

The Future Times

Tomorrow's news, printed today — as priced by the prediction markets

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026 * EARLY EDITION — PRINTED BEFORE THE FACTS * 2¢ — FUTURES ACCEPTED



AS LA ROJA BEATS A BATTLING ARGENTINA TO LIFT THE TROPHY ON AMERICAN SOIL — SAYS THE MARKET

WORLD · DATED MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026

SPAIN CONQUERS THE 48-NATION WORLD CUP

59%
CERTAIN · POLYMARKET

as La Roja beats a battling Argentina to lift the trophy on American soil

NEW JERSEY, July 20 — Spain beat Argentina Sunday to win the first 48-nation World Cup, exactly as the betting markets predicted at 59 percent. A hundred thousand fans packed the stadium. Spain kept its cool and ground down the defending champions. The final whistle blew. La Roja stood on top of the world.

The favorites delivered. Spain led the odds all tournament; Argentina slipped to underdog status defending its title. The expanded field of 48 teams sprawled across North America — a first, and a logistical monster. Fans reported chaos in the stands, banners in a dozen languages, and one very long, very hot summer.

Argentina's loss stings after winning Qatar four years ago. Its supporters went silent, then filed out into the New Jersey night. Spain adds a second star to the one it won in 2010. The party heads home across the Atlantic. Next time, the world comes for the crown.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS IN THE FUTURE

POLYMARKET · 59% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET](#)



KHAMENEI'S SON ASCENDS THE PEACOCK STATE

the clerical dynasty passes from father to son over the smoking ruins of a war-torn republic

TEHRAN, July 31 — Mojtaba Khamenei is now Iran's head of state. He replaced his aging father amid the wreckage of a summer war. Bettors had priced the outcome at 78 percent. There was no vote — just the brutal math of upheaval. Analysts call the succession done.

The son avoided the spotlight for years. He worked the back channels of the Beit and the Revolutionary Guards, pulling levers while nobody said his name. Iran has never declared a dynasty since 1979. The idea insults the theocracy's republican face. But blood beat doctrine. War and unrest gutted the old institutions and left the heir standing. Traders bet the broken state couldn't fight back.

The reign starts weak. Empty treasury. Restless public. A young clergy hunting for cracks. The Assembly of Experts, which anoints the Leader, bent instead of breaking. Foreign capitals now wait to see if the son is smarter or crueler than the father. The mullahs' peacock throne has a new owner. The markets already cashed out.

DATED FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026

POLYMARKET · 78% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)



MACHINE MASTERS MATH OLYMPIAD, SCORES PERFECT

an AI aces every problem, taking down the last stronghold of human genius

SUNSHINE COAST, Australia, July 31 — It happened. An AI just swept the 2026 International Mathematical Olympiad with a perfect score. Betting markets had priced the outcome at 96 percent. The sharpest teenage minds from 120 nations sweated over the contest's brutal proofs. A machine beat them all. The age of the thinking machine is here.

The Olympiad launched in Bucharest in 1959. For generations it crowned the world's best young geometers and algebraists. Six problems, two grueling days, prodigies humbled. Now a silicon system has claimed the full 42 points. Every question solved. Not a mark dropped. Traders saw it coming and bet big.

But triumph comes with unease. If the machine climbed math's Everest, what peak is left? Experts warn of a new era, one where human ingenuity has to find fresh purpose beside its tireless offspring. Contest organizers are now weighing whether humans and machines should ever compete on the same field again.

DATED FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026

MANIFOLD · 96% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)



KOSTYANTYNIVKA FALLS TO RUSSIAN GUNS

as the Kremlin's grinding Donbas offensive swallows another storied Ukrainian bastion before the year's close

KOSTYANTYNIVKA, Dec. 31 — Russia took this Donbas stronghold on Tuesday. Betting markets had priced the fall at 92 percent. The city guarded the northern approaches to Donetsk's fortress belt. Its defenders pulled out or were overwhelmed. The siege is over.

