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### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY  
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



**SUNDAY:**

MARRYBELL MADURO  
SINGER  
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

**MONDAY:**

ANDERSON BAHAMON  
SINGER  
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

**TUESDAY:**

JEAN PAUL  
SAXOPHONIST  
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY:**

MAILLEYN ALVARADO  
VIOLINIST  
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

**THURSDAY:**

MARRYBELL MADURO  
SINGER  
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

**FRIDAY:**

MAILLEYN ALVARADO  
VIOLINIST  
7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

**SATURDAY:**

RICKY THOMAS  
GUITAR  
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.



Happy Hour  
12-1 / 4-6 / 9-10

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# American daredevil free-climbs Taiwan's tallest building



**US rock climber Alex Honnold scales the Taipei 101 building without ropes or safety gear in Taipei on January 25, 2026.**

(Photo by I-Hwa Cheng / AFP)

(AFP) - An American climber took on Taiwan's tallest building on Sunday, becoming the first person to scale Taipei 101 without a rope, harness or safety net.

Hundreds of spectators gathered at the base of the

101-storey tower to watch Alex Honnold, 40, embark on his daredevil feat, which was also broadcast live on Netflix.

After an hour and a half, he successfully made it up 1,667 feet (508 metres) be-

fore triumphantly rappelling down to reunite with his wife, Sanni McCandless Honnold.

Speaking at a press briefing afterwards, Honnold said "time is finite", and people should "use it in the best way". "If you work really hard... you can do hard things," Honnold added.

Honnold has conquered some of the world's most intimidating rock faces and rose to global fame in 2017 after he climbed Yosemite's "El Capitan", lauded among his peers as the pinnacle of technical difficulty on the massive granite monolith.

It had always been a dream of Honnold's to add

scaling Taipei 101 to his list of achievements he told reporters, adding that his first request had been rejected. He did not offer more details about why this was the case.

"For the project to come together more than a decade later... It's so great. What an opportunity, it is such a pleasure," he added.

Honnold is the first person to free solo climb Taipei 101, without a rope, harness, or safety net, but not the first to reach its peak.

In 2004, Alain Robert, dubbed "the French Spiderman," was the first to take on the challenge, but used safety ropes because of the rainy conditions.

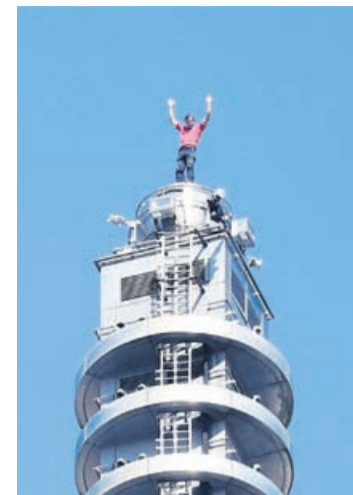
Sunday's spectacle drew crowds of hundreds, with onlooker Richard Bode, 34, calling the event a "once-in-a-lifetime experience." Benson, 24, told AFP that Honnold was "incredibly brave", while others, like Lin Chia-jou, 54, said it was "terrifying" to watch.

Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te congratulated Honnold in a Facebook post on Sunday, branding the challenge "truly moving".

"The climb was tense, setting hearts racing," he added in the post.

## - Daring feat -

The event, titled "Skyscraper Live", was scheduled to be broadcast on Netflix on Saturday (0100 GMT), but it was postponed due to bad weather.



**US rock climber Alex Honnold raises his arms from the top of the Taipei 101 building after he successfully free soloed the landmark skyscraper without ropes or safety gear in Taipei on January 25, 2026.**

(Photo by I-HWA CHENG / AFP)

Dressed in a red T-shirt and yellow custom-made climbing shoes, Honnold moved up the southeast face of the glass and steel building swiftly on Sunday when better weather permitted the climb.

At one point, he stepped onto a platform midway up to wave down at fans and onlookers who were taking photos.

People watching from inside the building could be seen gawking and tapping at the glass, as Honnold moved past the enclosed observation deck on the 89th floor.

Taipei 101 chairwoman Janet Chia said on Saturday on Threads that it was touching to hear that fans had travelled from Singapore, Hong Kong and southern Taiwan to watch the climb and apologised for the delay in the event. □



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**US rock climber Alex Honnold (L, in red) looks on ahead of his attempt to scale the Taipei 101 building without ropes or safety gear, in Taipei on January 25, 2026.**

(Photo by I-Hwa Cheng/ AFP)

## Major winter storm pounds US from south to northeast

(AFP) – A major winter storm brought hazardous conditions to a wide swath of the United States on Sunday, from Texas to New England, prompting warnings to stay off roads, along with mass flight cancellations and power outages.

As the storm dumped snow, sleet and freezing rain across the wide expanse, officials warned that an arctic air mass behind the system would see temperatures fall dangerously low for days, prolonging disruptions to daily life.

"The snow/sleet impacts will linger well into next week with rounds of re-freezing that keeps surfaces icy and dangerous to both drive and walk on for the foreseeable future," the National Weather Service (NWS) said.

The PowerOutage.com tracking site showed over 700,000 customers without electricity as of Sunday morning, mostly in the southern US where the storm began on Saturday.

Nearly 250,000 residential and commercial customers were without power in Ten-



People sled down Cedar Hill in the snow in Central Park in New York City on January 25, 2026.

nessee, while Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana – where such storms are uncommon – each had over 100,000 outages.

Authorities from Texas to North Carolina and New York urged residents to stay home due to the perilous conditions.

"Stay off the roads unless absolutely necessary," Texas's Emergency Management Division posted on X.

The storm was moving Sunday from the south to the northeast, dumping snow on heavily populated cities across the US east coast.

At least 20 states and the US capital Washington have declared states of emergency.

Residents in Washington awoke to a blanket of several inches of snow on sidewalks and roads, with forecasters predicting a transition into sleet later in the day.

Federal offices have been preemptively closed for Monday.

Several major airports in Washington, Philadelphia, and New York had nearly all of flights canceled for the day.

Tracking site Flightaware.com showed over 10,000 flights canceled in the United States on Sunday adding to over 4,000 the day before.

President Donald Trump, who

was riding out the storm at the White House, said on his Truth Social platform Saturday: "We will continue to monitor, and stay in touch with all States in the path of this storm. Stay Safe, and Stay Warm!"

### - Polar vortex -

The brutal storm system is the result of a stretched polar vortex, an Arctic region of cold, low-pressure air that normally forms a relatively compact, circular system but sometimes morphs into a more oval shape, sending cold air spilling across North America.

Scientists say the increasing frequency of such disruptions of the polar vortex may be linked to climate change, though the debate is not settled and natural variability plays a role.

But Trump – who scoffs at climate change science and has rolled back green energy policies – questioned how the cold front fit into broader climatic shifts.

"WHATEVER HAPPENED TO GLOBAL WARMING???" the Republican leader posted on Truth Social. □

## Trump says Vance to visit Armenia and Azerbaijan in February

(AFP) – US Vice President JD Vance will travel to Armenia and Azerbaijan in February, President Donald Trump said on Friday, with the intention to "build on" recent peace efforts.

Armenia and Azerbaijan signed a US-brokered

agreement in August to end a decades-long conflict over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, which Azerbaijan most recently took over in 2023.

