

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Anadolu via Getty Images

Israel said it would resume aid deliveries to **Gaza** and that it would return to observing the ceasefire in the territory. Earlier Israel suspended aid and launched air strikes that killed 26 people, after accusing Hamas of firing on its troops and killing two soldiers. Hamas and Israel have repeatedly accused each other of breaching the [ceasefire](#) since it began on October 10th. But both sides are still saying that they want it to continue.

China's [growth](#) slowed to 4.8% in the third quarter, compared with a year earlier—the weakest pace in a year. A crackdown on excess capacity and a prolonged property slump have weighed on demand. Meanwhile, the country's rulers gathered for the Communist Party's "fourth plenum", during which they will review a new five-year plan.

Rodrigo Paz, a centrist senator, won **Bolivia's** presidency. He defeated Jorge Quiroga, a conservative former president, in a run-off by 55% to 46%. The election marks an end to nearly two decades of rule by [the left-wing Movimiento al Socialismo](#), which has suffered from economic mismanagement and infighting. The MAS won just over 3% of the vote in the first round in August.

Kering, a luxury conglomerate that owns Gucci, announced it would sell its beauty division to **L'Oréal**, the world's biggest beauty company, for €4bn (\$4.66bn). The deal would be one of Kering's first big restructurings since Luca de Meo, a former boss of Renault, a carmaker, took the helm in September. Mr de Meo is [trying to raise profits](#) at the underperforming group.

[Takaichi Sanae](#), the new leader of **Japan's** ruling Liberal Democratic Party, is set to become prime minister in a parliamentary vote on October 21st after her party secured a new coalition partner, the centre-right Japan Innovation Party. The LDP's former partner, Komeito, [exited their coalition](#) on October 10th, citing concerns about Ms Takaichi's hardline conservatism.

Pete Hegseth, **America's** secretary of war, said that the armed forces struck an alleged **drug-smuggling boat** on Friday, killing three people—America's [seventh such strike](#) since September. Mr Hegseth claimed that the ship was linked to a Colombian armed group. Separately, Donald Trump threatened to cut funding to Colombia and accused its left-wing president, Gustavo Petro, of being an “illegal drug leader”.

A manhunt is under way for masked thieves who stole nine pieces of jewellery from the Apollo Gallery in the **Louvre Museum**, which has housed what remains of France's crown jewels since 1887. The heist took place shortly after [the museum](#) opened on Sunday morning; it closed thereafter. France's interior minister, Laurent Nuñez, said that the stolen objects are “priceless”.

Figure of the day: 0.4%, the share of Ukrainian territory that Russia has seized since it launched a big offensive in May. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Getty Images

China's rulers set out their plans

China's ruling elite (diminished by a recent purge of several generals for lack of loyalty and "chastity") are gathering in Beijing on Monday for the Communist Party's "fourth plenum". The meeting will review a draft of the next five-year plan. China's leaders must decide whether to set a formal growth target for the economy from 2026 to 2030.

Meanwhile, the [economy](#) must get through the rest of this year. Figures released on Monday showed that China's growth slowed to 4.8% in the third quarter, compared with a year earlier. The government's campaign against overcapacity, aimed at improving the allocation of capital, seems to have stunted the flow of investment, which fell by around 7% year-on-year in September. Although surprisingly strong exports have helped fill the gap, even this source of growth cannot be taken for granted, given renewed trade tensions with America. The next five years may get off to a slow start.



Photograph: Alamy

Australia's prime minister meets Donald Trump

On Monday Donald Trump will meet Anthony Albanese, Australia's prime minister, in Washington. America has been conducting a review of AUKUS, a submarine-building pact with Australia and Britain that was signed under Joe Biden. Under the deal America is expected to sell as many as five nuclear-powered submarines to Australia. Mr Trump is expected to confirm his support for the project at his meeting with Mr Albanese.

In return, Mr Albanese is making promises of his own. He is expected to offer supplies of critical minerals to America and encourage Australian pension funds to invest in America. He has also pledged to [increase defence spending](#).

The two will also discuss China. Mr Albanese has been resisting the spread of Chinese influence in the Pacific. Australia has signed a series of treaties with Pacific-island countries to stop China from gaining access to their territory or critical infrastructure. The latest, between Australia and Papua New Guinea, is Asia's [first new military alliance](#) since the cold war.



Photograph: Getty Images

Gaza's ceasefire hangs in the balance

As expected, making sure that Donald Trump's ceasefire deal holds in Gaza is [proving to be the hard part](#). On Saturday America's State Department warned of "an imminent ceasefire violation by Hamas against the people of Gaza". The details are unclear. But the statement suggests that America is losing patience with Hamas. The group has been reasserting control of Gaza by hunting down its rivals—a campaign that on Tuesday Donald Trump all but endorsed. A foreign peacekeeping force is probably still months away from being deployed to Gaza.

Meanwhile Hamas continues to return the bodies of hostages who died in captivity in Gaza. It returned two on Saturday night. Hamas told mediators that it may take time to find the 16 remaining bodies, but Israeli officials accuse it of violating the agreement. Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, said on Saturday that the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt would remain closed until Hamas fulfils its obligations.



Photograph: Kay Nietfeld/dpa

No end in sight for America's government shutdown

On Monday the [shutdown](#) of America's government is set to become the third-longest in history. But neither side is bending. Democrats in the Senate have voted for the tenth time to reject a short-term spending bill to fund the government. Democrats insist they will not budge until Republicans agree to continue tax credits that have expanded health-care coverage.

So the Trump administration is looking for ways to apply extra pressure on Democratic lawmakers. On October 15th it made sure that 1.2m members of the armed forces received their pay checks despite the shutdown, closing off one line of attack for Democrats. The administration has fired 4,100 federal employees and plans to slash at least 10,000 government jobs overall. But such threats have hardened Democrats' positions. Expect plenty more votes in the days ahead. They are unlikely to end the shutdown.



Illustration: The Economist

Daily quiz

We will serve you a new question each weekday. On Friday your challenge is to give us all five answers and tell us the theme. Email your responses (and your home city and country) by 1700 BST on **Friday** to [\[email protected\]](#). We'll pick three winners at random and crown them on Saturday.

Monday: Which veteran singer shares his name with an 18th century novel by Henry Fielding?

Architecture aims at eternity.

Sir Christopher Wren