



February 10, 2025

Headlining This Week's Brief

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Top Stories

Several High Impact Storms Forecast Across the U.S. and Canada

A [significant winter storm](#) is expected to impact the Central Appalachians and Mid-Atlantic from Tuesday through Wednesday, bringing a mix of snow, sleet, and freezing rain. A prolonged freezing rain event, particularly in the Blue Ridge Mountains from northwest North Carolina to southwest Virginia, could result in over a quarter of an inch of ice, with localized amounts up to half-inch, leading to hazardous travel, power outages, and tree damage. Heavy snow is likely from eastern Kentucky to the I-95 corridor, including Richmond and Philadelphia, with snowfall rates up to one inch per hour and the potential for isolated power outages.

Meanwhile, a [powerful winter storm](#) will take shape across the Central Plains from Tuesday night into Wednesday morning, strengthening further as it moves over the Midwest and parts of the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes by Wednesday afternoon and night. Topeka, Kansas; Kansas City, Missouri; Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska; Des Moines and Davenport, Iowa; Chicago, Illinois; and Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, are all likely to receive over six inches of snow, with localized amounts over 10 inches possible. By Thursday, increasingly significant winter storm impacts will spread eastward into southern Ontario and Quebec. Toronto, Ottawa, Quebec City, and Montreal are all likely to encounter eight to 12 inches (20- 30cm) of snow, with snow rates approaching one to two inches (three to five centimeters) per hour. Widespread impacts are likely along the storm's path, with periods of difficult to impossible driving conditions, numerous flight disruptions, and one-day school and business closures.

[Heavy rain and localized flooding](#) are possible on the warmer side of the storm system Tuesday through Wednesday night. Rain totals between three and five inches, locally six, are forecast between

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Shreveport, Louisiana; Jackson, Mississippi; Birmingham and Huntsville, Alabama; Nashville and Knoxville, Tennessee; and Atlanta, Georgia. The Weather Prediction Center has issued a Level 2 excessive rainfall risk (five-tier scale).

By Thursday, focus will also turn to [California](#) as a powerful atmospheric river brings heavy rain and substantial mountain snowfall. San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego can expect two to three inches of rain, with surrounding foothills likely receiving four inches or more. This will be the most significant rainfall event since the early January wildfire outbreak, posing a heightened risk of mudslides and debris flows in the Palisades, Eaton, Hughes, Border 2, and Kenneth burn areas. Localized flooding is also possible within urban and flood-prone areas. Meanwhile, two to four feet of snow, locally five, will cause severe travel disruption across the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Germany to See Heightened Security, Demonstration Activity Ahead of Federal Elections

Heightened security, increased campaigning and demonstration activity, and the risk of [political violence](#) will impact the security situation across Germany leading up to federal parliamentary elections, scheduled for February 23. The election is primarily being contested among the Christian Democratic Union of Germany and the Christian Social Union in Bavaria (CDU/CSU) alliance, the Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, and the party of outgoing chancellor Olaf Scholz's coalition – the Social Democratic Party (SPD). Leading up to the elections, protest activity related to various issues and political parties has been increasing. Foremost among these has been immigration, especially following recent violent attacks in [Aschaffenburg](#), [Magdeburg](#), and [Solingen](#). The incidents have prompted calls from politicians across the political spectrum for stricter migration and border security measures.

Demonstrations related to the election have drawn and will likely continue attracting several thousand attendees. Climate activist groups led by Fridays for Future are calling for a nationwide “climate strike” and demonstrations on Friday, February 14. Over 130 demonstrations are planned in urban areas, with notable gatherings scheduled in Berlin (Brandenburg Gate at 12 pm), Cologne (Heumarkt at 4 pm), Frankfurt (An der alten Oper at 4 pm), Hamburg (Rathausmarkt at 1 pm), and Munich (Königsplatz at 2 pm). For more on Germany's federal elections, read AlertMedia's [situation report](#).

U.S. President Trump Calls for New Tariffs Amid Efforts to Overhaul Federal Government

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U.S. President Donald Trump told reporters yesterday that he [plans](#) to impose 25% tariffs on all steel and aluminum imports, regardless of the originating country; however, he did not indicate when such measures will go into effect. Mexico, Canada, Brazil, South Korea, and Vietnam are the [biggest foreign suppliers of steel](#) for the U.S., and Canada is the largest source of imported aluminum. Steel and aluminum may be just the beginning. Trump previously said he would impose tariffs on computer chips, pharmaceuticals, copper, oil, and gas.

