

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter

Donald Trump said he plans to speak with Xi Jinping, China's president, later this week, after America and China agreed to sharply reduce tariffs for 90 days. Markets rallied on Monday: the s&p 500 rose nearly 3% and the Nasdaq almost 4%. But Mr Trump threatened a new front in the [trade war](#), accusing the European Union of extorting drugmakers and saying it is "in many ways nastier than China".

Meanwhile **White House** officials announced an executive order aimed at lowering drug prices by forcing pharmaceutical firms to match those paid in other countries. If they fail to comply within six months, America may impose import restrictions or cap prices. Despite the threat, shares in Merck, Pfizer and Gilead rose. Investors doubt the order's enforceability; previous efforts have failed in court.

India and **Pakistan's** army chiefs held talks after an America-brokered ceasefire was agreed on Saturday, ending days of cross-border strikes. India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, said India had "proved its superiority" while his Pakistani counterpart claimed a "historic victory". The [fragile peace](#) held on Monday, with no new shelling reported. India reopened 32 airports and markets in both countries rallied.

Sir Keir Starmer, Britain's prime minister, unveiled new immigration policies, warning the country risked becoming "an island of strangers". Migrants will have to wait ten years to settle unless they prove long-term economic and societal value. The government will scrap care worker visas and raise the threshold for skilled roles. Sir Keir said migration "will fall significantly" but rejected demands to set a target.

A group of 49 white **South Africans** flew to America on Monday after being granted refugee status under Donald Trump's new policy prioritising Afrikaners—descendants of Dutch settlers—as victims of racial discrimination. More arrivals are expected in the coming days. The move drew criticism from the South African government, which denies they face persecution. Mr Trump has slashed refugee admissions from other regions.

Hamas released **Edan Alexander**, thought to be the last surviving American hostage in Gaza. He was returned to Israel on Monday. The militant group, keen to make progress on a ceasefire and push through an American plan to allow humanitarian aid into the enclave, negotiated directly with America. [Israel](#) has stopped essential supplies from entering Gaza for the past 70 days.

Virat Kohli, an Indian cricketer, announced his retirement from Test cricket. The 36-year-old, who is considered an all-time great, said he had given the five-day format “everything”. Since his Test debut in 2011, Mr Kohli scored 30 centuries at an average of 46.85 over 123 matches, but his form had dipped in recent years. He is expected to continue playing one-day international matches.

Figure of the day: 1,500, the number of four-legged doglike robots that Boston Dynamics, an American firm, has sold to date. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Getty Images

Brazil's new opportunities in China

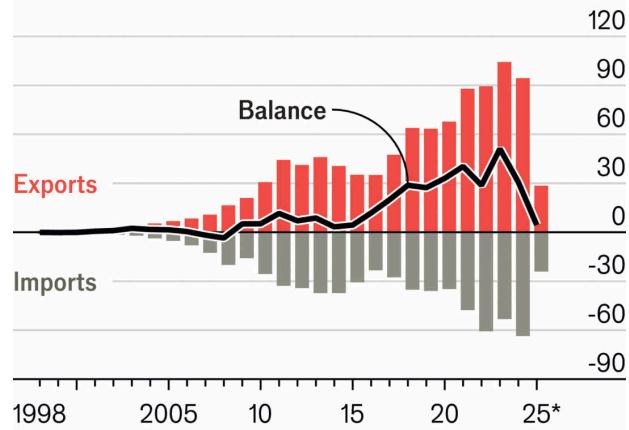
On Monday Brazil's president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, arrived in Beijing for a summit between China and Latin American countries. Lula hopes to **reap rewards** in the era of Donald Trump's tariffs. During Mr Trump's first administration, Brazilian exports to China nearly doubled as the country substituted agricultural imports from the United States for Brazilian ones. In April officials from China visited Brasília to discuss how to increase Brazilian agricultural exports amid Mr Trump's renewed tariffs.

Brazil spies an opportunity to displace the United States' exports of beef, wood, corn, cotton and poultry to China. The Ibovespa index of big Brazilian firms is up 13% from the start of 2025. But Mr Trump's tariffs could also spell trouble for Brazil. China will have to export goods to markets other than the United States, including Brazil, where domestic manufacturers worry they will struggle to compete with cheap imports. That message won't go down so well in Beijing.

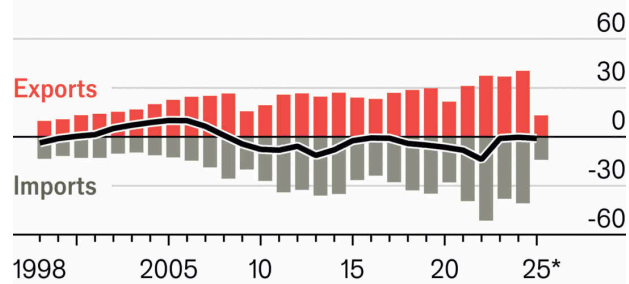
A healthy balance

Brazil, trade in goods, \$bn

With China



With the United States



*To April

Source: Comex Stat



Photograph: Anadolu via Getty Images

Trump, Putin and Zelensky wrangle over Ukraine

After four European leaders travelled to Kyiv on Saturday and Ukraine offered an unconditional 30-day [ceasefire](#) to Russia, peace briefly appeared slightly closer. Vladimir Putin's response—ignoring the ultimatum and offering direct negotiations this week, but with strings attached—seemed to put paid to any hopes. Donald Trump then refused to back Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine's president, and instead urged him to meet Mr Putin in Turkey on Thursday, whether or not there is a ceasefire in place.