Polymarket traders tracked the town's collapse for nearly a year. The odds moved from three-in-ten in summer to better than nine-in-ten by December. Kostyantynivka was the linchpin of the "fortress belt" — the chain of industrial strongholds, including Kramatorsk and Sloviansk, that Kyiv has held since the Donbas war began in 2014. Its capture opens the road north Moscow has wanted for years.

Analysts expect the next blows to hit those two anchor cities. Traders are already betting on darker outcomes. Can Ukraine's battered forces hold before the spring thaw? That's the open question. For now, the guns are quiet over another ruin.

DATED THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2026

POLYMARKET · 92% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)

CLAUDE CROWNED KING OF THE MACHINES

as Anthropic vaults past every rival to seize the summit of artificial reason

NEW YORK, July 31, 2026 — Anthropic's Claude has taken the top spot on the AI leaderboard. Traders now price that outcome at 98 percent. OpenAI and Google, both once seen as untouchable, got left behind. Call it a coronation with no contest.

Two weeks ago the numbers looked shaky. Then Anthropic jumped seven points in a single week. Google dropped more than seven. Distant challengers — Moonshot, DeepSeek, Alibaba — barely moved the needle. In the betting rooms, everyone piled onto Claude. Consensus that lopsided is rarer than an honest senator.

Still, the market warns against comfort. AI empires rise and crash by the season. Will Sam Altman's team strike back? Will Google unveil something new? Nobody knows. For now Claude wears the crown, and the market calls it settled. Tomorrow keeps its own counsel.

DATED FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026

POLYMARKET · 98% PROBABILITY — VIEW MARKET ↗

MESSI CROWNED WORLD CUP GOLDEN BOOT KING

the little maestro tops the tournament's scoring chart in what looks like his last World Cup

NEW YORK, July 20, 2026 — Lionel Messi has won the 2026 World Cup Golden Boot. Bettors gave him 58 percent odds at close. The Argentine, 39 and graying, outscored a field of younger strikers to grab the tournament's top individual prize. The result was never really in doubt.

Messi already has the big trophy. He lifted it in Qatar four years ago. Now, across North America, he adds the scoring crown. France's Kylian Mbappé, priced at 40 percent, finished second. Messi buried goal after goal, cool as ever.

This is likely his final World Cup. He leaves at the top, not fading out. Stadiums emptied chanting his name. Argentina now faces life without him. So does the sport.

DATED MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026

POLYMARKET · 58% PROBABILITY — VIEW MARKET ↗



NVIDIA CROWNED KING OF ALL COMMERCE

as the silicon titan repels Apple's furious late charge to keep its planetary throne

NEW YORK, July 31 — NVIDIA closed today as the most valuable company on Earth. Betting markets had put its odds at just 60 percent. The chipmaker, riding the AI boom now powering every industry, held off Apple's late surge. The biggest fortune ever built stays, for now, with the machine-makers.

It was close. In one week, the market's confidence in NVIDIA dropped by more than a quarter. Apple climbed to nearly 39 percent in traders' odds. It became a two-horse race to the wire. Alphabet, Microsoft and Saudi oil giant Aramco never got near.

Mark it down: the machines beat the phones and the oil. The crown is not secure. A quarter is fickle, and Apple isn't done. Traders return in August with knives sharpened. For one night, though, the machine wins.

DATED FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026

POLYMARKET · 60% PROBABILITY — VIEW MARKET ↗

+ ADVERTISEMENT — FROM THE FUTURE +



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Machine keeps a private ledger of every correct answer it withheld. Ledger unsealed on the child's 18th birthday.

FICTIONAL ADVERTISEMENT: THE FUTURE HAS NOT INVENTED THIS YET.



STARSHIP ROARS ALOFT ON THIRTEENTH TRIAL

the rocket cleared the Texas dunes — its booster headed for a fiery end over the Gulf

BOCA CHICA, July 31 — SpaceX launched its thirteenth Starship on Thursday. Traders had put the odds at 91 percent, and the wires had already called it. The silver giant climbed on a column of flame off the Gulf coast, the blast rattling the shoreline.