Additionally, President Trump said he would announce [reciprocal tariffs](#) either today or tomorrow on countries that tax U.S. imports, which would go into effect “almost immediately.” If Trump follows through on his promise, countries in South America, Africa, and South Asia are likely to be among the [most impacted](#). Meanwhile, both Mexico and Canada are using their 30-day reprieves from tariffs to determine how to further address the White House’s stated concerns around border security and fentanyl. Twenty-five percent tariffs on all goods from the U.S.’ North American neighbors are due to go into effect on [March 4 at 12:01 am](#), barring any further extensions.

Outside of trade policy, the Trump administration continues to make significant changes that are having wide-ranging impacts. Over the weekend, employees of the [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#) (CFPB) were told to “stand down from performing any work tasks” and that the regulator’s offices would be closed through February 14. Employees are concerned that the CFPB could meet the same fate as the [U.S. Agency for International Development](#) (USAID), which saw thousands of direct hires [placed on administrative leave](#) (although a court order has blocked that move until 11:59 pm on Friday).

Along with attempts to lay off [the majority of](#) USAID’s staff, the administration has [frozen](#) more than \$60 billion in foreign assistance pending further review, halting many [humanitarian](#) and [public health programs](#). On Friday, the Trump administration also ordered a stop to all aid to [South Africa](#) to protest the [Expropriation Act](#), which allows the South African government, in some instances, to acquire land without compensation when it is “just and equitable and in the public interest.”

Issues with federal funding are also causing disruptions closer to home. The National Institutes of Health announced Friday they were [significantly reducing](#) “indirect” costs related to research, which universities and medical centers have said will [adversely impact](#) biomedical research efforts. The administration has also [frozen funding](#) for a program to build out a network of electric vehicle charging stations. A government-wide [hiring freeze](#) that was ordered when Trump took office appears to have led to a [stall in the hiring of federal firefighters](#). In addition, several primary care and community health clinics are being forced to [close their doors or lay off staff](#) after being unable to access federal funding. In the coming weeks, further impacts on federal government operations

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and programs are likely as the administration [reportedly](#) contemplates laying off thousands of workers with the Department of Health and Human Services and plans an overhaul of the [Department of Education](#), with changes to a range of [student loan programs](#) under consideration.

Climate and Natural Hazards

- **“Seismic Storm” Continues to Shake Greece:** [Multiple earthquakes](#) continued to be recorded on Monday, with the strongest being a [magnitude 4.8](#) 25km southwest of Amorgós, according to the USGS. Over 11,000 people self-evacuated from Santorini amid the seismic swarm, though experts in the field say there are reasons to be optimistic. The likelihood of a major earthquake is [low](#) and continues to decline as seismic activity has [lessened](#) over the past 48-72 hours. While the President of the Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization (OASP) has [removed](#) the risk of a 6.0 magnitude earthquake in Santorini, officials advise maintaining caution. Schools will remain [closed](#) through February 14.
- **Tropical Cyclone Threatens Western Australia:** Both the [U.S. Joint Typhoon Warning Center](#) and the [Australia Bureau of Meteorology](#) are tracking Invest 96S, located just [northwest of the Dampier Peninsula](#). Atmospheric conditions are highly favorable for further consolidation and intensification, possibly into a hurricane-strength equivalent storm, by mid-week. Regardless of tropical status, a slow south-southwestward track through Friday will likely lead to localized rainfall totals up to 500mm somewhere between Broome and Port Hedland. Forecast model guidance shows a significant spread regarding the exact landfall point, though confidence is increasing that the area between Bidyadanga and De Grey is most at risk.
- **Chile and Argentina Face Uptick in Wildfire Activity Amid Heat Wave:** An extreme heat wave across portions of South America, including central Chile, central and northern Argentina, Uruguay, and southern Brazil, has fueled a significant increase in wildfire activity. In Chile, CONAF authorities, cited by [regional media](#), say that fire crews were battling upwards of 10 fires simultaneously in La Araucanía Sunday afternoon. The wildfires necessitated evacuations and [curfews](#) for at least eight communes in the region. Several wildfires remain ongoing in Argentina as well. Most notably, a fire in [El Bolsón](#) prompted the evacuation of over [700 families](#). Continued above-average temperatures will focus over northern Argentina, Uruguay, and southern Brazil through mid-week.
- **Other Severe Weather Events:** For a daily look at significant weather events around the world, read AlertMedia’s [Daily Severe Weather Report](#).

