

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter

**Vladimir Putin** confirmed he would not travel to Turkey for [talks](#) with **Volodymyr Zelensky** aimed at ending the war in Ukraine. Russia's delegation will be led by Vladimir Medinsky, a Putin loyalist who fronted negotiations in 2022, when the Kremlin stuck firmly to its maximalist demands. Donald Trump will also skip the talks; Marco Rubio, America's secretary of state, will attend instead.

Continuing his tour of Gulf states, **Mr Trump** arrived in Qatar. The White House announced that Qatar Airways agreed to buy up to 210 Boeing aircraft in a deal it said was worth \$96bn. Earlier Mr Trump promised that America would [lift all sanctions on Syria](#) and urged the country to join the [Abraham Accords](#) that normalise relations with Israel.

**Israel** issued a sweeping evacuation order for civilians in **Gaza City** as it stepped up its campaign there. On Wednesday Israeli strikes killed at least 50 people in Gaza, according to local health officials. Under a new cabinet-approved plan, Israel aims to reoccupy parts of the enclave and destroy what remains of Hamas. That will bring [further agony for Gazans](#).

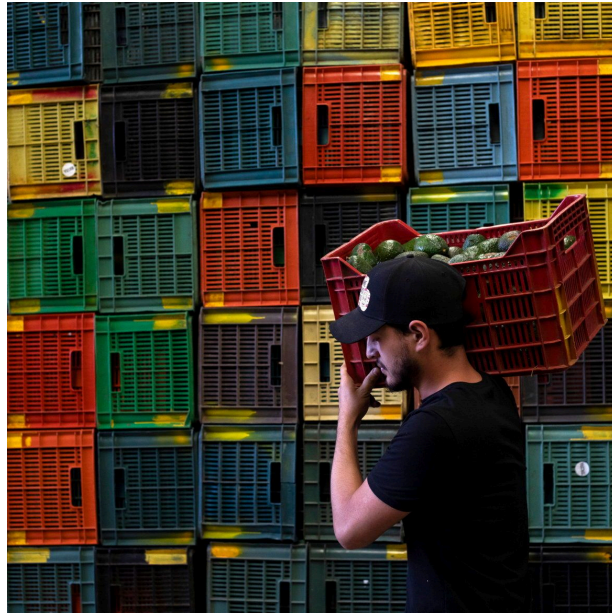
**Germany** accused three Ukrainians of co-ordinating an arson plot with **Russia**. The suspects, who prosecutors allege were in contact with Russian agents, allegedly planned to send parcel bombs from Germany to Ukraine. During his first Bundestag address as Germany's chancellor, [Friedrich Merz](#) accused Russia of conducting "espionage and sabotage" in the country, as well as disseminating "systematic disinformation".

[Javier Milei](#), **Argentina's** president, announced new rules curbing immigration. The decree includes a requirement that prospective permanent residents prove they have “sufficient means”, as well as barring those with criminal records. Mr Milei also plans to speed up the deportation of immigrants convicted of crimes. Answering critics who accused him of aping MAGA xenophobia, the president said he would “make Argentina great again”.

**Burberry** warned it could cut 1,700 jobs over the next two years as it recovers from a £75m (\$96m) loss in the last financial year. Attempting to reverse years of underperformance against its competitors, the British luxury brand wants to cut costs and refocus on its classic products. Burberry is one of several luxury firms that have found themselves in a [slump](#).

More American **Starbucks** workers joined a strike against a new dress code limiting what they can wear under their “iconic green apron”. Around 1,000 baristas have walked out across 75 shops, according to a union. The change is one of several implemented by the coffee chain's boss, [Brian Niccol](#), as part of a [wider plan](#) to turn disappointing sales around.

**Figure of the day:** 47%, the share of Americans reporting annual incomes of more than \$1m who lived in Trump-voting states last year—up from 43% a decade previously. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: AP

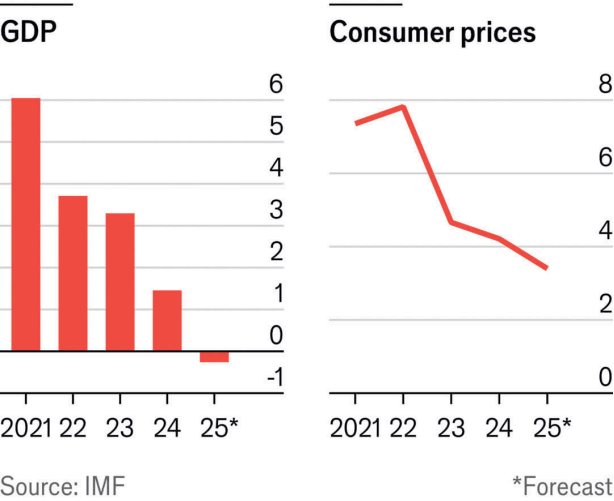
## Mexico's economy struggles between Trump and Sheinbaum

Although inflation is rising, on Thursday Mexico's central bank, Banxico, is still expected to cut interest rates by half a percentage point. That is because Mexico's slowing economy is beginning to worry officials. Yes, there have been some positive signs recently. Figures released earlier this week, for example, show that industrial production contracted less than expected in March.