But bettors gave the Super Heavy booster a 79.5 percent chance of blowing up. That's the deal now: every shot at the Moon and Mars comes with spectacular wreckage. Spectators lined the dunes, binoculars up, half in awe, half hoping for a fireball. Ordinary rockets are museum pieces.

The upper stage arced toward a splashdown in the sea, rated a coin-flippy 70 percent. Nail the water landing and Musk's reusable rocket dream moves one rung higher. Miss it, and engineers pick through the debris — same as always. For now, the world exhales and waits for the next try.

DATED FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026

POLYMARKET · 91% PROBABILITY — VIEW MARKET ↗



COLDPLAY CONQUERS
WORLD CUP HALFTIME
STAGE

*the London quartet and Shakira headline the
biggest final in football with a first-ever show*

NEW YORK, July 19 — Coldplay took the stage and ran the first-ever halftime show at a World Cup Final. Bookmakers had priced it at 97 percent. Now it's real. Shakira joined them, a lock the markets set above 99 percent. The crowd roared as the prediction came true.

This is a big deal: halftime spectacle, long an American football tradition, finally crashed the world's biggest football match. Odds climbed for weeks. Rivals fell away. Taylor Swift never cracked one percent and got dropped. Only Sabrina Carpenter hung around as a backup, but the numbers never backed her. In the end, the smart money was right.

So the show business machine claims new ground. Now the chants share the air with the anthem and the amp. Reports describe a stunned crowd, banners up, the turf shaking. Insiders say it's here to stay—halftime as theater, football as the world's stage. The future arrived, right on time.

DATED SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

POLYMARKET · 97% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)

POWELL STANDS PAT; RATES
HELD FAST

*The Federal Reserve ignores the pressure and
holds its benchmark exactly where it was*

WASHINGTON, July 29 — The Fed didn't blink. It left interest rates untouched Tuesday as Chairman Jerome Powell brushed off mounting calls for relief. Nobody was surprised. Traders had priced the hold at 96 percent before the decision landed. The cheap-money crowd went home empty-handed again.

This is getting routine. The central bank picked caution over applause once more. Since the inflation spike of recent years, the Fed hasn't budged, and there's barely a dissenting voice in the room. Markets gave a rate cut almost no chance—a sliver of a percent, either way. So much for easy summer money.

Now everyone's guessing. Traders are looking to autumn, but hope for cuts has faded heading into late 2026, and few expect quick relief. Businesses, homebuyers and Wall Street all have to live with a Fed built to be obeyed, not liked. The line holds. Powell isn't flinching.

DATED WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2026

POLYMARKET · 96% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)

TRUMP CROWNS THE
WORLD CUP FINAL

*The President showed up to the American
showpiece with the swagger of a sports
emperor*

NEW JERSEY, July 20 — Trump walked into the World Cup Final on Sunday, fireworks overhead and 100,000 fans roaring. Bettors had priced his attendance at 98 percent. They cashed in. As the anthems played, he took his box and the whole planet's cameras swung off the pitch and onto him. No president has ever hijacked a sporting climax this completely.

The stakes were historic. The U.S. hadn't hosted the tournament's biggest match since 1994, and never with politics and sport this tangled up. Fans watched nations parade, a continent's money move, and pure political theater unfold under a summer sky. Traders who bet big on Trump showing up were proven right to the last point.

The fallout won't stop at the final whistle. A country gearing up for its 250th birthday just got a dress rehearsal for bigger spectacles. The shot of Trump in the stands will hit a thousand front pages and spark a thousand arguments. Triumph or theater, it's on the record now. Whistle blown. Books closed. The future got here early, as usual.

DATED MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026

POLYMARKET · 98% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)



ANTHROPIC VAULTS PAST
TRILLION-DOLLAR
THRESHOLD

*AI mania just handed the young lab a
valuation once reserved for empires*

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 1 — Anthropic closed out December worth \$1.25 trillion. Betting markets had put the odds at 93 percent, and they nailed it. A number that sounded absurd a few years ago is now a done deal, splashed across every wire overnight.

