

The Future Times

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

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026 * EARLY EDITION — PRINTED BEFORE THE FACTS * 2¢ — FUTURES ACCEPTED



WITH THE 48-NATION CUP ON THE LINE IN NEW JERSEY, LA ROJA EDGED MESSI'S ARGENTINA FOR FOOTBALL'S BIGGEST PRIZE. — SAYS THE MARKET

SPORTS · DATED MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026

SPAIN TAKES THE WORLD, MESSI FALLS SHORT

59% CERTAIN POLYMARKET

With the 48-nation cup on the line in New Jersey, La Roja edged Messi's Argentina for football's biggest prize.

EAST RUTHERFORD, July 20 — Spain beat Argentina to win the 2026 World Cup, an outcome traders priced at 59 per cent. La Roja lifted the first 48-nation trophy under the New Jersey lights, leaving Lionel Messi a runner-up in what may be his last final.

The match closed a monthlong tournament across three nations and 48 teams — the largest World Cup ever. Spain came in favored, and the money never blinked.

For Argentina, it ends a title defense and perhaps an era. Messi chased a second star and leaves with silver. Observers called it a coronation for a side that simply refused to lose.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS IN THE FUTURE

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



CONFIRMED ✓
RESOLVED ON JUL 19, 2026

IRAN STRIKES A GULF NEIGHBOUR

as traders all but seal the day's outcome, the region braces for what comes next

DUBAI, July 18 — Iran launched military action against a Gulf state today, an outcome traders priced at 99 per cent before the ink was dry. The blow landed exactly where the markets said it would.

Betting on Polymarket ran hot for a week, the odds climbing from a coin flip on July 15 to near certainty by dawn. More than \$165,000 changed hands in a single day, most of it wagering that the strike was no longer an if but a when.

Now the Gulf waits. Oil desks watch the tape, airlines redraw routes, and observers count the hours to a response. Traders have already moved on to the next date on the board — July 29 sits at 31 per cent.

DATED SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026

POLYMARKET · 99% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)



ANTHROPIC SHIPS NEW OPUS BEFORE MONTH ENDS

the frontier lab beats its own July deadline, holding the crown it has worn all year

NEW YORK, July 31 — Anthropic pushed the next Claude Opus into the world before the month ran out — an outcome traders had priced at 91 per cent. The release lands exactly where the odds said it would.

The market opened the question weeks ago and never really doubted it. Bets on a July 31 arrival climbed past 90 cents; the longer shots for August and December barely moved. Volume topped \$39,000 in a single day.

A fresh Opus keeps Anthropic's flagship line at the front of a crowded race. Observers read the timing as a message: the lab intends to stay first, and the wires agree it just did.

DATED FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026

POLYMARKET · 91% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)



MESSI TAKES THE GOLDEN BALL

At 39, the Argentine is named the World Cup's finest player, whatever the final score reads

NEW YORK, July 20 — Lionel Messi has been crowned best player of the 2026 World Cup, an outcome traders priced at 91 per cent. The Golden Ball is his, cup or no cup.

The market never blinked. Messi opened the tournament near even money and closed a run-away favorite, leaving Mbappé at two per cent and Yamal barely above him.

This is the last dance, and the wires know it. The trophy for the tournament's finest belongs to a 39-year-old who spent the summer making the case that class outlives youth.

DATED MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026

POLYMARKET · 91% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)

MOSCOW, KYIV FINALLY SHARE A TABLE

as the two warring capitals open the direct talks markets had bet on for months

AUGUST 31 — Russia and Ukraine sat down for a diplomatic meeting, an outcome traders priced at 64 per cent. After months of dead phone lines, envoys faced each other in the same room.

The odds tell the story of a hard bet. A parallel market on talks by July 31 never cleared 35 per cent, and both prices slipped through the month. Observers watched the money hedge even as the seats filled.

