

### New Zealand Influencer Dead At 21 After Cancer Battle, Shares Heartbreaking Final Post

Dominique McShain, a 21-year-old influencer from New Zealand, has died after bravely documenting her battle with bowel cancer on TikTok. She was diagnosed with incurable colorectal cancer at 20, which had spread to her liver. Her death was confirmed by People on Wednesday, April 23, 2025. Although the exact date of her death is not known, Ms McShain had shared a final update on April 6, revealing she had entered end-of-life care due to her rapidly deteriorating condition. In the heartbreaking post, the young TikTok star said she was recently given a prognosis "of only a few days to a few weeks to live."

Ms McShain had gained over 200,000 followers on TikTok and Instagram by documenting her cancer journey, aiming to raise awareness about colorectal cancer in young adults. In her final post, she expressed gratitude for her life, family, and friends, stating, "My life may be short, but I genuinely think I've squeezed every bit out of it. I won the lottery with a family that loves me unconditionally, friends who would 10000% donate a liver to me or do anything they could and the sweetest husband Sean, who's been my rock through everything." "Recently, I've been picturing heaven often — a place where I'll finally be free from the pain that's been with me for so long. I imagine myself without the constant suffering, no longer needing medication just to survive the day. I'll be able to run, to breathe, to feel whole. Though it will hurt to leave you all behind, please know that I will finally be out of pain, and I will be at peace," she wrote.

Ms McShain was pursuing a psychology degree when her diagnosis interrupted her studies.

In 2024, she was given a prognosis of one to five years to live. Despite her terminal diagnosis, she married her partner Sean Suson and honeymooned in Thailand in December 2024. She said they had to rush their love story as she didn't have the privilege of time. "The privilege of getting to grow old was taken from me, like so many life experiences."

### Donald Trump To Host Biggest Holders Of His Cryptocurrency For Dinner

Donald Trump will host the biggest holders of a cryptocurrency he launched earlier this year for dinner, the company overseeing the currency said Wednesday, sending its price surging. "Get \$TRUMP. Have Dinner with President TRUMP!" suggests a promotional message posted on the official website of the cryptocurrency named after the US president.

The \$TRUMP memecoin was launched at the end of January, a few hours before the Republican billionaire's inauguration.

Some 200 million tokens (units) of this currency have been put on the market since then, with the start-up behind the operation, Fight Fight Fight LLC, announcing plans to add a further 800 million tokens within three years.

The creators of this new digital asset, who include Donald Trump, control all the private tokens, which have a theoretical value of more than \$10 billion at current prices.

Under the plans announced on the website, Fight Fight Fight will identify the 220 biggest \$TRUMP holders, on average, between April 23 and May 12, and invite them to dinner on May 22 at the Trump family-owned Trump National Golf Club in the Washington suburbs of Potomac Falls, Virginia.

Among them, the 25 investors holding the most \$TRUMP memecoins will be invited to a small reception with Trump beforehand, and will later be given a private tour of the White House organized by the company. The official website specifies that the invitation will not be open to nationals of countries placed under surveillance by the US State Department, including China, Russia and Iran.

## Harvey Weinstein Made Sex Attack Victims 'Feel Small,' Jury Told



**NEW YORK:** Prosecutors opening Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein's rape and sexual assault retrial described Wednesday how he ignored his victims' pleas to stop and abused his position to make them "feel small."

The trial, which began with jury selection last week, will see survivors who helped spark the "MeToo" movement testify against Weinstein once more. The former Miramax studio boss is charged with the 2006 sexual assault of former production assistant Mimi Haley and the 2013 rape of aspiring actress Jessica Mann. He also faces a new count for an alleged sexual assault of a 19-year-old in 2006. Assistant District Attorney Shannon Lucey recounted Weinstein's alleged attacks in graphic detail, saying all three women had begged him to stop, but that he had "all the power... He made all these women feel small."

The prosecutor described

how Weinstein pestered Haley with multiple requests for massages and sexual favors before she found herself alone with him in an apartment one day in 2006. "The defendant, three times (her) size, kissed her, groped her and she told him again she was not interested," Lucey said.

"He pulled Mimi towards him... She quickly realized he was not going take a no for an answer," the prosecutor added. Lucey detailed how Weinstein then forced himself on Haley, performing oral sex on her despite her pleas for him to stop.

The award-winning movie producer, who was brought into the Manhattan criminal court in a wheelchair and wore a dark business suit, glanced occasionally at the jury as the trial got underway.

Lucey described the defendant as "one of the most powerful men in... show business," telling the majority-female jury that "when he wanted some-

thing, he took it."

'Fresh Eyes'

Kaja Sokola, who was not part of the previous trial, was an aspiring model and aged 19 at the time that she alleges Weinstein sexually assaulted her at a hotel in Manhattan. Accusers describe the impresario as a predator who used his perch atop the cinema industry to pressure actresses and assistants for sexual favors, often in hotel rooms.

