

Catch up: Imamoglu is locked up; Canada calls a snap election



Ekrem Imamoglu, the main rival to Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, was [formally arrested](#) soon after his party confirmed him as their candidate for the presidential election in 2028 on Sunday. On Wednesday police detained the popular mayor of Istanbul on corruption charges, sparking massive protests. Mr Imamoglu denies these. "I will never bow," he wrote on X as he remained in custody.

Israel's cabinet approved a motion of no confidence in the attorney-general, Gali Baharav-Miara, days after it [sacked the security chief](#). It is a first step towards dismissing her. In response, Ms Baharav-Miara accused the government of seeking to operate "above the law". Meanwhile, families of hostages protested against the resumption of bombings in Gaza by the government. Palestinian officials said that more than 50,000 people have been killed there in the past 18 months.

Canada's prime minister, [Mark Carney](#), triggered a snap election by moving to dissolve Parliament. The governing Liberals are

expected to win the vote on April 28th. The party has surged in polls since their unpopular leader, Justin Trudeau, said he would resign as prime minister in January. Donald Trump's tariffs and taunts have also given the Liberals a boost.

Pope Francis made his first public appearance since he was hospitalised more than five weeks ago with a life-threatening case of double pneumonia. The 88-year-old pontiff waved to crowds and offered a brief Sunday blessing from a balcony of his hospital in Rome. He was then discharged for at least two months of rest and convalescence at the Vatican.

China's prime minister, Li Qiang, said that his country was bracing for "unexpected shocks" from the intensifying trade war with America. Mr Li, China's top economic official, told global [business leaders](#) in Beijing that China's philosophy differs from America's. Countries should "open up markets" and companies should "share their resources" more. Donald Trump is expected to announce more tariffs on April 2nd.

Britain launched an investigation into the power failure caused by a fire at an electrical substation that closed [Heathrow airport](#) on Friday. Britain's energy secretary, Ed Miliband, said the operator of the national electricity grid should draw lessons on "energy resilience for critical national infrastructure". Britain's largest airport was operating again on Saturday, but travel disruptions are expected for days.

Donald Trump rescinded **security clearances** and access to classified information for several of his political opponents, including **Kamala Harris**, Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden. [The president](#) also revoked the clearances of top Biden administration officials, including Antony Blinken, the former secretary of state. Mr Biden withdrew Mr Trump's security clearance soon after he left office in 2021.

Figure of the day: 30. At least that many countries have outlawed all vaping products. [Read the full story.](#)

How closely have you followed the week's news? [Play our pint-sized news quiz](#) to see if you're truly clued up on current affairs, or if you've barely skimmed the headlines.

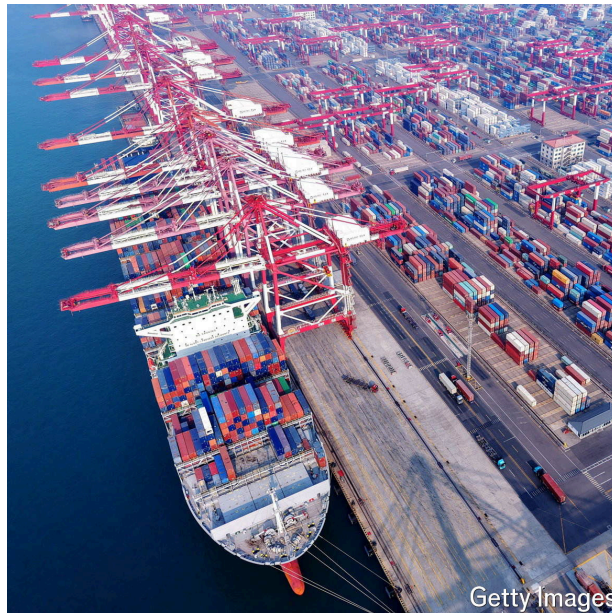
A fragile ceasefire plan for Ukraine



On Monday American mediators in Saudi Arabia will seek to nail down the details of a 30-day [partial ceasefire](#) proposed by President Donald Trump. They are expected to begin talks with a Russian delegation, following negotiations with [Ukrainian envoys](#) that started on Sunday. The main task will be drawing up a list of protected facilities. The Kremlin wants this restricted to energy infrastructure, narrowly defined; Ukraine and America insist on including other infrastructure, such as ports, civilian buildings and railways.