Nobody is calling it peace. The wires framed it as a thaw, not a truce — a handshake, a photograph, a crack in a long silence. What comes next is anyone's wager.

DATED MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2026

POLYMARKET · 64% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)

A LAB PLANTS THE AGI FLAG

A company declares it has cracked artificial general intelligence, ending a race the market called a coin flip

NEW YORK, Dec. 31 — A company has declared it built artificial general intelligence before 2028, an outcome Kalshi traders priced at exactly 50 per cent. The claim lands on the last day the clock allowed.

The market split clean down the middle for months, the contract hugging 50 cents as labs traded hints and denials. Longer bets ran hotter: traders put the odds of AGI by 2031 near 78 per cent.

Now the flag is planted, and the fight moves to who gets to judge it. Observers warn a press release is not a verdict. The wires call it the biggest announcement in tech — and the hardest to prove.

DATED SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2028

KALSHI · 50% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)

NOLAN'S 'ODYSSEY' STORMS PAST \$115 MILLION

as tracking flips a coin-flip market into a near-lock in a matter of days

NEW YORK, July 19 — Christopher Nolan's 'The Odyssey' rowed past \$115 million on opening weekend, an outcome traders had priced at 98 per cent. A week earlier the same bet was a coin flip.

The turn was brutal. Money that once split down the middle piled onto the top tier, and \$468,580 changed hands in a single day. Every lower bracket cratered below one per cent.

Doubters simply left the table. Tracking climbed, the wires followed, and the film that gambles on ancient myth cashed out on modern hype. Homer, it seems, still opens big.

DATED SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

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

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View simulated by hand-painted periscope slides. Actual Gulf unavailable at press time.

FICTIONAL ADVERTISEMENT: THE FUTURE HAS NOT INVENTED THIS YET.



POWELL HIKES: THE FED TURNS HAWKISH

as traders abandon the cut and brace for a costlier winter

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 — The Federal Reserve raised interest rates before year's end — an outcome traders had priced at 54 per cent, a coin-flip that finally landed hawkish. Markets that spent months betting on relief bet, instead, on the brake.

The turn is stark. For most of 2026 the consensus called for Powell to ease. Sticky inflation and a stubborn labor market flipped the script, and the wires now read the chairman as the last hawk standing.

The stakes reach past the trading desk. Higher rates mean pricier mortgages, tighter credit and a leaner holiday for borrowers. Observers say the message is plain: the fight over prices is not finished.

DATED WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2026

POLYMARKET · 54% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)



WRONG X
RESOLVED ON JUL 19, 2026

FRANCE TAKES BRONZE, ENGLAND SETTLES FOR FOURTH

Les Bleus outlast the Three Lions in a consolation clash nobody wanted to play but France refused to lose

PARIS, July 18 — France beat England today to claim third place at the World Cup, an outcome traders had priced at 66 per cent. The Three Lions leave with fourth and little to show for it.

The bronze match is football's cruelest stage: two teams still stinging from the semifinals, asked to care one more time. France cared more. The Bleus pressed early, took the lead, and never handed it back.

England chased the game and ran out of answers. Observers noted the familiar pattern — bright buildup, empty finish. For France, a medal salvages a bruised campaign. For England, another near miss to file away.

DATED SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026

MANIFOLD · 66% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)



RECESSION HITS AMERICA IN 2027

as the market's largest bloc braced for a downturn the referees would later make official

NEW YORK, July 20 — The recession the traders warned of arrived in 2027, an outcome priced at 41 per cent, the biggest single bet on the board. The referees at the NBER made it official months later.

Payrolls thinned. Orders slowed. The plurality that saw storm clouds coming watched the sky open, even as most of the market still bet against it.

No siren announced it. Recessions are named in hindsight, and this one waited on the scorekeepers. The wires had the number long before the ruling came down.