But Arthur Aidala, Weinstein's defense attorney, stressed that the prosecution's opening statement was not "the whole movie," arguing that the jury would hear no evidence of the use of force or a lack of consent. He said Mann had introduced Weinstein to her mother after the alleged rape, and that Haley had "consensual sex" with Weinstein after her alleged attack.

"Not guilty, not guilty, not guilty," he told the jury.

After opening statements concluded, witness testimonies began and will continue when court proceedings resume Thursday.

Presentation of the evidence in the retrial is expected to last five to six weeks. Weinstein's 2020 convictions over Haley and Mann were overturned last year by the New York Court of Appeals, which ruled that the way witnesses were handled in the original New York trial was unlawful.

### "Robbed You Of Mother": Texas Man Apologises To Children of Woman He Murdered

**HOUSTON:** A 41-year-old man was executed Wednesday in the US state of Texas for the brutal murder of a young mother more than 20 years ago, the 13th execution in the country this year. Moises Sandoval Mendoza was put to death at the state penitentiary in the city of Huntsville, Texas. Attorney General Ken Paxton said in a statement.

Mendoza was found guilty of killing 20-year-old Rachelle O'Neil Tolleson in March 2004. According to court documents, he sexually assaulted her, killed her, then carried her body to a ditch and set it on fire. The victim's remains were discovered several days later.

Tolleson, the mother of a five-month-old child, had known her killer since high school, according to local media. Mendoza confessed to the murder, but had sought to have the death penalty commuted to life imprisonment. He lost the appeals. In a final statement shared by Texas officials, Mendoza apologized to Tolleson's loved ones "for having robbed you of Rachelle's life."

"To Avery... I robbed you of a mother. I'm sorry for that," Mendoza said. "I know nothing that I could ever say or do would ever make up for that."

Earlier Wednesday, the US Supreme Court also rejected all of Mendoza's appeals to block his execution by lethal injection from proceeding.

## Former South Korean President Moon Jae-in Indicted For Corruption

**SEOUL:** South Korea's prosecutors said Thursday they have indicted former president Moon Jae-in on corruption charges related to the employment of his son-in-law at an airline.

Moon was "indicted for corruption for receiving 217 million won (USD 150,000) in connection with facilitating the employment of his son-in-law at an airline", the Jeonju District Prosecutors' Office said in a statement.

The case adds to the political drama gripping South Korea, which is facing elections on June 3 after Yoon Suk Yeol was stripped of his presidency for imposing martial law briefly.

Moon, who served as president from 2017 to 2022, was known for pursuing engagement with North Korea, including brokering talks between Pyongyang's leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump during his first term.

According to prosecutors, Moon's son-in-law was appointed managing director by low-cost airline Thai Eastar Jet, "despite lacking any relevant experience or qualifications in the airline industry".

The son-in-law "frequently left his post for extended periods... and did not perform his duties in a manner befitting the position", they said.

The airline, which was effectively controlled by a



former MP from Moon's party, had given Moon's son-in-law the job in a bid to win favours from the then president, prosecutors said.

According to prosecutors, any salary and other financial benefits paid by the airline to the son-in-law between 2018 and 2020 "were confirmed as not legitimate salary payments, but bribes intended for the president".

The son-in-law later divorced Moon's daughter.

"Politically Motivated" Moon's indictment means that two former presidents of South Korea are now in legal jeopardy.

Disgraced ex-president Yoon is facing trial on insurrection charges over his December 3 martial law decree, which lasted only around six hours as it was voted down by opposition MPs.

If convicted, Yoon could

be sentenced to life in prison or be given the death penalty -- although South Korea has had an unofficial moratorium on executions since 1997. Yoon was the second South Korean president to be removed from office, and the third to be impeached by parliament.

South Korea's politics are often marked by score-settling. The only two other living former presidents -- Lee Myung-bak and Park Geun-hye -- were convicted of corruption and served prison terms.

Former president Roh Moo-hyun, for whom Moon served as chief of staff, died by suicide in May 2009 by jumping off a cliff amid a corruption investigation involving his family.

Moon's party condemned the prosecution Thursday, calling the indictment "an abuse of unchecked prosecutorial power".

## A Look At Elon Musk's Most Memorable Moments As Trump's Adviser

**WASHINGTON:** Elon Musk says he will step back from his controversial White House role as the unofficial head of the cost-cutting "Department of Government Efficiency" to focus more on his troubled Tesla car company.

While classified as a mere "special government employee" and "senior advisor to the president," the South African-born tycoon has left indelible marks on American politics as President Donald Trump's most visible billionaire backer.

