

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter

Russia's delegation arrived in Turkey for a second round of peace talks. On Sunday **Ukraine** claimed to have destroyed at least 41 Russian planes, some at an airfield thousands of miles into Siberia. The [audacious attack](#), using drones smuggled deep over the border, targeted top-secret strategic bombers and was apparently 18 months in the planning. Later, Ukraine said Russia sent 472 drones and seven ballistic and cruise missiles its way.

[Karol Nawrocki](#), of the populist Law and Justice (pis) party, won **Poland's** [presidential run-off vote](#) with 50.9%, according to the electoral commission. He beat Rafal Trzaskowski, Warsaw's liberal mayor and an ally of the government led by Donald Tusk. The result will nudge Poland towards the EU's growing bloc of nationalist insurgents.

American officials said six elderly people were injured after a man began "setting people on fire" at an event in **Boulder, Colorado** held in support of Israeli hostages. The suspect, 45-year-old Mohamed Soliman, shouted "free Palestine" and threw Molotov cocktails. In May a man was arrested for shooting dead two Israeli embassy employees at a pro-Israel event in Washington, DC.

Palestinian health officials said 31 people were killed and 169 injured after **Israeli** soldiers reportedly fired on crowds gathered at an aid-distribution point in **Gaza**. The [Gaza Humanitarian Foundation](#), which Israel has charged with distributing aid in the enclave, dismissed the reports.

China said that **America** had "severely" violated the countries' trade deal, two days after Donald Trump accused China of "totally" violating it. The Commerce Ministry in Beijing bemoaned new

“discriminatory and restrictive measures”, including AI-chip export controls, and said it would defend its interests. The countries reached [an uneasy truce](#) last month, putting on hold reciprocal tariffs of up to 125%.

The trial of **Sheikh Hasina**, a former prime minister of Bangladesh, began at the country’s International Crimes Tribunal. She was charged in connection with the killing of up to 1,400 people last year as part of a campaign to silence critics. Sheikh Hasina, who ruled between 2009 and 2024, [was ousted](#) in August and fled to India, where she remains.

Stanley Fischer, a former vice-chair of the Federal Reserve and head of Israel’s central bank, died aged 81. He also served as number two at the IMF and chief economist of the World Bank. A mentor to many influential economists, Mr Fischer helped find new theoretical foundations for Keynesian policies. In Tel Aviv, recalls one of his students, people would applaud him when he went jogging.

Figure of the day: \$90 a barrel, the price oil must reach for Saudi Arabia to balance its books, compared with just \$50 for the United Arab Emirates. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Getty Images

India's charm offensive, coming to a city near you

Seven delegations from India are currently visiting 33 capitals on a mission: to convince the world to side with it in the latest India-Pakistan flare-up. On April 22nd militants massacred 26 civilians in Indian-administered Kashmir. India claims Pakistan was behind the attack. On April 23rd it [suspended a water-sharing treaty](#) with Pakistan that had survived two wars and several cross-border clashes. A military escalation followed on May 7th, before America brokered a truce between the nuclear-armed neighbours on the 10th.

Regardless of whether India can get the world on side, relations with Pakistan will remain volatile. India will be in no rush to reinstate the water treaty—Pakistan's reliance on the river system gives its neighbour leverage. And India insists that its anti-terrorism efforts, which have involved several strikes in Pakistani territory, will continue. Dialogue will only resume, India insists, after Pakistan begins to purge its soil of terrorists.



Photograph: Getty Images

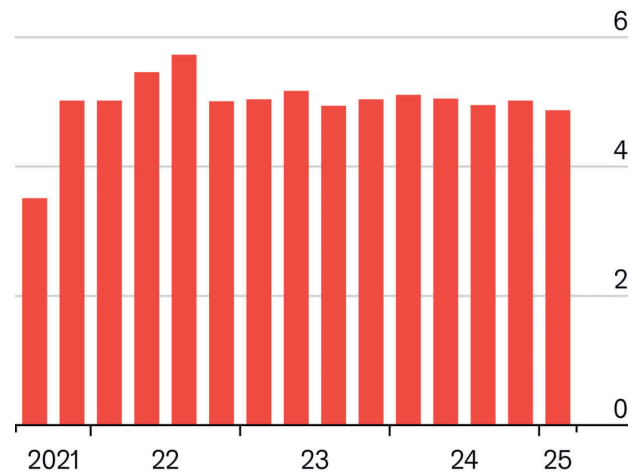
Indonesia's muddled economic policy

Prabowo Subianto, Indonesia's president, has been busy during his first eight months in office. He launched an expensive school-lunch programme, created a sovereign-wealth fund and enacted economic stimulus. South-East Asia's biggest economy surely needs the boost. GDP growth for the first quarter of the year was the weakest it had been since 2021. Mr Prabowo will hope for better news when a slew of indicators, including inflation and trade data, are published on Monday.

