

January

1



Canada: Justin Trudeau announced his resignation as prime minister



Iran: The United Nations (UN) reported that Iran executed at least 901 people in 2024 (up 6% compared with 2023)



Congo: The UN confirms that at least 100 000 people were displaced following fighting against rebel group M23 in eastern Congo



Indonesia: Formally joined the BRICS grouping



Qatar: Mediators announced a six-week ceasefire between Hamas and Israel



South Africa (SA): Dozens of dead bodies were recovered from an illegal mine



Russia: NATO announced mission Baltic Sentry to counter underwater sea cable sabotage, allegedly by Russia



United States (US): Donald Trump was inaugurated as America's 47th president and immediately issued orders to withdraw America from the World Health Organisation and the Paris Agreement on climate change



Venezuela: Nicolás Maduro's inauguration as president was met with new sanctions imposed by America, Britain and the European Union given drug-trafficking allegations against him

March

3



Germany: Friedrich Merz announced plans to loosen the country's constitutional debt brake



US: Announced a cancellation of 83% of USAID programmes



Canada: Mark Carney won 86% of the votes to lead Canada's Liberal Party



Serbia: 325 000 citizens protested against government corruption



Israel: Carried out drone strikes in Lebanon



US: Congressional authorisation for PEPFAR (AIDS relief) expired

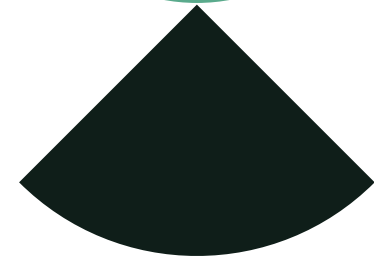


Brazil: Supreme Court decided that former president Jair Bolsonaro should stand trial for his alleged involvement in a plot to overthrow the government



Canada: Mark Carney called a snap election for April

Economies at a glance



February



Germany: Comments by American vice-president J.D. Vance at the Munich Security Conference strained the transatlantic alliance



SA: The Government of National Unity postponed the release of the budget following a dispute over a proposed tax increase



Argentina: President Javier Milei faced criminal complaints after promoting a risky cryptocurrency \$LIBRA



Germany: The conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU)/Christian Social Union (CSU) coalition won Germany's election with 29% of the vote



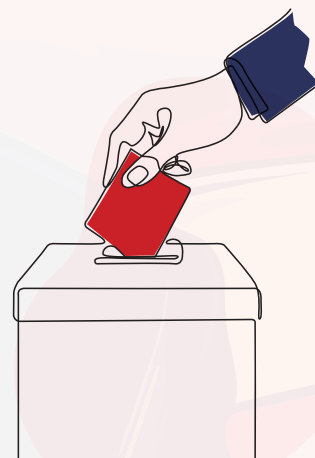
Syria: National dialogue held to discuss the economy and the new constitution



Taiwan: Detained a Chinese vessel accused of cutting undersea cables



Ukraine: Tensions boiled over between the US administration and President Volodymyr Zelensky at the White House





Ukraine: Signed a deal with the US giving access to its natural resources and critical minerals



India: Tensions remained high with Pakistan following a terrorist attack in Kashmir even after a fragile ceasefire was put in place



Germany: The Bundestag officially voted Friedrich Merz in as chancellor



Romania: George Simion, a hard-right Eurosceptic, won 41% of the first-round vote in a presidential election



Australia: Labour was re-elected to govern, with an increased majority



United Kingdom (UK): Signed its biggest trade deal, since Brexit, with India



Gulf States: President Trump secured new trade deals with Saudi Arabia and Qatar



Colombia: Announced it would join China's Belt and Road Initiative



UK: Prime Minister Keir Starmer proposed a tougher policy on legal immigration and reset relations with the European Union (EU) at the first UK-EU Summit since 2020



Italy: Pope Leo XIV was elected by the conclave of cardinals in the Vatican



SA: President Cyril Ramaphosa visited the White House, where he was ambushed with false claims of White Afrikaner genocide