Russia has yet to show real commitment to a ceasefire. On March 18th, after a call with Mr Trump, Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, claimed he had ordered a halt to attacks on energy infrastructure. Russia then launched hundreds of drones and missiles at Ukrainian energy sites. [Steve Witkoff](#) (pictured), Mr Trump's special envoy handling communications with Russia, said he believed Mr Putin would act "in good faith". Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine's president, expressed more doubt: "With each launch, the Russians reveal their true attitude towards peace," he said.

China courts foreign bosses



For global executives eager to schmooze with Chinese policymakers this is a busy time. Following the China Development Forum in Beijing over the weekend, some will be heading straight to another big annual conference in the far south—the Boao Forum for Asia, which begins on March 25th.

Chinese officials are eagerly feeding their message to chief executives rattled by [Donald Trump's erratic economic policy](#): that their country is a land of stability in a turbulent world. On Sunday China's prime minister, Li Qiang, said that amid “rising instability and uncertainty” countries need to open up their markets. He also met Steve Daines, a Republican senator who was an intermediary during the first Trump term. Mr Daines told the *New York Times* he wanted to lay the groundwork for a meeting between Mr Trump and Xi Jinping, China's leader. But as tensions caused by Mr Trump's tariffs worsen, China may be hesitant.

Louisiana's congressional map at SCOTUS



On Monday America's Supreme Court hears *Louisiana v Callais*, a case that could decide control of the House of Representatives in [next year's midterm elections](#). After the 2020 census Louisiana's legislature drew a map that included just one district (of six) where black voters form a majority. A court, noting that nearly a third of Louisiana's voters are black, said that arrangement violated the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 and ordered lawmakers to add a second majority-black district. But the redrawn map drew fire from plaintiffs who claim that the "sinuous and jagged" new district is "racially balkanising". They persuaded a different court that it violates the equal-protection clause of the 14th Amendment.

Louisiana says the redrawn map seeks to balance its competing obligations to the VRA and the constitution. It contends that its main goal was not racial but political: to protect the seats of certain Republicans, including Mike Johnson, the House speaker.

At last, German business looks cheerier



In the next two days two closely watched gauges of the German economy are due to be published: the Hamburg Commercial Bank's purchasing-managers' index on Monday, followed by the Ifo institute's [business-climate](#) index on Tuesday. Both will probably show an improvement from last month. February's Ifo index was unchanged from January's as business leaders remained sceptical about the prospect of economic growth.

But lately their mood has improved. Bosses are encouraged by the bold steps of Friedrich Merz, the chancellor-in-waiting. His big reform, to [exempt defence spending](#) from the strict fiscal limits enshrined in the German constitution and to set up a €500bn (\$540bn) infrastructure fund, [passed both houses of parliament](#) last week. They hope that other badly needed structural reforms will follow, and that Germany will at last haul itself out of recession. Mr Merz's coalition government is expected to be ready to take office just after Easter.

Curbing bullfighting in Mexico City



This week Mexico City is set to enforce a new law that [bans traditional bullfighting](#). Rather than imposing a total prohibition—as five of the country’s 31 states have done—the capital city aims to modify the spectacle. Under the “non-violent” bullfighting rules, killing or injuring bulls will be prohibited. Sharp objects, including swords and spears, are banned; matadors will only be able to use capes. In addition, the bulls’ horns must be protected and their time in the arena will be capped at 15 minutes.

The compromise is intended to appease the industry, which generates \$50m of revenue annually in Mexico City. But it may satisfy few people. The sport’s supporters—a quarter of the city’s population, according to a recent survey—accuse the authorities of diluting a tradition. Yet animal-rights activists argue that, even without bloodshed, the sport causes stress to bulls. Their viewpoint may prevail globally: [more and more countries](#) are imposing restrictions on bullfighting.

Daily quiz



The Economist

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 QuizEspresso@economist.com. We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

Monday: The acronym DOGE is much in the news. But which Italian city was ruled by a doge until 1797?

**Not on one strand are all life's jewels
strung.**

William Morris