

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Reuters

**Israel** accused **Iran** of violating a ceasefire between the two countries soon after it came into effect. Israel Katz, the defence minister, vowed that Israel would “respond forcefully” by targeting Tehran, Iran’s capital. Iran denied firing missiles towards Israel. Earlier Israel thanked Donald Trump, who announced the ceasefire, for America’s support in “eliminating the Iranian nuclear threat”.

Just before the truce came into effect (according to Mr Trump’s somewhat ambiguous timeline), **Israel** reported fresh strikes launched from **Iran**. The Israel Defence Forces said Iran had fired three waves of missiles “within an hour” and urged people to seek shelter. At least four people were killed, according to Israeli officials.

Earlier Mr Trump thanked Iran for giving **America** advance notice of [its attack](#) on an American military base in **Qatar**. Iran said that it had retaliated with the same number of bombs that America dropped over the weekend. The price of Brent crude oil fell by nearly 9% after the attack, which did not disrupt oil supplies, to just over \$70 a barrel. Meanwhile global stockmarkets rallied on the prospect of an end to the conflict.

NATO's annual summit began in The Hague where 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. Earlier **Canada** and the **European Union** signed a defence deal, which will eventually give Canada access to the bloc's €150bn (\$174bn) rearmament fund.

Shares in **Virgin Australia** soared on its return to the stockmarket. Virgin had delisted in 2020 as mounting losses nearly pushed it into bankruptcy. Bain Capital, a private-equity firm, bought the company soon after. Alongside Qatar Airways, another investor, Bain has helped to revive Virgin, which is now Australia's second-biggest airline.

America's **Supreme Court** ruled that the Trump administration could deport migrants to countries other than their own. The judgment reversed a lower court order that limited such removals. That ruling had given such migrants a "meaningful opportunity" to tell American officials about the risks they would face in other countries. Three dissenting judges called the Supreme Court's new judgment a "gross" abuse of power.

**Novo Nordisk**, which makes anti-obesity jabs, ended a partnership with **Hims & Hers**, an American telehealth firm. The Danish drugmaker accused Hims & Hers of illegally selling cheaper knock-offs of its brand-name Wegovy drug. Novo and its American rival, Eli Lilly, are [pushing to ban the copycats](#) made by compounding pharmacies during shortages. The share price of Hims & Hers fell by nearly 35%.

**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

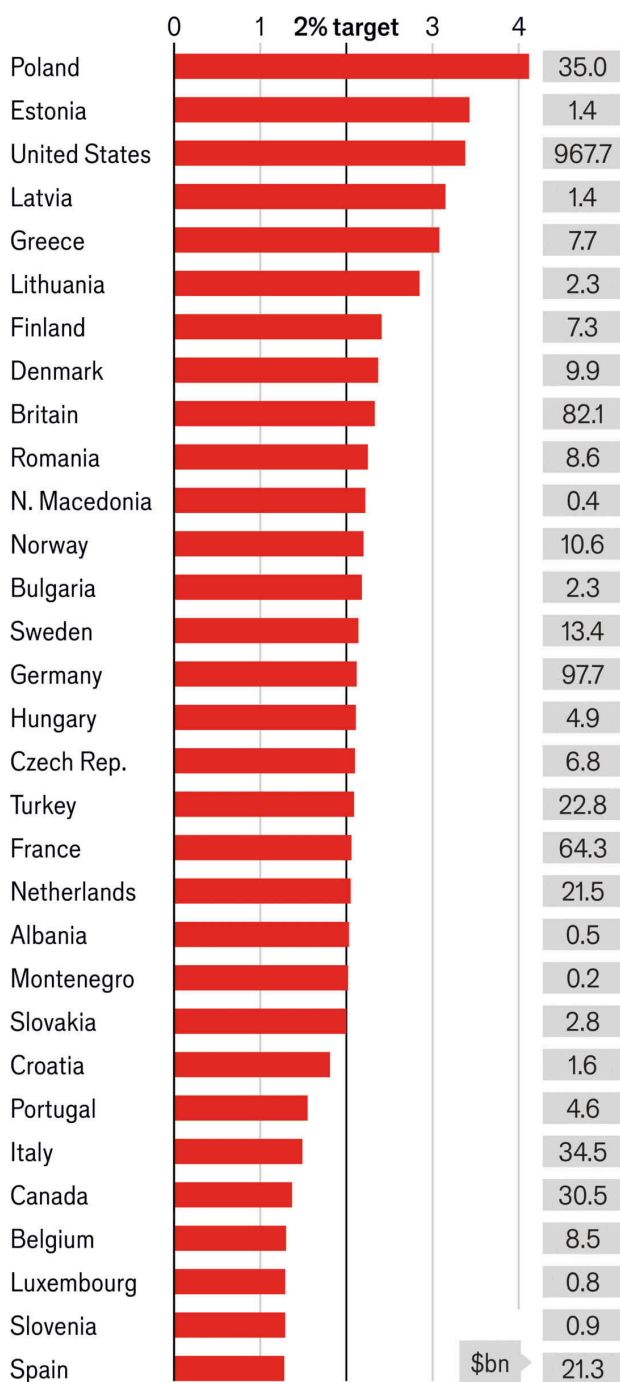
## A NATO summit to keep Trump sweet

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. In what it must be hoped was a final salvo, Israel reported that Iran launched fresh strikes just before the truce took effect.

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 may show 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.*

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***Ambrose Bierce***