

## The world in brief, June 3rd 2024



**Claudia Sheinbaum** won a landslide victory in **Mexico's** presidential election. Exit polls put her at 56% of the vote, compared with 30% for her main challenger, Xóchitl Gálvez. Ms Gálvez has conceded. Ms Sheinbaum will become Mexico's first female president. It remains to be seen whether she will continue with the populist policies of her mentor and predecessor, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, or break with him to tackle Mexico's [deep-rooted problems](#).

A high court in **Pakistan** quashed [Imran Khan's conviction](#) on charges of leaking state secrets. The former prime minister had been sentenced to ten years in prison on the charges in January, just days before Pakistan's general election. Mr Khan accuses the country's military of targeting him for political reasons. He remains in prison because of a conviction in a separate case.

**Nigel Farage**, a former head of the UK Independence Party, said he would stand for parliament in Britain's general election. The veteran populist, who played a leading role in the campaign to leave the European Union, will also take over as [leader of Reform](#)

[UK](#), a right-wing party. The campaign will mark Mr Farage's eighth attempt to become an MP. According to *The Economist's tracker*, Reform UK enjoys the support of 11% of voters.

**Turkey's** exports to **Israel** collapsed by 99% in May, compared with same month last year, after the government stopped trading with the country over [the war in Gaza](#). Turkey's government said it will not resume normal trading relations until Israel allows more aid into Gaza. In 2023, before the war, trade between the two countries was worth \$6.8bn.

**Indian stock markets** soared after exit polls forecast that the ruling **Bharatiya Janata Party** has won a [landslide majority](#) in the country's general election. The Nifty 50 rose by 3.6% and the BSE Sensex by 3.8%. Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, has pledged to turn the country into a manufacturing hub to rival China if he does indeed win a third term.

**Somalia** threatened to expel thousands of **Ethiopian** soldiers who are stationed in the country. The soldiers are part of a peacekeeping mission, organised by the African Union, that is fighting al-Shabab, a terrorist group. Somalia wants Ethiopia to ditch a [planned deal with Somaliland](#), a breakaway region in Somalia's north, that would allow Ethiopia to use its ports.

**Australia's** government ordered several Chinese-linked investment funds to sell their stakes in **Northern Minerals**. The company specialises in mining [critical metals](#) that are widely used in wind turbines, smartphones and electric vehicles. Australia is keen to slim down China's role in its mining industry due to concerns that the country already controls a near-monopoly in rare-earths mining.

**Figure of the day:** 1.6%, the proportion of placental mammal species, including humans, that menstruate. [Read the full story](#).

# Hunter Biden goes on trial



Some extraordinary criminal defendants—a [former president](#) and a [sitting senator](#), for example—have recently had a turn in America’s courtrooms. Hunter Biden will join their ranks on Monday, becoming the first child of a sitting president to stand trial for criminal charges. He is accused of lying on federal forms in order to buy a gun. Prosecutors say that Mr Biden claimed that he did not have a drug problem, when in fact he had a serious one. (Mr Biden denies any wrongdoing.)

Mr Biden’s troubles are [no secret](#). He revealed shocking details about his crack-cocaine addiction and misguided affairs to the *New Yorker* in 2019. Those confessions, he later wrote, were intended to “inoculate everybody else from my personal failings”. The trial may well unearth more revelations and will probably garner considerable attention at a time when his father’s re-election campaign is struggling. Republicans have been [trying for years](#) to use Mr Biden’s faults to take down his father. But these ones—addiction struggles—could elicit more pity than condemnation.

## America extends Ukraine's leash, a little



For the first time, Ukraine's armed forces can now deploy American systems—such as [satellite-guided munitions](#) and [powerfully accurate rockets](#)—to disrupt the Russian offensive against Kharkiv, an eastern city just 20 miles (30km) from the countries' shared border.

That is thanks to the Biden administration's decision to partially lift its ban on Ukraine using American weapons against targets in Russia, announced last Thursday. Ukrainians will be glad of the chance to hit concentrations of Russia troops and equipment. But they are also frustrated by Mr Biden's obvious fears about Russian escalation: the new exemption only applies to certain types of equipment, and they can only be used for defending Kharkiv.

In occupied Crimea, Ukraine is already showing what it can do when given a longer leash. With newly delivered [American ballistic missiles](#) and its own sophisticated drones it is systematically destroying important targets and degrading Russian air defences. It wishes that Mr Biden would give them more leeway to do more of the same elsewhere on the front.



## Is Turkey's inflation summit in sight?



Shortly after Recep Tayyip Erdogan was re-elected as Turkey's president in May 2023, he made a [dramatic monetary U-turn](#). Having spent years slicing interest rates—bizarrely believing that this would lower consumer prices—he appointed a new team at the country's central bank to do the exact opposite.

Ever since, investors have watched Turkey's inflation figures carefully for signs that this return to [economic orthodoxy](#) is working. In the latest, released on Monday, annual inflation was 75.45% for May, up from 69.8% in April. Though slightly above investors' predictions, that is expected to represent a peak, before falling to 42.6% by the end of 2024.

The central bank has spent the past year frantically trying to fight inflation, principally by raising the interest rate to 50%. That has meant an uphill struggle for Turks, whose incomes have stagnated and credit options narrowed as prices have continued to rise. They must hope it is all downhill from here.

# The Panamanian island sinking beneath the seas



Throughout this week Guna indigenous people will bid farewell to their homes on Gardi Sugdub—a tiny low-lying island off the Caribbean coast of Panama, with a population of 1,300—as they move to a government-built settlement on the mainland, a short boat ride away.

The relocation is a response to rising sea levels, which have exposed the island's inhabitants to increasingly frequent flooding since the 1990s. In both Latin America and elsewhere, such planned migration projects will probably become more common as the impacts of [climate change](#) worsen and melting ice further swells the oceans. It is predicted that most of the 38 islands inhabited by the Guna will be fully submerged by 2100. Panama is expected to lose 2% of its territory to higher seas by 2050. Across the region, more than 40m people are thought to live in coastal areas exposed to heavy storms and flooding. The long goodbye has begun.

# Fashion photography goes on show



The images are everywhere: in the pages of glossy magazines, on your television screen and Instagram feed. An impossibly beautiful woman (or man) clutches a handbag, shows off a killer pair of shoes or sports a natty suit. The *raison d'être* of these images—and of fashion photography in general—is to sell you that handbag, those shoes, that suit.

A few photographers, however, have sought to elevate high fashion into high art. A new show at the Saatchi Gallery in London brings together more than 100 photographs that avoid “the simple presentation of product lines”. Some of the images are abstract, as with a close-up of a tracksuit, while others are surreal. A few do not seem to have anything sellable at all: in Kent Baker’s image, “Strip” (1999), a pile of clothes lies in the foreground, leaving a nude woman with her arms joyously outstretched. With [fashion photography](#), as much as with fashion itself, there are endless creative possibilities.

## 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 [QuizEspresso@economist.com](mailto:QuizEspresso@economist.com). We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

**Monday:** Cain and Abel were the first two sons of Adam and Eve in Genesis. But what was the name of the third?



**1.6%**

*The proportion of placental mammal species, including humans, that menstruate.*

*Read the full story.*

**It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do little.**

*Sydney Smith*