The outlook is not good. Indonesia does a poor job of raising taxes, making it heavily reliant on foreign money. Investors worry Mr Prabowo is overspending, especially on his school-meals scheme. And if Donald Trump's 32% tariff on Indonesian exports to America comes into effect, it will bring more pain. Yet American bullying may have a silver lining: it could push Mr Prabowo to scrap [protectionist policies](#) that deter more foreign investment.

Steady on

Indonesia, GDP, % increase on a year earlier



Source: Statistics Indonesia



Photograph: EPA

Ceasefire talks in Istanbul

Ukrainian and Russian negotiators will hold ceasefire talks in Istanbul on Monday, the second such meeting in two weeks. It comes a day after Ukraine carried out an audacious attack on Russia's strategic-bomber fleet, deep behind enemy lines. Ukraine claimed that its drones [destroyed more than 40 planes](#)—the largest attack on Russia's air force since the start of the war. Separately, Ukraine stated that Russia had launched nearly 500 drones overnight on Saturday, the most extensive such deployment yet. Ukraine said it shot down 80% of them.

Previous talks in Turkey failed to make headway. That was in no small part due to the belligerence of Vladimir Putin, Russia's dictator. Not only did he make demands Ukraine ruled out long ago, he refused to attend the meeting. Expectations for this round of negotiations are low. But after the past weekend's attacks, both sides may revise their views of how far the other is willing to go to win.

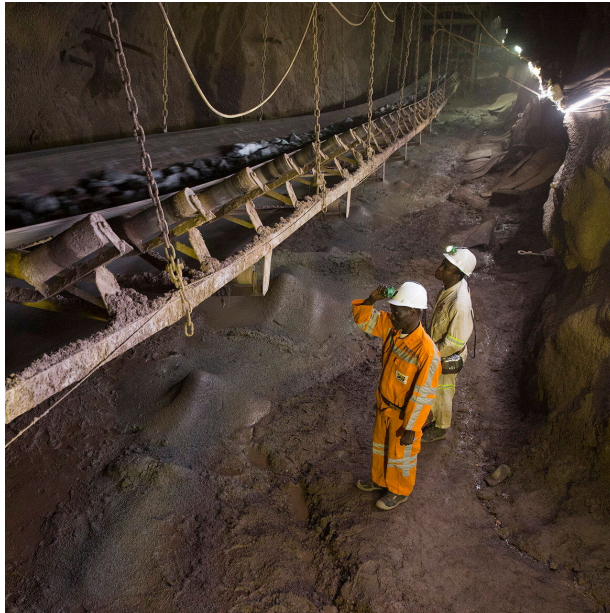


Photograph: Getty Images

A new beginning for Syria's stockmarket

The Damascus Securities Exchange, Syria's stockmarket, opens on Monday for the first time in six months. Trading stopped on December 5th, in the last days of the regime of Bashar al-Assad, Syria's former dictator. Nearly 14 years of civil war brought political instability, Western sanctions and a lack of transparency in public finance. Investors, like many Syrians, fled. The market's total value fell from \$3bn in 2010 to \$750m in 2023.

The DSE will reopen in a new era. America and the EU have offered Syria's new government some sanctions relief, allowing the country to reintegrate into international markets. The government hopes [Syrians in the diaspora](#) and investors in the Gulf will buy into Syrian firms, creating much-needed liquidity. Yisr Barnieh, Syria's finance minister, claims that measures are in place to prevent money laundering and other misbehaviour. But it will take stronger foundations—such as a stable Syrian pound and a more robust banking sector—to rebuild investors' trust.



Photograph: Getty Images

Barrick v Mali

A court in Mali is expected to rule on Monday in a dispute between the country's junta and Barrick Gold, a Canadian mining firm. In January Barrick closed its Malian gold mine after the government seized three tons of gold in lieu of supposedly unpaid taxes. Barrick denies it was in arrears. Now the government wants the mine put under provisional administration, in effect handing them control.

Mali's military rulers have long coveted the proceeds from foreign mining operations, which dig up most of the country's resources. In 2023 they passed an [extractive revision to the country's mining code](#). Most companies yielded, but not Barrick. It accuses the government of making unreasonable and escalating demands that amount to blackmail. Several of its Malian executives have been arrested. On May 28th it emerged that the firm had asked the World Bank's arbitration court to intervene. Whatever the Malian court rules, the scrap looks set to continue.



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 actress won an Oscar for her performance in “Annie Hall”?

*It's hard work being a person, you
have to do it every single day*

Carol Shields