

News Digest

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The Brief Today's Headlines

01Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov declared at the UN Security Council that Moscow will not pause its military operation in Ukraine despite international pressure for a ceasefire.

02President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping centered their latest meeting on artificial intelligence superpower ambitions and agreed to extend their bilateral trade truce by two months.

03The White House is reportedly preparing a potential 90-day ban on diesel exports to address record-high domestic prices despite skepticism from the Energy Secretary.

04Romanian Prime Minister Siegfried Mureșan pledged no increases in taxes or VAT rates throughout his mandate as President Nicușor Dan reassured American investors in New York.

05Meta unveiled new VR glasses with a lighter form factor at Connect 2026 as Microsoft collaborated with law enforcement to dismantle a massive AI-powered phishing platform.

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Mureșan Promises No Tax Hikes as Dan Rules Out Parliament Dissolution

Romanian Prime Minister Siegfried Mureșan has presented the core lines of his government program, pledging no increases in taxes, duties, or VAT rates throughout his mandate. Following his election as the leader of the PNL party, Mureșan emphasized cooperation with USR and UDMR, who have confirmed support for his nomination. He aims to propose a reforming government with a clear pro-European agenda while engaging in dialogue with the PSD. Mureșan expects a civil discussion with PSD leader Sorin Grindeanu, framing it as a moment of truth regarding their European stance. Meanwhile, President Nicușor Dan stated he does not wish to dissolve Parliament even if Mureșan's government fails the vote of confidence. Dan expressed a desire to resolve the ongoing political crisis through negotiation between

parties rather than early elections. He highlighted the importance of closing the current crisis to ensure stability. Dan also discussed the possibility of increased US military presence in Romania during his recent engagements. The discussion underscores Romania's strategic location and importance in European security architecture. Defense companies like Rheinmetall were mentioned in the context of broader security discussions. The political standoff remains delicate as parties negotiate the final composition of the cabinet. Mureșan's administration plans a minimalist structure with only three vice-prime ministers. Focus will remain on streamlining state-owned companies and promoting Romanian businesses abroad. Energy and infrastructure investments are also prioritized in the new growth phase. The country seeks to move past recent economic instability through these measures. Both leaders signal a preference for stability over electoral uncertainty.

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Related Nicușor Dan Calms US Investors in New York Amid UN General Assembly

Nicușor Dan Calms US Investors in New York Amid UN General Assembly

Romanian President Nicușor Dan announced from New York that he successfully attempted to reassure American investors regarding Romania's political situation. During the 81st UN General Assembly, Dan explained the current political and economic context to financiers to maintain confidence. He stated he tried to explain to the American press why Romania remains an interesting investment destination. The meeting marked an important step for Romania's efforts to strengthen ties with the US and attract capital. Dan's visit coincided with the gathering of 130 state leaders in the US for the UN assembly. Global leaders discussed pressing issues including conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine. The meeting comes as the world order faces increasing pressure and the UN struggles to remain relevant. US President Donald Trump's presence was seen as a test of the UN's relevance given his previous reductions in contributions. The assembly also addressed the escalating conflict in Ukraine which has been ongoing for over four years. Artificial intelligence risks were another major topic warned by the UN Secretary-General. Dan accused Russia of deliberately renouncing its obligations as a UN Security Council member. He highlighted threats to Europe through hybrid wars including cyber attacks and disinformation. The Romanian government continues to struggle to form a new cabinet amidst these international engagements. Opposition parties criticized the initial announcement of a press conference that turned into limited interactions. Despite domestic challenges, Dan met with various international organizations and leaders including the UN Secretary-General. He presented the direct lines of the government's program for a PNL-USR-UDMR cabinet to international partners. The trip underscores Romania's active diplomatic role despite internal political friction.

