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## U.S. strikes Iran after Hormuz tanker attacks: military



In this photo obtained from the US Department of Defense, the US Navy's guided-missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) transits the Strait of Hormuz as the Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group (IKECSG) makes an inbound transit to the Gulf on November 26, 2023.

### Washington, United States

U.S. forces launched strikes on Iran on Tuesday after three commercial vessels were attacked in the Strait of Hormuz, the US military said, sharply escalating a confrontation that has already shaken efforts to end the Middle East war.

US Central Command said the "powerful" strikes were in response to Iranian attacks on ships transiting the vital waterway and would "impose heavy costs for targeting and attacking com-

mercial shipping."

The strikes came shortly after Washington revoked a temporary sanctions waiver for Iranian oil, raising pressure on Tehran as it negotiates with the United States over a final settlement to the conflict.

The U.S. Treasury Department canceled a license announced in June that had allowed Iran to produce, sell and deliver crude oil and related products through August 21.

"Iran's actions in the Strait were wholly unacceptable

to the United States and will be met with consequences," a U.S. official told AFP.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the U.S.-Iran memorandum of understanding was "entirely performance-based," warning that Tehran would see benefits only if it showed "good behavior."

But U.S. negotiators were continuing to work "in good faith towards a final deal," the official said.

British maritime security agency UKMTO said an "unknown projectile" hit a tanker overnight, causing a fire, before two more vessels were struck, at least one by a drone.

All three vessels were struck close to Oman, which had proposed a temporary transit corridor hugging its coastline -- an initiative opposed by Iran as it seeks to impose fees on ships using the narrow waterway.

Qatar said one of the vessels was its LNG tanker Al-Rekayyat and blamed Iran, denouncing an "unacceptable" attack on international maritime navigation.

Doha later summoned Iran's

deputy ambassador to lodge a complaint, demanding an explanation and urging Tehran to "immediately cease any practices undermining regional security."

"We hold Iran fully legally responsible for this attack and for any resulting damages or repercussions," Qatar's foreign ministry spokesman Majed Al Ansari wrote on X. Iran voiced "dismay" over Qatar's accusations in a statement carried by state news agency IRNA, calling the claims "unacceptable."

### - Hormuz dispute -

The attacks, which ended more than a week of relative calm, revived concerns over freedom of navigation after Iran lifted its blockade of the vital waterway following a fragile ceasefire with the United States.

Oil prices rose by more than two percent as the renewed attacks reignited worries over global energy supplies and cast doubt on the durability of the U.S.-Iran agreement. "We are now in a sensitive period where potential alternatives to an Iranian toll or fee system are being

explored," Andreas Krieg, a security expert at King's College London, told AFP.

"Iran is sending a clear signal that no alternative will be accepted."

Krieg said tankers trying to diverge through the Omani maritime corridor without registering with Iran would be punished, and called the attacks a "clear violation" of the ceasefire agreement and international law.

Maritime traffic had tentatively resumed after Washington and Tehran signed the memorandum last month, but Iran has insisted there will be no return to pre-war arrangements, under which vessels could pass freely through the strait.

Under the 14-point U.S.-Iran memorandum, Iran and Oman, which border Hormuz, must hold talks "to define the future administration and maritime services" in the waterway with other Gulf states.

Qatar had previously refused to mediate under Iranian fire as Tehran launched an unprecedented aerial bombardment against Gulf states in retaliation for the U.S.-Israeli strikes. □

## Ex-U.S. Senate Republican leader's health crisis rattles party



U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) arrives for a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing on the FY2027 budget request in the Dirksen Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill on May 12, 2026 in Washington, DC.

### Washington, United States

The weeks-long hospitalization of Mitch McConnell, the former Republican leader in

the U.S. Senate, was rattling his party's narrow majority on Tuesday as members awaited word on whether

he would return.

The 84-year-old Kentucky politician, who led Senate Republicans for longer than anyone in history before stepping down last year, has not voted since June 11 and is serving the final months of a congressional career that began in 1985. McConnell was admitted to hospital on June 14, with his office saying only that he was "receiving excellent care."

