

1823

Bahia Independence Day: End of Portuguese rule in Brazil, with the final defeat of the Portuguese crown loyalists in the province of Bahia

1865

One-time Methodist Reform Church minister William Booth and his wife Catherine Booth found the East London Christian Mission, now known as The Salvation Army



1964

US President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act into law

1990

1,426 pilgrims are trampled to death after a panic in a tunnel in Mecca, Saudi Arabia

US signs agreement to build permanent embassy in Jerusalem

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

The United States yesterday signed an agreement to build a new embassy compound in Jerusalem, in a move that Israel said reflected the "unbreakable alliance" between the countries.

During his first term, US President Donald Trump recognised Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December 2017 and ordered the relocation of Washington's diplomatic mission from Tel Aviv. But the services were

spread across several locations in Jerusalem until a single permanent site could be found.

"The United States not only recognises Jerusalem as the eternal, indigenous, and forever capital of the Jewish people, but also that the United States says that we're going to do something about it," US ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee said during a signing ceremony at Israel's foreign ministry.

"We are going to plant our flag, our American flag, on

the soil of Jerusalem for a permanent and a brand new embassy compound that will serve as our mothership of diplomatic activities here in Israel.

"I would say God made that decision 3,800 years ago, and we finally got around to acknowledging what had been determined long before the United States of America came along," he added.

The embassy will be built at the Allenby compound in southern Jerusalem

120 dead in latest Sudan cholera outbreak: WHO

AFP | Cairo, Egypt

A cholera outbreak in Sudan has killed 120 people, with another 1,102 suspected cases since May in isolated

war zones, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

More than three years of war between Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have

decimated the country's healthcare system. This is Sudan's third wave of cholera in as many years, and began only two months after the last outbreak was declared over.

Israeli troops to stay in Lebanon, Syria, Gaza

'Until further notice'



Israeli army tanks positioned along the Israel-Lebanon border

AFP | Undefined

Israel's defence minister said yesterday that Israeli forces would remain in so-called security zones established in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza "until further notice".

"The IDF will remain in the security zones in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza until further notice, in order to protect Israel's residents and communities from jihadist terrorists," Israel Katz said, according to the defence

ministry.

"We will not withdraw from the security zones," Katz said at a function held in honour of Israeli soldiers killed during the 2006 war in Lebanon.

Katz also reiterated an earlier warning to Iran, saying the Islamic republic would be struck with "full force" if it attacked Israel over its operations in Lebanon.

Israel and Lebanon signed a US-sponsored framework agreement on Friday to pave

the way for peace between the two countries and disarm Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah.

Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have repeatedly ruled out withdrawing troops from southern Lebanon, where Israeli forces continue to clash with Hezbollah fighters.

They maintain that any troop withdrawal would happen only after Hezbollah has been disarmed across Lebanon.

Japan plans sovereign AI model, 10 million AI robots

AFP | Tokyo, Japan

Japan plans to develop a homegrown artificial intelligence model and have 10 million AI-equipped robots operating in more than a dozen

sectors by 2040, the government said.

The country will reportedly invest around \$6 billion in the homemade AI model, which will be developed by Noetra, a consortium of firms including

SoftBank and Sony.

Countries around the world are seeking to develop sovereign AI models to reduce a potentially dangerous over-reliance on technology from the United States and China.

Sony to stop releasing PlayStation games on discs

AFP | Paris, France

Sony said yesterday that it would stop releasing new video games for the PlayStation on disc in January 2028 following a shift in consumer preferences.

"Following this date, new games will be available on PlayStation Store and at retailers in digital formats only," the company said on its official PlayStation blog.

In practice that means gamers will have to download directly from Sony's PlayStation store or will obtain a download code when purchasing a title from a retailer.

The announcement comes as the upcoming exclusively digital release of "Grand Theft Auto VI", which is predicted to become the biggest-selling cultural product of all time, has caused some consternation among gamers.



Sony began its move towards digital downloads in 2020 with the release of the latest console, PlayStation 5, that had a version without a disk drive.

There was grumbling on social media that the lack of a physical disc would eliminate any second-hand market for the title.

Sony said the upcoming shift "has no impact on games that already released, or will be releasing, prior to January 2028 in disc format."

US envoy warns some NATO allies 'lagging' on Trump spending vow

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The US ambassador to NATO warned yesterday that some European countries were not doing enough to fulfil a defence spending pledge, ahead of a summit in Ankara with President Donald Trump.

Under pressure from Trump, NATO leaders agreed at a gathering last year in The Hague to boost defence-related spending to five percent of GDP by 2035.

"Some allies are doing more than others -- and we have countries like Poland, the Nordic countries, the Baltics, and Germany leading the way," US envoy Matthew Whitaker told

journalists.

"But we have some that are lagging behind, that either are not spending enough right now or don't have a credible path to get to the Hague defence commitment."

Whitaker said Trump "fully expects that all allies will step up immediately and get on the path to five percent and do it with urgency."

The NATO summit in Turkey comes after Trump lashed out at European allies over their response to his war in Iran.

Whitaker said he believed the bad blood was behind the alliance, claiming that "those days are past us".

England breaks record for warmest June: Met Office



This combination of aerial pictures created on June 30, 2026 shows the high water level (L) at Woodhead Reservoir in Glossop, northern England on June 30, 2026, in contrast to the low levels (R), on June 10, in 2025.

AFP | London, United Kingdom

England chalked up its warmest June since records began in 1884, the United Kingdom's weather agency said yesterday, after a month that saw temperatures soar to new highs.

Rare extreme heat warnings were issued for several days last month, which was also the second-warmest June on record for the UK as a whole, with "exceptionally warm overnight temperatures", the Met Office said.

England registered an average temperature of 17.1C last

month compared to 16.9C in June 2025.

"The exceptional warmth was driven by an intense and record-breaking heatwave at the end of the month," the Met Office said in its press release.

Scientists warn that extreme weather events such as heatwaves are becoming more frequent and intense as a result of human-induced climate change.

The temperature record for June was broken multiple times last week during a heatwave which disrupted Britain's transport network, schools and hospitals, and also scorched parts of Europe.



TOP
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TWEETS

01



The Independent Scientific Panel on AI has just released its first assessment on the promises & risks of artificial intelligence. The message is clear: The more AI advances without shared rules, the less say governments & people will have in the outcome. I urge countries not to wait.

@antonioguterres

02



A very warm welcome to India, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi. We are delighted to host you on your first visit to India and I look forward to our wide-ranging discussions tomorrow that will further deepen the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership. Through our joint efforts, we will continue to advance peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

@narendramodi

03



I have arrived in Delhi, the capital of India. As Prime Minister of Japan, this will be my first visit to India in about three years, and personally, my very first time visiting the country.

@takaichi_sanae

04



Digital spaces bring opportunities, but also risks for children's health and development. With President @EmmanuelMacron, we call for collective action to better protect young users while harnessing what technology can offer:

@DrTedros

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