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Lavrov Declares Russia Will Not Pause War in Ukraine at UN Security Council

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov stated at the UN Security Council that Russia will not pause its military operation in Ukraine. Despite international pressure for a ceasefire, Lavrov claimed Europe wants a ceasefire only to stock up on arms. He affirmed that Russia will continue what he referred to as "our operation" without interruption. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called on Moscow and Kyiv to agree on an energetic ceasefire. Rubio emphasized that such a ceasefire could serve as a platform for a broader agreement rather than ending the conflict immediately. Ukrainian President Volodimir Zelenski has requested a comprehensive or partial ceasefire which was rejected by the Kremlin. The Kremlin expressed a desire for a definitive ceasefire rather than an inutil one according to their statements. The situation remains tense with both sides unwilling to compromise on their demands. This standoff has significant implications for the ongoing conflict which has caused widespread destruction. The international community is watching closely to see if a breakthrough can be achieved. Winter months approaching add urgency to the humanitarian situation on the ground. Romania watches these developments closely due to its proximity to the conflict zone. Security implications for the Black Sea region remain a primary concern for Bucharest. NATO allies are coordinating responses to the continued aggression. The diplomatic stalemate at the UN highlights the difficulty of achieving peace through current channels. Regional stability depends heavily on the outcome of these high-level negotiations.

Sources Antena 3

Poland Modernizes Over 10,000 Cold War Shelters Amid Security Concerns

Poland plans to modernize and extend its network of anti-aircraft shelters to create a comprehensive protection system for its population. The government aims to upgrade the existing network of over 85,000 shelters which are deemed insufficient and outdated. Only a small fraction of these shelters currently offer high or moderate protection levels for the 38 million population. The plan includes adapting existing infrastructure such as metro stations and parking garages for civilian protection. Authorities intend to construct new shelters with a long-term goal of creating 32,000 new facilities. The program is financed through an €8 billion budget dedicated to civil defense improvements. Requirements for admissible shelters include equipment with basic supplies like water, food, and lighting. Authorities have distributed a manual to 17 million households providing instructions on responding to attacks. The Polish Ministry of Internal Affairs launched a mobile app to help people locate nearby shelters. Psychologists in cities like Cracovia have observed growing anxiety among patients about the possibility of war. This move reflects heightened security concerns in the region following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Romania monitors these developments as a fellow NATO member on the eastern flank. The initiative signals a shift towards preparing civilians for potential hybrid or conventional threats. Modernization efforts aim to close the significant gap in protection currently existing. The strategy emphasizes resilience alongside military deterrence measures. Civil defense is becoming a priority across neighboring states.

Sources Antena 3

EU Countries Issue Record 3.9 Million Residence Permits in 2025

EU countries issued a record number of 3.9 million residence permits in 2025 marking a significant increase. There was a 10.1% increase in the number of initial residence permits issued across the union last year. Spain was the leading country in terms of permits issued with over 635,000 permits mainly due to family reintegration. Employment was the most popular category accounting for 33.6% of the total with a 16.1% increase. The rise in family reunification permits was also significant with a 14.1% increase compared to previous years. This growth matters because it reflects the

increasing importance of family ties for immigrants in the EU. The numbers show that the EU's migration model is shifting towards family reunification and occupation. The fact that Spain was the leading country highlights its significant role in welcoming immigrants. Many permits in Spain were issued to citizens from Morocco making it a popular destination. The data highlights the EU's efforts to address the migration crisis with a humane approach. Romania as an EU member is part of this broader migration framework and policy shift. Integration efforts are becoming central to the union's strategy regarding third-country nationals. The statistics underscore the demographic challenges facing European labor markets. Policy makers are balancing border control with the need for workforce integration. The trend suggests continued mobility within and towards the European continent. Migration remains a key topic for EU internal policy discussions.

Sources Antena 3

Also in Romania

Olanda cere oficial de la UE protecție pentru Curtea de la Haga. Curtea Penală Internațională este atacată de Donald Trump

<https://www.antena3.ro/externe/olanda-cere-oficial-de-la-ue-protectie-pentru-curtea-de-la-haga...>

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<https://hotnews.ro/harvey-weinstein-catre-judecatorul-care-a-pronuntat-o-noua-condamnare-dati-...>

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Marea Britanie va crea un centru național pentru combaterea dezinformării, a deepfake-urilor și a atacurilor informaționale din partea statelor ostile, în special a Rusiei. Structura va coordona serviciile de informații, autoritățile și platformele online pentru protejarea securității informaționale.