US: Moody's downgraded America's credit rating from AAA to AA1



US: The Trump administration threatened to rescind the visas of Chinese students



US: Elon Musk left his job in the administration, where he headed up the Department of Government efficiency



France: Court decision barred Marine Le Pen, leader of the hard-right National Rally, from running for president in 2027 on alleged misuse of funds



Russia: Called up the largest cohort of conscripts (160 000 men aged 18 to 30) since 2011



Finland: Joined Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in announcing their withdrawal from a global treaty banning the use of landmines



Hungary: Announced its intention to withdraw from the International Criminal Court



SA: Budget passed parliament after the African National Congress relied on smaller parties to pass the bill



Mexico: The US border agency reported the lowest-ever monthly tally of migrants crossing the border of Mexico



Myanmar: Hit by the strongest earthquake in over a century



China: Conducted military drills in the East China Sea close to Taiwan



US: President Trump pulled back from his Liberation Day tariff announcement after 75 countries expressed an interest to negotiate



Argentina: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced a preliminary deal with Argentina for a funding programme worth US\$20 billion



Ecuador: Daniel Noboa re-elected as president by a comfortable margin of victory



Italy: Funeral of Pope Francis



Venezuela: 252 gang members deported



Poland: Karol Nawrocki, from the hard-right Law and Justice Party, won the presidential election



UK: Starmer announced the country's strategic defence review



Mali: Russian-backed mercenary group, Wagner, announced it was leaving Mali



UK: Chancellor Rachel Reeves unveiled a review of public spending



EU: Announced new sanctions on Russia



Iran: Ceasefire started between Iran and Israel following the deployment of bunker-busting bombs on Iran's uranium enrichment facilities



Kenya: Citizens protested against police brutality



NATO: Summit ended with an agreement by the alliance members to increase defence spending to 3.5% of gross domestic product



Canada: Signed a defence agreement with the EU to jointly procure weapons



US: Zohran Mamdani claimed victory in New York's mayoral Democratic primary



July

7



US: The Senate passed the Big Beautiful Bill, adding US\$3.4 trillion to the budget deficit over the next ten years



US: Elon Musk called for the creation of a new political party following a fallout with President Trump



UK: Bond markets wobbled when the British government had to make a U-turn over welfare reforms



Yemen: Houthi rebels, who are backed by Iran, attacked commercial vehicles in the Red Sea



France: Police raided the headquarters of Marine Le Pen's National Rally party as part of an investigation claiming the misuse of campaign finance



Brazil: President Trump announced a 50% tariff on goods shipped from Brazil in response to charges on Brazil's former far-right president Jair Bolsonaro on plotting a coup



France: Prime Minister François Bayrou outlined a spending freeze to help get the budget deficit under control



Gaza: 28 countries called on Israel to end its war in Gaza



Japan: Deal struck with America that imposes a 15% tariff on goods imported from Japan

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8

August



India: America stepped up its spat with India over the purchase of Russian oil



Japan: Won a US\$6.5 billion contract to build navy frigates for Australia



Brazil: Bolsonaro was placed under house arrest, after which 50% tariffs on many Brazilian exports were enforced



US: President Trump deployed the National Guard in Washington to address crime



Israel: Launched intense air strikes on Gaza City



Azerbaijan: Signed a peace deal with Armenia that was brokered by President Trump



US: President Trump elected E.J. Antoni to lead the Bureau of Labour Statistics after having sacked the former head on claims of data manipulation



Pakistan: Floods kill more than 300 people



South Korea: New president, Lee Jae-myung, met President Trump at the White House to discuss a trade deal

September

9



China: Largest-ever military parade held in Beijing



Russia: Reached an agreement with China to build the Power of Siberia 2 gas pipeline



India: Prime Minister Narendra Modi made his first trip to China in seven years



Thailand: Paetongtarn Shinawatra was dismissed as prime minister by the Constitutional Court on a violation of ethics rules



