

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: AFP

Israel's bombardment of Gaza city continued apace, as **Marco Rubio** met **Binyamin Netanyahu** in Jerusalem to discuss Gaza's future. America's secretary of state is in Israel to discuss "what the future holds" for the war in Gaza. On Saturday Mr Rubio admitted that his boss, Donald Trump, was unhappy about Israel's attempt last week [to assassinate Hamas leaders](#) in Qatar.

As trade representatives from **China** and **America** met in Spain, [China](#) reported sluggish economic data. Retail sales grew by 3.4% year on year in August, while industrial output increased by 5.2%. Both figures were lower than the month before and less than forecast. Meanwhile America is expected to extend its September 17th deadline for ByteDance, a Chinese firm, to [sell its TikTok app](#).

Exit polls from local elections in the **German** state of North Rhine-Westphalia suggested the Christian Democrats secured 34% of the vote, with the Social Democrats on 23%. The hard-right **Alternative for Germany** more than tripled its support, to 17%. Around 14m people were eligible to vote in Germany's most populous state, often seen as a political bellwether for the rest of the country.

Tens of thousands protested in Ankara, **Turkey's** capital, against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's attempt to [suppress](#) the country's main opposition party. On Monday a court is due to rule on whether to remove the head of the Republican People's Party on corruption charges. Hundreds of opposition figures have been arrested over the past year, including [Ekrem Imamoglu](#), Istanbul's mayor, who was imprisoned in March.

Utah's governor said that Tyler Robinson, the 22-year-old accused of [killing Charlie Kirk](#), a right-wing activist, was "not co-operating" with investigators. Spencer Cox said Mr Robinson had been "radicalised" with "leftist ideology", and that he would be formally charged on Tuesday. Mr Kirk, the founder of Turning Point USA, was shot at a rally at Utah Valley University on Wednesday.

GIC, Singapore's sovereign-wealth fund, is in talks to sell its stake in **Yes! Communities**, an American property firm, to **Brookfield**, a Canadian asset manager, in a deal potentially worth more than \$10bn. If the sale goes through, it would be the biggest property takeover since 2022. Yes! manages thousands of manufactured homes in around 300 communities across America.

At the 77th **Emmy Awards**, "The Pitt", a medical procedural, won best drama [series](#), beating other hits such as "Severance" and "The White Lotus". "The Studio", starring Seth Rogan, was named best comedy. Owen Cooper, 15, became the youngest male actor to win an Emmy for his performance in "[Adolescence](#)", which picked up six awards.

**Figure of the day:** 43, the median age in Europe—ten years higher than the global average. [Read the rest of the story here.](#)



Photograph: Getty Images

## Turkey's opposition in the dock

The future of Turkey's main opposition, the Republican People's Party (CHP), hangs in the balance. On Monday a court will rule on whether to depose the party's leader, Ozgur Ozel. Prosecutors allege that the party convention which elected Mr Ozel as chair was tainted by irregularities. The court may now overturn its results and appoint a trustee to run the CHP ahead of a new congress.

Most analysts, not to mention CHP politicians, say the case is nakedly political, designed to cripple the party ahead of general elections, scheduled for 2028 but expected to be held earlier. The CHP is already facing a broader crackdown. Its presidential candidate, [Ekrem Imamoglu](#), the mayor of Istanbul, was [arrested](#) on allegations of corruption in March. Hundreds of party officials, including 15 other mayors, have been detained. More recently, a court removed the leader of the CHP's branch in Istanbul from office. Competitive democracy in Turkey dangles by a thread.



Photograph: Getty Images

## Trump's tariffs begin pinching India

It has been just a little over a fortnight since [Donald Trump whacked Indian exports](#) with tariffs of 50%, but the effects are already being felt. Export-dependent industries, such as textiles, are reporting fewer orders from America. Some of that may appear in India's trade figures for August, which are released on Monday. Meanwhile, the rupee has slid to record lows against the dollar. Anxious foreign investors are yanking billions from the Indian stockmarket.

Last week Mr Trump and Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, exchanged pleasantries on social media, stirring hopes of a rapprochement. But that optimism was soon eclipsed amid reports that Mr Trump is pushing the EU to impose similar tariffs on India (as a way to exert pressure on Vladimir Putin). Most worrying for India is talk from the Trump administration about possible tariffs on service exports. Those would clobber the country's vaunted IT industry, which is almost entirely dependent on American clients. It is also crucial for India's economic growth.



Photograph: BACKGRID

## Democracy, with Syrian characteristics

It will be a curious sort of election—without any voters. On Monday Syria's interim government will start a week-long process to select a new parliament. The legislature will have 210 members, 70 of them appointed by the president, Ahmed al-Sharaa, and the rest chosen by committees in each of Syria's governorates. [Popular democracy](#) this is not, but it is certainly more unpredictable than elections for the old parliament, in which only Bashar al-Assad's toadies were allowed to run.

Still, there are concerns around the process. One is how much power parliament will have. Lawmakers may question ministers and draft laws, but the president can block legislation unless parliament musters a two-thirds majority—this, in a body where the president picks one-third of the members. Another issue is how the selection process will go in parts of Syria outside the central government's control. The electoral commission says it cannot choose MPs in three governorates under the sway of Druze and Kurdish groups.



Photograph: AP

## America's redistricting arms race

For years Donald Trump has promised Republicans that, under his leadership, they'll grow "tired of winning". One way to ensure unrelenting success is to re-draw congressional maps to favour conservatives, and at the president's urging, [Texas did just that](#) this summer. On Friday Missouri also passed a new map, which would transform one Democrat-controlled legislative district into a Republican-leaning one.

Democrats have pursued three broad strategies to try to counter the effort. There are the courts: on Monday a civil-rights group, arguing that the Missouri legislature's move was unconstitutional, has a hearing before a judge. Similar lawsuits have been filed in Texas. Missouri Democrats are also trying to organise a referendum that would allow voters to throw out the new map. And some Democrat-controlled states, such as California and New York, are trying to retaliate in kind, bulking up their left-leaning congressional seats at the expense of right-leaning ones. But this process is more cumbersome. For now, Republicans appear set to continue winning.





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 GMT on Friday to [\[email protected\]](#). We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

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

*“I have not told half of what I  
saw.”*

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***Marco Polo***