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Prima întâlnire la nivel înalt între Polonia și Belarus, în ultimii 10 ani, are loc la ONU: "Inaugurăm noua ambasadă la Minsk"

<https://www.antena3.ro/externe/prima-intalnire-la-nivel-inalt-intre-polonia-si-belarus-in-ulti...>

Războiul se mută pe orbită. Marea Britanie înființează o escadrilă spațială militară ca să își apere sateliții de atacurile Rusiei

Meta Unveils VR Glasses and Upgrades Muse AI at Connect 2026

Meta Connect 2026 marked a significant pivot for the company, emphasizing lighter hardware and deeper AI integration. The headline announcement was the Meta VR Glasses, a new form factor designed to be more approachable than traditional headsets. Unlike previous bulky devices, these glasses feature a magnesium alloy frame and separate computing puck to reduce weight. They boast a 5K MicroOLED display with a 120Hz refresh rate per eye. Pricing is set at \$1,299.99 with availability expected in spring 2027. Alongside hardware, Meta upgraded its Muse AI agent with video calling and computer control capabilities. Muse will now have dedicated email addresses and can interact via live video avatars. The device focuses heavily on entertainment, partnering with Disney for IMAX-compatible 3D movies. Mark Zuckerberg positioned this as a breakthrough for mainstream virtual reality adoption. However, the event also faced scrutiny over privacy, with rumors of camera-free glasses to address recording concerns. This launch competes directly with similar efforts from Google and Snap in the augmented reality space. The integration of Meta AI allows for voice and hand gesture commands within the ecosystem. Overall, the strategy balances immersion with convenience to attract broader consumer interest. Investors and analysts are watching closely to see if this form factor succeeds where others struggled. The glasses will support over 75 games at launch to ensure immediate content availability. This comprehensive update signals Meta's long-term commitment to the metaverse vision despite past hurdles.

Sources The Verge TechCrunch The Verge The Verge

Microsoft Disrupts AI-Powered Phishing Platform Amid Security Shift

The cybersecurity landscape is undergoing a rapid transformation driven by artificial intelligence, evidenced by both offensive threats and defensive investments. Microsoft recently collaborated with international law enforcement to dismantle EvilTokens, a massive AI-powered phishing-as-a-service platform. This platform utilized AI to tailor phishing lures and analyze compromised inboxes for high-value targets. It had compromised over 12,000 inboxes across 10,000 organizations before being disrupted. Simultaneously, venture capital is flooding into AI-native security startups as the old security model breaks down. Investors are placing nine-figure bets on companies like Instinct and Simile that promise automated defense against rogue agents. Industry leaders argue that periodic human-in-the-loop security can no longer keep pace with evolving threats. The disruption of EvilTokens highlights the dangerous combination of stolen access and sophisticated AI tools. Microsoft's Digital Crimes Unit worked with partners like Cloudflare and Coinbase to seize domains and arrest suspects. This dual trend of AI-powered crime and AI-powered defense defines the current security posture. Organizations are urged to share intelligence and adopt advanced measures to mitigate these risks. The shift suggests a fundamental change in how security operations are funded and executed. The platform's capabilities were sold through Telegram for a significant initiation fee and recurring subscription. Arrests were made in the United Kingdom following the coordinated takedown effort. This event serves as an early warning of what happens when cybercriminals combine these elements.

Sources Slashdot TechCrunch

Trump Proposes Renaming AI 'Super Intelligence' at UN

Political rhetoric surrounding artificial intelligence took a unusual turn at the United Nations this week. US President Trump addressed the assembly and introduced the term super intelligence to describe AI systems. He claimed this terminology was more accurate and fitting for the technology's potential impact. The administration stated the US would lead the world in this sector while encouraging responsible development. This statement matters because it signals a specific governance stance from the White House regarding AI ethics. Experts note that super intelligence is not a widely accepted scientific term and may be misleading. The comment sparked controversy among observers concerned about the ethics of developing such systems. It raises questions about how government documents will classify and regulate these technologies moving forward. This aligns with broader debates about renaming or reframing AI to influence public perception. The administration's focus on encouragement rather than control contrasts with other global regulatory efforts. Critics worry this approach might minimize necessary safety precautions in favor of rapid deployment. The speech underscores the growing intersection of political strategy and technological definition. Trump stated that the US will be careful and responsible in its use of these systems. The location of the announcement was the United Nations headquarters in New York. This move could impact international cooperation on AI safety standards.

