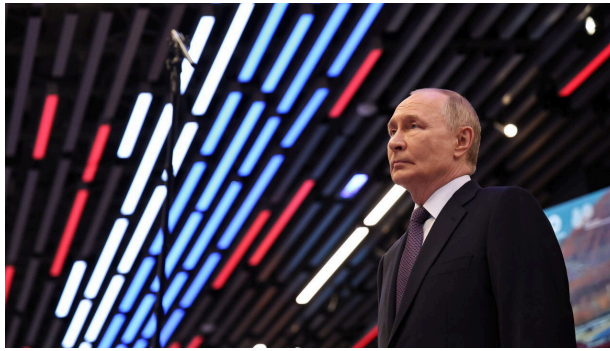
Russia ends. The French president said that the mainly European countries “precisely” formalised their pledges during a summit in Paris; not all agreed to deploy peacekeeping troops in Ukraine. Afterwards European leaders held a video call with Donald Trump about increasing pressure on Russia to reach a peace deal.

OpenAI will reportedly produce its own artificial-intelligence chips next year in a partnership with **Broadcom**, an American [semiconductor firm](#). OpenAI would start by using the chips internally, according to the *Financial Times*. Separately Anthropic, OpenAI’s rival, said it would stop selling its AI services to majority-owned Chinese, Russian or Iranian groups, citing concerns that they would be used for military purposes.

Vladimir Putin rejected a warning by Herman Gref, a top Russian banker, that the country’s economy is sliding into “technical recession”. Mr Putin, by contrast, is worried about [inflation](#), which stands at nearly 10% on a yearly basis, and favours hiking interest rates to record highs. That risks further choking off growth. “We need to ensure a soft calm landing of the economy,” said Mr Putin.

Elon Musk, the world’s richest person, could soon become the first trillionaire. The board of **Tesla**, Mr Musk’s [electric-vehicle company](#), proposed a pay package that would increase his compensation to around \$1trn if the firm hits certain milestones over the next decade. Mr Musk’s 423.7m Tesla shares give him more voting power. “Retaining and incentivising Elon is fundamental to Tesla,” the board said.

Figure of the day: 25%. The surge in the number of unemployed university students in Indonesia since August 2022. [Read the full story](#).



Photograph: EPA/Shutterstock

Russia hosts its new friends

On Friday Russia's President, Vladimir Putin, hosted representatives from more than 70 countries at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok. For Mr Putin, the annual investment drive provides another chance to claim that Russia is establishing a new global order to challenge the West's decades-long bullying.

As Russia's war rages in Ukraine, the theme of this year's forum is "co-operation for peace and prosperity". To allies of Ukraine, such rhetoric is shameless. But Mr Putin has others in his corner. This week he stood with the world's foremost autocrats, including Xi Jinping of China and Kim Jong Un of North Korea, at a [military parade in Beijing](#) to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the second world war.

Later Mr Putin claimed China and Russia had agreed to build a long-discussed pipeline that would send gas from Siberia to China via Mongolia. China has not commented, but Russia's new partnerships appear to be only growing.



Photograph: Getty Images

America's high-stakes jobs-data report

For a second month in a row job growth in America was much weaker than expected. New figures for August, released on Friday, showed that [the economy](#) added just 22,000 jobs. Forecasters had predicted that the economy would create about 75,000, more or less the same as in July. Last month's data contained a similar nasty surprise, and several previous months of strong data were revised down.

The two Federal Reserve governors, Chris Waller and Michelle Bowman, who had argued unsuccessfully for an interest-rate cut the previous week seemed vindicated. Donald Trump, outraged at the notion that his policies could be hurting the economy, fired Erika McEntarfer, the head of the Bureau of Labour Statistics, which produced the figures.

On Thursday ADP, a payroll processor, reported that the private sector had created 54,000 jobs, also fewer than expected. Jobless-claims numbers also rose slightly. The Fed seems likely to cut interest rates this month, as Mr Trump wants, based on weak economic data that he may deem to be fake news.



Photograph: Getty Images

Right-wing Koreans look to America

On Friday and Saturday South Korean right-wing evangelical Christians will gather in Ilhan, just north of Seoul, the capital. They are there to attend “Build Up Korea”, a youth event dedicated to instilling “national identity and values” in the next generation of Koreans. They will be getting inspiration from American right-wingers such as [Charlie Kirk](#), a firebrand Christian nationalist, and Jack Posobiec, a spreader of wild and discredited conspiracy theories.

Older Koreans are also emulating American right-wingers. Like MAGA, the *Taegeukgi* movement—named after the Korean flags they wave at protests (along with American and Israeli flags)—obsess over internet conspiracy theories about communist infiltration and praise a subverter of the democratic order: Yoon Suk Yeol, South Korea’s impeached former president, who staged a failed coup last December. They often take to Seoul’s streets proclaiming his innocence. They have taken to using the phrase “*gatchi gapshida*”, long used by American and South Korean soldiers. It means “we go together” and never was it so true of the two countries’ right wingers.



Photograph: EPA/Shutterstock

The future of British politics

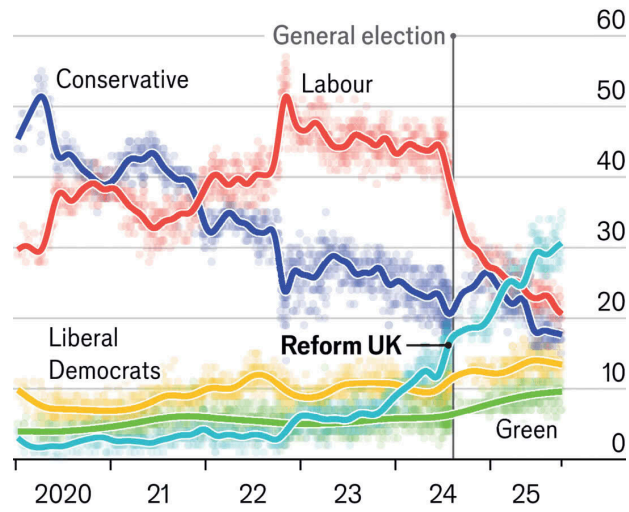
Reform UK, Britain's startup party of the populist right, meets for a two-day conference in Birmingham on Friday. [Nigel Farage, its leader](#), will be hailed as Britain's next prime minister. That is not fantastical, even though the party has just four MPs.

Reform leads in the national polls with support from 31% of the electorate, according to our tracker. A simple calculation based on a uniform national swing suggests that if an election were held tomorrow Reform would have almost a one-in-five chance of winning a majority in Parliament. And if Reform banded together with the listless Conservatives, they would probably hold a majority of seats.

One policy priority will dominate the conference: a pledge to end all irregular migration to Britain, backed up by a Donald Trump-inspired programme of mass deportations. Once, not long ago, Mr Farage's followers were dubbed fruitcakes and loonies. Soon, they may be in charge.

The rise of great powers

Britain, voting intention, %



Source: *The Economist's* UK poll tracker



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.

Friday: Ceres and Eris are both what kind of body in the solar system?

Thursday: Douglas is the capital of which British crown dependency?



Illustration: The Economist

The winners of this week's crossword

Thank you to everyone who took part in our weekly crossword, published in the weekend edition of Espresso. The winners, chosen at random, were:

Elise Amerini, Contern, Luxembourg

Tor Alloway, London, Britain

Bernd Gebhardt, Bamberg, Germany

They all gave the correct answers of Norway, Dakar, Irving and Narendra Modi.

*To understand a science it is
necessary to know its history.*

Auguste Comte