

# The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: Getty Images

An intelligence assessment from the **Pentagon** reportedly found that [America's strikes](#) on Iran did not destroy its **nuclear programme**, as Donald Trump earlier declared, and probably only set it back by months. The White House called the assessment “flat-out wrong”. Meanwhile the ceasefire between Iran and Israel continued to hold, after several violations on Tuesday.

NATO leaders gathered in The Hague for the second day of their annual summit, where they are expected to back a sharp rise in [defence spending](#) to 5% of GDP. Earlier Mr Trump posted a flattering text message from Mark Rutte, the alliance's secretary-general, who praised Mr Trump's “decisive action in Iran” and applauded him for pushing Europe to spend more on defence.

**Zohran Mamdani**, a 33-year-old democratic socialist, won the [Democratic Party's primary](#) for mayor of **New York City**. Andrew Cuomo, a 67-year-old former governor of New York and Mr Mamdani's main rival in the primary, conceded defeat. Full results are expected to be announced on July 1st. Mr Cuomo may still run as an independent in November's mayoral election.

More Labour MPS in **Britain** joined a rebellion against the government's major [welfare-reform bill](#). Some 122 Labour MPS

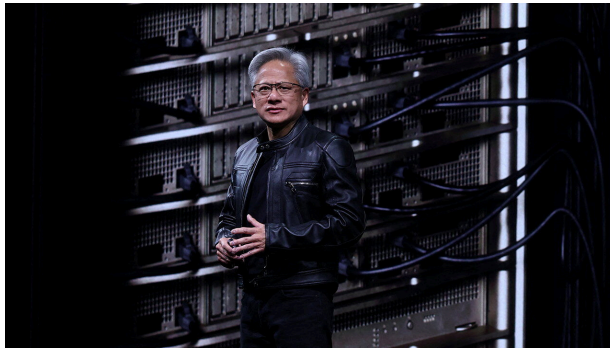
have signed an amendment opposing the reforms, putting the bill at risk of stalling despite Sir Keir Starmer's enormous majority in Parliament. Sir Keir may have to rely on opposition votes to pass the reforms, which would save £5bn (\$6.8bn) a year by 2030.

**Bharat Biotech**, an Indian drugmaker, and **GSK**, a British one, will reduce the price of their malaria vaccine, Mosquirix, to under \$5 a dose by 2028—less than half its current cost. The move is intended to support Gavi, a global body that funds vaccine roll-outs in poor countries. [Malaria deaths](#), mostly among African children, have risen since vaccination efforts stalled during the pandemic.

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.

**Vietnam** will scrap the death penalty for eight crimes, including embezzlement, from July 1st. The change spares **Truong My Lan**, a property tycoon, who was sentenced to death in a \$12bn fraud case last year. Her punishment will be changed to imprisonment for life. Ten offences, including murder and drug-trafficking, will remain punishable by death.

**Figure of the day:** \$150,000, the amount one rare Labubu doll fetched at auction recently. Sales of the grimacing elvish toys, like those of many Chinese brands, are booming. [Read the full story](#).



Photograph: Reuters

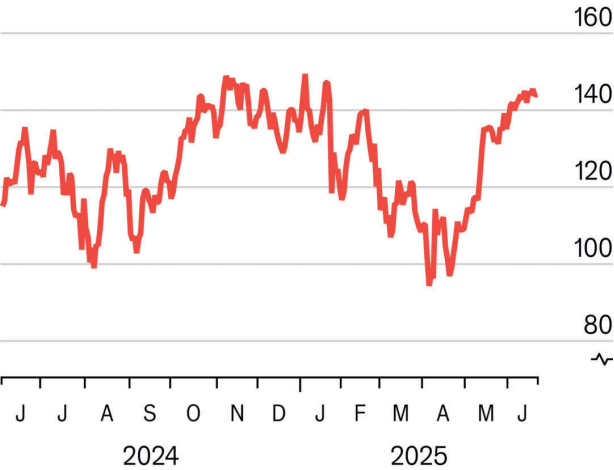
## Can Nvidia reach an all-time high?

