

## Catch up: huge earthquake in Tibet; Trudeau's possible replacements



A powerful **earthquake** struck near Shigatse, one of Tibet's holiest cities and its second largest. At least 53 people were killed and another 62 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.

Mark Carney, a former governor of both the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England, said he was considering entering the race to replace **Justin Trudeau**, who [resigned](#) as Canada's prime minister on Monday. Mr Trudeau's government was thrown into turmoil in December following the resignation of [Chrystia Freeland](#), the finance minister. A general election must be held by October.

America's Congress certified **Donald Trump's** presidential election victory. The high-security session—which took place exactly four years after thousands of Mr Trump's supporters [stormed the Capitol](#)—was presided over by Kamala Harris, the vice-president. Republicans will now turn their attention to passing

a bill advancing Mr Trump's legislative priorities, which include tax cuts, controlling immigration and pumping more oil.

The Pentagon designated **Tencent**, a tech giant, as a “Chinese military company” operating in America. **CATL**, [a battery-maker](#) that has supplied Tesla, was also listed. Both companies denied links to China's military and described their designations as a mistake. Inclusion on the list does not in itself trigger sanctions, though Tencent's shares slid by 7% in Hong Kong on Tuesday.

**Indonesia** formally joined the BRICS group of emerging economies. Brazil, the bloc's presiding nation, said Indonesia's accession would strengthen the bloc's links with the “Global South”. The world's [fourth most-populous country](#) formally asked to join after Prabowo Subianto became president in October.

The governments of **Singapore** and **Malaysia** announced a deal to form a vast new special economic zone linking the two countries. Officials hope the zone, located in Malaysia's southern state of [Johor](#) and spanning more than 3,500 square kilometres, will create up to 100,000 jobs by 2030 and bring 50 new projects to the region. They also hope to add \$26bn a year to Malaysia's economy.

**Meta** appointed **Dana White**, [the boss](#) of the Ultimate Fighting Championship and confidant of Donald Trump, to its executive board. The social-media giant looks to be trying to curry favour with the president-elect, who has long harboured resentment against Meta's Facebook (which once banned him). In December Meta donated \$1m to Mr Trump's inauguration fund.

**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 will be 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 are again likely to surprise on the upside. National figures from Germany and [Spain](#) came in higher than expected.

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, was due to give a keynote speech. And there will be wackier inventions 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](mailto: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*