But emergency dispatch audio reported by US media has deepened concern in Washington, indicating that responders were sent that morning to McConnell's

address for an unconscious person and that CPR was in progress.

The recordings do not name McConnell, and his office has not publicly said what caused his hospitalization or what treatment he is receiving.

"Senator McConnell appreciates the outpouring of support he's receiving while he continues his recovery in the hospital," his spokesman said in a statement.

"The senator continues to improve, and is working closely with his staff on Kentucky and Senate matters while the Senate is out of

session."

The lack of detail has fueled speculation over whether McConnell will be able to return when senators come back to Washington next week -- and whether Republicans can afford his continued absence.

The party holds a narrow 53-47 majority, leaving Senate Majority Leader John Thune with little room for missing votes or defections as he tries to advance spending bills and other priorities before November's midterm elections.

McConnell's absence has already mattered. □

# U.S. leads international concern after China test-fires missile into Pacific

## Washington, United States

The United States voiced alarm Monday over Beijing's nuclear program after China test-fired a purported long-range missile into the Pacific Ocean, the latest move in its rapid military modernization.

Monday's test came two years after China fired an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) into the waters near French Polynesia, in what had been the first launch of such a missile over international waters in more than 40 years.

Analysts said that the test demonstrated growing Chinese capacity to strike the mainland of the United States, which sees the Asian power as its top adversary despite a reconciliation drive under President Donald Trump.

"At a time when the United States is working harder than ever to prevent nuclear proliferation, China is doing the opposite," State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said.

"Beijing's rapid and opaque nuclear weapons buildup is of great concern to the region and the world," he said in a statement. The United States in February allowed the expiration of New START, the last major arms control pact with Russia, as it insisted on a new agreement that also includes China.

The overtures have been rebuffed by China, whose nuclear arsenal is much smaller than Russia's but has been rapidly growing. The State Department urged China to "engage in meaningful arms control discussions and commit to a regularized notification arrangement for all intercontinental-range ballistic missile and space launches."

Taiwan, the self-governing democracy claimed by China, identified the missile as a JL-2, which US experts say has a range of at least 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles).

Joseph Wu, the secretary general of Taiwan's Na-



A DF-5C intercontinental ballistic missile is seen during a military parade marking the 80th anniversary of victory over Japan and the end of World War II, in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on September 3, 2025.

tional Security Council, said that the missile went over the Philippines and accused China of destabilizing the region.

"China just proved itself again to be a bully on the block," he posted on X.

The Philippines, which has clashed repeatedly with China over territory in the disputed South China Sea, slammed the test as a "reckless display of military power."

"This launch serves no peaceful purpose and is a calculated act of taunting and provocation against those who reject China's illegal expansionism and coercive conduct," the country's defense department said in a statement.

### - Power struggle in Pacific -

New Zealand said that the test took place two hours after China informed Pacific nations of the missile launch, but it was unclear if China gave notice to the United States.

Chinese navy spokesperson Wang Xuemeng said in a statement shared on WeChat that the test launch was "a routine arrangement of China's annual military training," and that "relevant countries were informed in advance."

Monitors said that the rocket fired from a nuclear submarine appeared to land

near the Solomon Islands, the South Pacific nation that forged a secretive security deal with China in 2022 which a new government is reviewing.

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said that the Chinese test was "destabilizing to the region."

Japan, which said it was informed in advance of the launch, said it had strongly urged China to reconsider and voiced "serious concerns" over Beijing's growing military activity.

Russia, a Chinese ally, defended Beijing's test-firing as its "sovereign right" and said that China "is not threatening anyone in the world." □

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# Thousands without power in U.S. Pacific islands after super typhoon

## United States

Tens of thousands of people were without power Tuesday on Guam and the Northern Marianas after a super typhoon tore through the US Pacific territories, with no deaths reported.

The small island of Rota was the worst affected after a direct hit from Super Typhoon Bavi with winds up to 180 miles (290 kilometers) per hour on Monday, bringing down trees and power lines and knocking out water supplies.

Rota's Mayor Aubry Hocog said she had been told that two people sustained non-fatal injuries but that "there were no deaths confirmed."