Mr Zelensky has said he will do so, but still expects a “full and lasting” ceasefire to start on Monday. To enter negotiations with Russia without one would be a show of weakness for Ukraine. Yet refusing to engage would further rile Mr Trump, who on Sunday said that he was “starting to doubt that Ukraine will make a deal”. The American president remains crucial to putting pressure on Mr Putin. The trouble is, so far, he has largely declined to do so.



Photograph: Getty Images

Poland's presidential candidates square up

The debate on April 11th was the low point of Rafal Trzaskowski's campaign. The centrist mayor of Warsaw, backed by the ruling Civic Platform (PO) of prime minister [Donald Tusk](#), has been the favourite to win the first round of Poland's presidential election on May 18th. But when he invited his main challenger, the conservative Karol Nawrocki, to debate him, six other candidates piled in at the last minute. The chaotic spectacle had Mr Trzaskowski poorly fending off multiple attacks. His poll lead narrowed.

But the big and probably final debate comes on Monday evening. All thirteen candidates are expected to attend the pageant co-hosted by the state broadcaster and the two largest private networks. This time, it'll be Mr Nawrocki under fire. A recent controversy about him failing to mention a second flat that he owned—which he reportedly acquired in return for care for a disabled pensioner, who later turned out to be living in a social home—has badly dented his credibility.

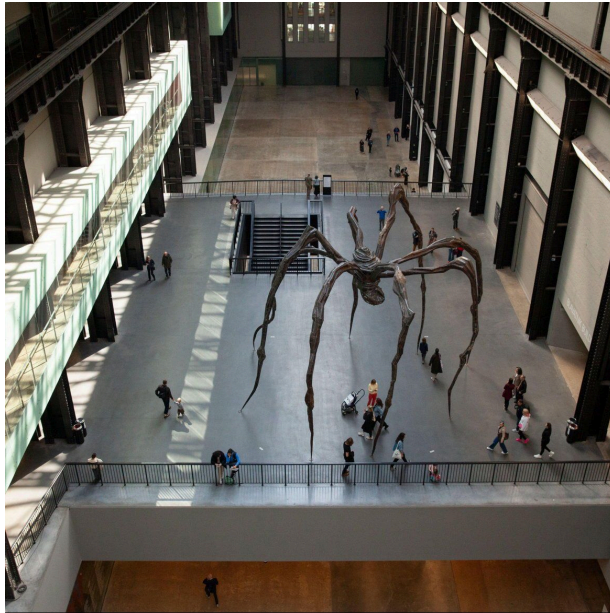


Photograph: Getty Images

The Philippines' family feud heats up

Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr and Sara Duterte, the president and vice-president of the Philippines, do not get on. **They** teamed up to win the presidential election in 2022 but soon fell out. The feud turned especially nasty in November, when Ms Duterte said she had talked to hit men about assassinating “BongBong” if she were herself killed. Their latest battle is Monday’s midterm elections, a proxy contest between candidates aligned with each of them.

If enough Marcos-backed candidates win, they could convict Ms Duterte in an upcoming impeachment trial in the Senate and disqualify her from running for president in 2028. Ms Duterte hopes her allies win and block impeachment proceedings. If they do, she is likely to be the next president. She would follow her father, Rodrigo—the foul-mouthed former president who is detained at the Hague, facing charges of crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court. One consequence of a victory for Ms Duterte is that she could align the Philippines more closely with China.



Photograph: Alamy

Tate Modern turns 25

When London's Tate Modern gallery opened in 2000, its executives worried that Turbine Hall, the grand entrance area, was too cavernous. Yet the atrium—once referred to as a “cathedral to contemporary art”—has helped redefine the art installation. In 2003 Olafur Eliasson beamed the golden light of the sun onto its walls. Carsten Höller thrilled visitors by turning it into a playground with twisting steel slides.

This week, as Tate Modern turns 25, art buffs are reflecting on the gallery's greatest moments. Some 115m visitors have been lured to the former power station over the years. Meanwhile the “Tate effect” has [spread across the world](#). Art museums from Shanghai to Qatar have vast exhibition halls; immersive installations are found in institutions such as the Saatchi Gallery in London and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Tate Modern was among the first to recognise that audiences seek entertainment as well as enlightenment. Turbine Hall, it turns out, was exactly the right size.



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: What popular nickname was attached to the member of the Stuart family who led the Jacobite rebellion in Britain in 1745?

To understand God's thoughts we must study statistics, for these are the measure of His purpose.

Florence Nightingale