"I want to thank President Aliyev of Azerbaijan and Prime Minister Pashinyan

of Armenia for honoring the Peace Agreement we signed last August," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

"In February, Vice President Vance will travel to both Countries to build on our Peace efforts, and advance the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity," he said, referring to a transit corridor created as part of the agreement.

The corridor through Armenia connects Azerbaijan, which is to its east, to its Nakhchivan exclave to the west.

The agreement gives the United States development rights to the corridor.

Trump said the United States would "strengthen our strategic partnership



US Vice President JD Vance gestures as he departs a press conference following a military briefing at the Civilian Military Coordination Center in southern Israel on October 21, 2025.

with Azerbaijan, a beautiful Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation with Armenia" and organize "Deals for our Great Semiconductor Makers."

He also mentioned "the sale of Made in the U.S.A. Defense Equipment, such as body armor and boats,

and more, to Azerbaijan."

The US State Department said this month Armenia would give the United States a nearly three-quarters stake in the development of the corridor, an agreement Secretary of State Marco Rubio hailed as a "model for the world." □



WASHINGTON, DC - JANUARY 09: U.S. President Donald Trump speaks to members of the media prior to his departure from the White House on January 9, 2026 in Washington, DC.

## Africa no longer facing mpox emergency: regional health chief

(AFP) – Africa is no longer in the grip of a public health emergency over mpox though the viral infection "remains endemic in several settings", the head of region's disease monitoring centres said Saturday.

The announcement by Jean Kaseya, director general of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, comes after the World Health Organization in September said mpox was no longer a global health emergency.

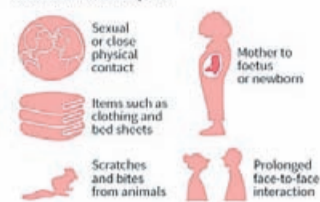
WHO had declared its worldwide public health emergency over the viral infection -- previously known as Monkeypox, and related to

### Mpox

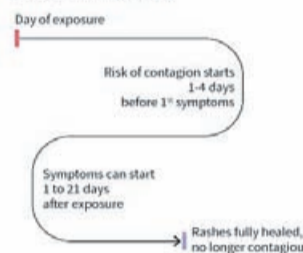
A surge in cases of the viral disease in Africa was declared a global health emergency by the World Health Organization on August 14, 2024

#### TRANSMISSION

By contact with infected people and animals, or contaminated objects



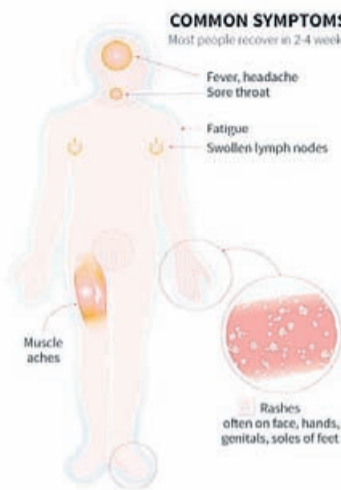
#### INFECTION STAGES



Sources: World Health Organization, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

#### COMMON SYMPTOMS

Most people recover in 2-4 weeks



Possible complications include skin infection and organ inflammation which can lead to death. Children, immunocompromised, and pregnant persons are more at risk.

AFP

**Factfile on the mpox infectious disease, formerly known as monkeypox.** / AFP / Olivia BUGAULT AND Maud ZABA

smallpox -- in August 2024, after a two-pronged mpox epidemic broke out, primarily in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Kaseya said Africa was lifting its regional emergency status for the illness because of boosted detection, therapy and the roll-out of more than five million mpox vaccines in 16 countries since 2024.

The response contributed to confirmed cases dropping by 60 percent between early 2025 and late 2025, and the number of deaths among those infected dropping from 2.6 percent to 0.6 percent, he said in a statement. The lifting of the regional

public health emergency status "does not mark the end of mpox in Africa," he added.

"Rather, it signals a transition from emergency response to a sustained, country-led pathway toward elimination. Mpox remains endemic in several settings, and continued vigilance, targeted investment, and innovation will be essential to consolidate gains and prevent resurgence."

According to the WHO, 78 percent of mpox cases were detected in Africa, with the DRC, Guinea and Madagascar most affected. [dyg/sba/rmb/rfp](https://www.afp.com/dyg/sba/rmb/rfp)

## Chinese coast guard rescues Philippine sailors in disputed waters

(AFP) – Chinese coast guard ships pulled 17 Filipino sailors, including two dead, from disputed waters in the South China Sea on Friday after a cargo vessel capsized, China's military said.

The Singapore-flagged M/V Devon Bay and its crew of 21 Philippine sailors sent a distress signal at around 8:30 pm (1230 GMT) on Thursday, the Philippine Coast Guard said.

China's Southern Theater Command said the ship "lost contact approximately 55 nautical miles northwest of Huangyan Island", using Beijing's name for the disputed Scarborough Shoal.

The fish-rich Scarborough Shoal is a flashpoint of sometimes violent standoffs between the Philippines and China, which both claim the shoal and its waters as part of their territory.

The area is about 260 kilometres (160 miles) off the coast of the northern Philippines.

"Two nearby Chinese Coast Guard vessels immediately went to help with rescue upon receiving orders," Southern Theater Command said in a post on social media network Weibo.

"As of 12:30 PM, 17 people had been rescued, of whom

14 are in stable condition, 2 have tragically died, and 1 is currently receiving treatment," the post said.

The search and rescue operation for the remaining four crew members was continuing.

Photos released by China's embassy in Manila showed the rescued Filipino sailors, whose vessel was believed to be carrying iron ore from the Philippines to China, receiving medical treatment.

A Philippine Coast Guard statement said the country's own vessels were headed to the area where the ves-



"AFP PHOTO /CHINESE COAST GUARD VIA MANILA'S CHINESE EMBASSY" This handout from the Chinese Coast Guard taken and released by the Chinese embassy in Manila on January 23, 2026 shows Chinese Coast Guard personnel assisting a rescued Filipino crew member of a capsized cargo ship near the contested Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea.

sel had capsized, noting the ship's position was "within the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone".

The ship was already listing 25 degrees when it called for help, it said. [afp.com](https://www.afp.com)



Libya's Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh (C) poses along with the members of Egyptian delegation during the inaugural day of the Libya Energy and Economic Summit at the Tripoli International Conference Center in Tripoli on January 24, 2026. (Photo by Mahmud Turkia / AFP)

(AFP) – Libya said Saturday it signed an oil agreement worth more than \$20 billion with TotalEnergies and Cono-

coPhillips, seeking to ramp up production by 850,000 barrels a day for the next 25 years.

## Libya announces \$20 bn energy deal with TotalEnergies, ConocoPhillips

Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah said the agreement with the French and American energy firms would bring in revenues of more than \$370 billion over the 25-year life of the deal, adding it was fully financed outside the state budget.

The announcement came as the Libya Energy and Economic Summit opened in Tripoli, attended by US President Donald Trump's Middle East adviser Massad Boulos, along with other officials, including from Turkey

and Egypt.

Dbeibah said Libya was also set to sign an agreement with US energy giant Chevron covering exploration and production development, as well as a separate deal with Egypt to support services in the sector.

Libya currently produces around 1.5 million barrels a day, sitting on Africa's largest oil reserves at an estimated 48.4 billion barrels.

But the oil industry has faced

major challenges, including security issues, with the country still divided after a NATO-backed revolt toppled and killed longtime leader Moamer Kadhafi in 2011.