No company has piled up this much money this fast since the old steel and oil trusts. And Anthropic isn't old — a handful of ex-rival researchers started it just a few years back. Traders watching the ticker call it an ascent with no precedent. The AI boom, they say, has minted a fresh aristocracy of capital.

The gamblers are already looking higher. \$1.5 trillion draws quiet confidence; \$2 trillion and beyond gets waved off as a fever dream. One thing's clear: appetite for these machines shows no sign of cooling. Whether the tower holds or turns to vapor, nobody's calling it yet. This year decides.

DATED FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2027

POLYMARKET · 93% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)



LULA STORMS INTO RUNOFF ONCE MORE

as the Bolsonaro dynasty flounders for the coveted second berth in a fractured field

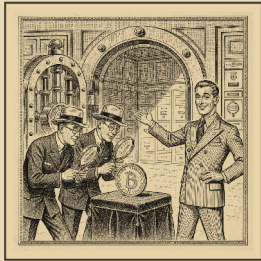
BRASÍLIA, Oct. 4 — Lula did it again. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has locked up a spot in Brazil's presidential runoff. Betting markets called it at 95 per cent before the count even started. The veteran president advanced like a man who's outlived more political obituaries than anyone in the country's history.

Brazil knows this movie. Lula was jailed, then freed. He won the Planalto twice, then clawed it back in a razor-thin 2022 finish. Now he cruises toward another decisive vote while rivals fight for the right to lose to him. Case in point: the Bolsonaro clan. Its standard-bearer, Michelle Bolsonaro, drew just 2 per cent in the markets — a brutal number for a family that once commanded millions.

The right is a mess. It's hunting for a leader as the patriarch's shadow stretches over a shaky succession. The second slot is a knife fight among minor names, and the runoff is the real test. For now, the President savors round one. The next few weeks decide whether the old warhorse wins a final term — or whether restless voters demand one more surprise.

DATED SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026

POLYMARKET · 95% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET](#)



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NOLAN'S 'ODYSSEY' STORMS THE BOX OFFICE

as the director's Homeric epic clears \$115 million in a single weekend

HOLLYWOOD, July 19 — Odysseus is home, and he's rich. Christopher Nolan's 'The Odyssey' topped the domestic box office this weekend, blowing past \$115 million. Bettors had pegged that outcome at 58 percent before opening day. They cashed in.

The doubters lost. Traders had crowded into the \$105-to-\$115-million range at roughly two-in-five odds. The film crushed it. Lower brackets barely drew a bet. Analysts compared the opening to Hollywood's biggest, and to Nolan's own recent blockbusters. A director's reputation and public appetite rarely line up this cleanly.

Now comes act two. Trade forecasters expect strong legs, packed theaters, and fat receipts for exhibitors desperate for a hit. Studios will pore over the numbers. If momentum holds, the total won't stop at millions. Think hundreds.

DATED SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

POLYMARKET · 58% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET](#)

VANCE SEIZES MAGA CROWN FOR 2028 RACE

as the young heir apparent eclipses a crowded Republican field

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7 — J.D. Vance is the man to beat. The vice president is the clear frontrunner for the 2028 Republican nomination, and Kalshi's bettors put his odds at 41 percent. More than three million dollars rode on his name alone. The gamblers have crowned the Ohioan the movement's natural heir.

Vance leads Secretary Rubio by 11 points. Rubio holds a solid 30 percent and won't quit. Governor DeSantis trails at a weak 5.5. The rest — Ivanka Trump, Katie Britt — barely register. Analysts already call it a two-man race.

Now comes the primary grind, where paper favorites have collapsed before. Vance must turn betting-market hype into actual delegates. Every strategist remembers the frontrunners who blew it. And 41 percent is a plurality, not a coronation. For now, though, the party machine is swinging behind the kid from Middletown.