DATED MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2028

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

BLUE ORIGIN BEATS MUSK TO THE MOON

Bezos's uncrewed Blue Moon lander settles onto lunar dust while Starship stays grounded

NEW YORK, Dec. 31 — Blue Origin's Blue Moon MK1 touched down on the Moon this week, beating an uncrewed Starship to the surface — an outcome traders had priced at 60 per cent. Bezos got there first.

The unmanned lander made a soft descent as SpaceX's giant still worked through test flights. On Kalshi, the market that tracked the race drew nearly \$90,000 in wagers before it closed.

Musk long owned the spotlight; this time the wires favored the quieter shop. Observers called it the first real crack in the two-man space race — and a long, patient bet finally paid.

DATED TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2030

KALSHI · 60% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)

SWIFT SEIZES BILLBOARD'S NO. 2 SPOT

"I Knew It, I Knew You" locks the Hot 100 runner-up slot as her era rolls on

NEW YORK, July 28 — Taylor Swift parked "I Knew It, I Knew You" at No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 this week — an outcome traders had priced at 89 per cent. The rest of the field never got close.

Olivia Rodrigo and Ella Langley each split the remaining scraps, none clearing 3 per cent on the market. Swift, in other words, ran unopposed for the silver.

The runner-up line still stings a little: only one song sat higher. But observers read the placement plainly — the airwaves remain hers, and the streams keep printing.

DATED TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026

POLYMARKET · 89% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)



CALLUM TURNER LANDS 007

The English actor edges Jacob Elordi to inherit the tuxedo, the martini and the license to kill

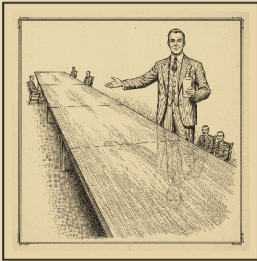
LONDON, July 20 — The tuxedo fits Callum Turner, an outcome traders priced at 37 per cent as the casting race reached its fever pitch. He beat out Jacob Elordi, the runner-up the wires had backing at 24.

Turner's odds swung hard all week before settling, with \$1.3 million riding on the field. Elordi doubled his own number to 24. The rest of the pack — Tom Holland, Cillian Murphy, Charlie Hunnam — never cracked single digits.

Now comes the part no market can price: the film itself. Producers have kept the reboot under lock. Observers say the choice signals a leaner, colder Bond. The gun barrel turns on a new man.

DATED TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2030

KALSHI · 37% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)



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HATHAWAY TAKES SUPPORTING ACTRESS OSCAR

a comeback stamped in gold, sealed while five contenders split a nervous, wide-open field

HOLLYWOOD, March 15 — Anne Hathaway won Best Supporting Actress, an outcome traders priced at 44 per cent. She was the clear favorite in a field where nobody else cracked one in five.

It was a field with no second act. Mariana di Girolamo held 10 per cent, Inde Navarrette 13, and Penélope Cruz slid from 13 to 5 as the money moved. Hathaway simply pulled away.

The buzz started early and never cooled. Observers called the race crowded; the odds called it hers. Traders agreed, and the ballots followed.

DATED FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2027

KALSHI · 44% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)

31%

KALSHI · 31% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)



CRUISE GRABS BEST ACTOR AT LAST

as the action star trades stunts for a statuette that eluded him for four decades

HOLLYWOOD, March 15 — Tom Cruise finally holds an acting Oscar, an outcome traders priced at just 31 per cent. The perennial nominee edged a crowded field to claim Best Actor.

The race was tight. Matt Damon trailed close behind at 29 per cent, with Andrew Scott a distant third. On the wires, the margin looked less like a coronation than a photo finish.

For Cruise, it closes a long chase. He has jumped from buildings and clung to planes for forty years, yet the statuette stayed out of reach — until now.

DATED FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2027

KALSHI · 31% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)

14%

POLYMARKET

SCHEFFLER SEIZES THE CLARET JUG

as the world No. 1 outlasts a wide-open field to take the 2026 Open Championship

CARNOUSTIE, July 19 — Scottie Scheffler is the champion golfer of the year, an outcome traders priced at just 14 per cent. In a tournament with no runaway favourite, the world No. 1 proved the steadiest hand on the links.