The 'Nazi' Salute Being Trump's right-hand man took on a new meaning when the world's richest person made headlines by dramatically throwing out his arm -- twice -- at a rally celebrating Trump's January 20 inauguration.

Standing at a podium bearing the presidential seal, Musk's right arm was straight, his hand open, his palm facing down. Historians agreed with Democratic politicians that the sharp gesture looked exactly like a Nazi salute.



The Tesla boss -- whose electric vehicles were soon dubbed "swastikas" by critics -- dismissed the claims, posting on his X social media platform: "The 'everyone is Hitler' attack is sooo tired."

Whatever the display meant, Nazi-related jokes and memes dominated public reactions to the day meant to mark Trump's triumphant return to office.

Endorsing Germany's Extreme-Right

Hot off his salute shock, Musk participated virtually at a January rally for Germany's anti-immigration, ultra-nationalist AfD party.

Musk told the crowd "you really are the best hope" for Germany and

urged them to be "proud of German culture and German values."

His endorsement of the AfD shook mainstream German parties, which said they viewed it as foreign interference by Trump's advisor. Vandals burned four Teslas in the streets of Berlin afterward.

Despite record gains at the polls, AfD ultimately took second place in the election behind Germany's conservatives.

Brings Kid To Work

Dressed down in MAGA hats and t-shirts, Musk became a near constant presence in the White House. For a while, so did his four-year-old son named X.

During Musk's first

appearance before press since his arrival in Washington to run DOGE, the child was trotted out and Trump said, "This is X and he's a great guy."

The boy was filmed picking his nose while his father boasted about his cost-cutting exploits standing next to the Oval Office's Resolute Desk.

Brings Chainsaw To Budget

Unelected and unconfirmed by Senate, Musk has repeatedly bashed the "unelected, fourth unconstitutional branch of government, which is the bureaucracy" and immediately made brutal cuts to the federal workforce and budget.

To illustrate his management style, Musk donned sunglasses and brandished a chainsaw on stage at a conservative get-together in Washington.

It was handed to him -- not turned on -- by right-wing Argentine President Javier Milei, who made the machine a symbol of slashing bureaucracy and state spending in his own country.

## Brazil's Bolsonaro Receives Summons In Hospital Bed

**BRASILIA:** A court official delivered a summons to Brazil's far-right former president Jair Bolsonaro in his hospital bed Wednesday, giving him five days to submit his defense against coup charges, in preparation for trial.

Bolsonaro, who lost elections in 2022, has been ordered to stand trial on charges he directed an alleged coup plot to hold onto power.

Earlier this month, he underwent intestinal surgery, necessitated by his ongoing health problems from a 2018 stabbing attack.

The 70-year-old reacted furiously to Wednesday's visit in a video on X, proclaiming: "I have five days to present my defense? Five days?" He pointed out that he was still in intensive care.

The notification was delivered a day after Bolsonaro appeared in a live YouTube broadcast, seated and with a nasal tube in hospital, along with three of his sons and Brazilian former Formula 1 champion Nelson Piquet.

"The live broadcast made by the former president yesterday demonstrated that he was able to be summoned and notified today," the Brazilian Supreme Court said in a message sent to AFP.

The five-day deadline is for a filing outlining Bolsonaro's defense, specifying the



evidence he will be submitting and the witnesses he will call.

Bolsonaro's trial will be the first of an ex-leader accused of attempting to take power by force since Brazil's return to democracy in 1985 following two decades of military dictatorship.

He risks a 40-year prison sentence and political banishment ahead of presidential elections next year he has been hoping to run in. Bolsonaro has had recurring health problems since September 2018, when an attacker stabbed the then-candidate at a presidential campaign rally in the southeastern state of Minas Gerais.

He lost about 40 percent of his blood and underwent emergency surgery after the attack, which was perpetrated by a man later declared mentally unfit to stand trial.

He went on to win that election, serving a single term until 2022 when he lost a runoff to leftist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva -- who he now stands accused of seeking to unseat.

## Humans Lived In African Rainforests 1,50,000 Years Ago: Study

**JENA:** Our human species emerged in Africa around 300,000 years ago but scientists don't yet have a clear picture of what kind of natural environment we evolved in. Until recently, the dominant idea was that grasslands and savannahs were the ecological "cradle" of human beings.

Environments like rainforest were considered to be barriers to human expansion, and inhabited only much later in human history. This view is out of step with research in Asia, however. There, more and more evidence has been found of sophisticated behaviours and advanced cognition in ancient rainforest contexts. Humans lived in a rainforest environment on Sumatra in Indonesia as far back as 70,000 years ago. They also coped well with the challenges of rainforests. At Niah Cave in Borneo, toxic plants obtained from nearby rainforest habitats were processed as far back as 45,000 years ago. This was soon after people were first documented in this region, around 46,000 years ago. Similarly, in Sri Lanka, there is evidence for direct reliance on rainforest resources from at least 36,000 years ago.

