

Press review
May 19-25, 2025

EU reset deal puts Britain back on the world stage, says Keir Starmer


UK prime minister heralds a 'win-win' but faces criticism for concessions on fishing rights

Jessica Elgot and Lisa O'Carroll

Mon 19 May 2025 20.31 CEST

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 Keir Starmer and Ursula von der Leyen hailed the deal, which was agreed at the 11th hour of negotiations. Photograph: Carl Court/PA

UK signs £3.4bn deal to cede sovereignty over Chagos Islands to Mauritius

Starmer says there's 'no alternative' and defends cost, saying it is 'part and parcel of using Britain's reach to keep us safe at home'

Eleni Courea and Jessica Elgot

Thu 22 May 2025 18.59 CEST

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Keir Starmer, with Gen Sir Jim Hockenhull, said it was 'one of the most significant contributions that we make to our security relationship with the US'. Photograph: Andy Rain/EPA

Keir Starmer confirms U-turn on winter fuel payment cuts

Government to loosen eligibility rules for pensioners in face of backlash against decision to means test benefit

Pippa Crerar Peter Walker
and Aletha Adu

Wed 21 May 2025 16:55 CEST

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A protest against the decision to scrap the winter fuel allowance in Westminster in October.
Photograph: Lucy North/PA

Ministers brace for NHS strikes after doctors denounce 'derisory' pay rise

Other NHS staff decry their award, while teachers are angered part of their pay rise will come from school budget

**Denis Campbell and
Richard Adams**

Thu 22 May 2025 20.28 CEST

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 Resident doctors rallying outside Downing Street during strike action over pay last year. They are to get a 5.4% increase this year. Photograph: Wiktor Szymanowicz/Rex/Shutterstock

Joe Biden

Joe Biden diagnosed with 'aggressive form' of prostate cancer, his office says

Former US president is reviewing treatment options with family as cancer has spread to the bone

David Smith *in Washington*

Sun 18 May 2025 22.23 CEST

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 Joe Biden awaits his introduction at a campaign rally on 29 May 2024. Photograph: Andrew Harnik/Getty Images

House Republicans pass 'big, beautiful bill' after weeks of division

The sweeping measure heads to the Senate, where Republicans are expected to make changes.



House Speaker Mike Johnson delivers remarks alongside other House Republican leaders after the House passed budget reconciliation legislation at the U.S. Capitol on May 22, 2025. | Francis Chung/POLITICO

By KATHERINE TULLY-MCMANUS and JENNIFER SCHOLTES

05/22/2025 07:00 AM EDT

Updated: 05/22/2025 08:32 AM EDT



Major parts of Trump and Republicans' tax and immigration package

Figures in **red** represent increases to the national debt over 10 years, and those in **teal** represent savings.

POLICY	SAVINGS/SPENDING
Extend 2017 Trump tax cuts	\$2.2T
Increase standard deduction	\$1.3T
Increase child tax credit	\$797.3B
Defense spending	\$148.5B
Border wall and immigration restrictions	\$147.3B
No tax on overtime	\$124B
Senior bonus	\$71.6B
No tax on car loan interest	\$57.7B
No tax on tips	\$39.7B
Savings accounts for newborns	\$17.4B
Home schooling and private school tax credit	\$2B
Cuts to federal worker protections	-\$16.1B
New oil and gas production	-\$19.8B
New taxes on colleges and universities	-\$22.6B
Spectrum auction	-\$88B
Cuts to antipoverty food assistance	-\$294.6B
Student loan changes	-\$295B
Rescind climate change money	-\$677.8B
Cuts to Medicaid	-\$792.2B

Higher Education

Homeland Security revokes Harvard's ability to enroll international students

The Trump administration said current foreign students must transfer or risk losing their legal status. Advocates say the directive violates legal procedures.

Updated May 22, 2025



Harvard University said the Trump administration's actions to block it from enrolling foreign students are "retaliatory" and "unlawful." (Charles Krupa/AP)

Brain-dead pregnant woman's case spurs questions about medical consent

Adriana Smith's family says doctors put her on life support roughly nine weeks into her pregnancy for fear of violating Georgia's strict abortion ban.

May 19, 2025



Emory University Hospital Midtown in Atlanta. (Brynn Anderson/AP)

Trump says U.S. has chosen plan for 'Golden Dome' missile defense system

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that deploying and operating just the space-based interceptors could cost up to \$542 billion over the next two decades.

May 20, 2025



President Donald Trump discusses the Golden Dome missile defense system in the Oval Office on Tuesday. (Demetrius Freeman/The Washington Post)

Trump backs off ceasefire after call with Putin, letting fighting rage on

After Trump's third phone call with Putin since his inauguration, it appears there will be no letup in fighting and less U.S. pressure on Moscow.

Updated May 20, 2025



President Vladimir Putin speaks to reporters in Russia's Krasnodar region Monday after his phone call with President Donald Trump. (Vyacheslav Prokofyev/Sputnik/Kremlin/Pool/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

Trump ambushes South African president with video and false claims of anti-white racism

Cyril Ramaphosa responds to hectoring stunt in Oval Office and egregious claim of white genocide by suggesting calm

- Analysis: [Trump's 'white genocide' claims ignore reality in South Africa](#)
- Sketch: [Sinister Trump dims the lights for another White House ambush](#)

David Smith in Washington

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Donald Trump ambushes South Africa's president with video falsely claiming white genocide - video

West Bank

Israeli troops fire 'warning shots' at 25 diplomats visiting occupied West Bank

Shots force delegation representing 31 countries, including Italy, Canada, Egypt and UK, to run for cover

Jason Burke and Emma Graham-Harrison in Jerusalem

Wed 21 May 2025 20.36 CEST

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■ Israeli soldiers fired shots near group of diplomats in West Bank – video

Israeli troops fired “warning shots” towards a group of 25 diplomats visiting Jenin in the Israel-occupied [West Bank](#) on Wednesday, prompting a wave of outrage and calls for an investigation from world leaders and ministers.

Two Israeli embassy staff shot dead near Washington DC Jewish museum

Police said a suspect was in custody after the shooting near the Capital Jewish Museum

- [Israeli embassy staff shooting - latest news](#)
- [Explained: what we know so far](#)

Joseph Gedeon in
Washington and **Lorenzo**
Tondo in *Jerusalem*

Thu 22 May 2025 17:05 CEST

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📹 Sarah Milgrim and Yaron Lischinsky, who were both Israeli embassy employees. Photograph: @IsraelinUSA/Twitter

AI is more persuasive than a human in a debate, study finds

When provided basic demographic information on their opponents, AI chatbots adapted their arguments and became more persuasive than humans in online debates.

May 19, 2025



Fiona Harvey *Environment
editor*


Tue 20 May 2025 17:00 CEST

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Only strong action on emissions can restore economic stability, UN climate chief says

Simon Stiell says investors 'ready to hit the go button' if they have the right signals from governments



 Saltend Power station on the Humber Estuary. Simon Stiell said a new generation of climate plans were about growth for industries and economies. Photograph: Richard Saker/The Guardian

Iranian director Jafar Panahi wins Palme d'Or at Cannes for It Was Just an Accident

Panahi, long censored and previously imprisoned in his home country, took top prize as *Sentimental Value* and *The Secret Agent* also honoured

Catherine Shoard *Film
editor*

Sat 24 May 2025 20.47 CEST

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📷 Jafar Panahi with the Palme d'Or. Photograph: Natacha Pisarenko/Invision/AP