

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Reuters

Donald Trump said that **Volodymyr Zelensky**, Ukraine's president, could end [Russia's war](#) "if he wants to" but that Ukraine could not join NATO or get back the Crimean peninsula as part of a peace deal. Earlier Steve Witkoff, Mr Trump's envoy, held out the prospect of "robust" security guarantees for Ukraine from America and its European allies. European leaders will join Mr Zelensky when he meets Mr Trump in Washington on Monday.

Hundreds of thousands of **Israelis** took part in demonstrations and a general strike in Tel Aviv. They want to pressure the government to strike a deal with Hamas that would ensure the release of hostages in Gaza. The protests came a week after Binyamin Netanyahu, [Israel's](#) prime minister, announced plans to intensify his country's offensive in the territory and occupy Gaza city.

The **Spanish prime minister** visited emergency services battling to put out **wildfires**. They have already [burned](#) more than 115,000 hectares of land, particularly in the northern region of Galicia. Pedro Sánchez promised more military personnel to help, on top of the thousands already deployed, in what he claimed is "probably" the largest European civil protection mobilisation in history.

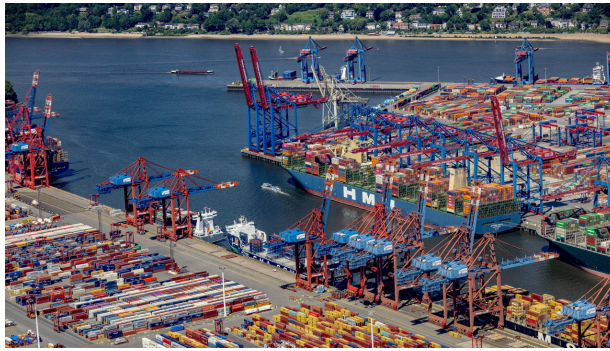
The Movement to Socialism suffered a huge defeat in **Bolivia's** presidential election, marking the end of nearly 20 years of rule for the left-wing party. According to preliminary results, two candidates from right-leaning parties secured the majority of votes. They will now compete in a run-off in October. [The election](#) took place amid surging inflation and fuel shortages.

Google agreed to pay a \$35.8m fine in **Australia** after a regulator found it had hurt competition in the country's telecoms industry. Google paid two telecoms firms to pre-install its search function on Android phones. The fine adds to the tech giant's troubles in Australia. The government recently added YouTube, which is owned by Google, to a group of websites to be banned for people under 16.

Around 10,000 of **Air Canada's** striking flight attendants refused to follow a government order to return to work. The government told the [airline](#) to resume all its flights on Sunday after a strike by unionised cabin staff caused about 700 flights to be grounded. The workers are demanding higher salaries. Air Canada now plans to restart operations on Monday afternoon.

Germany criticised the “aggressive” behaviour of **China** in the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea ahead of a visit by the German foreign minister to Japan and Indonesia. Johann Wadephul stressed the need for internationally binding rules. Earlier this week the Chinese navy said it “drove away” a us Navy destroyer from the disputed Scarborough Shoal; America contests this account.

Figure of the day: \$7trn, the amount of mortgage debt Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have on their balance sheets. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Getty Images

EU exports under pressure

Last month America and the EU struck a [tariff deal](#), cooling tensions and shelving retaliatory measures. America cut most levies on EU goods, including pharmaceuticals and cars, to 15% but kept 50% tariffs on steel and aluminium (just 1.5% of EU-US trade). In return the EU scrapped most tariffs on American goods and pledged vast purchases of American energy and weapons. Donald Trump called it “probably the biggest deal ever reached in any capacity”.

The pact will not yet appear in the EU’s June trade data, due on Monday. But the broader trade war will. American imports slumped in the second quarter after surging earlier in the year as companies rushed to beat tariff hikes. The EU was a large source of that stockpiling, particularly in pharmaceuticals, but shipments since April have fallen well below 2024 levels. With average tariffs on EU goods now 15.3%—up from 1.3% before Mr Trump—the bloc’s \$200bn plus trade surplus in goods with America may start to shrink.



Photograph: Shutterstock

Alligator Alcatraz goes to court

On Monday a judge in Miami will hear arguments in a legal challenge to the so-called [Alligator Alcatraz](#), an immigrant-detention centre in the Florida Everglades that opened in July. Detainees claim that the state is violating their constitutional rights by holding them without charge and without access to lawyers.

