

Catch up: first Israeli hostages released; Trump plans TikTok executive order



The **Israel Defence Forces** said that [three hostages](#) released by **Hamas** had arrived in Israel. A [ceasefire](#) deal belatedly took hold in **Gaza** at 11:15am local time. Israel expects 33 hostages to be released as part of the deal over the next six weeks; Hamas says 90 Palestinian prisoners are due to be freed on Sunday. Earlier Palestinians in the enclave began returning to their homes, many destroyed.

TikTok started restoring services for some users in America, after **Donald Trump** said that he would sign an executive order on Monday that would allow **TikTok** to stay online for an extended period of time. On Friday the Supreme Court [upheld a law](#) forcing the app's Chinese owner, ByteDance, to sell it by Sunday or shut down the video platform. Mr Trump said America should have "50% ownership position in a joint venture".

Mr Trump prepared to address supporters during a "victory rally" in Washington, DC, ahead of his inauguration on Monday. It is his first major event there since January 6th 2021. [Elon Musk](#), Tesla's

boss, and J.D. Vance, the incoming vice president, will give speeches at the rally. TikTok's CEO, Shou Zi Chew, may also reportedly attend.

On his last full day in office **President Joe Biden** pardoned five activists and public servants, including Marcus Garvey, a human-rights leader. He also commuted the sentences of two people; they will be released next month. On Friday Mr Biden commuted the sentences of nearly 2,500 non-violent drug offenders, the largest-ever mass commutation by an [American president](#).

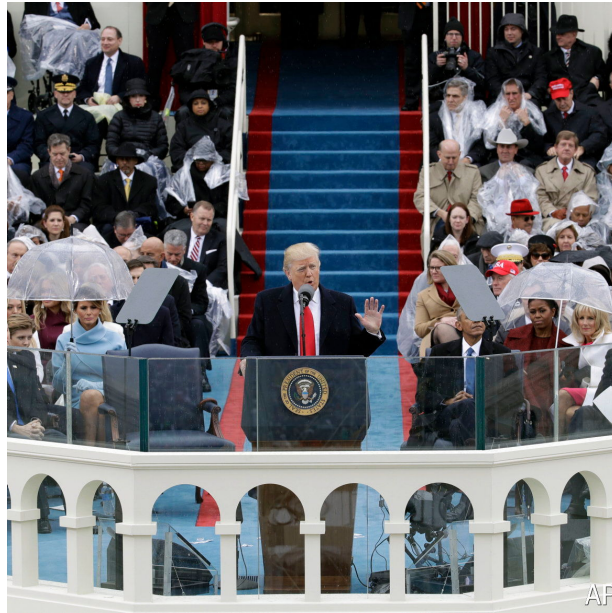
Supporters of **Yoon Suk Yeol** went on the rampage in a court in Seoul after a judge extended the **South Korean** president's detention. Some 40,000 protesters had gathered around the building; more than one hundred breached police lines, smashing windows and vandalising offices. Mr Yoon was arrested last week for insurrection, following his attempt to introduce martial law in December.

Colombia's human-rights office said that 80 people were killed during a bout of rebel violence in the Catatumbo region, an area on the border with Venezuela where coca, the plant-base of cocaine, is abundant. Colombia's president, Gustavo Petro, on Friday called off peace talks with one of the groups involved, the National Liberation Army (ELN), accusing it of war crimes.

Mount Ibu, a volcano in eastern **Indonesia**, has erupted more than a thousand times this month, according to officials. It had already erupted more than 17 times on Sunday. The most recent eruption sent a 1.5km pillar of smoke into the air. Indonesian officials have begun evacuating the 3,000 people living around it.

Figure of the day: \$175bn, the increase in shipping costs caused by Houthi attacks in the ten months to October 2024. [Read the full story](#).

