TODAY IN HISTORY

301 — San Marino, one of the smallest nations in the world and the world's oldest republic still in existence, is founded by Saint Marinus

1650 — Oliver Cromwell's English New Model Army defeats a Scottish force in a surprise attack at the Battle of Dunbar

1783 — The Treaty of Paris is signed in Paris, ending the American Revolutionary War between Great Britain and the United States of America

1900 — With a proclamation by General Lord Roberts, Britain annexes the Boer Republic of South Africa

US Treasury issues $1 coin with Trump's face on it

AFP | Washington, United States

The US Treasury yesterday issued $1 coins featuring the face of President Donald Trump, the latest move in an unprecedented campaign by the Republican billionaire to put his personal stamp on national institutions.

The coins were minted to mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States celebrated this year.

A roll of 25 $1 coins was available for sale for $61 -- a mark-up of 144 percent -- with a 100-coin bag available for $154.50.

When the Treasury announced the plan it was unclear if the coins would have monetary value or would be purely commemorative, but on Wednesday the US Mint said the coins were "also in circulation."

The move to put Trump's countenance on a coin with monetary value runs counter to federal law that says no living president may appear on US currency.

Trump has aggressively defied precedent and legal challenges in his push to remake US institutions in his second term, putting his name on the Kennedy Center for the Arts and demolishing the East Wing of the White House to make room for a new ballroom, among other moves.

EU summons Russia envoys

AFP | Wicklow, Ireland

EU countries on Wednesday summoned Russia's envoys and discussed fresh sanctions after a drone incident in Germany that the bloc's foreign policy chief said bore the marks of "state-sponsored terrorism".

The incident involving an explosive-laden drone at Leipzig airport has heightened fears over a sabotage campaign that the EU and NATO say is a Russian attempt to destabilise Ukraine's backers.

"It is clear that it has all the hallmarks of state-sponsored terrorism," EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said at a meeting of the bloc's foreign ministers in Ireland.

"The question is, what do we do about this?"

Kallas said the EU had summoned the Russian envoy, and member states were doing the same.

"We will not let an act of such gravity go unpunished," French foreign minister Jean-Noel Barrot said, adding he had called in Russia's envoy in Paris.

Kallas said that EU foreign ministers agreed to keep working on a proposal to impose sanctions on 1,600 individuals and entities linked to Russia's military industry in the hope of adopting them next month.

Dutch shift 86 tonnes of gold from US, Canada to UK

AFP | The Hague, Netherlands

The Dutch central bank said yesterday it had moved 86 tonnes of its gold reserves out of the United States and Canada to London, citing "increasing geopolitical unrest."

The DNB bank said gold reserves held in London could be traded more easily than those held in New York and Ottawa.

"This makes it the quickest for DNB to deploy in a crisis situation," said the bank in a statement.

"With this step, we have improved the deployability of the gold reserves. We assume that we will never need to deploy the gold, but it is nevertheless necessary to strengthen our resilience and preparedness," said DNB President Olaf Sleijpen.

The total Dutch gold stock amounted to 612.4 tonnes and was valued at 72.2 billion euros at the end of 2025, said the DNB.

Before the deployment, the Dutch bank held 31.3 percent of its gold in New York and 19.7 percent in Ottawa.

After the move, each country accounted for 18.5 percent of the Dutch gold reserve.

The share of gold held in London increased from 18.1 percent to 32.1 percent. The bank still holds 30.8 percent of its gold in the Netherlands.

The transfer was carried out partially by buying and selling and partly by physically transferring gold, said the bank.

The bank moved more than 27 tonnes of physical gold from the United States and Canada to Zeist.

The same quantity of gold was moved from Zeist to London, preventing the melting down of gold bars.

"By combining buying and selling and physical transport, the risks associated with physically moving a large quantity of gold have been spread," said the DNB.

The operation took place between March and August of this year, the bank said.

New York City to ban AI in public schools through eighth grade

AFP | New York, United States

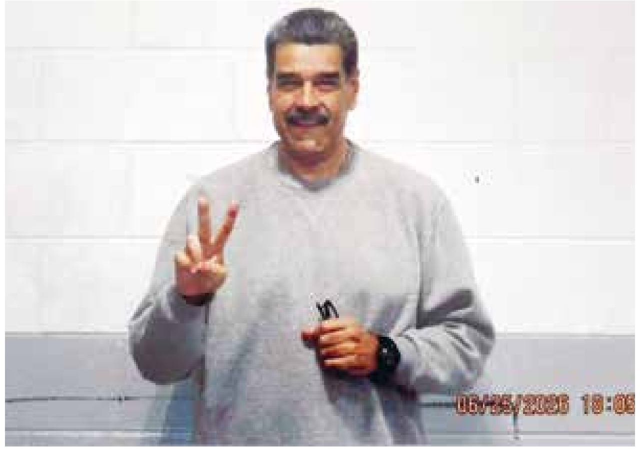
New York City will ban the use of artificial intelligence for students in public schools through eighth grade, a source close to the matter told yesterday, confirming US media reports.

