

Catch up: Meta scraps fact-checking system; deadly earthquake strikes Tibet



Meta, a social-media giant, will abandon its fact-checking programme in favour of crowdsourced checks. Community Notes, where users can append corrections or clarifications to posts, have been used by X, formerly Twitter, since 2021. Donald Trump has long been a critic of [Meta's](#) content moderation. Meta's boss, Mark Zuckerberg, donated \$1m to Mr Trump's inauguration fund.

A powerful **earthquake** struck near Shigatse, one of Tibet's holiest cities and its second largest. At least 126 people were killed and another 188 injured in the quake, which the US Geological Survey reported as having a 7.1 magnitude. Tremors were felt across Nepal, Bhutan and India. Multiple aftershocks were reported. Earthquakes are common in the region, which lies on a fault line.

A **South Korean** court re-issued an arrest warrant for [President Yoon Suk Yeol](#). Mr Yoon is being investigated for alleged insurrection after he briefly declared martial law in December. Authorities sought to detain him last week but were thwarted by the

presidential security service. The previous week-long warrant expired on Monday.

Jean-Marie Le Pen, founder of France's hard-right National Rally (RN), died aged 96. The former paratrooper formed RN in 1972 but was disowned by the party in 2015 for his extreme views. Mr Le Pen was last year accused of embezzling money from the European parliament, but was excused from attending court. His daughter, [Marine Le Pen](#), now runs RN, which has a significant presence in France's parliament.

Donald Trump junior arrived in **Greenland** for what he has described as a "very long, personal, day-trip". On Monday his father again suggested that the island, which is a self-governing territory of Denmark, should join America. Last month he said that the acquisition was necessary for national security. Mute Egede, Greenland's Prime Minister, said in December that the island is "not for sale".

The **Biden administration** said that the Rapid Support Forces, a paramilitary group, is committing genocide in **Sudan's** civil war. The RSF has been fighting the Sudanese army since April 2023, resulting in the world's [worst humanitarian disaster](#). The American designation has no legal implications, but was accompanied by sanctions against the RSF's leader and seven companies linked to it in the United Arab Emirates.

America removed some trade restrictions on **Syria**. The six-month general license allows some transactions with Syria's new government, including energy sales. It is meant to ensure that American sanctions do not "impede essential services" in the country. American officials have met with [Hayat Tahrir al-Sham](#), the rebel group that formed an interim administration after the ousting of Bashar al-Assad.

Figure of the day: \$400bn, the estimated amount spent globally on grid infrastructure in 2024, up from a little more than \$300bn in 2020. [Read the full story.](#)

Canada's Liberals face leadership race



On January 6th Justin Trudeau, Canada's prime minister, announced his resignation. Over the past year he has become an [isolated and deeply polarising figure](#) as supporters have abandoned his Liberal Party, angry that it has failed to tackle inflation, housing costs and the strains from high immigration. In the coming weeks the Liberals will be gripped by a leadership struggle.

Potential replacements include Mark Carney, who ran the Bank of England, and before that the Bank of Canada; Chrystia Freeland, whose [surprise resignation](#) as finance minister precipitated the crisis that forced Mr Trudeau out; and Dominic Leblanc, who succeeded Ms Freeland as finance minister.

In a general election, which will probably come by spring, the new Liberal leader must set out how the party will confront the challenge of Donald Trump, who has promised to impose tariffs on Canada. But the election will also be a battle over Canada's identity. Far more than the Liberal Party's fortunes will be at stake.

Europe's faltering economy gets a nudge



New euro-zone economic data was published on Tuesday. With elections possible in several big European countries, unemployment numbers and inflation figures will be closely considered by analysts. The European Central Bank will have to decide at the end of January whether to cut interest rates for a fifth time, bringing its key rate below 3%.

After a slight uptick in the annual inflation rate in November to 2.2%, data for December again rose to 2.4%. Services inflation has been stuck at around 4% since May.

But Europe's economy is still weakening. The purchasing managers' index for the euro zone shows economic sentiment among businesses still signals a slight contraction. That suggests the ECB should prioritise growth and give the economy a push, rather than keep rates high to fight inflation.

Big tech's big bash



The Consumer Electronics Show, better known as CES, opens in Las Vegas on Tuesday. Organised by the Consumer Technology Association, a trade body, the annual bonanza brought together nearly 140,000 attendees and more than 4,000 exhibitors in 2024. Representatives from three-fifths of the Fortune 500, as well as 160 countries, will cram into a convention hall to ogle the latest inventions.

The very biggest names, such as Apple and Microsoft, prefer to hold their own events, but others have launched their latest products at the expo. LG and Samsung unveiled transparent TV screens last year; this time look out for artificial intelligence appearing in all sorts of gadgets. On the eve of the show Jensen Huang, the superstar boss of [Nvidia](#), an AI chipmaker, gave a keynote speech outlining possible future uses of AI. He announced a range of new chips and software. There will be wackier inventions at CES too: L'Oreal, a cosmetics company, has already announced a device that can analyse your skin and give personalised advice on how to slow ageing.

Charlie Hebdo ten years on



Ten years ago on Tuesday two gunmen linked to al-Qaeda murdered 12 people at the offices of [Charlie Hebdo](#), a French satirical newspaper. It had published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad and mocked Islam (along with other religions). President Emmanuel Macron and Anne Hidalgo, the mayor of Paris, will mark the grim anniversary at the site of the massacre, before moving on to other locations in Paris where terrorist attacks took place in the following days.

The commemoration takes place at a time when satire is under siege. On Friday Ann Telnaes resigned from the *Washington Post* after the paper spiked her cartoon depicting its owner, Jeff Bezos, and other tech bosses genuflecting to Donald Trump. Even in France, which protects blasphemy by law, polls show ebbing support for Charlie Hebdo's provocative caricatures. Charlie Hebdo's editor, and a survivor of the terrorist attack, Laurent Sourisseau, known as Riss, told *The Economist* that his paper has not changed, but that the mood towards satire has become more timid.

A techy new golf league



Tomorrow's Golf League, a new indoor tournament, is like a video game come to life. From Tuesday teams formed by some of the world's best golfers will play in weekly matches in an arena in Florida. The final will be a best-of-three-rounds contest that takes place at the end of March.

Players will take aim at virtual fairways on a giant simulator screen and hole out on a real green that rotates and lights up. The high-tech event, played before a live crowd and a primetime TV audience, could even feature trash talk: the pros will wear microphones.

Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, golfers who started TGL with their own money, hope that the new format will attract young golf fans. But supporters of LIV, the [Saudi-backed tour](#) that divided the sport in 2021, will not see their favourite golfers: only golfers on the PGA Tour, the original men's league, are invited to play.

Daily Quiz



The Economist

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 GMT on Friday to QuizEspresso@economist.com. We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

Tuesday: What was the title of the sixth book in the Harry Potter series?

Monday: Which actor played “The Six Million Dollar Man” in the 1970s TV show?

Of all things, I liked books best.

Nikola Tesla