Hocog said that over "50 percent of our island has undergone damages, and it could be more," adding that it could take "two to three months" to fully restore power supply.

"There is still a very long line of our people lining up to get water. (Utilities company) CUC is rationing the water up to 25 gallons (95 litres) per household just so we can be sure to have enough for everybody," she added.

Rota resident Masum Dhali, 24, said that "many homes



**This handout photo taken and released by Masum Dhali shows a damaged structure in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Bavi in Sinapalo on the island of Rota in the Northern Mariana Islands on July 6, 2026.**

have suffered severe damage, with countless roofs completely torn off."

"Across the island, there is no electricity, no running water, and no mobile network service," Dhali told AFP via Facebook, adding that "numerous water pipelines have been broken, and many power poles have fallen, leaving the entire island without essential services."

Local media showed a long line of cars on Rota home to some 1,500 people queueing to get drinking water as temperatures hit a hot and humid 85F (29C).

Saipan and Tinian, the two main islands of the Northern Marianas home to around 40,000 people, also lost power as did parts of nearby Guam, a separate US territory home to major military bases.

On Guam, less than 50 miles (80 kilometers) from Rota, fallen trees, bits of streetlamps and rocks were strewn over the roads late Monday and AFP saw at least one car flipped on its side. With the exception of Rota, the damage in the region of around 210,000 people was less severe than after Sinkalu, a super typhoon that hit in April.

- 'Nowhere else to go' - Guam resident Marie and

her partner, who were clearing up the debris with an excavator, had to move out of their house after Sin-laku and were living in a van when Bavi struck.

"All of our stuff (in the van) got wet from this typhoon now, so we ended up coming here to our car because we have nowhere else to go," 37-year-old Marie told AFP.

Handyman Bob Benavente said at a seaside park where rocks had been washed ashore by the storm surge that some rainwater leaked into his house but that he and his neighbors had not suffered major damage.

"Everybody goes out and gets gas, water, all the supplies (before storms arrive)... Everyone's used to it here. It's part of the island lifestyle," the 61-year-old told AFP.

Oceans experienced their hottest June on record and could set fresh highs in the months ahead, the European Union's Copernicus Marine Service said last week. Warmer oceans help tropical storms to intensify and add more moisture, which can fall as heavy rain. □

## Unstable skyscraper sparks major Manhattan evacuation

### New York, United States

Emergency services evacuated a busy Manhattan street block during the Tuesday morning rush hour after structural columns buckled inside a skyscraper undergoing construction

work, officials said. The former head office of the drug giant Pfizer, near Grand Central station and the United Nations headquarters, is being converted from offices into apartments in a major

transformation project at the tower.

"Two structural columns have buckled, in addition to multiple cracks and sagging floors. The building remains unstable. Since arriving on scene, we have witnessed additional movement in one of the compromised columns," Mayor Zohran Mamdani said. "This is an extremely serious situation," Mamdani said.

"I am grateful to report there have been no injuries at this time, and that every worker has been accounted for," he said, adding that the project engineer was working with structural engineers to develop plans to shore up the structure.

Emergency struts and beams would be brought in to strengthen the building, officials said.

Nearby hotels, businesses, apartments and a school were evacuated and streets were closed as a precaution as police and firefighters swarmed the area, AFP correspondents saw.

A drone was deployed to allow officials to assess the extent of the damage. The mayor said New Yorkers will be allowed to "return back into these buildings when we are fully confident that they are safe for them to do so."

Local cable channel PIX11 was forced to abandon its studio near the affected building mid-broadcast following an evacuation order.