Sources Slashdot

Biotech Startup Enveda Raises \$311M for AI-Discovered Drugs

Biotechnology continues to leverage artificial intelligence for breakthroughs in drug discovery and development. Enveda, a startup focused on nature-derived medicines, has secured \$311 million in Series E funding. This investment values the company at \$2 billion, doubling its valuation from just twelve months ago. The firm uses AI to identify powerful medicines from plants and microbes rather than relying on lab-synthesized drugs. Several of their candidates are already advancing to human clinical trials despite no AI drug being FDA-approved yet. Current tests include treatments for severe skin conditions and weight loss maintenance. The funding was led by Catalio Capital Management with participation from Iconiq and other investors. Enveda aims to reduce the time and cost associated with developing new medicines through this approach. This success highlights the growing importance of AI in the pharmaceutical industry beyond software applications. The company plans to accelerate the development of these nature-based medicines with the new capital. Founder Viswa Colluru established the company in 2019 with this specific mission in mind. It represents a promising avenue for reducing reliance on traditional synthetic chemistry. The company is part of the growing wave of AI-discovered candidates advancing to human clinical trials. Enveda is currently testing several drugs including one for severe skin conditions. With this funding Enveda can further accelerate its mission to accelerate the development of new nature-based medicines.

Sources TechCrunch

DHS Misses Deadline for ICE Body Camera Rollout

Accountability concerns have resurfaced following the Department of Homeland Security's failure to meet a key deadline. The agency missed the end of August target for implementing body cameras for Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers. Despite assurances from DHS Secretary Markwayne Mullin, the rollout remains incomplete as of late

September. The delay is officially attributed to a lack of funding despite ICE being one of the most well-funded law enforcement agencies. Previous policies favored withholding footage even in cases of significant public interest. This pattern is seen as a continuation of moving backwards on transparency and accountability measures. Tom Homan's recusal has allowed Mullin to deliver vague updates on the situation without direct scrutiny. Records indicate Motorola has spent millions lobbying to influence DHS policy regarding the equipment. The lack of clarity has left agency insiders and the public confused about oversight mechanisms. Critics argue this delay impacts public trust regarding accusations of police violence and mass deportation. The situation complicates efforts to monitor officer behavior during enforcement operations. It remains unclear when the full rollout will finally be completed. The delay has significant implications for public trust and oversight of ICE. ICE had previously installed a footage release policy that favored withholding footage. The lack of clarity and transparency from DHS officials has left many inside the agency confused.

Sources Techdirt

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<https://news.slashdot.org/story/26/09/23/0625203/andreessen-horowitz-launches-aicompany-buildi...>

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Former Amazon and Opendoor leaders raise \$3M to give every key business metric its own AI agent

<https://www.geekwire.com/2026/former-amazon-and-opendoor-leaders-raise-3m-to-give-every-key-bu...>

Even Americans who use AI every day are worried about it

<https://techcrunch.com/2026/09/23/even-americans-who-use-ai-every-day-are-worried-about-it/>

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CFTC Chair Pushes Tokenization As SEC Opens Door To Onchain Stocks

US Commodity Futures Trading Commission Chair Michael Selig is warning financial markets to prepare for mass tokenization. Selig believes this shift could become the foundation of a more efficient financial system overall. Tokenization of real-world assets can enable near-instant settlement and real-time collateral movement. This advancement would significantly advance the current financial system infrastructure. Key people involved include Selig and Jamie Selway, Director of the SEC's Division of Trading and Markets. Organizations involved include the CFTC, the SEC, and broader financial markets. The development of tokenized markets is a significant matter for the industry. It could transform the way assets are traded and settled globally. The CFTC has already submitted a regulatory action covering crypto asset transactions for White House review. The SEC has also granted a temporary Innovation Exemption for tokenized US stock trading. This allows certain platforms to trade digital versions of US-listed stocks under certain conditions. Tokenization and onchain markets could enable faster, more efficient, and more secure financial transactions. This could have a significant impact on the global financial system. The development of these markets is likely to be a bipartisan effort. Both the CFTC and SEC are promoting their development actively. Investors are watching closely for further regulatory clarity. The move signals a major shift in how traditional finance views digital assets. Market participants are advised to prepare for these structural changes. The collaboration between agencies suggests a unified approach to oversight. This initiative marks a pivotal moment for asset tokenization in the United States.