Libya is split between a UN-recognised government in Tripoli, led by Dbeibah, and commander Khalifa Haftar's administration in the east.

Boulos described the energy summit as "an opportunity to become a premier economic partner with the United States". [afp.com](https://www.afp.com)

## Pope warns against risks of AI

(AFP) – Pope Leo XIV on Saturday stressed the risks of generative artificial intelligence, how it could usurp human identities and relationships, influence public opinion and deepen social polarisation.

In a message marking the World Day of Social Communications, the pope said AI systems reflect the worldview of their creators and can shape patterns of thought by reproducing biases embedded in the data they process.

"The challenge... is a matter of protecting human identity and authentic relationships," the pontiff said.

Leo XIV's warning comes as generative AI makes leaps and bounds towards replicating, altering and manufacturing images, music and text to levels sometimes indistinguishable from human-made works.

In 2023, Leo's predecessor, pope Francis, was the subject of a viral fake AI image of him wearing a white puffer jacket.

Since then, generative AI has been a go-to tool by some high-profile figures, including US President Donald Trump, who has posted or reposted computer-generated images to his online accounts.

Pope Leo XIV warned that just a small number of companies hold significant power over AI development, and that AI tools increase "the difficulty of distinguishing between reality and simulation".

Since his election pope last May as the first pope from the United States, Leo XIV has consistently warned about the growing influence of AI technologies.

He also criticised systems that present statistical probability as reliable knowledge, arguing that such tools ultimately offer only approximations.

He said the challenge ahead



Pope Leo XIV blesses the crowd from the window of the apostolic palace overlooking St. Peter's square during the Angelus prayer in the Vatican on January 25, 2026.

(Photo by Andreas SOLARO / AFP)

is to establish effective governance and called for young people to be educated about how algorithms influence perceptions of reality.

Last month, he condemned the accelerating use of AI in military applications, warning against delegating life and death decisions to machines. □

## Son of Iranian president calls for end to internet blackout



A woman holds a placard during a demonstration in solidarity with protestors living in Iran, in Israel's central city of Holon on January 24, 2026.

(AFP) - The son of Iran's president, who is also a government adviser, called on Saturday for internet connectivity to be restored, warning the more than two-week blackout there would exacerbate anti-government

sentiment.

Yousef Pezeshkian, whose father Masoud was elected president in 2024, said "keeping the internet shut will create dissatisfaction and widen the gap between

the people and the government".

"This means those who were not and are not dissatisfied will be added to the list of the dissatisfied," he wrote in a Telegram post that was later picked up by the official IRNA news agency.

Such a risk, he said, was greater than that of a return to protests if connectivity were restored.

Iran's more than 90 million people have been largely cut off from the internet since authorities imposed a blackout on January 8 amid major protests sweeping the country.

Under the cover of the blackout, they launched a deadly crackdown on protesters, with rights groups

documenting several thousand dead and the Norway-based NGO Iran Human Rights saying the final figure could top 25,000.

The Iranian government has put the toll at 3,117, including 2,427 it has labelled "martyrs", a term used to distinguish members of the security forces and innocent bystanders from those described by authorities as "rioters" incited by the US and Israel.

The younger Pezeshkian, who is a media adviser to the presidency, said he did not know when access to the internet would be restored.

He pointed to concerns about the "release of videos and images related to last

week's 'protests that turned violent'" as a reason the internet remained cut off, but criticised the logic.

Quoting a Persian proverb, he posted "He whose account is clean has nothing to fear from scrutiny".

The president's son blamed foreign interference for the protests' violent turn, but said "the security and law enforcement forces may have made mistakes that no one intends to defend and that must be addressed".

He went on to say that "the release of films is something we will have to face sooner or later. Shutting down the internet won't solve anything; it will just postpone the issue." □

## Spain smashes prostitution ring, frees 15 Chinese women

(AFP) – Spanish police on Saturday said they had freed 15 Chinese women forced into prostitution in "conditions of slavery" in Palma de Mallorca, the capital of the Balearic islands, and arrested 14 people.

The network profited not only from sexual exploitation, but also from selling stimulants and drugs to clients.

"The victims were kept in conditions of slavery; they had to be available at all

times," the national police said.

Some of the women were already on the Spanish mainland or "had travelled from China to Spain after accepting purported job offers as therapeutic massage therapists, with a salary of around 2,000 euros a month, or as cooks or caregivers," the statement said.

The operation ended with 14 arrests: 12 in the Balearic Islands and two in Barcelona.

Seven of those arrested were remanded in custody.

All the detainees are Chinese nationals except one, a Spaniard.

"Money was sent to Chinese citizens in charge of converting it into yuan, after which it was deposited into bank accounts in China," the police said.

The women were forced to work "24 hours a day, seven days a week, without free-



Tourists sunbathe at Palma's Beach in Palma de Mallorca on July 18, 2025.

(Photo by JAIME REINA / AFP)

dom of movement and with no possibility of refusing any client".

The police received two anonymous reports, and one

of the victims managed to escape and reported having suffered sexual and physical assaults, a testimony that was "crucial" to the investigation. □

## Belgian police tracking the crooks who would be king

(AFP) – A band of crooks have been passing themselves as Belgian royalty over the past year to get money out of foreign dignitaries and business leaders, Belgian investigators said Saturday.

The gang has used emails, phone calls and fake videos generated by artificial intelligence to set their traps, federal prosecutors said Saturday.

The as-yet unidentified gang has been operating since early 2025, using phone calls and the WhatsApp messaging to pass themselves off as King Philippe or key members of his staff in their attempts to talk people out of their money.

They choose their targets based on their possible links to the royal family, said prosecutors.



France's President Emmanuel Macron (2L) greets Queen Mathilde of Belgium (R) in front of King Philippe - Filip of Belgium (C) during the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos on January 20, 2026.

"Fortunately, most victims quickly caught on to the deception," said the prose-

cutors office in a statement. In one case, however, the gang did manage to get a

person to transfer a sum of money, they added.

As well as foreigners and business leaders, the gang also tried their luck with Belgian families close to the country's royals.

Then in a fresh wave of activity this month, they sent out invitations to Belgian business executives for a video interview, trying to pass themselves off as the king.

"The images in this video interview were probably generated by artificial intelligence," said prosecutors. Some executives were honoured with invitations to entirely fictitious gala dinners, with requests to pay sponsorship fees for the non-existent event.

Federal prosecutors said they were investigating the attempted frauds with the help of specialist teams in the federal police. □

## Lula revived Brazilian cinema, says 'The Secret Agent' director



The nominees for Best Picture "The Secret Agent" during the 98th Academy Awards nominations announcement at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater in Beverly Hills, California, on January 22, 2026 (Photo by VALERIE MACON / AFP)

(AFP) - Brazil's latest Oscar-nominated thriller "The Secret Agent" has resonated with audiences around the world as a universal tale of authoritarian regimes using their power "to crush people," director Kleber Mendonca Filho told AFP in an interview.

Following on "I'm Still Here," winner of last year's Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, the new film about Brazil's 1964-1985 dictatorship has captivated Hollywood.

Fresh from winning two Golden Globes, the period thriller picked up four Oscar nominations on Thursday -- Best Picture, Best International

Feature Film, Best Actor for Wagner Moura and Best Casting.

