

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: AP

Representatives from around 20 countries, including **Narendra Modi**, India's prime minister, and **Vladimir Putin**, Russia's president, arrived in Tianjin, China, for a [Shanghai Co-operation Organisation](#) leaders' meeting. Mr Putin said beforehand that the SCO would help shape a "fairer multipolar world order". Prior to the meeting Mr Modi met Xi Jinping, China's leader. They vowed to improve ties and work together to offset Donald Trump's trade policies.

The **Houthis** raided United Nations offices in Sana'a, Yemen's capital, detaining at least one employee, according to the UN. The Iranian-backed militia said that an Israeli airstrike on Thursday killed Ahmed al-Rahawi, the prime minister of the rebel-controlled government. They have been attacking shipping in the Red Sea and firing missiles at Israel in support of the Palestinians in Gaza since the start of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Thousands turned out for anti-immigration marches in major **Australian** cities. Though the protests were mostly non-violent, in some places demonstrators clashed with counter-protesters, forcing the police to separate them. Earlier in the week the Australian

government condemned the rallies, saying that “there is no place for any type of hate in Australia.”

Israel Katz, the Israeli defence minister, said that the armed forces had killed Abu Obeida, a spokesman for the armed wing of **Hamas**, a militant group. The Israeli forces have been attacking the area around Gaza city, hoping to drive its inhabitants further south. Palestinian health authorities said that at least 30 people had been killed on Sunday.

Prabowo Subianto, **Indonesia’s** president, said that lawmakers would lose some of their financial perks, though he did not specify which. Protests against parliamentarians’ housing allowances have gripped the country for days, but intensified after a demonstrator was run over by a police vehicle. In Jakarta, the capital, protesters reportedly hurled Molotov cocktails and firecrackers at police headquarters. And they looted the home of Indonesia’s finance minister.

Brandon Johnson, **Chicago’s** mayor, ordered the city’s police to not assist national guardsmen or federal agents if the president deploys them. Mr Trump has threatened to send troops to America’s third-largest city to fight crime and arrest illegal immigrants. Mr Trump recently mobilised the National Guard in [Washington, DC](#), and did so in Los Angeles in June.

Russian drone strikes overnight targeted **Ukraine’s** energy infrastructure, leaving 30,000 households in the northern region of Chernihiv without power, as well as 29,000 near Odessa, a city in the south. Attacks on Friday night killed at least one person and injured 28 more. Separately Andriy Parubiy, a former speaker of parliament and a prominent figure in Ukraine’s pro-EU Maidan revolution of 2014, was shot dead.

Figure of the day: More than 40, the number of times that Donald Trump has boasted that he brought peace to Kashmir. [Read the full](#)

story.

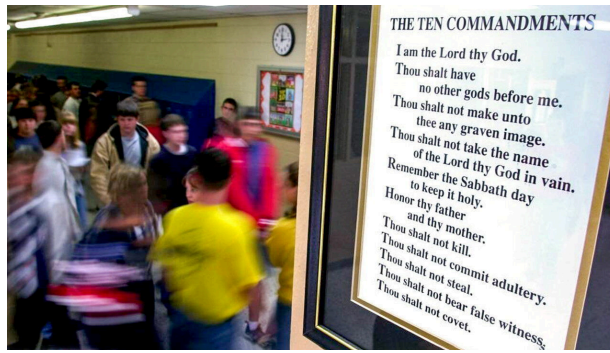


Photograph: AP

The IDF masses on Gaza city

The end of the daily “tactical pauses” that allowed limited food supplies into Gaza city, which Israel’s army announced on August 29th, marked a new phase in Israel’s offensive. Half of the Gaza Strip’s 2.1m people are huddled, many starving, in and around the city. Israel is trying to force them southwards before advancing beyond the outskirts. The International Red Cross says a mass evacuation is “unfeasible”.

Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel’s prime minister, is determined to push on. The operation, he claims, will “topple” Hamas, the Islamist movement that attacked Israel nearly two years ago. Even his own generals are sceptical. Donald Trump, America’s president, wants to see a “conclusive ending” to the war in “two to three weeks”. That is unrealistic, but adds urgency to Mr Netanyahu’s already haphazard approach. The conflict has killed over 60,000 already. It is hard to see what will prevent another bloodbath.



Photograph: TNS

From Mount Sinai to Mount Pleasant

On Monday the word of God comes to many of Texas's public schools. A law mandating that each classroom should display the Ten Commandments comes into force. Similar laws have been passed in neighbouring Louisiana and Arkansas.

