

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Getty Images

**Israel's** army launched its ground offensive into **Gaza city**, with reports of tanks entering the city. "Gaza is burning," said Israel's defence minister after an aerial bombardment overnight. Scores of Palestinians were reportedly killed. The UN Human Rights Council said on Tuesday that Israel is committing [genocide](#) against Palestinians. Earlier, Marco Rubio, America's secretary of state, who is visiting Israel, gave the country his full support.

A **federal appeals court** ensured that [Lisa Cook](#) would remain in place for the Federal Reserve's meeting. A judge rejected the Trump administration's attempt to fire the central bank governor for alleged mortgage fraud. It may now appeal to the Supreme Court. The Fed is expected to cut interest rates at the meeting.

**Gold** prices reached a new record of close to \$3,700 per ounce on Tuesday. The weaker dollar contributed to the [surge](#); analysts expect the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates on Wednesday. More than a dozen other central banks will also make monetary-policy decisions this week, including the Bank of England and the Bank of Japan.

**China's** coastguard fired a water cannon at more than ten Philippine ships in the **Scarborough Shoal**, a contested waterway

in the [South China Sea](#). A spokesperson for the Philippine coastguard said the incident caused “significant damage” to a vessel and left one person injured. In 2016 the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague rejected Beijing’s claim to the disputed region.

**Donald Trump** announced that American armed forces had destroyed a boat that he claimed was trafficking **drugs** from **Venezuela**. The blast killed three people. Mr Trump ordered a similar strike two weeks ago on another Venezuelan vessel, killing 11. He again described drug-gang members as “terrorists”, a [legally dubious designation](#), and argued they threaten American security.

Mr Trump is suing the ***New York Times*** and Penguin Random House for \$15bn, alleging defamation. He cited an article in the *Times* that appeared before the presidential election that called him unfit for office, and a book published by Penguin titled “Lucky Loser”. The president recently threatened to sue the newspaper for reporting that linked him to [Jeffrey Epstein](#), a dead sex offender.

Japan’s **Nikkei 225** share index topped 45,000 for the first time when it opened on Tuesday. AI-related investments, as well as the widely expected rate cut in America, contributed to the surge. Meanwhile, a lowering of tariffs on [Japanese car exports](#) to America, from 27.5% to 15%, will also take effect on Tuesday.

**Figure of the day:** 36%, the share of children in South Africa who live with their biological dads (31% for black children). [Read the full story](#).



Photograph: Reuters

## Britain pulls out the stops for Donald Trump

Britain will put on a show to [greet President Donald Trump](#) and his wife, Melania, on Tuesday. The couple will stay at Windsor Castle, where they will be treated to a carriage procession escorted by mounted cavalry and three military bands, a flypast by British and American jets, and a grand state banquet.

Sir Keir Starmer, the prime minister, hopes to appeal to Mr Trump's fascination with the royal family in order to warm the president to his left-wing government. In his first visit to the Oval Office in February, Sir Keir whipped out an invitation from King Charles for an "unprecedented" second state visit by an American president. "This is really special," he gushed. It has paid off. Britain—a mid-sized power with diminished armed forces and a stagnant economy—was the first country to [secure a partial carve-out](#) from Mr Trump's tariff programme. And amid the pomp, the visit will see the announcement of hefty American investment in nuclear power and artificial intelligence.



Photograph: Getty Images

## Judging Charlie Kirk's killer

On Tuesday state prosecutors in Utah intend to charge Tyler Robinson with the [murder of Charlie Kirk](#). They have yet to spell out the suspect's motive; Utah's governor, Spencer Cox, has described him as having been "deeply indoctrinated by leftist ideology". The 22-year-old had been living with a trans partner. He may have been angered by [Kirk's denunciations of gender ideology](#). Inscribed on the bullet casings were glib anti-fascist messages and video-game slang. Mr Cox attributed the suspect's radicalisation to the "deep, dark internet" and the "meme-ification" of society.

