

'Endless scrolling': Sweden mulls under-15s social media ban

● The Scandinavian country's government appointed the commission in the autumn to assess introducing a minimum age for social media access

AFP | Stockholm, Sweden

A Swedish government commission proposed on Tuesday banning under-15s from accessing social media, adding to the list of countries considering similar measures to tackle the harms of the internet on children.

"We are in the process of losing an entire generation to endless scrolling," Public Health Minister Jakob Forssmed told a press conference.

The Scandinavian country's government appointed the com-



mission in the autumn to assess introducing a minimum age for social media access, which would affect platforms including Snapchat, Instagram, Face-

book, TikTok and YouTube.

Commission head Lisa Englund Krafft recommended setting the age floor at 15, with the body proposing the limit come

into force on January 1, 2028.

While the likes of Facebook and TikTok would be required to verify their users' ages, video games popular with children



Australia became the first country to pass a nationwide law banning social media access for children under 16 in 2025.

such as Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite would be exempt.

In December 2025, Australia became the first country to ban social media for children in a bid to protect them from the effects of the internet on their mental health -- so far to mixed results.

Brazil and Indonesia are among the countries to have followed suit, while many European nations are considering similar bans.

Venezuela's Rodriguez to visit India as oil imports rise

AFP | New Delhi, India

Venezuela's interim President Delcy Rodriguez will travel to India today for a five-day visit, the foreign ministry said, as New Delhi scales up crude imports from Caracas.

India, the world's third-largest oil buyer, has revived crude supplies from Venezuela to blunt a sharp crude shortfall from the crisis-ridden Middle East.

Rodriguez will be accompanied by several ministers and will hold meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said foreign ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal.

"Acting President Rodriguez will hold bilateral discussions with the Prime Minister covering the full spectrum of India-Venezuela relations and exploring avenues for further cooperation in energy, trade, investment, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, transportation, and renewable energy," Jaiswal told reporters Tuesday.

EU holds crunch talks on flight delay compensation

● The European Union's 27 countries would like to trim the compensation air carriers currently have to pay out for cancelled flights and long delays

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The EU was holding crunch talks yesterday on whether to ban airlines from charging for carry-on luggage -- but let them incur longer flight delays before passenger compensation kicks in.

A marathon meeting in Brussels was hoping to break an impasse over a long-planned reform of air passenger rights, with European lawmakers and member states locking horns.



Discussions got underway at around 1:00 pm (1100 GMT) and are expected to run into the night.

The European Union's 27 countries would like to trim the compensation air carriers currently have to pay out for cancelled flights and long delays -- a

move opposed by lawmakers.

At present, passengers in Europe have a right to between 250 and 600 euros (\$291-\$699) in compensation, depending on flight distance, for delays of three hours or more.

Airlines complain that leaves them with a hefty bill and of-

ten leads them to cancel flights rather than run them with a long delay, due to knock-on effects on flight schedules.

Most EU states agreed last year to extend the threshold to four hours for flights of up to 3,500 kilometres (2,175 miles) or for any flights within the bloc, and to six hours for longer journeys.

Payout amounts were also revised to between 300 and 500 euros.

The scheme came with extra carrots including a "right to be rerouted" at the earliest opportunity and a system for passengers to be automatically compensated for flights cancelled within 14 days of departure.

But that was not good enough for parliament.

Lawmakers pushed back on changes to the allowed delays -- and doubled down with addi-

tional measures broadly disliked by flight operators.

They pushed for airlines to be mandated to include a seven kilogramme carry-on luggage, as well as a small personal bag, in the price of the ticket and banned them from charging parents to get seats next to their children.

Lawmakers and governments have to agree on the same text for a reform to move forward, but months of talks have so far failed to produce a deal.

As member states initially tried to ram through the changes with rarely-used expedited procedure, the two parties have only weeks left to strike a compromise.

A no-deal would simply leave in place the current rules -- which the EU has been seeking to reform for more than a decade.

Press gala halted by alleged Trump assassination bid to be held July 24

Washington, United States

A gala media dinner halted by an alleged assassination attempt against US President Donald Trump has been rescheduled for July 24, the White House Correspondents Association said yesterday.

The new dinner will be a "more intimate gathering" than the April 25 event, WHCA President Weijia Jiang said in a statement. It did not say if Trump himself would attend the rescheduled dinner.

Britons jailed in Iran lose appeal, son says

London, United Kingdom

A British couple jailed in Iran have lost an appeal against their 10-year prison sentences for espionage, their son said yesterday.

Lindsay Foreman and her husband Craig Foreman were detained during a round-the-world motorbike trip at the start of 2025.

The couple were sentenced in February to 10 years in prison on espionage charges that they deny.

"It is now emerging that their appeal against a ten-year espionage conviction has failed," their son, Joe Bennett, said in a statement.

He said the couple were "not permitted to attend their own appeal hearing" and were asked to sign documents in Farsi, but had so far refused as they did not understand them.

Anthropic expands access to powerful Mythos AI model

AFP | New York, United States

Anthropic yesterday gave approximately 150 organizations around the world access to Mythos, its powerful new AI model whose rapid ability to identify weaknesses in computer security has sparked global concern.

The California AI company had initially restricted access to Mythos in early April, after tests showed the model was extraordinarily good at finding security holes in software code -- identifying thousands of them in a short period of time.

At first, only around 50 partners -- mostly US companies -- were brought into the program called Project Glasswing to test the model's powers before it could be weaponized by hackers.

Among them were major tech



Mythos AI reportedly helped uncover more than 10,000 high-severity software vulnerabilities, making it one of the most powerful cybersecurity-focused AI systems developed to date.

companies including Amazon, Google, Nvidia, Apple and Microsoft, along with cybersecurity firms CrowdStrike and Palo Alto Networks.

By late May, those early partners had already used Mythos to uncover more than 10,000 serious security weaknesses that hackers could exploit to cause real damage.

Now Anthropic is opening the program to groups from more than 15 countries.

Most of them run software that millions of other organ-

izations -- including governments -- depend on every day.

A successful cyberattack on any one of them, Anthropic says, could affect "more than 100 million people, with important ramifications for both global and national security."

The new participants cover industries that were missing from the original group, including power grids, water systems, hospitals, phone networks and hardware manufacturers.

The company declined to

name the new partners.

When Project Glasswing launched, some critics accused Anthropic of overhyping the threat to generate attention.

The company, which is also behind the popular Claude chatbot, announced on Monday that it had filed confidentially for an initial public offering (IPO).

But companies that have tested Mythos have since backed up its capabilities, with the US government, which had been in a legal dispute with Anthropic, eventually testing the model over security concerns.

Some observers link that government shift to a broader policy change from the Trump administration, which struck deals with Google, Microsoft and Elon Musk's xAI in early May to have their most powerful

AI models reviewed for safety before going on sale.

A presidential order to make that policy official was drafted but then put on hold after disagreements inside the White House.

On Monday, a European Commission spokesperson confirmed to AFP that Anthropic had invited ENISA -- the European Union's cybersecurity agency -- to join Project Glasswing.

150

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