Mendonca Filho, the director of 2016's "Aquarius," about a woman refusing to be driven out of her home by developers, and 2019's anti-imperialism drama "Bacurau," links the current boom in the Brazilian film industry to the return to power of leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in 2023.

Under Lula's far-right predecessor Jair Bolsonaro, "culture was extinguished in Brazil," he said.

Mendonca Filho spoke with AFP from Recife, his home-

town in northeastern Brazil, where he received the news of the Oscar nominations.

In the film set in Recife, Moura -- of "Civil War," "Elite Squad" and "Narcos" fame -- plays a university professor recently arrived from Sao Paulo, who is unaware that he is being hunted by hitmen linked to the military regime.

Mendonca Filho lavished Moura with praise, saying "he's a great actor, a great artist and a great person. And he's exactly where he should be" among the nominees for best performance. Below are excerpts from the interview, edited for clarity.

- How do you explain this moment in Brazilian cinema? -

"Brazilian cinema reconnected with the current with Lula's election in 2022, after four years in which culture, practically speaking, was extinguished in Brazil," Mendonca Filho said.

"The Ministry of Culture was eliminated. All support mechanisms were deactivated. "(The) two films that were very well received in Brazil and internationally, 'I Am Still Here' and 'The Secret Agent,' became showcase films for Brazilian cinema."

- What's the global appeal of a film about Brazil's last

dictatorship? -

"I think any story about the use of power to crush people will always be universal," Mendonca Filho said. "The world today is the same one of wars, invasions, land grabs, the use of military or personal power, aggression and battles -- it's nothing new. What's shocking is that the same mistakes keep being made.

"When I wrote 'The Secret Agent,' I initially thought it would be set in 1977, but I began to realize that the film spoke a lot to the logic of Brazil in 2019 or 2021 (under Bolsonaro). A logic passed down from the past.

"In the midst of 21st-century democracy, a group of politicians decided to revive the iconography, the words, the methods and the lack of ethics of the military regime."

- How did US audiences receive the film? -

"The reaction is very positive. Many people in contemporary America can identify with its story. I think the reaction is largely due to the historical moment the United States is going through," Mendonca Filho said. □



Brazilian director Kleber Mendonca Filho and French producer Emilie Lesclaux pose in the press room with the Best Motion Picture - Non-English Language Award for "The Secret Agent" during the 83rd annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills, California, on January 11, 2026.

(Photo by Etienne Laurent / AFP)

## Food culture in Aruba

(Oranjestad) – Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

### Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick “to-go” breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

### Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households

around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands\* include sopi bonch'i rabo (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

### Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening “meal” can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

### (Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the



biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham\* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include bolo di

pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

### Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco\*, baskets, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert

and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun. □

\*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

\*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

\*Saco: Saco literally means “bag”. Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba



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## Up for a snorkeling adventure in Aruba? Top 3 shipwrecks to explore

(ORANJESTAD) – Aruba is not only the perfect vacation destination to sit back and relax on the sandy beaches but also has great snorkeling spots for passionate adventurers to explore. On the coast of the island, there are various shipwrecks that have become fan-favorites over the years. Here are the top 3 shipwrecks you should explore.

### SS Antilla

Dubbed "The Ghost Ship", SS Antilla is the biggest and most visited shipwreck site off the coast of the island. Located in Malmok, this 400-foot ship's story is one of capture and sabotage during WWII.

After Germany invaded The Netherlands, Dutch authorities ordered the confinement of the ship's German crew, who were ported in Aruba because it needed to find a neutral port. The Dutch ordered the ship to be confiscated, but the German crew had other plans. Taking advantage of a delay caused by an anticipated armed resistance, the Germans started scuttling the ship, opening her sea-cock and setting her ablaze.

Eventually, the crew was ar-



rested, but SS Antilla could not be saved by the Dutch forces. The Dutch fired two rounds of their 35mm gun aboard the 'Aruba' at SS Antilla and left her to sink. The shipwreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you'll be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the shipwreck alone is already impressive enough.

### SS Pedernales

Like the Antilla, the story of SS Pedernales dates to WWII. Pedernales was used as a lake tanker between Venezuela and Aruba, and sailed under British Flag. At

this time, The US and Britain were using Aruba and Curacao as fuel stations for the war ships.

Under operation Neuland (disruption of British and American oil sources), Germany fleets bombed Pedernales. The ship was later cut into three sections, two of which were taken to the US for reconstruction. The remaining part stayed in Aruba and was used as target practice. Eventually, the ship became a snorkeling site that has attracted many visitors throughout the years.

Pedernales lies on the northwest coast of Aruba, and is

no more than 10 feet under water, making it an ideal site for snorkelers and divers of all levels.

### Jane Sea Wreck

The Jane Sea Wreck lies near Palm Island at 100 feet underwater. Jane's story is heavily speculated, making her origin a tale of legends.

Launched in 1959, the 190-foot ship was initially called "Blackthorn". Her last owner, S&D Shipping Ltd. named her Jane Sea. Jane was a cement freighter between Venezuela and Aruba.

The story goes that the Jane Sea arrived one day at the

Barcadera Harbor, where Aruban customs discovered several tons of cocaine. The ship was confiscated and petitioned went out for her owner to claim her. However, several years went by and no one came forward to claim the ship, so dive operators decided to sink her as an artificial reef. This happened in 1988. Jane Sea earned the nick name Jane C, because of the illicit white powder discovered on board.

Jane is now beautifully overgrown with coral and is home to a diverse set of marine life, like turtles, octopus, crabs and sometimes even nurse sharks.

The stories behind these shipwrecks enriches their exploration and offers snorkelers and divers a glance into the past, as well as the beautiful marine life that have molded these wrecks into their home. So, grab your equipment and discover another side of what Aruba has to offer!

We highly recommend you embark on your adventure with the guide of a professional and be sure to take of yourself and Aruba's precious nature. □



## Aruba to me

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## Feeling parched? Grab refreshment by the side of the road!



(Oranjestad)—Touring the island in the blistering heat can leave one feeling rather thirsty and looking to cool off. Luckily there are a few stands along the roads of Aruba that can offer you just what you need: a nice, refreshing beverage!

These "coconut stands" can be found at several locations on the island, where you can cool off with delicious smoothies, drinks, snacks, and of course, fresh coconuts! Perfect during family outings around the island, these stands can be found in the following locations:

- Near the red Anchor in San Nicolas
- On the Linear Park in Oranjestad (in front of airport runway)
- At the California Light House hill
- Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin
- Bushiribana Beach

## Sun catchers: The different lizards in Aruba

**ORANJESTAD – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. From the charming, friendly iguanas to the good-luck gecko Pega-Pega, you're bound to meet a few of these special residents during your visit.**

Aruba, as a desert island, is home to an incredible variety of unique and colorful species. Among them we can find different lizards, most of which have South American origins. But there are a few exceptions.

### Iguanas



Iguanas are easy to spot, as they are larger than most other lizards and when young, have a bright green color that makes them stand out.

The iguanas usually found in Aruba are the Iguana, known as the green iguana, or locally as Yuwana. The Yuwana are a mostly herbivorous species, and can grow up to 2 meters in size, including the tail, making them one of the largest in the iguana family. As you will see, despite their name, as they reach adulthood, the iguanas can take on a grey or blue tone instead of the bright green displayed by the young ones. In Aruba – as in the rest of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – the most usual color varies from green to lavender, black and sometimes a reddish brown.