Families of pupils have filed lawsuits in all three states, claiming that the laws are an insidious and unconstitutional violation of the First Amendment's separation of church and state. But defenders claim that the Ten Commandments are part of America's history, much like the Declaration of Independence, and so deserve a place in the classroom.

A federal appeals court has struck down Louisiana's law, while district court judges have blocked its enforcement in four school districts in Arkansas and 11 in Texas that were sued. Litigation will continue. But in the meantime, since Arkansas has 237 school districts and Texas has more than 1,200, most of their pupils will start the year with the laws God gave to Moses next to their ABCs.



Photograph: Reuters

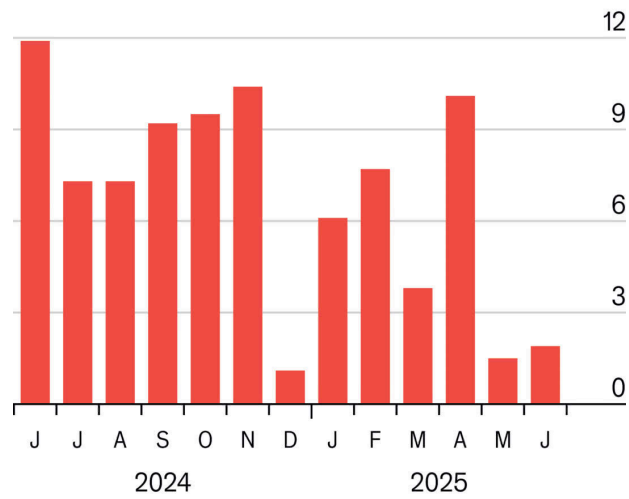
Are Spain's beaches playa'd out?

Spain's hospitality industry will be nervously watching tourism figures for July, scheduled for release on Monday. In the first six months of the year 44.5m international tourists arrived, almost 5% more than during the same period the year before. But there are signs of a slowdown. Hotel occupancy in July was up only 1.8% on the same month last year.

Two things may be at work. Climate change means northern Europeans are taking their holidays earlier or later to avoid the baking heat of July and August, which this year triggered devastating wildfires. And the cost of a Spanish holiday is spiralling. Average hotel rates are 50% more expensive than in 2021. Those in the industry report that in July tourists came to the Balearic Islands for fewer days and spent less, leaving restaurant terraces half empty. Fewer visitors might be better for towns groaning with overtourism. But only if they spend more.

Going into holiday mode

Spain, international traveller arrivals*,
% increase on a year earlier



*At main access points on roads and
at airports, ports and railways
Source: National Statistics Institute



Photograph: Getty Images

Will Guyana stick with Irfaan Ali?

Guyanese will elect a new president, vice-president and all 65 members of the National Assembly on Monday. Observers hope it will be more straightforward than in 2020, when the vote was marred by attempted fraud. Irfaan Ali, the current president, faces two other candidates. Both are polling fairly well, but Mr Ali is favoured to win a second five-year term. He is popular for having increased cash transfers and social spending, including making universities free.

Good stewardship matters. Guyana has only 800,000 people, but is tremendously wealthy thanks to relatively recent discoveries of oil deposits. Oil production is rising, and GDP is projected to grow by double digits again this year. Yet despite impressive gains in some areas, such as education, Guyana's poverty rate remains high. And whoever wins will have to manage Nicolás Maduro, Venezuela's dictator, who is threatening to snatch the oil-rich Essequibo region.



Photograph: Liverpool FC via Getty Images

English football clubs pound the competition

European football clubs have until Monday night to sign new players. Even before any last-minute panic-buying, the trend of the summer was clear: English clubs made eight of the ten biggest purchases, compared with six two years ago. Of the 28 players who commanded transfer fees of £40m and above, 11 were bought and sold between English clubs.

English clubs have so much purchasing muscle because of the English Premier League's prowess at selling overseas broadcasting rights to its matches. Sporting Intelligence, a newsletter, has calculated that these deals are worth almost £2.2bn to the Premier League each year. By contrast La Liga (Spain) earns £800m, Serie A (Italy) £600m, the Bundesliga (Germany) £200m and Ligue 1 (France) £120m. The discrepancy is so great that Everton, who finished 13th in the Premier League in 2024/25, has spent more on net this summer than the combined total of the three highest-finishing Italian clubs.



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.

Monday: Which colour, generated from a dye made from sea snails, became associated with Roman emperors?

*One can easily touch a living soul
through the most grave vices and
crimes, but vulgarity is
impassable.*

François Mauriac