Indonesia: Students held demonstrations against the government's plans to enhance benefits for politicians amid the country's cost-of-living crisis



Afghanistan: Two earthquakes killed at least 1400 people



Sudan: More than 1000 people died in a landslide



Benin: President Patrice Talon confirmed he would step down after two terms in office



US: Federal Court blocks President Trump from firing Federal Reserve governor Lisa Cook



Poland: Shot down Russian drones that had entered its airspace (the most far-reaching intrusion ever into NATO territory)



France: Sébastien Lecornu replaced François Bayrou as prime minister after he lost a vote of confidence in the National Assembly over his plans to cut spending



Norway: The Labour Party won another term in office in an election



Israel: Ordered all residents of Gaza City to evacuate ahead of its anticipated ground offensive



Mozambique: Islamist attacks in Cabo Delgado have led to 100 000 fleeing the violence in 2025



US: American activist Charlie Kirk was shot dead in a political assassination in Utah



Japan: Ishiba Shigeru resigned as prime minister



Thailand: Anutin Charnvirakul elected as the new prime minister



Germany: The right-winged Alternative for Germany party tripled its vote share in municipal elections in Germany's most populous state



US: President Trump lambasted the United Nation's (UN) conflict-solving record in a speech to the UN General Assembly



Malawi: Peter Mutharika emerged as president



2025
The year that was

The year that was 2025

10

October



Gaza: President Trump announced a 20-point plan to end the war in Gaza



US: First federal government shutdown since 2019 started over a row about health-insurance tax credits



Iran: France, Britain and Germany reimposed sanctions on Iran, ten years after they were lifted, on claims of 'continued nuclear escalation'



France: Sébastien Lecornu resigned as prime minister after less than a month in the job but was later reappointed



Czech Republic: Populist ANO party won the parliamentary election



Japan: Takaichi Sanae elected as leader of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party and took office as the new prime minister



Afghanistan: Agreed to a 48-hour ceasefire with Pakistan after dozens were killed in border conflict



Bolivia: Centrist Rodrigo Paz won the presidential election



Argentina: Argentina's central bank signed a US\$20 billion currency-swap deal with the US Treasury



France: Former President Nicolas Sarkozy began his five-year prison term for conspiring to use illicit Libyan campaign money but was released soon after pending his appeal against the verdict



China: Agreed to a one-year trade deal with the US and promised to loosen restrictions on exports of rare earths in exchange for a lower tariff on Chinese goods exported to the US



Argentina: Javier Milei's party secured a landslide victory in the midterm elections.



Cameroon: Paul Biya won a contested eighth term in a presidential election

11

November



US: Democratic socialist Zohran Mamdani won New York's mayoral race and will be the first Muslim to lead the city



Tanzania: Samia Suluhu was sworn into office for a second term as president



EU: A progress report on countries which aspire to join the bloc noted that Ukraine had made progress, but there was insufficient progress on reforms to stamp out corruption if it wanted to join by late 2028



Egypt: The Grand Egyptian Museum opened in Giza after two decades and at a cost of US\$1 billion



US: Longest shutdown on record ends with several Democrats voting with Republicans to break the fiscal impasse



SA: S&P Global Ratings upgraded the country's foreign currency debt rating to BB and maintained its positive outlook on the rating



UN: COP30, the UN conference on climate change, opened in Brazil



Iraq: Muhammad Shia al-Sudani, the prime minister, secured another term in office following a parliamentary election



SA: G20 Leaders' Summit focused on AI governance, digital trade and reforming global finance

12

December



Eurozone: European Governing Council meeting to decide on interest rates against the backdrop of improving growth



US: Federal Open Market Committee meeting to decide on interest rates amid sticky inflation



UK: Bank of England interest-rate setting meeting amid labour market deterioration and fiscal risks



Japan: Bank of Japan to decide on interest rates in a mixed environment of oil price shocks and a fragile economic recovery



Central African Republic: General election

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