Sources ZeroHedge

Scott Bessent says the US and China are giving their trade truce 2 more months

The US and China have agreed to extend their trade truce from November 10 to January 10. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced the extension following a meeting in Washington. Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng attended the meeting alongside Bessent. The announcement coincided with Chinese leader Xi Jinping's state visit to the US. The two-month extension could lead to a broader deal between the two countries. Bessent stated that the extra time may allow for more significant deliverables from the Chinese side. He also expressed expectations that Xi's visit could bring announcements on Chinese purchases of American farm products. Financial services are also expected to be part of the potential agreements. The two sides are also set to discuss lower tariffs on selected goods. A system for sharing alerts about serious AI-related security incidents is also on the table. The extension is seen as a temporary reprieve for trade tensions between the two countries. It allows for further negotiations and potentially a more comprehensive agreement. The US and China are both major economies impacting global trade. A successful trade deal would be a significant

development for global trade stability. The extension also comes as Xi Jinping's state visit aims to strengthen bilateral relations. Cooperation between the two countries is being promoted through these talks. The outcome of the extension and potential deal is still uncertain. It is seen as a positive development for trade relations between the US and China. Markets are reacting positively to the news of the extension. Investors are hopeful for reduced tariffs and increased commerce.

Sources Business Insider

US Diesel Craters, EU Prices Skyrocket As Politico Reports White House Preparing Plan For 90-Day Export Ban

The White House is reportedly preparing a potential 90-day ban on diesel exports. This proposal has been met with skepticism from the US Energy Secretary, Chris Wright. Wright has stated that the measure definitely does not work effectively. The ban is seen as an attempt to address record-high diesel prices at the pump. Some analysts are warning that it could exacerbate the issue and create a bigger supply-squeeze later. The proposal is being pushed by President Trump and some top Republicans. Top desks on Wall Street have warned that it is a terrible idea. They suggest it could lead to higher prices around the world. The US Energy Secretary's comments have put him at odds with the President. The President has signaled support for the idea despite the warnings. A ban on diesel exports could lead to reduced refinery runs. It could also cause global economic damage. There is even a risk of higher US prices domestically. The US is the main overseas supplier of diesel globally. An export ban could remove the single largest source of global diesel from the market. The consequences of such a ban could be catastrophic for supply chains. Distillate stocks are currently at seasonally record lows. There is a risk of reduced refinery runs and global economic damage. The proposal remains under discussion within the administration. Its legal framework is currently unresolved.

Sources ZeroHedge

Related Trump Meets Venezuela's Rodriguez In New York

More US Homebuyers Apply For Riskier Mortgages As Interest Rates Top 7%

Higher interest rates have led to a decline in mortgage applications recently. The total volume of mortgage applications fell almost 2% for the week ending September 18. This decline is the third consecutive weekly drop in application volume. Applications for purchase loans fell 1% during the period. Refinancing applications are also decreasing alongside purchase loans. The increase in interest rates has led borrowers to opt for riskier adjustable-rate mortgages. The ARM share reached 9.8% of the market. The average contract interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages rose to 7.12%. This is the highest rate since May 2024. This trend is linked to the sharp increase in interest rates recently. Rates have been driven by global energy markets and inflation data. The Federal Reserve's next policy decision is expected to be influenced by these factors. The Cleveland Fed projects annual headline consumer inflation will jump to 3.5%. Core inflation is expected to hold steady despite the headline jump. Investors are currently leaning towards another quarter-point rate hike at the October Federal Open Market Committee policy meeting. Homebuyers are feeling the pressure of the rising costs. The shift to ARMs indicates a willingness to take on more risk. Lenders are monitoring the

situation closely for defaults. The housing market remains sensitive to Fed policy changes. Economic indicators suggest continued volatility in the sector.