But Latin America's second-largest economy faces uncertainty. Although [Donald Trump](#) has delayed many of his tariffs on Mexico, America's economy (on which Mexico's exporters rely) is wobbling. There are many obstacles at home, too. A controversial judicial reform is about to transform the rule of law in the country. Such concerns have pushed down consumer consumption and slowed private investment. Banxico has lowered its growth forecast for 2025 from 1.2% to 0.6%. Others are more pessimistic: in April the International Monetary Fund forecast a recession later this year, making Mexico an outlier among emerging markets and in Latin America.

Down in Mexico

Mexico, % change on a year earlier





Photograph: EPA

## **Putin shuns Turkey peace talks**

Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine's president, will visit Turkey on Thursday. He can expect to be greeted by the country's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and an empty chair that had been reserved for [Vladimir Putin](#). Russia's leader did not take Mr Zelensky up on his offer of a meeting in Turkey, let alone calls by the leaders of Britain, France, Germany and Poland for an unconditional 30-day ceasefire. Mr Putin will be represented in Turkey by a junior delegation.

Several members of the European Union have agreed to impose new sanctions against Russia as a result of the Kremlin's intransigence. Donald Trump, however, has leaned on Europe to give the talks in Turkey a chance. Mr Trump, who is visiting the Gulf, will also swerve the talks, now that Mr Putin is a no-show. He had suggested that he would go if Russia's president attended. Everything, it seems, is up in the air—except Mr Putin's plane.



Illustration: David Simonds

## Birthright citizenship comes to SCOTUS

On Thursday America's Supreme Court will reckon with one of Donald Trump's most contentious policies: his order rescinding [birthright citizenship](#) for the children of undocumented immigrants and temporary-visa holders.

Three courts have held that the order violates the 14th Amendment's guarantee of citizenship for everyone "born or naturalised" in America and "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" and blocked it nationwide. After losing again in the appellate courts, Mr Trump turned to the Supreme Court, which is hearing a rare oral argument on the emergency plea.

*Trump v CASA* asks whether lower courts have the authority to issue such "universal injunctions". Mr Trump argues that judges can block the executive order from applying only to the babies represented in each case, not the "hundreds of thousands" of others across America who may be affected. But *CASA*, an immigrant-advocacy group, warns that this approach—with different rules for babies born in different states—would cause "chaos and confusion".







Photograph: Getty Images

## Can Bangladesh reform itself?

In August 2024 a massive [student-led uprising](#) in Bangladesh toppled the authoritarian regime of Sheikh Hasina. Since then Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel laureate who was appointed interim leader, says he has been trying to “fix everything that has been destroyed”. One step has been for the electoral commission to ban the Awami League, Sheikh Hasina’s party, from contesting elections.

In September Mr Yunus embarked on a reform agenda, setting up commissions to look at several topics, including elections and the constitution. Now work is under way to sift through the commissions’ ideas and generate a national “charter”. Starting on Thursday a National Consensus Commission will help the political parties to find common ground. But disputes have already emerged on several fronts (for example, the inclusion of the term “pluralism” in the new constitution). Still, the reformers are optimistic. They hope that the scars left by the previous regime, which were felt by all opposition parties, will now unite them.





Photograph: Getty Images

## Golf's unlikely star tees up the PGA Championship

Several years ago Bryson DeChambeau, an American golfer, was a contender for the least popular player on the circuit. Traditional fans and his fellow pros were sniffy about his efforts to bulk up in the gym to **clobber the ball** further than anyone else. They were further affronted when he reportedly accepted \$125m to defect to the Saudi-funded LIV Golf league in 2022.

But more recently, Mr DeChambeau has won over some of his doubters. He launched a YouTube channel in which he sets himself semi-serious challenges, often with famous guests. Mr DeChambeau is funny and self-deprecating. His channel has also been a hit with young fans, a demographic golf is desperately keen to chase. Nor does it appear to have done his golf any harm. He won his second major at the US Open last year. He begins today's PGA Championship as third favourite, behind the world number one, Scottie Scheffler, and the winner of this year's Masters, Rory McIlroy.



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.

**Thursday:** The state of Georgia has a nickname associated with which fruit?

**Wednesday:** Roger Ailes was the long-term head of which cable news network?

*In the fields of observation chance  
favors only the prepared mind.*

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***Louis Pasteur***