Donald Trump's second coming



On Monday [Donald Trump](#) will be sworn in as America's president for the second time. As with the first inauguration, he will stand with his family and former presidents. But there will be some differences. Due to cold weather, the inauguration will be indoors. And Mr Trump will have some new guests. Billionaire tech executives like Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos and Mark Zuckerberg will attend, along with foreign leaders, such as Javier Milei of Argentina. The billionaires' presence is a sign of growing acceptance for Mr Trump among parts of America's elite that had previously been hostile to him. Some Democrats, like Nancy Pelosi, a former speaker of the House of Representatives, will skip the event.

At his inauguration in 2017 Mr Trump warned of "American carnage", painting a picture of industrial devastation and lives stolen by crime, gangs and drugs. Ahead of this year's event, it is not yet clear whether Mr Trump will choose a similarly dark theme or strike a more optimistic note.

The World Economic Forum in Davos



Politicians and business bigwigs from around the world will gather at the Swiss alpine resort of Davos this week for the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum. Around 60 heads of state and government are expected. Among the big names are Ding Xuexiang, China's vice-premier, [Javier Milei](#), Argentina's president, and Volodymyr Zelensky, the president of Ukraine. They will rub shoulders with 900 chief executives.

Although the official theme is "Collaboration for the Intelligent Age", expect Washington to dominate the conversation. The main subject of discussion is likely to be just what President Trump's policies mean for the rest of the world. Some members of the incoming administration and advisers to the new president may make an appearance in person. The man himself is expected to speak, via video link, on Thursday.

A new direction for the SEC



On Monday Paul Atkins will take over as chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission. A Republican and former SEC commissioner, Mr Atkins is expected to roll back many of the rules introduced by his predecessor, [Gary Gensler](#), who expanded regulatory oversight of Wall Street.

His appointment is a victory for the crypto industry. Mr Atkins has long sought lighter regulation of digital assets. He has been critical of the SEC's past "regulation by enforcement" tactics and may seek to drop high-profile cases, such as a lawsuit against Coinbase, a big cryptocurrency exchange. Beyond crypto, Mr Atkins may roll back rules on corporate climate disclosures and diversity initiatives.

The appointment aligns with Donald Trump's broader deregulatory agenda. But while Wall Street has welcomed the change, some investors worry a more hands-off SEC could weaken financial protections.

The candidates to replace Trudeau



The race to replace Justin Trudeau, Canada's prime minister, as leader of the Liberal Party is in full swing. Mark Carney and Chrystia Freeland are the perceived front-runners. Mr Carney, who entered the race on Thursday, was governor of the Bank of England and before that of the Bank of Canada. Ms Freeland's [surprise resignation](#) as finance minister on December 16th prompted much of Mr Trudeau's caucus to abandon him. She has been a financial journalist (who did some work for *The Economist*) and wrote "Plutocrats", a best-selling book about global inequality.

Mr Carney says he will run as an outsider. Ms Freeland cannot: she had been a senior member of Mr Trudeau's government since 2015. She and Mr Carney know each other well. Mr Carney is godfather to Ms Freeland's son. Whoever is selected on March 9th will become Canada's prime minister, but probably not for long. The Conservatives, led by Pierre Poilievre, are strongly favoured to win an election that must be held by October and may take place well before that.

Taking the sting out of snake bites



Each year snakes bite and leave venom in between 1.8m and 2.7m people globally; 100,000 of the victims die. Producing anti-venoms is costly and time consuming. The process involves injecting with venom large animals that are able to withstand the poison, then withdrawing antibody-rich blood.

But artificial intelligence may help to neutralise toxins more easily, according to a paper published in *Nature*, a journal. Researchers in America and Denmark used an AI system to design and manufacture proteins that bind to, then nullify, the “three-finger toxins” in venom that cause paralysis and pain. When experimenters tested the protein on 17 mice that had been injected with three-finger toxins, it quelled their harmful effects. The proteins also performed as well as traditional antibodies. But they were less effective when tested on mice carrying whole venoms. For now, the proteins might be used to strengthen existing anti-venoms rather than making new ones.

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.

Monday: The Canadian restaurant and coffee chain, which now has branches in more than a dozen countries, is named after which ice hockey player?

**Experience is what you get while looking
for something else.**

Federico Fellini