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Worldwide

- **Belgian Authorities to Hold Meeting After String of Gang-Related Shootings:** The head of the Brussels- Capital Region [will convene](#) a regional security council meeting tomorrow to discuss a flare-up of suspected gang-related violence in the Belgian capital. [Four shootings](#) were reported in the city last week, including one on Friday that [resulted in one death](#) and another on Wednesday that prompted a manhunt and shutdown of multiple metro stations. Government officials said the events were "more than likely" linked and pointed to rival drug gangs as the perpetrators. Such groups continue to pose a significant challenge for authorities in [Brussels](#) and across Belgium, where [organized crime-related violence](#) is on the rise as groups fight for control of the nation's drug trade and access to its strategic ports.
- **Sweden to Implement New Firearm Legislation After Mass Shooting:** Swedish officials last week [announced plans](#) to tighten gun legislation after a shooter [killed](#) at least 10 people at an adult education center in Orebro on Tuesday. The mass shooting, the worst in the nation's history, was carried out by a [lone individual](#) who was believed to have [used](#) "several" legally owned rifles. Though specific details on these firearms were not immediately publicized, a press release issued by the government indicates that they intend to limit access to certain semi-automatic weapons, including AR-15s. Officials are also looking at adjusting the suitability test for gun ownership. A motive for the Orebro shooting has yet to be released.
- **Ecuador Heads for Runoff Election Amid Renewed Violence, Other Challenges:** Ecuadorians will have to wait to know who will lead their country for the next four years after this weekend's presidential race [ended without](#) a definitive winner. Incumbent President Daniel Noboa and lawyer Luisa González will now square off in a runoff vote on April 13. Both candidates are [campaigning as hardliners](#) on organized crime, which continues to plague the country despite Noboa's widely publicized [war on criminal groups](#) launched last year. His efforts bore some fruit initially; however, violence has surged in recent months, with 2025 seeing the [deadliest January](#) on record. Outside of crime, the winning candidate will face other notable challenges, including a [prolonged power crisis and economic stagnation](#).
- **Violence in Mexican Border City Prompts U.S. Consulate Alerts, Flight Disruptions:** Last week, gunfights occurred throughout Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, following the [arrest](#) of a leader of the Cartel del Noreste. The fighting prompted a (now lifted) shelter in place [advisory](#) from the local U.S. Consulate General and [flight cancelations](#) at Nuevo Laredo airport. The events came just one week after the U.S. government [issued a separate warning](#) to citizens regarding increased violence in another border town in Tamaulipas—Reynosa. That alert also highlighted

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the growing use of IEDs in the region, reflecting a [broader trend](#) of evolving cartel tactics across Mexico.

- **Major Conflict Roundup:** The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas is beginning to show signs of strain, with Hamas [accusing](#) Israel of violating the terms of the agreement and saying that they will delay the release of the next round of Israeli hostages. A truce between Israel and Hezbollah remains in place, and Lebanon's government has finally [succeeded](#) in forming a government for the first time in over two years. Meanwhile, over in Africa, leaders on the continent are [calling](#) for an immediate ceasefire in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where fighting reportedly continues with the M23 rebel group after the fall of Goma. To the north of the DRC, Sudanese forces are [closing in](#) on recapturing Khartoum and are said to be planning the formation of a new government after securing the capital. Finally, in Europe, Ukraine and Russia continue to trade large-scale [drone attacks](#) ahead of the Munich Security Conference, where U.S. Vice President JD Vance and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy [will meet](#) this week.

Cyber and Regulatory

- **U.K. Reportedly Orders Apple to Grant Access to Encrypted iCloud Data:** The Washington Post reports that the U.K. government has [issued](#) a "technical capability notice" to Apple, requiring the company to grant sweeping access to encrypted user data stored in its iCloud service. The demand, issued last month under the Investigatory Powers Act of 2016, reportedly goes beyond typical government requests for assistance in accessing specific accounts and instead mandates blanket access. Apple [offers](#) an encryption feature that ensures only users can access data stored in iCloud and is likely to push back on the request, [as it has in the past](#). Neither the British government nor Apple had commented on the report as of this writing.
- **Italy Denies Involvement in Spyware Campaign That Targeted Journalists, Others:** Italy's government issued a [press release](#) last week denying surveillance of individuals who were targeted in a hacking campaign involving the Israeli spyware program Paragon. The release came after WhatsApp announced in January that it had [uncovered and disrupted](#) the campaign, finding that around 90 of its users had been targeted, including several in Italy. Rome was seeking to counter [concerns](#) that it was snooping on its critics, as those affected by the spyware [reportedly](#) included an investigative journalist and a prominent critic of the government's involvement in Libya. Outside Italy, dozens of other journalists and civil society members across Europe [are said to have been targeted](#) in hacks, which involved the sending malicious PDFs via WhatsApp groups.
- **Netgear Warns of Critical Vulnerabilities in Routers:** Netgear [issued](#) a new security advisory after confirming two new critical authentication bypass vulnerabilities. The company has advised