Sources ZeroHedge

Trump Meets Venezuela's Rodriguez In New York

President Donald Trump and Venezuela's interim President Delcy Rodriguez met on the sidelines of a United Nations reception. This marked their first face-to-face talks since American forces seized then-President Nicolas Maduro in January. The meeting took place at Trump's U.N. General Assembly reception in New York. It was attended by State Secretary Marco Rubio and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent. White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles and Stephen Miller were also present. Rodriguez expressed gratitude for Trump's administration's support during the emergency caused by the earthquakes in June. She also thanked them for backing Venezuela's reintegration into multilateral forums. The two leaders discussed strengthening the bilateral relationship significantly. They aimed at advancing cooperation in areas such as energy and mining. Security and other mutual interests were also on the agenda. This meeting matters as it represents a significant development in the deteriorating relationship between the US and Venezuela. Trump's administration has taken a hardline stance on Maduro previously. The meeting also highlights Trump's efforts to capitalize on the situation to achieve his goals. This includes a \$100 billion investment in Venezuela's oil industry. Venezuela's participation in international forums is also a key aspect of the meeting. Rodriguez's visit to the US is her first since taking office. The meeting comes ahead of Rodriguez's address to the General Assembly on Wednesday. Oil markets are watching for details on the investment plans. The geopolitical shift could stabilize regional energy supplies. Diplomatic channels are reopening after a period of tension.

Sources ZeroHedge

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Authorities are investigating Comma AI's hands-off driving tech after fatal crashes

<https://www.businessinsider.com/comma-ai-driving-tech-faces-federal-probe-after-fatal-crashes-2026-9>

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General 5 dispatches . 5 in brief

Man Utd Debt Tops £1bn Amid Stadium Spend

Manchester United has confirmed a significant financial milestone that has alarmed supporters. The club revealed it has spent £63.5m of an additional \$125m on their new stadium project. This expenditure brings their total debt to over £1bn, a figure that dominates current discussions. The overall debt is now comprised of £577.6m in historic debt. Additionally, there is £111.4m outstanding on its revolving credit facility. Another £473m is owed to trade and other payables, completing the financial picture. This move has sparked anger among fans who feel the club has not invested enough in the first-team squad. Supporters are particularly concerned about the lack of investment in left-backs to provide competition for Luke Shaw. Despite spending £148m on three new signings, the club's squad spending is lower than rivals. Manchester City and Ipswich invested £458m and £473m respectively, overshadowing United's efforts. Chief executive Omar Berrada has defended the club's financial approach vigorously. He says the current strategy is necessary for long-term sustainability. The club has also been criticized for its lack of investment in the Women's Super League squad. The women's team currently sit second bottom of the table, highlighting the disparity. This decision may have implications for the club's long-term financial health and ability to compete.

UK Military Jamming Satellites to Defend Against Threats

The British military has been using a ground-based system to jam or block satellites from other countries. This capability is designed to defend itself against hostile threats in the space domain. The system, used by the Royal Air Force, has been in place for the past year. It has already been used to deter adversaries according to recent reports. The UK's Ministry of Defence has set up a new Space Effects Squadron to protect British satellites. These satellites provide essential services such as weather forecasts, navigation, and financial transactions. Defence Secretary Wes Streeting warned of the growing threat from Britain's adversaries in space. He cited the loss of satellites as a potential threat to the UK economy. The UK is not alone in using ground-based systems against satellites. Several other nations are believed to have similar capabilities in operation. The move has been condemned by China and Russia, who fear an arms race in space. The US has also deployed an unspecified weapon in space to defend its own satellites. The UK's system is considered world leading by defence analysts. The UK's dependence on space-based technologies makes it vulnerable to disruption. The growing threat in space poses a significant challenge to global security and stability.