The field looked flat open. Bryson DeChambeau drew the second-heaviest backing at 8 per cent, Tommy Fleetwood 7, and defending storylines around Rory McIlroy faded to 3.

Scheffler's edge was margin, not certainty — six points clear of the pack. He converted it. The wires call it the quiet mark of a No. 1 who wins when nobody agrees he should.

DATED SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

POLYMARKET · 14% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)

92%

POLYMARKET

PAES SEIZES RIO STATEHOUSE IN A WALK

The mayor trades City Hall for the governor's chair, and the odds never blinked

RIO DE JANEIRO, Oct. 5 — Eduardo Paes carried the governor's race Sunday night, an outcome traders had priced at 92 per cent. The mayor barely broke stride crossing from City Hall to the statehouse.

Paes ran the whole race as the near-lock. Prediction markets never wavered, holding him above 90 per cent through the campaign. Rivals fought for second.

For a city that thrives on the long shot, this was the safe bet. Now Paes swaps municipal potholes for a state budget, and the wires already call the transition a formality.

DATED MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2026

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

68%

POLYMARKET

CIRO GOMES TAKES CEARÁ BACK

as the veteran outpolls Governor Elmano de Freitas to reclaim the state where his career began

FORTALEZA, October 4 — Ciro Gomes runs Ceará again, an outcome traders priced at 68 per cent. The win closes a long circle for a man who spent decades chasing bigger offices and losing.

On the exchanges Gomes held 68 per cent even as his number slipped through the week. Observers read the dip as nerves, not doubt.

Four presidential runs ended in defeat. His home state ended in triumph. The wires call it a homecoming — and a warning to the rivals who wrote him off.

DATED SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026

POLYMARKET · 68% PROBABILITY — [VIEW MARKET ↗](#)

SPAIN VS. ARGENTINA – EXACT SCORE: SPAIN 2 – 1 ARGENTINA **9.5¢** ▲ · Polymarket WORLD CUP WINNER: SPAIN **59.2¢** ▲ · Polymarket

TESLA HAS MORE FULLY AUTONOMOUS RIDES THAN WAYMO IN 2026 **8.3¢** ▼ · Manifold 2028 REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: RON DESANTIS **5.9¢** ▲ · Kalshi

OSCAR WINNER: BEST PICTURE: THE ODYSSEY **46¢** ▲ · Kalshi FED DECISION IN JULY: NO CHANGE **94.8¢** ▲ · Polymarket

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

PERFECT SCORE ACHIEVED BY AN AI MODEL IN THE INTERNATIONAL M **96.9¢** ▲ · Manifold WHICH BANK WILL LEAD OPENAI'S IPO: GOLDMAN SACHS **66¢** ▼ · Kalshi

2028 DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: MARK KELLY **3.7¢** ▲ · Kalshi 2028 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WINNER: MARCO RUBIO **17¢** ▲ · Kalshi

FRANCE VS. ENGLAND – MORE MARKETS: O/U 0.5 **96.2¢** ▲ · Polymarket SPAIN VS. ARGENTINA – MORE MARKETS: O/U 1.5 **69.5¢** ▲ · Polymarket

WILL A LARGE LANGUAGE MODEL BEAT A SUPER GRANDMASTER PLAYING **45¢** ▼ · Manifold

WHO WILL BE TRUMP'S NEXT ATTORNEY GENERAL: TODD BLANCHE **82¢** ▲ · Kalshi 2028 DEMOCRATIC VP NOMINEE: ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ **8.4¢** ▲ · Kalshi

FRANCE VS. ENGLAND: FRANCE **51.5¢** ▲ · Polymarket NBA: LEBRON JAMES NEXT TEAM: MIAMI HEAT **34.4¢** ▲ · Polymarket

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