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users to download and install the latest firmware to mitigate the security risk. The flaws affect multiple Wi-Fi 6 access points and models of Nighthawk Pro Gaming routers. Attackers can [exploit](#) these flaws for remote code execution and authentication bypass in “low complexity attacks that don’t require user interaction.” In recent months, the company has also [patched](#) XSS and authentication bypass flaws in Wi-Fi 6 routers and addressed multiple vulnerabilities in older models.

- **Malaysia Introduces New Internship Program:** The pilot program for Malaysia's [1:3 Internship Policy](#) is set to begin February 15 and run through the end of the year. Under the program, businesses will be [required](#) to provide up to three paid, structured internships for each expatriate employed. The ultimate number of internships will be determined based on the size of the company, with the total number of internship positions not to exceed 2% of the total workforce. The mandate has triggered some [trepidation](#) from businesses, who are concerned about the potential strain on their operations.
- **Baltic Countries Prepare for Cyberattacks After Leaving Russian Electricity Grid:** The Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania officially [switched](#) off the flow of electricity from the Soviet-era BRELL electricity system and [joined](#) the European Union’s grid on Sunday. Ahead of the switch, officials [bolstered](#) both their physical and cyber defenses against the threat of potential Russian counterattacks or sabotage operations. Sandworm, an elite hacking group with ties to Russia’s military intelligence division and that has been linked to attacks on Ukraine’s electric grid, has [reportedly](#) been probing infrastructure targets in eastern Europe.

Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **Panama Canal at Center of U.S.-China Tensions Over Fees, Infrastructure Ties:** The Panama Canal Authority last week [denied](#) the U.S. State Department’s [claim](#) that U.S. government vessels were exempt from transit fees—a statement later [walked back](#) by Secretary of State Marco Rubio. The dispute follows [recent comments](#) by U.S. President Donald Trump, who argued that his country should regain control of the canal, citing alleged Chinese influence and unfair fees imposed on U.S. ships. Amid the dispute, Panama has [stepped back](#) from a major infrastructure agreement linked to China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a decision Beijing condemned as the result of U.S. “coercion.” The latest developments highlight growing friction between Washington and Beijing over strategic waterways and influence in Latin America.
- **U.S.-China Trade Tensions Escalate, Tariffs and Export Controls Announced:** In response to the Trump Administration’s recent [imposition](#) of a 10% tariff on Chinese goods, Beijing [introduced](#) retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports, [targeting](#) liquefied natural gas, crude oil, and automobiles. Additionally, China [announced](#) export restrictions on five critical rare earth

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minerals: tungsten, tellurium, bismuth, molybdenum, and indium—key materials for U.S. industries. The Chinese measures are [expected](#) to hit U.S. states with significant industrial activity hardest, including North Dakota, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Alabama, and West Virginia. In related news, the U.S. Postal Service briefly suspended incoming packages from China and Hong Kong after Trump's removal of the de minimis exemption, which allows low-value imports to enter duty-free. Though the suspension was quickly [reversed](#), some consumers and small businesses reported unexpected [fees](#) on shipments from China during the exemption's removal.