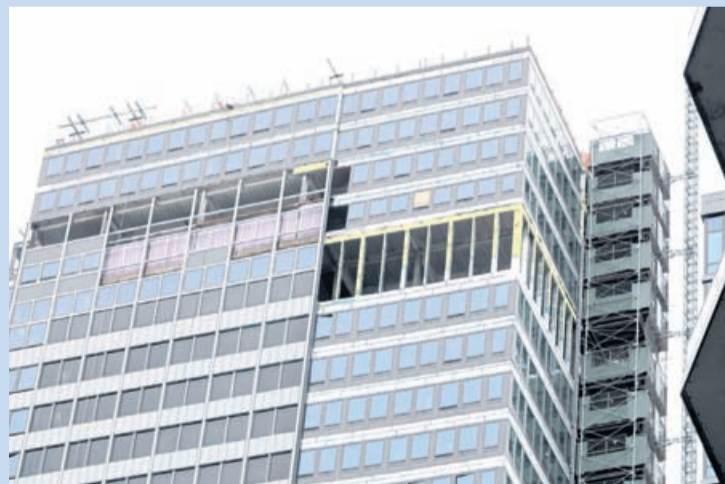
- 'Super dangerous' - Clifford Johnsen, a representative of the Steamfitters Local 638 union, said that the addition of new

floors on top of the existing office structure had put pressure on the building's supports.

"They keep adding. Now you put more weight, and when you put more weight, that's what's going to happen when it's not engineered correctly or installed incorrectly," he said.

"I've been in construction 21 years, and I've never seen a beam bend in half so this is super dangerous." Construction worker Eddie, 28, told AFP he was evacuated from the site and that he "was down below and I saw everyone starting to come down. Just then, they let me know that a column was broken."

Video shared by construction workers seemed to show buckled columns within the building site. □



**The former Pfizer headquarters building is seen on July 07, 2026 in New York City. Construction workers working on the former pharmaceutical company building, a high-profile housing project, were evacuated after it was determined that it was at risk of collapse.**

## As South Korean Buddhism woos Gen Z, how hip is too hip?

### Seoul, South Korea

In fast-secularising South Korea, Buddhism is regaining popularity thanks to a “hip” trend wooing Gen Z with festivals, fashion, robots and DJs, even as some fear for the fundamentals of the faith.

Just down the street from a 14th-century Seoul temple where worshippers make offerings and bow at the feet of three giant golden Buddha statues, a store named Buddhz sells statuettes, prayer bead bracelets, hats and t-shirts.

One depicts the Buddha scrolling on a smart phone. A postcard shows the Buddha blowing a bubble in a relaxed pose with the words: “Blow it. Pop it. Forget it.”

“It’s a lot more commercialised here than I expected,” Canadian tourist Teja Manabotula, 34, told AFP. Marvin Zhang, a 19-year-old German, said his curiosity about Buddhism was part of the reason for his visit, but seeing the marketing methods targeting his generation, he could understand how it may be “seen as disrespectful”.

Either way, the pop culture approach appears to be working.

The Seoul International Buddhist Expo, for example, drew a record 250,000 people this year about



This picture taken on July 2, 2026 shows worshippers praying at Jogyesa Temple in Seoul.

two-thirds of them Gen Z and half non-religious, according to organisers.

And even as the number of South Koreans who identify as Buddhist has remained static, Buddhism was viewed the most favourably of four belief systems polled in a 2025 “Religion Perception Survey” by Korea Research.

Buddhism-themed tourism is thriving and tens of thousands of locals and foreigners sign up every year for “temple stay” retreats where they eat simple monastic food, do chores and meditate.

Some pair their stays with concerts or events such as the International Expo, where visitors can join prayer sessions and talk to monks, browse among a dizzying array of trinkets on sale, and attend a “Heat Sutra Gong Party” with electronic dance and hip-hop sets.

Sun Min-ji, a 23-year-old South Korean university student and Buddhist, said the religion’s hip image has attracted many of her friends. “I believe there is absolutely nothing wrong with this ‘hip’ image of Buddhism, as it lowers the barrier to entry and attracts many young

people,” she told AFP.

But some critics point to the risk of a religion defined by non-attachment to worldly goods becoming tainted by consumerism.

“If Buddhism is consumed merely as a ‘good image’, its newfound hipness may prove to be little more than a passing trend,” said an editorial in the *Hyunbul* news newspaper, a Buddhist outlet.

### - ‘Adapted form’ -

The Jogye Order, South Korea’s main Buddhist order and a driving force behind the trend, is looking to make religion more “ap-

proachable”, spokesman Monk Myojang told AFP.

