

## Catch up: Israel approves ceasefire; TikTok going “dark”



**Binyamin Netanyahu**, Israel’s prime minister, said that his cabinet had approved the Gaza ceasefire deal by 24 votes to eight on Saturday, paving the way for the agreement to take effect on Sunday. Hamas is expected to release the first hostages that day. Hard-right members of Mr Netanyahu’s parliamentary coalition oppose [the deal](#) and have threatened to resign in protest.

**TikTok** said it would “go dark” in America unless President Joe Biden assured it that he would not enforce a potential embargo on his last day in office. On Friday the Supreme Court [upheld a law](#) forcing the app’s Chinese owner, ByteDance, to sell it by Sunday or face a nationwide ban. Donald Trump, who takes office the next day, said he needed time to review the situation.

**Mr Trump’s** inauguration will be moved indoors due to freezing weather, the first time in 40 years that the swearing-in ceremony has been relocated inside the Capitol. [Mr Trump](#) cited safety concerns for attendees, with forecasters warning of wind chills as

low as -13°C (9°F). The change will deprive him of the large outdoor crowds that he so prizes.

**Russia** launched a wave of drones and missiles at **Kyiv**, Ukraine's capital, killing at least four people. [Ukraine's armed forces](#) said its air defences shot down 24 drones and two missiles. Russia also struck Zaporizhia, a town in the south, injuring ten people. Meanwhile Ukraine attacked industrial sites inside Russia, igniting fires at fuel storage sites in Kaluga and Tula, in the west.

A **Russian** court jailed [three lawyers](#) who had defended **Alexei Navalny**, one of the Kremlin's fiercest critics. The men were convicted of participation in an extremist community—in effect for relaying Mr Navalny's messages while he was locked up on spurious charges of fraud and extremism. He [died](#) in jail in February

America's Federal Aviation Administration grounded **SpaceX's** Starship programme while an investigation into why one of the firm's rockets exploded is conducted. The vessel burst into flames shortly after launch in Texas, possibly following an oxygen or fuel leak. The upper stage came to earth over the northern Caribbean, disrupting flights. Despite the failure, [SpaceX](#) successfully landed the rocket's reusable booster.

**Goldman Sachs** said it would hand David Solomon, its CEO, \$80m-worth of stocks to keep him at the bank for the next five years. It also said it had bumped up his pay by a quarter in 2024, to \$39m. Following a turbulent few years—which included a [disastrous](#) attempt to launch a consumer bank—Goldman posted net income of \$14.3bn in 2024.

**Word of the week:** *chanoyu*, a Japanese tea ceremony that contributed to the spread of matcha. [Read the full story.](#)

# Sudan's rebels on the back foot



As Sudan's civil war enters its 21st month, the Sudanese Armed Forces continue to make ground against the Rapid Support Forces, a mutinous paramilitary group. On January 11th the national army retook Wad Madani, one of the country's biggest cities, from the rebel force. The victory marks the culmination of a counter-offensive launched at the start of the dry season in October.

The RSF had captured the city, deep inside the SAF's heartland, in [late 2023](#). At that stage many felt the group had cleared a path towards victory across the country. Few would place that bet today. Last week America accused the RSF of having [committed genocide](#) in Darfur. It also slapped sanctions on its leader, Muhammad Hamdan Dagalo (known as Hemedti). A year ago Mr Dagalo was welcomed in capitals across Africa as a probable [president-in-waiting](#). Now, on top of battlefield setbacks, the militiaman risks being treated in some parts of the continent as a diplomatic pariah.

# Europe's next cultural capital



This weekend Chemnitz, a city in the German state of Saxony, becomes “European Capital of Culture” for 2025. An opening ceremony featuring performances by artists across 60 stages will kick off a year-long programme of exhibitions and events at the city’s museums and galleries. Highlights include a show of the work of Edvard Munch, a Norwegian painter who stayed in the city in 1905, and the opening in April of a refurbished villa that was the birthplace of Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, a founding member of the Brücke painters’ group, which was active in the early 20th century.

Chemnitz received its cultural accolade in 2019, at a time when the city—called “Karl-Marx-Stadt” by communist East Germany—was trying to repair its image. A centre of the textile industry and machine construction before unification, Chemnitz was hit by deindustrialisation and high unemployment in the 1990s. Far-right riots took place in 2018. Today Chemnitz is a stronghold of [AfD](#), a hard-right party. A cultural festival could lighten the mood.



# The Economist's “Archive 1945”



One question naturally dominated the minds of weekly readers of *The Economist* 80 years ago: when would the defeat of Nazi Germany and its alliance finally arrive? In our pages, at the start of 1945, we celebrated that much of France had been liberated. But we also lamented how a combination of “military deadlock and political disunity” had delayed the much-anticipated Allied victory. Division among Allies over how to treat Germany postwar was one problem. The Nazis, we wrote, were hoping “that the coalition against them will, after all, collapse”.

To mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the second world war, we are publishing weekly updates from our archive. These will track momentous events—such as the deaths of Roosevelt and Hitler—but also provide the analysis and opinion that our correspondents and editors shared while in the thick of the conflict. Follow the weekly updates on [our dedicated interactive page](#).

## An introspective pop star returns



David Gray, a British singer-songwriter, found fame with his fourth album, “White Ladder”. The self-financed and home-recorded album was issued in 1998 but took another three years to reach number one in Britain. It went on to stay in the charts for several more years and to sell millions of copies worldwide.

An anniversary tour for “White Ladder” inspired Mr Gray’s latest record. “Dear Life”, released this week, revisits and expands upon the blend of melancholic folk-pop and electronica that made him so popular in the first place. The strong set of songs underlines the influence he claims over subsequent troubadour stars, such as Ed Sheeran and Hozier. Yet Mr Gray is much more thoughtful. He once seemed like an older soul in a younger artist’s body. Now in his fifties, Mr Gray has grown into his nuanced style.

# A mammoth opportunity for conservationists

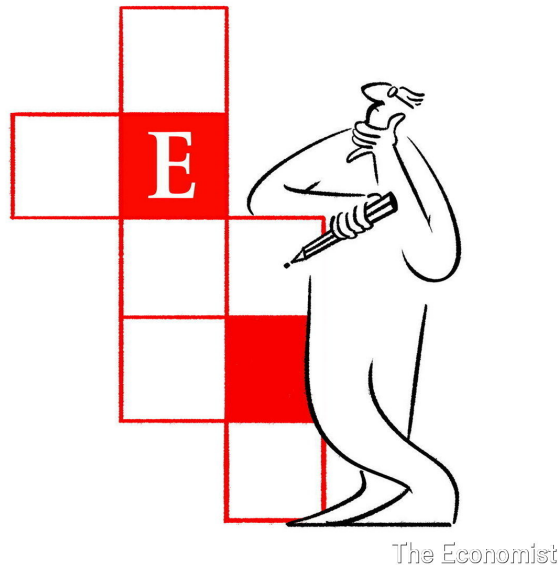


Dodos, thylacines and woolly mammoths have long been extinct. Colossal Biosciences, which describes itself as “the world’s first de-extinction company”, wants to bring them back. This week the Texas-based startup raised \$200m to develop its genetic technologies. Its latest round of financing, which comes from TWG Global, a diversified holding company, brings Colossal’s total funds raised since its launch in 2021 to \$435m.

But the practice of “de-extinction” has critics. Some argue that the money would be better spent safeguarding existing species.

Colossal itself admits that its resurrection of Ice Age mammoths would not be an exact match, but rather “a cold-resistant elephant with all of the core biological traits” of a mammoth. Nonetheless the company is attracting capital and expertise, which has already delivered a handful of firsts for biodiversity genomics. Last year a new foundation was established to support conservationists using Colossal’s technology. If a replica of an extinct icon can be engineered, expect the revenues from zoos and safaris in protected wilderness to be mammoth indeed.

# Weekly crossword



Our crossword has two sets of clues, one for seasoned cruciverbalists and the other for less experienced solvers. Both give the same answers, all of which feature in articles in this week's edition of *The Economist*:

## Cryptic clues

*1 down* Crazy man with a plan (and odd cravat) in important waterway (6,5)

*1 across* Inn, with landlord in charge initially, is not private (6)

*2 across* Deposed dictator found among crass admirers (5)

*3 across* City left with bare ponds and no backing (6)

## Factual clues

*1 down* Something that Donald Trump wants America to have back (6,5)

*1 across* What Venture Global, a large American gas exporter, is about to become (6)

*2 across* Whose regime collapsed in Syria in December (5)



3 across What accounts for 15% of Britain's population, and 22% of its economic output (6)

Email all four answers, along with your home city and country, by 9am GMT on Monday to [crossword@economist.com](mailto:crossword@economist.com). We will pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners in next week's edition.

# The winners of this week's quiz



The Economist

Thank you to everyone who took part in this week's quiz. The winners, chosen at random, were:

**Laura M. Linger**, Winnetka, Illinois, America

**Andreia Bessa**, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Thomas Rynell**, Stockholm, Sweden

They all gave the correct answers of The Interpretation of Dreams, Durham, Tin, a hood, and wolves. The theme is Kevin Costner movies: Field of Dreams, Bull Durham, Tin Cup, Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves and Dances with Wolves

The questions were:

**Monday:** Sigmund Freud's book "Die Traumdeutung" is generally known in English by what title?

**Tuesday:** Which town in north-east England on the river Wear is home to a prestigious university and has a castle, and cathedral, that are UNESCO world heritage sites?

**Wednesday:** Which atomic element has the symbol Sn?

**Thursday:** What is the term for the cap placed over the head of a

trained falcon?

**Friday:** A pack of canis lupus would be better known by what name?

# Chanoyu

*A Japanese tea ceremony that contributed to the spread of matcha.  
Read the full story.*

**Words are the most powerful drug used by mankind.**

*Rudyard Kipling*