Teachers and parents have warned against the use of AI in schools over concerns about harming children's mental health and cognitive development, as well as environmental damage. AI use will only be allowed in high school, which begins in the ninth grade in the American school system, the source said.

Even then, it will be limited to specific uses, such as learning about the technology itself, they said. Eighth graders in the US are typically about 13 years old. According to the New York Times, AI "companion chatbots" offering psychological support will also be banned.

The rules, however, allow teachers to use AI for tasks including preparing lessons or writing messages.

Son explains how Maduro jail pics got on social media



AFP | Caracas, Venezuela

Photos on social media of deposed Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro in a US detention center were taken by prison staff and mailed to the family, his son said.

Maduro, a leftist authoritarian leader who was ousted and arrested by US forces in January, is incarcerated in a facility in New York and does not have access to the internet.

Two photos of Maduro appeared on his social media on Sunday, two days after President Donald Trump announced a historic energy agreement granting the United States control over one-fifth of Venezuela's oil reserves.

In the photos, Maduro is seen wearing a gray tracksuit, making peace signs with his hands and looking thinner than he was prior to his capture.

"That photo was taken on June 25, a day after the double earthquake" that killed 6,500 Venezuelans, Nicolas Maduro Guerra said in a video posted Tuesday on X. The date matches a time stamp visible on the snapshots.

"It was around 6 pm when the person who took the photos arrived, and he was in front of the TV; he was very shaken and deeply distressed," Maduro Guerra said. His father "didn't feel like having his picture taken," but "the person who took the photo insisted, and told him he could send it later. "They did indeed give him printed copies -- both photos were given to him -- and he mailed them on July 13" to an address in the United States, Maduro Guerra said.

Maduro is allowed to speak by phone with his family and his lawyers for approximately 300 minutes per month, with a maximum of 15 minutes per call.

On Friday, his father dictated a message to him from prison, which he later published alongside the photographs, the younger Maduro said.

"I am sending these photos as a small gift to all my grandchildren, to the boys and girls, and to all the good people who love us," the elder Maduro wrote on the Telegram messaging service.

"I want you to know that we are standing firm, with our hearts full of your love," he added.

Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores are awaiting trial on charges related to drug and firearms trafficking. They have pleaded not guilty.

The younger Maduro added that his family was working toward "the speedy release" of his parents.

During his 2013-2026 presidency, Maduro was widely accused of using political repression to cling onto power. Both of his re-elections, in 2018 and 2024, were rejected as fraudulent by numerous countries, including the United States.

The US green-lighted Maduro's vice president, Delcy Rodriguez, as interim leader, and she has governed under intense pressure from Washington.

Trump nominates Hung Cao as US Navy secretary

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that he would nominate acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao for the permanent position.

Trump said he could think of "no one better" to be the US Navy's top civilian leader.

"We need Patriots like Hung leading our Navy and Marine Corps," he wrote on Truth Social, calling for the Senate to confirm his choice as quickly as possible.

The Pentagon announced in April the departure of Cao's predecessor, John Phelan, without providing an explanation for the sudden exit.

Since returning to office in January, Trump has overseen a purge of top military personnel.

TOP 4 TWEETS

01

In Eindhoven, at the heart of the European semiconductor ecosystem, alongside our champions like ASML and Mistral, we are building the Europe of tomorrow: an Europe that innovates, masters its technologies, and chooses its destiny.

@EmmanuelMacron

02

Humanity is speeding towards a climate catastrophe.That's the stark warning from the latest @UNEP report. Every fraction of a degree of warming will cost lives, deepen inequalities & push ecosystems closer to irreversible damage. We must raise ambition, accelerate #ClimateAction & fight for humanity. NOW.

@antonioguterres

03

Health threats do not respect borders. From disease outbreaks and humanitarian crises to climate-related shocks, countries are increasingly confronted with risks that no nation can tackle alone.

@DrTedros

04

We meet today to discuss Russia's attack in Leipzig. This was an attack using military-grade material, carried out by Russian operatives on EU soil. We won't tolerate it. Europe & @NATO won't just maintain our pressure on Russia. We will increase it

@vonderleyen

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