Yuwana is a protected species, as it is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade is regulated through the CITES permit system. In the past, Arubans used to eat a popular Yuwana soup, as it was believed to give strength and help restore health – probably due to the protein boost it delivered. However, it is now illegal to catch, kill, buy or sell Yuwanas in Aruba, and this includes eating them!

### Turnip-tailed gecko



The turnip-tailed gecko is known locally as the Pega-Pega, meaning sticky-sticky, due to the way it sticks to walls using the suction in its little fingers. They are found inside houses, and are mostly a nocturnal animal.

According to Etnia Nativa, the local Pega Pega is immediately recognizable by its large size, with a body length of up to 12 cm, and its large, swollen tail, approximately the same length or slightly

shorter than its body; females are larger and more robust than males. It has short, robust legs with flattened toes and extensive basal webbing.

The undersides of its toes are covered in lamellae, which are used as friction pads to cling to smooth vertical surfaces. Some can even walk around completely upside down. Its toes are covered with ridges, which are peppered with millions of microscopic bristle-like structures called setae that attach and detach when the animal wills them to, and they never get gunked up.

They are variable in coloration, from a mottled dark gray to orange-brown, and are capable of changing color depending on their mood and surroundings. Mottled and banded markings aid in camouflage against tree bark. They are harmless and fragile; you can hold one in your hands as long as you are VERY gentle.

Never put pressure on its tail because it will surely drop as a measure to try to distract the predator, and they are different from other lizards because they're long-lived, talkative, lack eyelids, and their small scales are situated next to each other like cobblestones rather than overlapping as is the case in most other lizards.

Turnip-tailed Geckos are insectivorous and feed on cockroaches, grasshoppers, beetles, flies, mosquitoes, and spiders, which makes them the best pest control to have at home! They spend their days concealed in dark tree grooves and cavities, in narrow crevices in the walls, or behind paintings, which provide the perfect shelter for them. Pega pega is a gecko endemic to our island, but in time, some 4–5 intrusive gecko species have been observed, some of which do not cease to amaze us with the racket they make, especially during the hours of the night.

The Pega-pega *Phyllodactylus Julieni* is also a protected species in Aruba, by law. It is illegal to kill them!

### Blue Cododo

These are one of the most striking lizards in Aruba, recognizable by the male's bright blue color. The Aruban whiptail lizard, *Cnemidophorus arubensis*, is a species endemic to Aruba, meaning you can only find it here on our One Happy Island! They are also recognized as the most common and populous lizard on the island. While the male is



blue with white dots, the female is brown with blue dots.

These charming lizards eat mostly plants, such as flowers, nectar, leaves and fruits, and occasionally enjoy some insects. They are selective in which plants they eat, because of the toxins present in many available plants species. The Cododo help take care of Aruba's vegetation by playing a significant role in the dispersal of seeds for certain plants: when they eat fruit, they excrete the seeds in diverse locations, contributing to the reproduction cycle of our local plants.

### Striped anole

The striped anole (*Anolis lineatus*) that lives in Aruba is known locally as Waltaka or Toteki. This is a species of lizard in the family Dactyloidae, and they are native to Aruba and Curaçao. It is usually found in dry areas, commonly where there are not large trees; rather they enjoy rocks, walls or tree trunks, as they prefer to stay close to the ground.

These lizards are about 7cm in length, have a brown color with a stripe on each side and typically, several stripes on the body and tail that are lighter in color. It has a dewlap which is orange-yellow – and what's unique about this species is that it is the only known species of anole where the dewlap is asymmetrically colored, with one side being a deeper orange and the other side a lighter yellow. Mostly this is seen in the males, as it is almost imperceptible in the females. If the Toteki shows you his dewlap, retreat! This is not a friendly greeting!

Lizards are wonderful creatures that are precious to our fragile, local ecosystem. Please be mindful of these residents as you enjoy your stay. □

**Images: Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.**



## Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

**(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.**

The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The French colonizers tried

to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitch a ride home, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't think

twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitch hiker braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone grew quiet, because they



realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass holds a lot of value to our culture of folkloric story-telling. □

Source: [visitaruba.com](http://visitaruba.com)

## Meet an Aruban trailblazers: Padu Lampe

**(Oranjestad)—This week we remember one of our most beloved Aruban giant, Juan Chabaya Lampe—better known as Padu Lampe or Padu del Caribe. As one of the most important and renowned artists in the Aruban cultural sphere, Padu's long career led him to be honored today as "the father of culture."**

On April 26th, 1920, Juan Chabaya Lampe "Padu Lampe/Padu del Caribe" was born in Nassaustraat, Oranjestad. He grew up in a happy musical environment, and it is because of this that he developed a love for music. Starting from the age of 12, he was agile in the clarinet, mandolin and cuatro. Henry Lampe, his father, was also a well-known pianist and musician.

In a publication of the informative seminar, "Observer", from August 1st, 1962, Padu's many merits and

friendly personality stood out. It was said that he was an excellent pianist with a personal style and full of surprises. Secondly, though the composer was not too familiar with music theory, he showed innovations in his compositions. Lastly, Padu was a promoter of Creole music around the world.

One of the most important moments in Aruban history, in which he was able to witness first-hand, was the first radio broadcast on the island on March 20th, 1954. Here, he was accompanied by Antillean guitarist Julian Coco and Hubert "Loi" Booi.

In the art world, Padu was also a known painter. During his youth, he made several paintings using his unique style. In 1939, he participated in an art exhibit in New York, where he won a bronze medal for his painting "Typical View of Aruba."

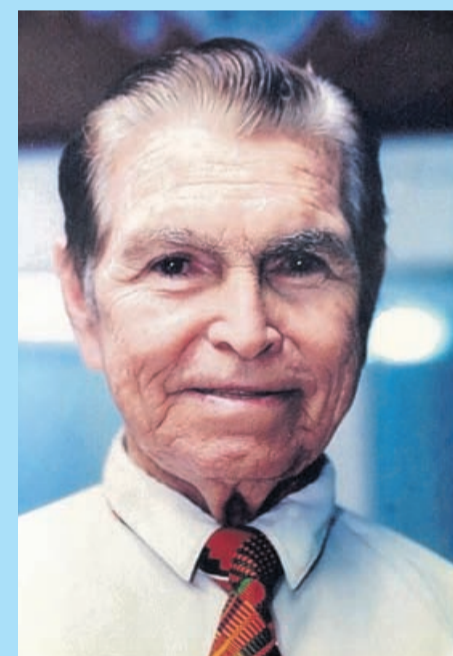
Padu remained a popular artist within the Dutch Antilles and the Caribbean as a pianist, singer, author and painter. Padu Lampe was a local artist who became renowned in Venezuela, Colombia, The U.S. and The Netherlands too. In the 1950s, he sold no less than 50 thousand copies of his long-playing albums (LPs).

Padu Lampe was a multifaceted artist, inspired by his interest in parapsychology and supernatural phenomenon. He wrote three books in Papiamentu on the subject in 1986, which was published by the Aruban National Printing Press with sponsorship provided by the Prince Bernhard Funds Netherlands Antilles.

Besides that, Padu passed his exam on "Society to Advanced Ethical Hypnosis" in 1964 in New Jersey. He received a certificate as a hypnotechnician, which gave him the authority to practice hypnosis in some states.

Over the course of his career, he received many accolades and awards in Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela and the Netherlands.