In Washington, DC anger mixes with fear and grief. Donald Trump has [blamed the murder](#) on leftist "lunatics" who "don't play fair", rather than on a lone lunatic. Lawmakers, worried about their own safety, want a bigger budget for personal security. On Sunday the MAGA elite, including the president, will attend Kirk's funeral in Arizona, in a 63,000-seat arena.



Photograph: AP

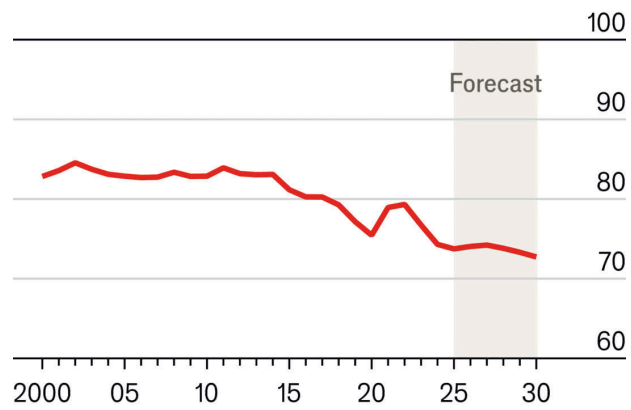
## Tariffs weigh on Canada

Canada's economy is not yet in a recession, but anxiety about it has certainly reached its boardrooms, factory floors and political arenas. President [Donald Trump's punishing tariffs](#) of 50% on steel, aluminium and copper, as well as duties of 25% on imported cars, have hobbled exports to America. These accounted for more than three-quarters of what Canada sent abroad last year. To buoy the economy, Mark Carney, Canada's prime minister, announced a C\$5bn (\$3.6bn) programme to support industries and workers affected by the Trump tariffs.

But GDP growth has been worryingly weak. In the second quarter, the economy contracted by an annualised 1.6%, more than expected. And the unemployment rate climbed to 7.1% in August. Economists are predicting tame inflation for the fifth consecutive month when figures for August are released on Tuesday. A day later the Bank of Canada is expected to cut interest rates from 2.75% to 2.5%.

## Moose trap

Canada, GDP per person relative to the US\*  
US=100



\*At purchasing-power parity  
Source: IMF



Photograph: AP

## Malawi goes back to the future

In 2020 Malawians protested against rigged elections the year before, in which the then incumbent president, Peter Mutharika, claimed victory. The demonstrators eventually got their wish: the election was run again and Lazarus Chakwera, a preacher-turned-politician, became president. But Mr Mutharika is back. When the southern African country votes again on Tuesday, the 85 year old is expected to beat Mr Chakwera and return to office.

What happened? Mr Chakwera had faced a series of misfortunes: his vice president died in a plane crash in 2024; the country, which is reliant on imports for food and fuel, has suffered from rising global prices. But the president also failed to fulfil his promise to tackle corruption or deliver political change. Voters will probably show their frustration at the ballot box. Mr Mutharika's potential return underscores how the country has struggled to strengthen the state and produce better leaders.





Photograph: eyevine

## Do we need more recipes?

In 2017 Samin Nosrat published a radical cookbook. It raged against recipes; instead, it offered broader lessons on how to combine ingredients. “Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat” was a hit. It sold 1.5m copies in America and spawned a Netflix series; *Time*, a magazine, named Ms Nosrat one of the 100 most influential people of the year.

In the years that followed the Persian-American author struggled through a period of burn-out. Now she is back. Her second book, “Good Things”, is released on Tuesday. Those expecting her to shake up dinnertime again will be disappointed. “Good Things” contains recipes and glossy photos. It focuses on all-American staples: one chapter offers “seven versatile dressings”; the book’s dishes include roast chicken and banana bread. Ms Nosrat now argues that recipes are not the problem, but rather their “mindless” following. [Mastering the basics](#) is her way of regaining confidence in cooking—and joy in life. That, she says, is her recipe.





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.

**Tuesday:** Which author is best known for his book “Dracula”, published in 1897?

**Monday:** Which poet wrote “The Second Coming” with the lines “Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold”?

*The beautiful thing about learning  
is nobody can take it away from  
you.*

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***B. B. King***