AI Superpower Ambitions Take Centre Stage at Trump-Xi Meet

Artificial intelligence superpower ambitions have taken centre stage as Donald Trump and Xi Jinping meet. The main event is the rapid development and release of new AI models by Chinese companies. This progress continues despite chip restrictions imposed by Western nations. Chinese models are becoming increasingly competitive with US models in key benchmarks. Key players involved include Chinese AI industry leaders such as Moonshot AI. Chinese companies are releasing open weight models that can be downloaded and tweaked. This contrasts with US firms which focus primarily on proprietary models. The Chinese approach is allowing them to deploy AI technology across their economy rapidly. This gives them significant economic and geopolitical leverage on the global stage. Meanwhile, the heads of OpenAI, Anthropic, and Hugging Face have called for international coordination. They cite a need for common risk evaluation standards to manage development safely. The call comes after a key technology advisor to US President Donald Trump rejected the idea of AI regulation. Sam Altman of OpenAI expressed a different view regarding the industry's future. He stated that AI should be developed for the collective good and that countries should work together. This development has significant implications for the global economy and geopolitics moving forward.

Residents in Russian-Occupied City Cut Off From Food and Burials

Residents are eating garden weeds in a Russian-occupied city cut off from food and water. The Russian occupation authorities in Oleshky, Ukraine, have restricted the burial of bodies. This applies to people killed by drones, landmines, or other means of violence. These restrictions make it difficult to count the dead in the region accurately. Residents, including Tetiana and Ksenia Arkhipova, have reported severe hardships. They state that only bodies dying of natural

causes can be buried currently. This policy is leading to a backlog of unburied bodies in the city. The authorities' demands for post-mortem examinations by Russian doctors are impossible to fulfill. As a result, some bodies have been left on the streets since December. Others are being stored in the local hospital morgue without power. The situation has been worsened by stray dogs eating the unburied bodies. The charity Humanity assists people in Oleshky and the Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine. They have described this situation as a tool of psychological pressure to intimidate residents. The restrictions matter because they highlight the inhumane treatment of civilians in occupied territories. This underscores the need for international pressure on the Russian authorities to respect human rights.

Sources BBC News

Ronaldo Extends Career Chasing 1,000 Goals and Portugal Glory

Cristiano Ronaldo has revealed that he considered retiring from international football recently. He thought about stopping after the 2026 World Cup but changed his mind. He has instead decided to extend his career to help Portugal reach further success. The 41-year-old forward has targeted 1,000 career goals as a personal milestone. He has been included in Jorge Jesus' 25-man squad for the Nations League campaign. Ronaldo believes he can still make a significant impact for the national team. He has spoken with the president and coach about his future plans. Portugal is seeking a third Nations League title in the upcoming competition. The team is set to face Wales in Lisbon on Thursday night. Ronaldo's inclusion in the squad has sparked excitement among fans globally. Supporters are eager to see him continue to contribute to the team's success. With two Nations League titles already under his belt, Ronaldo is aiming to add a third. The former Manchester United, Real Madrid, and Juventus player is close to his goal tally. Ronaldo's decision to continue playing matters for his personal ambitions and team inspiration. His continued involvement with the team will undoubtedly be closely watched by fans and pundits.

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The Pope's AI Guy Is Worried About 'Cartel' Behavior Among Big Labs

Researchers and experts are increasingly concerned about the rapid development of artificial intelligence. There is a specific fear that AI could surpass human intelligence and pose an existential threat to humanity. Father Paolo Benanti, a Catholic priest advising the Church on AI, is voicing strong warnings about the current industry focus. He argues that the intense focus on superintelligence distracts from the need for open debate. This debate should center on how to properly constrain AI development moving forward. Benanti asserts that ethics cannot be left solely to technology companies to decide. Instead, he believes that ethical considerations should be part of a broader public debate. Democratic regulation is identified as a necessary component of this framework. In contrast, Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei has called for mandatory third-party evaluations of AI systems. Amodei has also suggested a crackdown on distillation, a process used by rival labs to train their own models. Benanti disagrees with these specific restrictions on methods. He fears that such restrictions could stifle innovation within the sector. Instead, he advocates for establishing standards to ensure proper control mechanisms are in place. He criticizes the AI industry's reverence for superintelligence as problematic. Benanti frames this focus as a cartel behavior that skews the discourse. This cartel-like behavior ignores the fundamental need for public debate. Benanti believes that AI development requires a new role for religions in public debate. He emphasizes that these issues are a matter of mathematics, not faith. The development of AI has the potential to impact future generations significantly, and Benanti's warnings highlight the need for a more nuanced and public conversation about its development.