Padu del Caribe passed away on November 29th, 2019, at the age of 99 years old. Padu brought the Aruban culture around the world. His legacy will remain ingrained in the Aruban cultural history, and he



will be known forever as one of the most influential trailblazers of our community.

Padu will always be in Aruba's heart, because he had composed various special songs dedicated to the mothers of the island; his song "Sonrisa di un baby" ("A baby's Smile") has been written in three different languages. Padu also wrote our national anthem "Aruba Dushi Tera", along with Mr. Rufo Wever. This song was approved by the government of Aruba and was named the official anthem of the island in 1976.

Other songs that have been considered as being almost a second anthem for Arubans is the special composition he wrote for his wife Daisy Croes called "Abo so". Daisy later passed away in 1994. □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

## ACROSS

- 1 "Beat it!" girl, often  
6 Stylishly uninhibited  
11 Eucalyptus eater  
12 "Hello" singer  
13 "As You Like It" forest  
14 Craze  
15 Sword-making city  
17 Harris and O'Neill  
18 Hydro-carbon suffix  
19 Ex-GI  
22 Bright beam  
23 Pageant toppers  
24 Zodiac dozen  
25 Senator Sanders  
27 Gold unit  
30 City of northern Italy  
31 Gorilla, for one  
32 Imitating  
33 Lenin's successor  
35 Missteps  
38 Key  
39 Fork features

- 40 Flower  
41 Bring to bear  
42 Like some communities

## DOWN

- 1 Axel performer  
2 Solar halo  
3 Boo — ("To Kill a Mockingbird" recluse)  
4 Out of the wind  
5 Making decrees  
6 Toast spread  
7 Writer Tarbell  
8 Swiss city  
9 Moves smoothly  
10 Brewing need  
16 Starts  
20 Like some tigers  
21 Cal. spans  
24 Hit letters  
25 Bungle  
26 Galahad's mother  
27 Pavlova's field  
28 Individually  
29 Signed a lease  
30 Treat, as a turkey  
34 Seoul setting  
36 For each  
37 Retired jet

P	A	C	E	R		S	A	W	U	P
A	L	A	M	O		O	P	E	R	A
T	I	M	I	D		T	O	N	G	S
		E	L	S	A		S	T	E	T
P	I	T	Y		M	A	T	T		
A	D	O		C	A	R	L	O	A	D
P	E	T	A	L		M	E	T	R	O
A	S	H	C	A	N	S		H	E	N
		E	T	N	A		F	E	A	T
D	O	F	F		P	L	O	W		
A	V	O	I	D		A	R	A	B	S
N	E	R	V	E		I	G	L	O	O
G	R	E	E	N		R	E	L	A	X

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				
13					14				
15				16			17		
18			19		20	21			
22			23						
		24							
	25	26					27	28	29
30							31		
32				33		34			
35			36	37		38			
39						40			
41						42			

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-4

## CRYPTOQUOTE

Q T Z B P O O J T W D L ' H R B

Q B Z V J T Q ... V D U Q B Z V J T Q. D L X

X J L ' H W D P P U B Q E V Z P B O.

— "D V Z K P D L B!"

**Cryptoquote:** I HAVE BEEN, AND ALWAYS SHALL BE, YOUR FRIEND. LIVE LONG AND PROSPER. — "STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KHAN"

# Cruise ship Schedule: Jan. 26 - 31 2026

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
MON	26	BRITANNIA CARNIVAL SPIRIT	08.00 09.00	16.00 22.00	B C	1 1
TUE	27	SERENADE OF THE SEAS OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00 08.00	23.00 23.00	C I	1 1
WED	28	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE NORWEGIAN SKY CARNIVAL VISTA FREEWINDS	08.00 11.00 13.00 06.00	23.00 20.00 23.00 ****	B C I E	1 1 1 1
THU	29	COSTA PACIFICA AIDASOL NORWEGIAN DAWN	07.00 08.00 11.00	22.00 18.00 20.00	B C I	1 1 1
FRI	30	MS RENAISSANCE EXPLORA II	09.00 09.00	18.00 22.00	B C	1 1
SAT	31	SILVER SHADOW AIDAPERLA CARIBBEAN PRINCESS	08.00 09.00 09.00	**** 21.00 22.00	B C I	1 1 1

# Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



## Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



## Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



## Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

# SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

## King Classic Sudoku

6	5			7	1	9	8	
8		9		3			1	5
		2				4	6	
	8					2		
9						8	7	1
	2	7					9	4
				8	4	6	2	
				7	5	2	1	8
2	1	8	3	6	9			

Difficulty: ★

1/26

## Answer to previous puzzle

3	4	5	8	7	6	2	1	9
2	9	7	3	1	4	8	5	6
8	1	6	2	9	5	7	3	4
5	8	4	9	6	7	1	2	3
6	2	3	1	4	8	5	9	7
1	7	9	5	2	3	4	6	8
7	5	8	6	3	2	9	4	1
4	6	1	7	5	9	3	8	2
9	3	2	4	8	1	6	7	5

Difficulty: ★★★★★

1/25

## Paris fashion doyenne Nichanian bows out at Hermes after 37 years



French fashion designer Véronique Nichanian (C) gestures to the public at the end of her last show for Hermes' Menswear Ready-to-wear Fall-Winter 2026/2027 collection as part of the Men Paris Fashion Week in Paris on January 24, 2026.

(Photo by Thomas SAMSON / AFP)

(AFP) - France's Veronique Nichanian received a standing ovation from a star-packed crowd at her final runway show for Hermes on Saturday after 37 years as chief menswear designer, the end of an era at the family-run firm.

American singer Usher, rapper Travis Scott and "Gossip Girl" star Ed Westwick watched on as Nichanian sent out a nostalgia-tinged final collection at the historic stock market building in Paris.

"I'm feeling emotional, it's my decision to stop and do something else," the 71-year-old told AFP afterwards. "It's a decision I've thought through carefully because I feel it's the right moment for me, and for the house."

The departure of the doyenne of Paris fashion adds to the upheaval at the top of the luxury clothing sector over the last 12 months, which has seen a new generation of designers promoted at brands including Chanel, Dior and Gucci.

Many of them were barely in school when Nichanian took over menswear at Hermes in 1988 with instructions from then company boss Jean-Louis Dumas to run it "like your small company".

The Paris-born designer helped transform a niche

luxury brand known for its scarves and leather goods into a global fashion profit machine with sales of menswear estimated at several billion euros a year.

Her design philosophy mirrors her own discreet personality, with a focus on quality and comfort through quiet evolutions, rather than flashy re-invention.

Her final collection for Fall-Winter 2026, which included outfits inspired by her work in the 1990s and early 2000s, "underlines how Hermes clothes are timeless," she told AFP.

She will be replaced by 30-something London designer Grace Wales Bonner, founder of her own Wales Bonner label who will produce her first Hermes collection next year. □

## Robbie Williams tops Beatles for most number one albums in UK



British Singer songwriter Robbie Williams performs on stage during the draw for the 2026 FIFA Football World Cup taking place in the US, Canada and Mexico, at the Kennedy Center, in Washington, DC, on December 5, 2025.

(Photo by SAUL LOEB / AFP)

(AFP) - Pop superstar Robbie Williams has surpassed the Beatles as the artist with the most number one albums in the history of the British charts, sales trackers said Friday.

The news came a week after Williams released "Britpop", now officially his 16th UK chart-topping album.