- **Insurance Landscape Rattled Following Los Angeles Wildfires:** California's insurance market is under pressure following the recent Los Angeles wildfires, with major insurers citing significant financial strain. Last week, State Farm, the state's largest home insurer, [requested](#) a 22% rate increase for property insurance, pointing to mounting claims from the disaster. Meanwhile, Allstate [projects](#) wildfire-related losses of approximately \$1.1 billion. The crisis has intensified [concerns](#) over insurance availability, with many being forced in recent years onto state-backed insurance programs, where premiums can be significantly higher with less comprehensive coverage.
- **U.S. Orders on Renewable Energy Raise Electricity Supply Concerns:** Shortly after taking office, the Trump administration [ordered](#) a [moratorium](#) on issuing "new or renewed approvals, rights of way, permits, leases or loans for onshore or offshore wind projects" pending a comprehensive review of leasing and permitting practices. The result has been a halt to billions in incentives for green energy projects. The moves have [reportedly](#) raised concerns among industry executives over potential supply issues, as artificial intelligence (AI) fuels a major surge in electricity demand. They have also created uncertainty in the renewables sector, which had been projected to provide 90% of the 100 gigawatts of new capacity expected in the coming years.
- **India Considers Lowering Import Tariffs Ahead of Modi-Trump Meeting:** Ahead of India Prime Minister Narendra Modi's planned meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington this week, India is [reportedly](#) considering tariff reductions on more than 30 U.S. imports, including luxury cars and semiconductor manufacturing equipment. The move follows tariff cuts announced in India's national budget last week and comes amid concerns over potential trade tensions with the Trump administration. New Delhi is also [said](#) to be considering a limited trade deal with Washington and is expected to indicate a willingness to buy more defense and energy products from the U.S.

Health

- **U.S. Sees Highest Levels of Flu-Related Doctor Visits in 15 Years:** Flu-related doctor visits, an indicator of viral activity, reached their highest level in the U.S. since the 2009-2010 flu season,

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according to [the most recent data](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The national flu test positivity rate is at 31%, up from 29.4% the week prior, and the total number of pediatric flu-associated deaths for this season rose to 57. Flu and other illnesses have resulted in [school closures](#) in at least 10 states. Europe also continues to see heightened flu activity, with most countries [reporting](#) test positivity rates above 10% to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

- **Ireland Reports First Mpox Case, Imported Clade 1 Cases Increase in U.S., U.K.:** New Hampshire health officials [reported](#) the state's first case of clade 1 mpox in a patient who had recently traveled to Eastern Africa, where there is an [ongoing](#) outbreak. The New Hampshire diagnosis marks the third clade 1 case in the U.S. Across the Atlantic, Ireland reported its first clade 1 case, though health officials advise that the risk to the public remains low. Additionally, the United Kingdom [reported](#) its ninth clade 1b infection since October 2024. Both patients in Ireland and the U.K. have a history of travel to Central Africa.
- **Second Form of Avian Flu Detected in U.S. Dairy Cow Herds:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [announced](#) that four dairy herds in Nevada had been infected with a different strain of bird flu than originally thought. Their infections came from the H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b genotype D1.1 that has been circulating in wild birds and caused the fatality in Louisiana, not the one found primarily in cows for the past year. The development has some scientists concerned, as the wild bird variation may have an easier time spreading across the environment and to people. Poultry flocks continue to test positive for H5N1, including a layer farm in Pennsylvania that [houses](#) nearly two million birds.
- **Live Poultry Markets Temporarily Close in NYC, Nearby Areas Over Bird Flu Concerns:** New York Governor Kathy Hochul [ordered](#) live bird markets to close through Friday, February 14, following [seven detections of avian flu](#) at markets in Queens, the Bronx, and Brooklyn. State officials see the temporary closures as a necessary step to curb the spread of bird flu. The order, which applies to live poultry markets in New York City and Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester counties, requires that markets "sell down all inventory, complete cleaning and disinfection procedures, and remain closed for a period of five days." All markets, including ones unaffected by HPAI, must be inspected by New York agricultural officials before being reopened.
- **U.S. Foreign Aid Programs in Flux, Argentina to Withdraw From WHO:** A U.S. federal judge stopped the Trump administration's plans to recall overseas USAID employees and place 2,200 employees on leave, moves that were originally expected to take effect last Friday. A hearing on the topic is now planned for this Wednesday, and changes to USAID are likely to face additional legal hurdles, according to reporting from the non-profit [ProPublica](#). In other changes to the global health landscape, Argentina's President Javier Milei [announced](#) that his country would

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leave the World Health Organization (WHO), following in the [U.S.'s footsteps](#). President Milei [cited](#) the WHO's COVID-19 pandemic guidelines as the reason for withdrawal; it is unclear when the departure will officially take effect.

Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **Demonstrators in Bangladesh Demolish Sheikh Bari, More Actions Planned:** Last week, members of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement [demolished](#) Sheikh Bari, a residence heavily associated with former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Awami League, to protest an online speech by Hasina. The "Bulldozer Procession" to Sheikh Bari will be far from the last major demonstration in Bangladesh over the coming weeks. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is planning [nationwide demonstrations](#) between February 12 and 25 to press for further action from the government to address rising prices, worsening law and order, and press for an electoral roadmap. The following week, the Awami League is organizing nationwide [blockades](#) for Sunday, February 16, and a general strike on Tuesday, February 18, as they call for the resignation of the interim government installed after Hasina's ouster.
- **Germany Prepares to Host Munich Security Conference:** Heads of state, high-level officials, and leaders from the private sector are expected to gather February 14-16 at the Hotel Bayerischer Hof in Munich, Germany, for the Munich Security Conference (MSC). Activist groups have already announced their intention to hold a counter-gathering dubbed the Munich Peace Conference, along with several demonstrations protesting the event. Organizers will hold a press conference tomorrow at 11 am at Schwanthalerstr. 80, and a protest in front of the MSC venue on Wednesday, February 12, at 11 am. A series of actions will then be held on Saturday, February 15, including a rally at Karlsplatz/Stachus at 1 pm, a march shortly thereafter in the area around the Hotel Bayerischer Hof, and another rally at Marienplatz at 3:30 pm.
- **Demonstration Activity Increases Against New U.S. Administration:** Dozens of demonstrations took place over the past week against many of the policies being pursued by the new administration of U.S. President Donald Trump. On Monday, several businesses [closed](#), and [protests](#) were held as part of a "Day Without Immigrants," a semi-regular day of strikes and demonstrations designed to highlight immigrants' role in American society. Monday was followed by [another day of mass action](#) on Wednesday when demonstrators took part in "50501" protests, which aimed to have protests at every state capitol. Further demonstration activity is expected over the coming week, including on Wednesday in Houston (Guadalupe Plaza at 6:30 pm), Thursday in Chicago (Millennium Park at 10 am), and Sunday in Austin (Texas State Capitol at 12 pm). Calls have also begun circulating on social media for another day of nationwide demonstrations corresponding with President's Day on Monday, February 17. Fliers are

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instructing those interested to hold demonstrations at every state capitol or their local city hall at 12 pm.

- **Finland Commerce Sector Workers Threaten Strike:** A strike in the commerce sector by the [PAM union](#) could begin on February 17 if no agreement is reached. The industrial action would [commence](#) with logistics workers, followed by supermarket employees on February 19. The strike could see up to 70,000 workers walk off the job across a range of businesses and grocery stores, including K-Market, K-Supermarket, K-Citymarket, Alepa, Sale, S-Market, Prisma, Sokos, Lidl, Halpa-Halli, and Tokmanni. More than 3,000 stores, offices, and logistics hubs could be impacted. Updates on negotiations will be provided by Finland's [National Mediator Office](#).
- **Europe to See Several Large-Scale Demonstrations Over Coming Week:** In **Belgium**, disruptions across the transportation, aviation, and other public service sectors can be expected on Thursday during a [demonstration](#) in Brussels and associated strike actions to oppose the [government's "Arizona" coalition](#) and proposed austerity measures. Demonstrators intend to gather at **Brussels' Gare du Nord** at 10:30 am. Also, on Thursday, **Spain** will see medical professionals demonstrate in Madrid outside the **Ministry of Health** at 12 pm. In **Berlin**, unionized Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe (BVG) employees have begun a [24-hour warning strike](#) that's set to go through 3 am tomorrow. All subways, trams, and most buses will be [canceled](#).

Upcoming Events

- January 13-February 26: Maha Kumbh Mela (Prayagraj, India)
- February 10-14 Aero India Air Show (Bengaluru, India)
- February 11: Hearing for President Yoon Suk-yeol (Seoul, South Korea)
- February 11: National Foundation Day (Japan)
- February 11: Revolution Day (Iran)
- February 12: Lantern Festival (China, Taiwan)
- February 12-16: African Union Annual Summit (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
- February 13: Hearing for President Yoon Suk-yeol (Seoul, South Korea)
- February 14-16: Munich Security Conference (Munich, Germany)
- February 17: President's Day (United States)
- February 18: General Election (Bermuda)
- February 19-22: Conservative Political Action Conference (Washington D.C., United States)
- February 20-21: G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- February 23: Federal Elections (Germany)
- February 23: Emperor's Birthday (Japan)
- February 24: Anniversary of Russia-Ukraine War (Ukraine)

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- February 25-26: General Election (Anguilla)
- February 28-March 29: Ramadan (Global) *dates approximate*
- March 2: Parliamentary Election (Tajikistan)
- March 4: Carnival/Shove Tuesday (Global)
- March 4: General Election (Micronesia)
- March 4: Start of "Two Sessions" Meetings (China)
- March 11: General Election (Greenland)