

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Getty Images

Donald Trump insisted that [a ceasefire](#) between **Iran** and **Israel** was still in effect. The American president had warned Israel not to carry out further strikes on Iran, after Israel accused the Islamic Republic of breaking the ceasefire. Iran denied breaking the ceasefire. Israel said it struck a radar array in response to the violation but refrained from further attacks.

An intelligence assessment from the **Pentagon** reportedly found that America's strikes on Iran did not destroy its **nuclear programme**, as Mr Trump earlier declared, and probably only set it back by months. The initial findings apparently conclude that the [bunker-busting bombs](#) America dropped on three nuclear facilities did not eliminate Iran's supply of enriched uranium. The White House called the assessment "flat-out wrong".

Israeli forces killed at least 40 people in **Gaza**, according to local medics. Reuters reported that almost half of those killed had been attempting to reach an aid centre run by the [Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation](#). The aid group said there had been no incident near the site. Israel's armed forces said it was investigating the reports.

NATO's annual summit began in The Hague. Alliance members are expected to pledge to increase defence spending. They hope to [deter Russian aggression and placate Mr Trump](#), who has long called for America's allies to spend more. Meanwhile Russian strikes on south-east Ukraine killed at least 17 people and wounded hundreds more, according to local officials.

Jerome Powell, the chair of the **Federal Reserve**, appeared before a congressional committee. Mr Powell reiterated that America's central bank is unlikely to cut interest rates until it has assessed the impact of Mr Trump's tariffs on [inflation](#). He also said the Fed's policy was not intended as endorsement or criticism of Mr Trump's policies. Mr Trump has urged the Fed to lower rates.

A federal judge in America ruled it was "fair use" for **Anthropic**, an [AI lab](#), to train its chatbot on books [without authors' permission](#). Its storage of over 7m pirated books, however, was not. Last year three authors sued Anthropic for allegedly copying and storing pirated material without compensation; the judge said Anthropic will face a separate trial to determine the damages it owes.

Shares in **Carnival**, a [cruise company](#), soared by 10% in early trading after the company raised its profit forecast for the year. Shares in other operators rose, too. Carnival's revenues rose to \$6.3bn in the second quarter, a record for the firm. Carnival said that its affordability compared with "land-based alternatives" had made its business resilient to economic uncertainty.

Figure of the day: 16%, the share of American adults who supported military involvement in Iran, according to our YouGov poll last week. [Read the full story](#).



Photograph: Getty Images

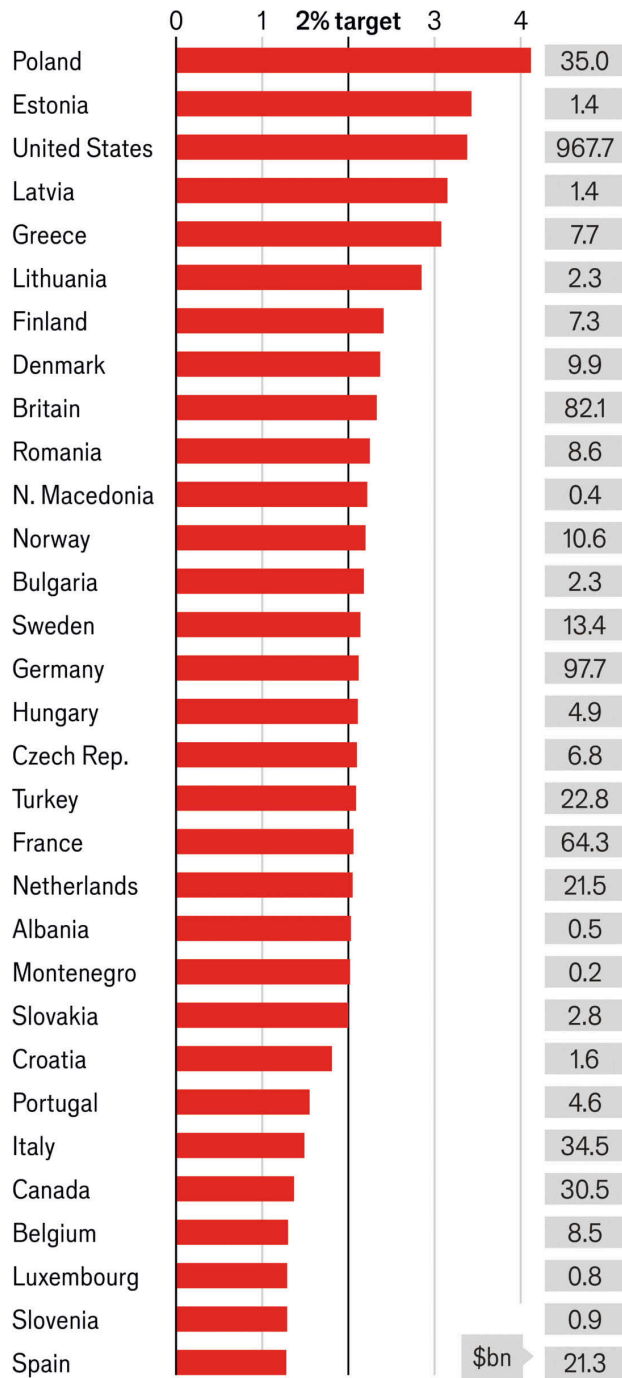
A NATO summit to keep Trump sweet

Whatever their reservations about America's bombing raid against Iranian nuclear facilities, the leaders of other NATO countries know that now is not the time to voice them. On Tuesday the heads of the alliance's members will meet in The Hague for [NATO's annual summit](#). Their focus will be on doing everything they can to convince Donald Trump—a long-time critic of the alliance—to keep America committed to Europe's security.