"He's the one!" said the Official Charts Company, referencing the hit 1998 single "She's the One" by the former Take That frontman.

Since Williams, 51, started his chart-topping career with his 1997 solo debut, "Life Thru a Lens", he has sold an estimated 20 million albums in the UK.

"Britpop" is his first in seven years. "Not even the confident young 16-year-old from Stoke-on-Trent would have believed this were possible when he joined Take That back in 1990," Official Charts chief executive Martin Talbot said in a statement. □



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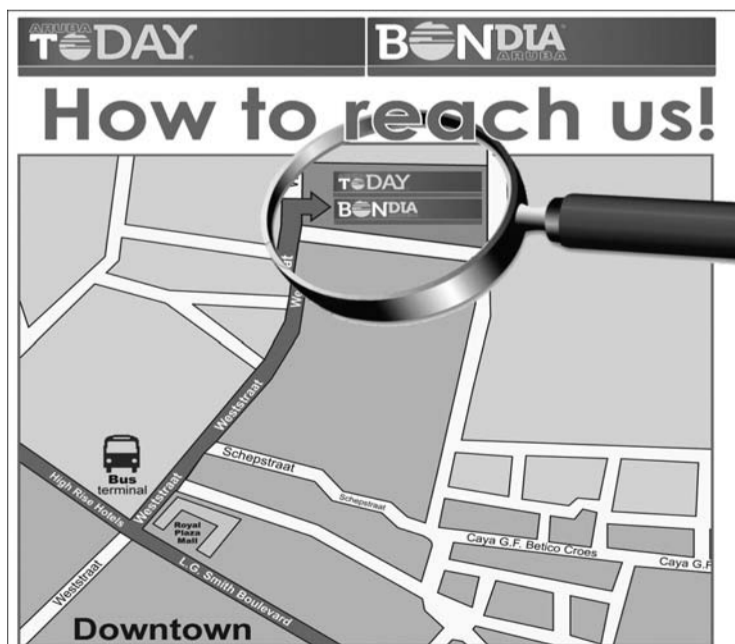
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

# Djokovic, Alcaraz into Melbourne last eight as next gen roars

(AFP) – Carlos Alcaraz powered into the Australian Open quarter-finals on Sunday and Novak Djokovic joined him without hitting a ball, as the next generation roared.

Aryna Sabalenka surged through but Coco Gauff was forced to fight at Melbourne Park, where temperatures eased to 22C after the brutal heat of a day earlier.

Top seed Alcaraz was in ominous touch at Rod Laver Arena, dismissing the American Tommy Paul 7-6 (8/6), 6-4, 7-5 in a masterclass.

The 22-year-old plays home hope and sixth seed Alex de Minaur, who defeated 10th seed Alexander Bublik in straight sets.

Djokovic, chasing a record 25th Grand Slam crown, was scheduled to face Jakub Mensik in the last 16 on Monday but the Czech player pulled out injured.

Djokovic will face American ninth seed Taylor Fritz or fifth seed Lorenzo Musetti of Italy for a place in the semi-finals.

Alcaraz, who like Djokovic is yet to drop a set at this year's tournament, has never gone beyond the quarter-finals in Melbourne. If he can finally break his Australian duck he will become



Ukraine's Elina Svitolina hits a shot against Russia's Mirra Andreieva during their women's singles match on day eight of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on January 25, 2026. (Photo by Martin KEEP / AFP)

the youngest man in history to win a career Grand Slam of all four majors.

The Spaniard has in the past struggled with precision and a lack of consistency in his serving technique.

He is now sporting a new-look serve that has become a handy weapon -- and been compared to Djokovic's serve.

"I had a Djokovic message saying, 'you have to pay me'," he said in his on-court interview after making light work of 19th seed Paul, to

laughter from an adoring crowd.

Alexander Zverev, well beaten by Jannik Sinner in last year's final, plays Learner Tien of the United States next.

Germany's third seed demolished Argentina's 18th seed Francisco Cerundolo in straight sets. The 25th seed Tien ran out a surprisingly easy three-set winner over three-time finalist Daniil Medvedev.

Tien, 20, eased into his first Grand Slam quarter-final

despite a nosebleed in the first set that required lengthy treatment.

He later said his nose was just dry. "Every year since I've been coming here, the crowd support has been amazing," said Tien, the youngest men's quarter-finalist at Melbourne Park since Nick Kyrgios in 2015.

"A crowd like this with this much energy and support, it means the world to me to do it here."

- Teen test for Sabalenka -

World number one Sabalenka will face impressive 18-year-old American Iva Jovic in a tasty last-eight encounter.

Belarusian top seed Sabalenka, a two-time Melbourne champion, opened the day on Rod Laver Arena and saw off the brave challenge of 19-year-old Canadian Victoria Mboko.

Sabalenka won 6-1, 7-6 (7/1) while Jovic destroyed unseeded Yulia Putintseva 6-0, 6-1 in just 53 dominant minutes.

"What an incredible player for such a young age," said Sabalenka of the 17th-seeded Canadian Mboko, who has emerged as a serious threat in the past year. "She pushed me really hard today and played incredible tennis."

Sabalenka raced through the second-set tiebreak -- the 20th Grand Slam tiebreak in a row she has won -- to seal victory.

She has yet to drop a set as her title charge gathers pace.

But in Jovic, who only turned 18 last month, she clashes with a player in red-hot form and rising fast, now ranked 27 having been 191 this time last year. □

## Ukrainian sumo wrestler wins second straight title



Ukrainian sumo wrestler Danylo Yavhusishyn, also known by his Japanese ring name Aonishiki Arata (L), receives the trophy after winning the January Grand Sumo Tournament in Tokyo's Kokugikan Arena on January 25, 2026. (Photo by JIJI PRESS / AFP)

(AFP) – Ukrainian sumo wrestler Danylo Yavhusishyn won

his second straight tournament on Sunday to take his

meteoric rise in the ancient Japanese sport to new heights.

The 21-year-old, who fled the war in Ukraine three years ago, triumphed at the New Year Grand Sumo Tournament in Tokyo for the second title of his fledgling career.

Yavhusishyn, who is known by his ring name Aonishiki, became the first wrestler from Ukraine to win a competition when he came out on top at the Kyushu Grand Sumo Tournament in November. That earned him promotion to sumo's second-highest rank of ozeki in record time, having made his debut in July 2023.

His second title takes him a

step closer to promotion to the exalted highest rank of yokozuna, a feat no European-born wrestler has ever achieved.

Yavhusishyn is only the fourth European to become an ozeki, following wrestlers from Estonia, Bulgaria and Georgia.

He set his sights on climbing the sumo hierarchy, pledging to do ever better in the next tournament.

"I will do my best so that I will have better records than this tournament," he said in fluent Japanese.

Yavhusishyn will have the chance to make it a hat-trick of titles when he competes in the Spring Grand Sumo Tournament in Osaka in March.

Another win would likely put him in contention for promotion to the rank of grand champion, something only wrestlers from Japan, the United States and Mongolia have achieved.

Yavhusishyn was born in central Ukraine and took up sumo at the age of seven, becoming a national champion at 17.

His age meant he narrowly avoided Ukraine's military draft for men aged 18 and older after Russia invaded and he sought refuge in Germany, before moving to Japan.