“The way younger generations engage with religion is changing... We’ve tried to meet them where they are and communicate in a way that resonates with them.”

The order faced particular backlash when a humanoid robot “monk” took part in an ordination ceremony in May, pledging to “devote” itself to Buddhism. Critics argued this trivialised the monkhood.

While defending the use of the robot as a tool to convey Buddhist teachings, Myojang said the order was mindful of the risks and plans “to establish clearer guidelines about where the boundaries lie”.

Comedian-turned-DJ Yoon Seong-ho, who performs under the stage name *NewJeansNim* in monk robes and mixes electronic music with chants, agrees there is a delicate balance.

His goal, with the order’s support, is “to communicate Buddhist values to the public, especially to younger people who may not usually visit temples”, the musician told AFP.

The hip, non-preachy image has given Buddhism a cultural boost, but it does not seem to have attracted new believers. □

## Flavio Bolsonaro argues U.S. tariffs on Brazil would benefit Lula

**Washington, United States** Brazilian conservative presidential hopeful Flavio Bolsonaro on Tuesday urged the United States against imposing new tariffs on his country, arguing that they would benefit his political rival -- President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

At a public hearing held by the U.S. Trade Representative’s office in Washington, the eldest son of Brazil’s former right-wing president Jair Bolsonaro argued that US leader Donald Trump’s tariffs had not produced their intended results.

“Every additional tariff strengthens the very government it is intended to pressure,” he said.

His testimony came as the USTR recently proposed a new 25 percent tariff on Brazilian goods with some exemptions alleging “unreasonable or discriminatory” practices by the Latin American giant.

The Trump administration is expected to make its final decision by July 15 after two days of public hearings, involving dozens of participants including Flavio Bolsonaro.

Since returning to the White House last year, Trump imposed sweeping duties on virtually all trading partners.

A swath of Trump’s global tariffs were struck down

by the US Supreme Court in February, although his sector-specific duties on goods like steel and aluminum remain intact.

The Trump administration has since initiated several investigations to impose new tariffs on various economies as he seeks to rebuild his economic agenda. Flavio Bolsonaro argued Tuesday: “The 2025 data show that these tariffs have not produced the results the United States intended. Instead, they have been politically exploited by Brazil’s current administration.”

He was accompanied by his brother Eduardo, who lives in the United States.

In June, Eduardo Bolsonaro was sentenced in absentia by Brazil’s Supreme Court to four years and

two months in prison after he urged US sanctions on his country during his father’s coup trial. □



Brazilian Senator and presidential hopeful Flavio Bolsonaro speaks during the event “Industry on the Presidential Candidates’ Agenda” organized by the National Confederation of Industry in Brasilia, on June 22, 2026.

# Thousands flee new wave of European wildfires

## Ille-sur-Têt, France

Wildfires across southern Europe forced thousands of people to flee their homes and prompted authorities to ban spectators from Monday's Tour de France stage that was threatened by one inferno.

Hundreds of firefighters are battling blazes that have devastated more than 20,000 hectares (50,000 acres) of land an area nearly three times the size of Manhattan across Portugal, Spain, France, Greece and other countries.

The fires are spreading as temperatures rise again already reaching 43C in Spain in a continent still scarred by the aftermath of heatwaves in May and June that have been blamed for thousands of deaths.

Scientists agree that climate change driven by humans burning fossil fuels is increasing the risk and severity of heatwaves and other extreme weather phenomena.

Some 10,500 people were told to evacuate their homes near Perpignan in southwestern France as firefighters battled a blaze in the Pyrenees that has devoured more than 4,600



This photo shows a house destroyed by fire in Rodes on the outskirts of Ille-sur-Têt, in the Pyrénées-Orientales department in the south of France on July 7, 2026.

hectares, authorities said. "The fire came within 300 metres of the houses. We were taken aback by how fast it spread, it was staggering bordering on panic," said Patrice, a 53-year-old resident of the village of Trevillach, who did not give his surname.

"We started seeing smoke around 10:30 pm, then it kept coming closer and closer. Someone from the town hall knocked on our

door around 1:00 am to tell us to leave," said Charlotte Pignol. "The smell of smoke was overwhelming," added the 30-year-old.