NATO's European leaders want to show that they are willing to spend more on defence. Mark Rutte, the organisation's secretary-general, wants members to spend 3.5% of GDP on “hard” defence (such as weapons) and an additional 1.5% on defence-related infrastructure by 2035. Mr Trump's strike on Iran may lead NATO to put on a show of unity at the summit. But some fear his focus on the Middle East could mean he does not attend. The meeting's main business will be crammed into a two-and-a-half hour session on Wednesday—a play for Mr Trump's attention.

Leaders and laggards

NATO members*, defence spending,
2024 estimate, % of GDP



*Excluding Iceland which has no armed forces
Source: NATO



Photograph: Getty Images

What now for the Middle East?

Two days after American bombers struck Iranian nuclear facilities, Donald Trump [announced](#) a “complete and total” ceasefire in the war between Israel and Iran. But whether the truce will hold is uncertain. Soon after it came into effect Israel accused Iran of violating the ceasefire and vowed to retaliate.

Both have good reason to stop fighting. Iran’s theocratic regime is unpopular at home, its armed forces seem powerless against Israel, and its allies across the region have been weakened. Israel is unlikely to want to defy Mr Trump after hailing his military intervention.

The big question is whether the region will become more stable. Some in Israel and America think calm can ultimately be guaranteed only by the downfall of the Iranian regime. Iranians did not heed Israel’s calls for them to rise up against the ageing mullahs. That was always fanciful while the bombs fell. But if the fighting ends, and Iranians begin to count the cost of the regime’s errors, there might still be a backlash.



Photograph: Getty Images

New York City's Democratic showdown

Tuesday's mayoral primary in New York City is two things. First, it is a race to lead America's largest city. Second, it is a [battle for the soul of the Democratic Party](#). Andrew Cuomo, a moderate, leads in most polls. He resigned as New York's governor in 2021 amid sexual-harassment allegations, which he denies. He has won endorsements from party grandees and vast donations, including from Bill Ackman, a hedge-fund billionaire who backed Donald Trump.

Zohran Mamdani, a self-described democratic socialist, is his closest rival. The latest poll shows Mr Mamdani beating Mr Cuomo. He and other progressive candidates have urged their supporters not to include Mr Cuomo on their ranked-choice ballot. If Mr Mamdani loses, he may run for the Working Families Party, an influential progressive outfit. If he wins, Mr Cuomo could run as an independent. November's ballot will be crowded. The incumbent, Eric Adams, is standing as an independent, while Curtis Sliwa, a law-and-order activist, is the Republican candidate.



Photograph: Reuters

Germany splashes the cash

Germany is hardly renowned for fiscal adventurism. But in March, soon after the election that was to bring [Friedrich Merz](#) to power as chancellor, the Bundestag approved two gushes of debt: a 12-year €500bn (\$570bn) fund for infrastructure, and an exemption for most defence spending from the constitutional debt brake, which sharply limits government borrowing.

On Tuesday these pledges will start to take shape, as the cabinet discusses a belated budget for 2025 (disagreement over which felled the last government), spending plans for subsequent years and the first proposals for the infrastructure fund. One figure will be of particular interest to the leaders gathering in The Hague for NATO's annual summit: Germany plans to reach the alliance's new [defence-spending target](#) of 3.5% of GDP as soon as 2029. Thanks primarily to the new largesse, forecasts for Germany's long-dormant economy have been ticking up slightly. Economic data released on Tuesday showed a revival in business confidence, too. Perhaps the fog has started to lift.



Photograph: ROPI

Jeff Bezos's controversial Venetian carnival

If you have been rocketed to the edge of space by your fiancé, a fairytale wedding in Venice might seem underwhelming. But plenty of drama could arise from the marriage of Lauren Sánchez, a former TV journalist, to Jeff Bezos, founder of [Amazon](#) and owner of [Blue Origin](#), the enterprise that sent Ms Sánchez and an all-female crew aloft in April. The celebrations are veiled in secrecy but will reportedly begin on Tuesday. Protesters vow to disrupt them, including by blocking canals.

Mr Bezos's and Ms Sánchez's nuptials may seem like a sideshow, but they have focused local activists' discontents. Many believe Venice is saturated with tourists; others think the lavish affair epitomises a rift between the ultra-rich and everyone else. Estimates of the wedding's cost range from \$4m to \$20m. Such sums might be expected. Mr Bezos is the world's fourth-richest man and this is his big day. Or, rather, several. Some reports suggest the partying will not end until Saturday.



Illustration: The Economist

Daily quiz

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 [\[email protected\]](#). We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

Tuesday: DuckDuckGo and Startpage are types of what kind of software programme?

Monday: Chapters 6 to 9 of Genesis describe which type of catastrophe?

Advice, n. The smallest current coin.

Ambrose Bierce