His parents stayed in Germany and he arrived in Japan knowing nothing of the language. □

## Arsenal rocked by Man Utd, Villa rekindle Premier League title bid

(AFP)—Manchester United inflicted Arsenal's first home defeat of the season in a 3-2 thriller to blow the Premier League title race open on Sunday as Aston Villa beat Newcastle to close within four points of the Gunners.

Villa's impressive 2-0 victory at Newcastle took Unai Emery's men level on points with Manchester City, whose own title chances were boosted by events at the Emirates Stadium.

A week on from dominating City in the Manchester derby, Michael Carrick's dream start as United boss continued thanks to Matheus Cunha's stunning later winner.

"A really painful one," said Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta. "But now it is time to be very close to those players that have given us so much joy and support them because we all want to win."

A Lisandro Martinez own goal put Arsenal in front but the Red Devils quickly levelled when Bryan Mbeumo pounced on an error by Martin Zubimendi.

Patrick Dorgu's brilliant strike put the visitors in front early in the second half.

Not for the first time this season, despite their lofty league position, Arsenal were blunt as an attacking force from open play.

But they could rely on their prowess from set-pieces to equalise when Mikel Merino forced in a corner on 84 minutes.

Just moments later Cunha took aim from outside the box and delivered a telling blow to the Gunners' hopes of a first league title in 22 years.

Victory also propelled United into the top four to boost their chances of Champions League football next season for the first time in three years.

"To come here and score three goals in the manner

we did, going one down, coming back, then the set-back, and still keeping going," said Carrick. "It was a huge moment for us."

- Chelsea inflict more pain on Palace -

Villa kept their outside shot at a first league title since 1981 alive with their first victory at St. James' Park for 21 years.

"We are competing against Arsenal, Manchester City, Chelsea, Liverpool, Newcastle, Tottenham... Wow, the power they have!" Emery said. "But we are competing and we are there."

Emiliano Buendia's brilliant strike from outside the box opened the scoring before Ollie Watkins secured victory

when the England international headed in Lucas Digne's cross two minutes from time.

Newcastle slip to ninth but still only four points outside the top five, which will likely be enough for a place in the Champions League.

Chelsea piled more pain on Crystal Palace with a 3-1 win at Selhurst Park.

Oliver Glasner promised to do his best to turn around a miserable run for the Eagles despite announcing he will leave the club when his contract expires at the end of the season.

Palace are now winless in 11 games and never recovered after a wayward back-pass from Jaydee



Arsenal's English defender #20 Noni Madueke (C) is denied in front of goal in the final minutes during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Manchester United at the Emirates Stadium in London on January 25, 2026.

Canvot freed Estevao to sprint clear and fire in Chelsea's opener on 34 minutes.

The Brazilian then set up compatriot Joao Pedro to gallop in behind the Palace defence and double

the Blues' advantage just after half-time.

Enzo Fernandez's penalty rounded off a fourth win in five games for Liam Rose-nior since he took charge at Stamford Bridge. □



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## Create precious memories in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort Water's Edge Restaurant offers the complete vacation experience!



**(Eagle Beach) – Consider your family dinner plans taken care of at Water's Edge. Located in the heart of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and on the shores of the world-famous Eagle Beach in Aruba, Water's Edge offers an elegant yet cozy dining experience that the entire family can enjoy. Whether you're craving Steak, Seafood, International Dishes or a bit of the Caribbean flare, Water's Edge caters to all your culinary needs, all the while offering you a cozy and flexible service with a spectacular view of Aruba's top-rated sandy beaches.**

Water's Edge's new menu has a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts all on one menu specially made just for you. From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. Flexible and professional service allows you to enjoy your meal in the cool and elegant indoor dining area, on the sandy, breezy beaches of Eagle Beach or by the open bar outside. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, Water's Edge has it all for you, any time of the day.

Start your day off with a hearty breakfast. Water's Edge offers a variety of delicious breakfast items, including their house specialties of Avocado Toast, Chicken & Waffles made with homemade Belgium waffles and topped with a gorgeous hot honey sauce. If you want something on the sweeter side, try their Crème Brûlée French Toast, served with an in-house mascarpone whip cream and topped with fresh fruit and powdered sugar. Or maybe the Traditional American Breakfast is more to your liking, complete with any kind of serving of eggs, bacon, sausage and toast, served with a side of hash browns.

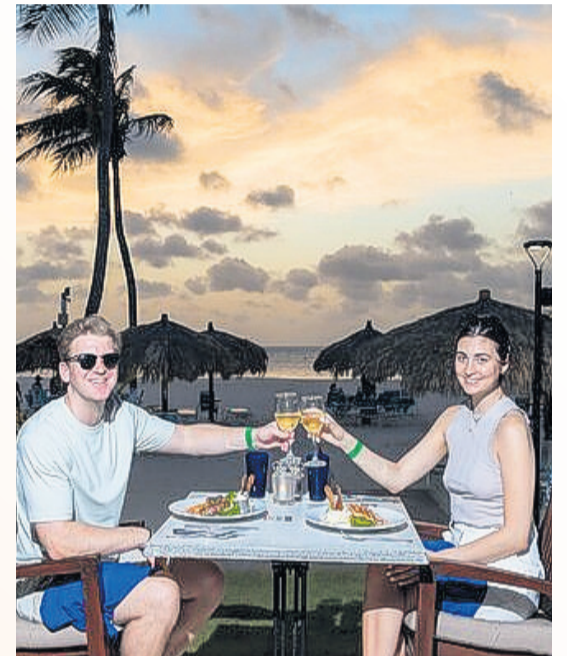
For lunch, keep it easy with their handheld items like their Bacon and Cheddar Burger, Mediterranean Quesadillas or Street Tacos. Want a taste of the Caribbean? Try the Grouper Reuben; A local twist to the traditional Reuben, complete with rye bread, in-house 1000 island dressing, sauerkraut and grilled grouper, served with a side of Cajun Fries.

Dinner plans are set with Water's Edge mouthwatering dinner menu. Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the delectable Coconut Shrimp. You can also opt for their Water's Edge House Wedge Salad or freshly made Shrimp Louie Salad, made with poached shrimp, tossed in Louie dressing, fresh avocados and vine ripe tomatoes. For something a bit heartier, try their classic French Onion Soup, Lobster Bisque or Crab and Corn Chowder.

Follow your appetizers with your choice of Seafood, Chicken or Pasta dishes. Enjoy their succulent Shrimp and Clam Sauce with Angel Hair Pasta, a nice plate of Chicken Francese or explore the Water's Edge Fish Market—your pick of Mahi Mahi, Snapper, Grouper or Salmon, served with homemade mashed potatoes, sauce of choice and fresh herbs and vegetables.

Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their famous 14oz pan-seared Pork finished with a fantastic apple glaze. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi-glaze, mushroom sauce, chimichurri or bacon blue cheese butter. Enjoy it with a side of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, and four different types of fries. Combine your meal with your personal choice of international and exclusive wines.

Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled Kids Menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians



and gluten-free guests.

End the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness. Choose from a variety of dessert options, including a piece of coconut flan, NY cheesecake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

### Live entertainment

For seven nights a week, there is live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, every night is a relaxing experience under the stars, where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Water's Edge prides itself on bringing elegance and comfort to your dining experience, offering personalized service fit for everybody's needs.

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 or + 297 586 9494 (direct), or reserve your table online at [reservations@watersedgearuba.com](mailto:reservations@watersedgearuba.com). For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website [watersedgearuba.com](http://watersedgearuba.com) 