These discoveries suggest that humans were able to live in rainforest before they left

Africa, the home of our species. Until now, though, the oldest firm evidence for people living in African rainforests dated to around 18,000 years ago.

Our newly published study pushes that date way back. Our international team of researchers, working in C d'Ivoire, showed that human groups were already living in Africa's wet tropical forest 150,000 years ago.

The story of this discovery began in the 1980s, when the Bété I site in C d'Ivoire was first investigated by Professor Fran Yodé Guédé of the Université Félix Houphou Boigny on a joint Ivorian-Soviet mission. Results from this initial study published in 2000 revealed a long sedimentary sequence, containing stone tools in an area of present-day rainforest. This site is one of the few in Africa to feature a long history of layers of sediment being deposited. There is a sedimentary sequence of about 14 metres, with several levels of preserved tools. The stone tool assemblages, composed of more than 1,500 pieces, were found during the excavations of the 1980s and 1990s, but at that time the age of the tools - and the ecology of the site when they were deposited there - could not be determined.

## How Zelensky Responded To Trump's Demand Of Ceding Crimea To Russia



**KYIV:** After another explosive exchange with the US President Donald Trump, Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy posted a 2018 declaration from Trump's first term, which said Crimea is a Ukrainian territory. This came after Trump scolded his Ukrainian counterpart for not ceding Crimea to Russia, saying it was harming truce talks with Moscow that could result in ending the years-long war in Ukraine.

Describing peace talks in London on Wednesday, Zelenskyy said they were marked by "emotions". He also vowed to abide by the Ukrainian constitution, which he previously asserted forbids surrendering territory such as Crimea to Russia.

"Emotions have run high

today. But it is good that 5 countries met to bring peace closer. Ukraine, the USA, the UK, France and Germany. The sides expressed their views and respectfully received each other's positions. It's important that each side was not just a participant but contributed meaningfully," the Ukrainian President said in a post on X.

"The American side shared its vision. Ukraine and other Europeans presented their inputs. And we hope that it is exactly such joint work that will lead to lasting peace."

We are grateful to partners. Ukraine will always act in accordance with its Constitution and we are absolutely sure that our partners in particular the USA will act in line with its

strong decisions," he added.

Zelenskyy also posted a 2018 Crimea Declaration from Mike Pompeo, who was Secretary of State during Trump's first term, which said: "The United States rejects Russia's attempted annexation of Crimea and pledges to maintain this policy until Ukraine's territorial integrity is restored."

Trump Lashes Out At Zelenskyy

This came after Trump lashed out at Zelenskyy on Wednesday, blaming the Ukrainian president's refusal to accept Russian occupation of Crimea for the failure to end the war.

Before that, US Vice President JD Vance laid out the US vision for a peace deal where Russia would get to keep already occupied swaths of Ukraine, which include Crimea.

Trump said a deal was "very close" -- and effectively closed with Moscow -- but Zelenskyy was proving "harder" to negotiate with.

The Ukrainian president's refusal to accept US terms for ending the conflict -- which began with Russia's invasion -- "will do nothing but prolong the 'killing field'," he added.

## US Court Temporarily Restores Legal Status Of 133 Students, Majority Indians

**WASHINGTON:** In a big relief, a court in the United States' Georgia has temporarily reinstated the SEVIS (Student and Visitor Information System) records for 133 international students, of whom the majority are Indian. These students have approached the court after their SEVIS records were terminated and their visas were cancelled by the US Department of State (DOS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The lawsuit argued the Trump administration has terminated the legal status of students by removing them from SEVIS - an online database used by schools to provide legally required information about international students to the government, according to a report by CNN. The lawsuit acknowledged that while some of the plaintiffs have had run-ins with law enforcement officials, none have a criminal conviction against them.

The federal court issued the temporary restraining order on April 18, directing the government to reinstate the plaintiffs' student status by April 22 while the case proceeds. According to Charles Kuck, the attorney

who represented the students, all students are now reinstated and can now continue to study or work under the Optional Practical Training (OPT) programme, a report by the Times of India said.

The next hearing in the case is slated for the coming days.

Trump Administration's Action Against Students

According to the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), ICE has terminated SEVIS records of as many as 4,736 international students since January 20, 2025, the majority of whom are Indians. Chinese, Nepalese, South Korean, and Bangladeshi students have also been targeted by the administration. In most cases, the Trump administration has used reasons like traffic tickets or violations of university regulations to target students. In 327 detailed reports obtained by AILA, it was found that most of the Indian students who were targeted were F-1 visa holders and were in the US on Optional Practical Training (OPT) - a temporary work authorisation granted to international students after graduation, particularly those from STEM courses.