

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter

Delegations from **Russia** and **Ukraine** arrived in different Turkish cities on Thursday. Volodymyr Zelensky questioned whether [planned peace talks](#) in Istanbul would even happen. “There is no time of the meeting, there is no agenda of the meeting,” he said. Earlier, after Vladimir Putin, his Russian counterpart, backed out of attending, he said he would send Ukraine’s defence minister, Rustem Umerov.

Donald Trump said that his administration had “sort of” agreed on the terms of a nuclear deal with [Iran](#). The two countries have held four rounds of negotiations, which have so far yielded positive statements but little progress. Iran’s foreign ministry called the recent talks “difficult but useful”, and insisted on its right to enrich uranium. Oil prices dropped by about 3% on Mr Trump’s comments.

America’s president said that he would be “proud” to take control of Gaza and make it a “freedom zone”. Meanwhile Israeli air strikes reportedly killed more than 100 people on Thursday. On Wednesday **Israel** issued an evacuation order for civilians in **Gaza city** as it stepped up its campaign there. Under a new cabinet-approved plan, Israel aims to [reoccupy parts of the enclave](#).

Walmart, an [American supermarket](#), said it would raise prices because of Mr Trump’s tariffs. The firm said that reduced tariff levels against China are still “too high”. Walmart reported a drop in first-quarter profit from the previous three months. It did not forecast income for the coming quarter, citing a “lack of clarity”.

A 21-year-old Ukrainian national was charged with **arson** to endanger life after allegedly setting fires to properties and a car

linked to **Sir Keir Starmer**, Britain's prime minister. Beginning last week, police in London responded to three blazes; one was at Sir Keir's family home, which is apparently being rented out, and another at a former address, according to the BBC.

India's defence minister, Rajnath Singh, said that Pakistan's nuclear arsenal should be "brought under the surveillance" of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the world's nuclear watchdog. Mr Singh suggested that Pakistan should not have access to such weapons. The two countries agreed to a [ceasefire](#) last week after a four-day conflict sparked by a murderous terrorist attack in Kashmir.

A baby became the [world's first patient](#) to be treated with a personalised **gene-editing therapy**. Doctors used CRISPR technology to design a drug specifically for KJ, who was born with a rare genetic disease in Philadelphia last year. The breakthrough, achieved within months, could allow such treatments to one day become a routine option for children with debilitating genetic diseases.

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.](#)



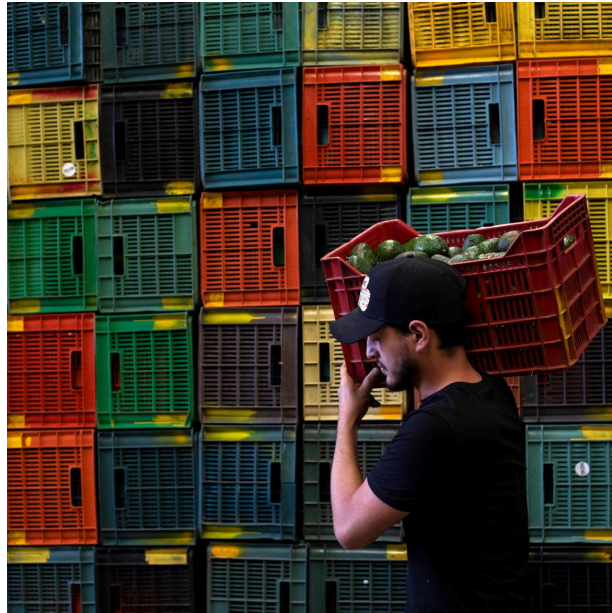
Illustration: David Simonds

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: AP

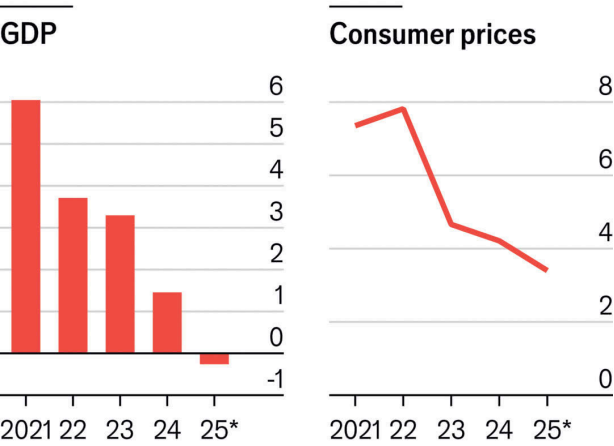
Mexico's economy struggles between Trump and Sheinbaum

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



Source: IMF

*Forecast



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.



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
favours only the prepared mind.*

Louis Pasteur