### - Cycle fans sidelined -

Authorities said Monday's third stage of the Tour de France cycle race through the Pyrenees would take place without the thousands of spectators who normally line the route.

The 196-kilometer (122-mile) stage sees the race cross the border from Spain into France. But only riders and their team vehicles will be allowed on the route. Regional prefect Pierre Regnault de la Mothe told reporters: "I regret having to say this, it will be, in France at least, a stage of the Tour de France without spectators."

Three hundred French firefighters struggled to control

another fire in a mountainous district of the southeastern Drome department.

In Greece, flames set off by a forest fire tore through two factories in Thessaloniki in the north of the country, forcing authorities to evacuate the surrounding area and to warn households to keep their windows closed. A fire that threatened the tourist beaches of the Costa Brava in northeastern Spain burned more than 2,200 hectares in two days and was still being fought Monday. Rising temperatures in Spain fuelled fears of more blazes. The thermometer reached 43C in Andalusia and Extremadura on Sunday.

### - Climate change impact -

In Portugal, emergency services said they had controlled a wildfire that devastated some 13,000 hectares of forest and scrub land in a northern district. Four Portuguese regions remained on a heat alert Monday however.

Elsewhere, major fires also destroyed hundreds of hectares of forest, vineyards and scrub land on the Croatian island of Hvar and at Tale in Albania, authorities said. □

## Australia's Great Barrier Reef avoids 'in danger' listing

### Sydney, Australia

Australia's Great Barrier Reef, a major tourism drawcard, has avoided being listed as endangered despite the United Nations reporting "utmost concern" about mass coral bleaching and the impact of climate change.

Canberra welcomed on Saturday the draft decision by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to maintain the World Heritage status of the 2,300-kilometre-long (1,426-mile) reef stretching along the coast of Queensland state.

UNESCO has been monitoring the reef annually since 2021, when it warned it was at risk of being placed on the list of World Heritage items "in danger".

The U.N. agency said in its draft report, released in Paris on Friday, that Australia was working towards addressing concerns over climate change, water quality, sustainable fisheries management and land clearing.

Hard coral cover across the reef declined substantially in 2024-2025, with above-average water temperatures causing the reef's sixth mass coral bleaching event since 2016. Extreme weather, land-based run-off, coastal de-

velopment and predation by the Crown of Thorns starfish were also placing the reef under pressure.

"Whilst the resilience of the reef remains evident, its capacity to tolerate and recover from such events is increasingly compromised, and this is of utmost concern," UNESCO said.

Australia changed its laws last year to tighten restrictions on clearing native vegetation in the reef catchment, but UNESCO called for tougher measures on dredging and over-fishing.

Australian Marine Conservation Society campaign manager Lissa Schindler said "significant gaps remain" in Australia's response to the reef's key threats.

"It contributes Aus\$9 billion

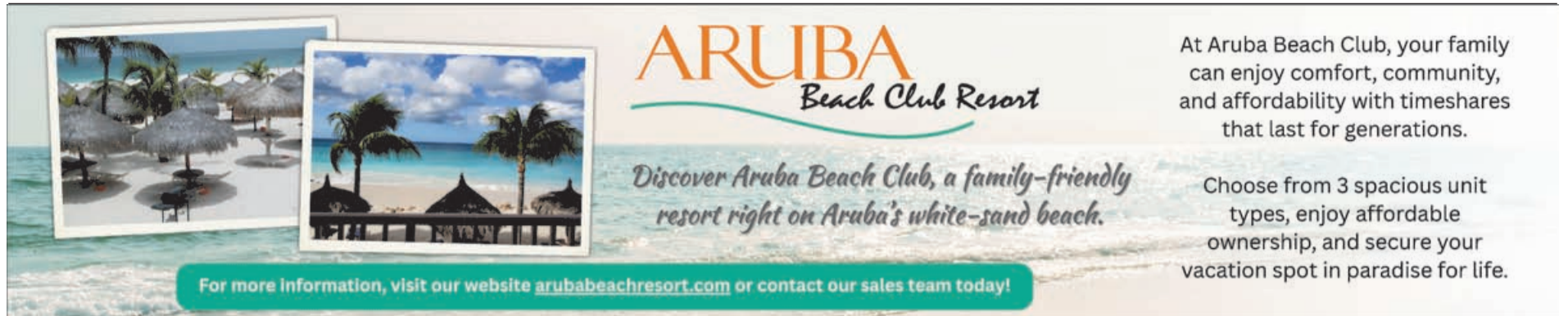
(US\$6.9 billion) to the economy every year and is the nation's fifth biggest employer, supporting 77,000 jobs. We shouldn't need UNESCO to tell us we need to do more to protect it," she said in a statement. Assistant Tourism Minister Nita Green said UNESCO's decision "recognises all of the work that Australia has been doing to manage those risks but also recognises that climate change will continue to be a risk to the reef".