Environmentalists have brought a separate lawsuit, arguing that building Alligator Alcatraz on wetlands without assessing the potential ecological damage violates federal law. Lawyers defending the facility say that, although it houses federal detainees, because the state is in charge of it federal environmental rules don't apply. The judge ordered a pause on further construction to hear witnesses testify.

The legal offensives may make it harder for the federal government to meet its detention target of 3,000 at Alligator Alcatraz. But Florida's Republican governor has already announced plans to build another facility on a military base near Jacksonville.



Photograph: AFP

Zelensky gets an escort in the Oval Office

Last time Volodmyr Zelensky was in the Oval office, in February, he was publicly humiliated by his host. When he visits on Monday, however, he will be escorted by a posse of sympathetic European leaders, including the presidents of France and Germany, and the head of NATO. This will doubtless reassure Mr Zelensky, but after Donald Trump's bromance with Vladimir Putin in Alaska, America's president is still likely to heap pressure on Ukraine to end the war—[largely on Russia's terms](#).

The Ukrainians insist that a ceasefire must come before a more general agreement to end the conflict. But Mr Trump, siding with Mr Putin, now says the immediate goal must be a comprehensive peace. At the summit Mr Putin again demanded that Ukraine retreat from the parts of Luhansk and Donetsk provinces that it still holds. These represent the most fortified sections of the front line, putting Mr Putin in a stronger position to attack again in the future. Ukrainians are tired of war, but they firmly oppose any further territorial concessions.



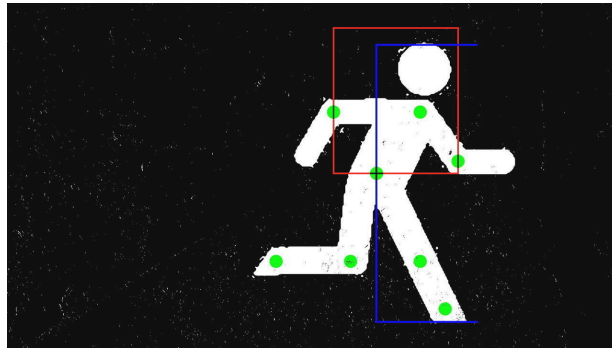
Photograph: Getty Images

South Sudan on the brink, again

On Monday the United Nations Security Council will discuss South Sudan. It is one of the world's most fragile states, yet its problems are often overshadowed by the magnitude of the [disaster in its northern neighbour](#). The main topic will be the country's rapidly deteriorating security. Earlier this year fighting erupted in the oil-producing Upper Nile state, the most serious flare-up since the last civil war ended in 2018. The UN says violence against civilians is more rampant than at any time since at least 2020.

South Sudan's government, led by President Salva Kiir, looks weak. It is kept in power by troops from neighbouring Uganda, which intervened in March in order to prevent a takeover by forces loyal to his vice-president and longtime rival, Riek Machar. The UN wants the two adversaries to return to the power-sharing deal. But talks have been repeatedly postponed. South Sudan's [prospects](#) have rarely been so bleak since independence from Sudan in 2011.





Photograph: Getty Images/The Economist

Drones could soon become even more intrusive

For all the tasks that drones can do, one remains beyond their power: facial recognition. Drones are much farther from their subjects than the kind of cameras, such as CCTVs, that are ordinarily used for biometrics. But new [technology](#) from a team at Michigan State University, called FarSight, could change all that.

It works through “whole-body biometric recognition”. Rather than trying to recognise a subject from their face alone, it uses a combination of biometric-recognition algorithms in parallel. One set discerns a person’s gait, another generates a 3D reconstruction of their body. A third runs the subject’s face through a model that seeks to undo the refractive effects of the choppy air on the light that comes into the camera, returning the image in an undistorted state. The three biometric markers are then fused into one profile. And all in about a third of a second. The system is still experimental, but the researcher says FarSight’s early results are impressive.



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.

Monday: String beans, garden peas and okra are found in what kind of natural container?

*“You can do a lot with diplomacy,
but with diplomacy backed up by
force you can get a lot more
done.”*

Kofi Annan