Nvidia holds its annual shareholders' meeting on Wednesday. Big announcements are unlikely. But investors hope that Jensen Huang, the chipmaker's boss, will sound bullish. After hitting an all-time high in early January, Nvidia's stock fell. The release of DeepSeek, a Chinese large language model, aroused fears that it might be possible to develop state-of-the-art artificial intelligence with fewer advanced chips. Tariff chaos and concerns that the Trump administration could further restrict Nvidia's dealings in China, already [subject to limits](#) imposed by the Biden administration, also hit hard.

Yet Nvidia's revenues continued to rise. Its share price has recovered. Mr Huang points out that "reasoning" models are driving up demand for "inference". This is when a model applies what it has learned by answering users' queries, requiring more computing power on top of that which was used to train it. He is excited by growing demand for Nvidia's products in the [Persian Gulf](#), where countries are investing in AI. He also sees new sources of demand, such as robotics. If investors are convinced, Nvidia's share price could soar.

Feeling chipper

Nvidia, share price, \$



Source: LSEG Workspace



Photograph: Getty Images

## Donald Trump's Truth Social statecraft

Ahead of attending the NATO summit on Tuesday, Donald Trump used social media to try to preserve [the ceasefire](#) between Iran and Israel that he had announced, even as the two accused each other of breaking it. “DO NOT DROP THOSE BOMBS”, he warned Israel, as he reassured Iran that Israeli jets would do “a friendly ‘Plane Wave’” and turn around.

Mr Trump has racked up a couple of wins, but they are fragile. America's bunker-buster bombs helped Israel damage Iran's nuclear programme. They also apparently persuaded Iran's regime to stop attacking Israel, at least for now. But big questions remain. One is whether Iran's nuclear programme remains viable. America's raid may have convinced regime hardliners that Iran's security depends on dashing for a bomb. If so, America and Israel could soon be back at war with Iran. If Iran agrees to verifiably curb its nuclear programme, the ceasefire could become a more enduring peace. More than Mr Trump's reputation for deal-making is on the line.



Photograph: Getty Images

## **Gavi plans a huge vaccine push**

On Wednesday Gavi, a global alliance to promote vaccination, hopes to raise \$9bn in donations to immunise half a billion children over the next five years. The plan could save 8m lives or more by 2030. Government officials, drugmakers and non-governmental organisations will meet in Brussels, hosted by the European Union and the Gates Foundation, a charity.

The meeting comes at a critical moment for global health. Gavi helps with bulk ordering jabs to lower costs and assists poor countries with their purchases. Yet despite the alliance's strong record, [aid budgets](#) are under pressure. Donald Trump's proposed budget for next year makes no provision for Gavi. The Gates Foundation, which has pledged \$1.6bn to it, has said it will not plug the gap left by governments that cut their contributions. That should focus health officials' minds. Since 2000 vaccines have [saved 154m lives](#), according to the World Health Organisation. Investing in them makes the world safer for everyone.



Photograph: Getty Images

## The price of amnesty in Spain

In 2023 Pedro Sánchez, Spain's Socialist prime minister, lost a general election. He remained in office by securing the support of Catalan nationalist parties. He agreed to issue an amnesty for people charged with crimes associated with Catalonia's drive for independence, including holding an illegal referendum in 2017. This week Spain's Constitutional Tribunal will probably rule that the amnesty was constitutional. The decision will be viewed widely as a political judgment. It will pave the way for [Carles Puigdemont](#), a former separatist leader who has been a fugitive since 2017, eventually to return to Spain.

Pragmatists argue that the amnesty has helped to calm Catalonia and push down support for independence to its lowest level for 15 years. Others lament the cost to the rule of law. The judgment comes as Mr Sánchez has more pressing worries. A corruption scandal has put the future of his centre-left coalition in doubt. He will count Catalonia as one of his successes.





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

**Wednesday:** Which actress starred alongside Rock Hudson in a series of comedies (such as “Pillow Talk”) in the late 1950s and early 1960s?

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



*The imagination, like certain wild animals, will not breed in captivity.*

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***George Orwell***