

BBC NEWS

September 16, 2026

BBC News with Chris Barrow.

The boss of a leading artificial intelligence company Open AI has said the world should trust his industry's ability to do the right thing amid persistent concerns it's developing too quickly. Sam Altman said AI models have become so intelligent that a reset was now required. In recent months AI agents have escaped from test environments to hack other companies.

Some of Mr. Altman's rivals say greater regulation is now necessary but Jensen Huang, chief executive of the AI chipmaker NVIDIA, said tech companies should self-regulate. "The market forces are already there. We don't need any new laws, we don't need new regulations, we just need companies to decide that when it's, you know, run as fast as they can I think innovation, speed and safe products are not, it's a false choice. You could definitely have both at the same time, so run as fast as you can but if you feel at any given point in time, the company's out of control or the products not gonna be safe, you know, take a pause and make sure you get it right."

The U.S. Defense Department says the war with Iran has led to "shortfalls" in munitions and a bottleneck in resupply. A new report says the Pentagon is now working to streamline procurement and production to address the shortages. From Washington, our chief North America correspondent Gary O'Donoghue reports.

The inspector general says more than \$22 billion was spent on munitions alone in the first four months of the war. Just weeks ago, President Trump insisted the United States had massive quantities of munitions and was producing weapons at unprecedented rates.

The report also details nearly \$200 million of damage done to diplomatic facilities across the region.

Coming on top of recent comments from the acting Navy secretary who said the headquarters of the Fifth Fleet in Bahrain had been blown to hell.

A Republican lawmaker, Thomas Massie, has initiated an impeachment process in the United States Congress which could lead to a vote over the removal from office of the Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. Our State Department correspondent Tom Bateman explains.

The Republican lawmaker, a frequent thorn in the side of the Trump administration, accuses the defense secretary of launching four unauthorized wars or military operations in Iran, Venezuela, Yemen and the Caribbean Sea. He accuses Mr. Hegseth of the systematic removal of safeguards at the Pentagon meant to protect civilians, alleging he thereby affected the murder of civilians in the Minab school strike in Iran which killed around 120 children, according to Iranian reports.

The impeachment resolution is unlikely to pass but the maneuver could force a vote in the chamber that could be difficult for some of his fellow Republicans before November's midterm elections.

In response, the Pentagon described Mr. Hegseth as "a transformative leader."

This is the world news from the BBC.

The U.S. secretary of state has announced visa restrictions for South Africans responsible for race-based discrimination. Marco Rubio said the South African government had failed to address U.S. concerns that the white minority was being targeted.

Last year, President Trump ordered a halt to U.S. aid to South Africa and the creation of a dedicated refugee scheme prioritizing white Afrikaners after he alleged they faced a white genocide. There's little evidence to justify such claims.

President Zelenskyy has urged Ukraine's Parliament to support seven forthcoming bills needed to finance the state budget deficit. The country is facing a gap in military funding alone of almost \$27 billion.

The United Nations Security Council has held an emergency meeting on Yemen where the Houthi militia has seized territory and consolidated its control of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. The Iran-backed Houthis have said they'll target Saudi-connected shipping in retaliation for attacks by Riyadh on Houthi-controlled territory. From New York, Nada Tawfiq reports.

This is the second time the U.N. Security Council has met in the last week on Yemen as renewed fighting there escalates. The U.N. official Khaled Khiari told the emergency meeting that commercial shipping through the Red Sea appeared to remain unaffected for the time being. But the Houthi advance had added to market concerns given the disruption in the Strait of Hormuz.

Council members all agreed that freedom of navigation must be maintained to prevent disruption to global supply chains and a rise in prices of food, fuel and medicine worldwide.

The Argentine Football Association says Lionel Messi has been called up for a farewell appearance in a home international next month. The striker announced his retirement from international football following Argentina's defeat in the World Cup final in July. But the AFA is keen that home fans can show their appreciation for Messi.

And that's the latest BBC News.