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## Weekly Highlights



This week, we focus on Russia, after President Vladimir Putin cemented his grip on power following a landslide election victory that was criticised by the West as lacking democratic legitimacy.

Meanwhile, a new report has said famine in besieged and bombed Gaza is "imminent" as months of Israeli attacks have led to Palestinians experiencing catastrophic hunger. It came as the US reiterated its warning against Israel launching a ground incursion into the crowded city of Rafah.

Finally, boycotts over the Gaza war are hitting big brands in Southeast Asia despite local owners denying links to Israel.



### [Russia's Putin hails victory in election criticised as illegitimate](#)

President, 71, secures fifth term after running against no real opposition.



## **Biden warns Netanyahu against 'mistake' of invading Rafah**

The US president tells the Israeli prime minister in a phone call that a 'coherent strategy' is needed to defeat Hamas in Gaza.

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## **In Indonesia and Malaysia, boycotts hammer McDonald's, Starbucks**

Brands' efforts to distance themselves from the war continue to fall on deaf ears.

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## **Why are black voters backing Donald Trump in record numbers?**

Latest polls show 17 percent of Black voters would vote for former US president today - more than twice the number in 2016.

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## **Gaza headed towards famine amid Israeli aid curbs: What to know**

A UN-backed report says the entire Gaza population is experiencing a food shortage as Israel is accused of provoking famine.



## **PODCAST 🗣️: Is Romania's labour shortage fuelling exploitation?**

Foreign workers are filling jobs Romanians have left behind, but at a price.

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