Australia is required to provide another progress report in 2028.

"This is the first time in quite a few years since we've been working to restore the Great Barrier Reef under this government that we've had such an extensive reporting period put to us," Green said. □



Performers wear coral reef-inspired costumes during a show to raise awareness of threats to Australia's Great Barrier Reef in Sydney on May 21, 2026.



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## Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.



When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

### Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamento—at least not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"

The word "con" in Papiamento means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

### Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.

### Bon tardi

In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

### Bon nochi.

You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

### Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation.

However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

### Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much".

## Dining in? Try making some local favorites!

### How to make "funchi"

(Oranjestad)—One of the most famous Aruban snacks or appetizers is "funchi hasa" (fried polenta sticks), a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!



### Before we start, get to know the basics

What is funchi hasa? Funchi, or Aruban polenta, is a popular side dish for local dishes, like soups, stews and fried fish. Made from a corn flour, water and butter mixture, this appetizer is traditionally eaten alongside a warm meal. However, locals also like to fry sticks of funchi for a quick and filling snack.

### Ingredients (measured by heart)

1. Polenta flour/Funchi flour
2. Water
3. Butter
4. Salt to taste

### Directions

Bring water to a boil in a medium-sized sauce pan. Add in some salt

and butter to taste in the boiling water and let this dissolve and melt. Then, gradually add the flour while stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will start to begin to harden pretty fast, so be careful not to add too much. At this phase of cooking, you want a goopy thick mixture, but thin enough so you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out.

After reaching a semi-firm, yet flexible texture, grab a baking pan or any large, deep plate, and pour the mixture in. Be sure that this plate is wet or greased so that the mixture does not stick to the bottom. Let this cool completely while it firms up for the last time. Once it's cooled you can enjoy it as is, topped with some butter or shredded



cheese. Or, you can take it to another level of deliciousness.

When your funchi is firm enough, cut it into strips (size is up to you). Heat up some oil in a pan and fry those babies up! After frying, you can top it with some cheese or enjoy it with your favorite dipping sauce.

Photo credit of fried funchi sticks: Jacqueline Felida on Pinterest.



f Caya House

Instagram CayaHouse

Location J.E Irausquin Blvd 372

www.caya.aw

@ reservations@caya.aw

## CAYA Introduces a Bold New Menu Celebrating Latin Caribbean Flavors



(Oranjestad)—CAYA, one of Aruba's most beloved dining destinations, continues to celebrate the vibrant essence of Latin Caribbean cuisine with an exciting new menu that beautifully balances tradition and innovation.

Nestled in a beautifully restored traditional Aruban Cunucu house, surrounded by lush tropical greenery, CAYA offers guests a dining experience that feels both authentic and contemporary. The restaurant's philosophy is simple yet profound: to create a space where the warmth of island hospitality meets the creativity of modern gastronomy.

The new menu reflects this vision with a series of inspired dishes that showcase the diversity of Caribbean and Latin American flavors. From Cuba to Colombia, and from Aruba to Mexico, each plate tells a story rooted in heritage and reimagined through CAYA's modern lens.