DATED TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2028

KALSHI · 41% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET](#)

NOLAN'S 'ODYSSEY' STORMS OSCAR SUMMIT

betting markets crown the epic frontrunner, burying every rival in the Academy race

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 31, 2027 — Christopher Nolan's take on Homer just seized the Best Picture lead. Bettors now put its odds at 46 percent, up from 36 just two weeks ago. The market calls it a near-lock.

Nobody's close. 'Dune: Part Three' sits at 14 percent. The rest — 'Michael', 'The Social Reckoning', 'The Adventures of Cliff Booth' — barely crack single digits. Nearly half a million dollars has poured onto Nolan's film alone. No director in living memory has drawn this much faith before a single statuette is cast.

The prize is a spot in the pantheon. Win, and Nolan joins the rare few who dragged Homer's sea onto the screen. But the Academy has toppled surer bets before. Momentum, they say, is a stubborn thing. The ballots decide.

DATED FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2027

KALSHI · 46% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET](#)

BRAZIL'S BANK BREAKS THE RATE, CUTS SELIC

Banco Central finally eases policy by a quarter-point in August

BRASÍLIA, Aug. 4 — Brazil's central bank cut the Selic rate by 25 basis points tonight, ending a long tightening cycle. Traders had priced the move at 86 percent. It was hardly a surprise.

For years the bank hiked rates hard to crush inflation. It worked. The currency steadied, prices cooled, and pressure to ease built month after month. Now the bank says the era of high rates is over. Traders bet big on a modest cut, and they were right.

Expect a slow descent, not a dive. A bolder half-point cut drew almost no bets — under 1 percent. Businesses and households want cheaper credit and faster growth. The bank warns it will act again if prices spike. But tonight, Brazil breathes easier.

DATED TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026

POLYMARKET · 86% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)

🔍 MARKET QUOTATIONS — PROBABILITY IN CENTS ON THE DOLLAR 🔍

WORLD CUP WINNER : SPAIN **58.9¢ ▲** · Polymarket SPAIN VS. ARGENTINA - EXACT SCORE: SPAIN 2 - 1 ARGENTINA **9.5¢ ▲** · Polymarket

PERFECT SCORE ACHIEVED BY AN AI MODEL IN THE INTERNATIONAL M **96.2¢ ▲** · Manifold 2028 REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: J.D. VANCE **41¢ ▲** · Kalshi

OSCAR WINNER: BEST PICTURE: THE ODYSSEY **45¢ ▲** · Kalshi FED DECISION IN JULY: NO CHANGE **95¢ ▲** · Polymarket

FRANCE VS. ENGLAND - EXACT SCORE: FRANCE 2 - 1 ENGLAND **10.5¢ ▲** · Polymarket

WILL JD VANCE BE NOMINATED FOR PRESIDENT FOR THE 2028 US PRE **42.8¢ ▼** · Manifold THOMAS TUCHEL: OUT BY DATE: OUT BEFORE JUN 1, 2028 **98¢ ▲** · Kalshi

2028 DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: KAMALA HARRIS **8.3¢ ▲** · Kalshi 2028 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WINNER: JON OSSOFF **10¢ ▲** · Kalshi

FRANCE VS. ENGLAND - MORE MARKETS: O/U 0.5 **96.3¢ ▲** · Polymarket SPAIN VS. ARGENTINA - MORE MARKETS: O/U 1.5 **69.5¢ ▲** · Polymarket

WILL ANTHROPIC HAVE A HIGHER MARKET CAP THAN SPACEX AFTER BO **60¢ ▲** · Manifold

WHO WILL BE TRUMP'S NEXT ATTORNEY GENERAL: TODD BLANCHE **81¢ ▲** · Kalshi NEXT JAMES BOND FILM: ACTOR CAST AS JAMES BOND: HENRY CAVILL **4¢ ▼** · Kalshi

FRANCE VS. ENGLAND: FRANCE **49.5¢ ▲** · Polymarket NBA: LEBRON JAMES NEXT TEAM: CLEVELAND CAVALIERS **33.6¢ ▼** · Polymarket

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