Among the standout new appetizers are the **Tuna al Tamarindo**, featuring thinly sliced tuna sashimi served with tamarind *leche de tigre*, creamy avocado, marinated onions, radishes, cilantro, and crispy tortillas dusted with *tajín*; and the **Beef Stew Croquettes**, a playful nod to Caribbean com-

fort food, served with truffle and black garlic mayonnaise. Guests can also savor the **Beef and Pork Brochetas**, made with locally smoked bacon, *Madam Jeannette* peppers, local honey, and tenderloin, grilled to perfection and served with *chimichurri espuma*.

The main courses bring equal excitement. Highlights include the **Chilean Sea Bass**, pan fried and served with a smooth carrot and *ají amarillo* sauce, creamy garlic mashed potatoes, grilled *paksoi* and broccoli, hearts of palm, toasted cashews, and a fragrant lime leaf vinaigrette. Another showstopper is the **Duck and Rice**, a Caribbean interpretation of a Peruvian classic, featuring pan fried duck breast with aromatic green rice infused with local herbs, kombucha, and *ají amarillo*, finished with a pan fried egg and *sarsa criolla*.

Dessert lovers are in for a treat as well. The **Caribbean Black Forest** reimagines the classic with a tropical twist, featuring a rich brownie served with red fruit, coconut mousse, chocolate, and banana rum ice cream. The **Merengon Tropical** delights with sage panna cotta, mango and pineapple compote, mango sorbet, and citrus meringue.

Guests can also enjoy CAYA's new *Sabor Experience*, a limited time three course menu priced at \$79, allowing diners to explore an appetizer, main course, and dessert of their choice.

To complete the experience, CAYA hosts



live music every Sunday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., setting the perfect backdrop for an evening of island charm and culinary artistry.

CAYA continues to invite locals and visitors alike to experience the heart of Aruba, where Latin Caribbean heritage comes alive in every dish, every note of music, and every heartfelt welcome. □

## Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill



(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □

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**INFINI Unveils Caribbean Impression 15: A New Menu Experience**



**At INFINI, dining has always been about more than food. It is about storytelling, connection, and pushing the boundaries of Caribbean cuisine. With the introduction of Caribbean Impression 15, the restaurant presents a new tasting menu that reflects both the richness of the region and the creativity behind the kitchen.**

This new menu is a refined journey through flavor, memory, and movement across the Caribbean. Each course is carefully composed to highlight bold ingredients, layered techniques, and unexpected pairings that elevate familiar tastes into something entirely new.

The experience begins with Brioche, a warm and aromatic introduction infused with curry, garlic, thyme, and honey. It is comforting yet complex, setting the stage for what follows.

Koli Koli brings a fresh and vibrant contrast. Hamachi is paired with honeydew melon, jalapeño, lemon, and sansho, creating a balance between sweetness, heat, and citrus brightness. It is a dish that feels light, precise, and full of energy.

With Jambo, the menu dives deeper into the flavors of the sea. Chilean seabass, octopus, mussels, and scallops come together with okra, cilantro, and Madam Jeanette, delivering a dish that is rich, layered, and unmistakably Caribbean in spirit.

A pause in the journey comes with Limpia Paladar, a palate cleanser designed to refresh and reset the senses before the next course. This is followed by Mojito, a refreshing and aromatic expression that plays on familiar notes in a refined way.

The menu then moves into deeper, more indulgent territory with Stout Stew. Short ribs, local pastrami, and sirloin are slow cooked with stout, shiitake, maitake, and carrots, resulting in a dish that is rich, comforting, and full of depth.

Sweetness arrives with Quesillo, a black garlic flan paired with pineapple, plantain, tamarind, and all spice. It is a bold



and unexpected dessert that balances savory and sweet in a way that feels both nostalgic and modern.

The experience continues with a playful Bahama Mama cupcake, bringing a light and tropical finish, followed by Batata. This dish combines sweet potato, caviar, coconut, jerk spices, onion, and pineapple, offering a final savory note that is both surprising and memorable.

The journey closes with Limpia Man, a final refresh that leaves a lasting impression.

Caribbean Impression 15 is offered as a five course tasting experience, designed to flow seamlessly from one moment to the next. It reflects INFINI's commitment to showcasing the Caribbean in a way that is elevated, expressive, and deeply connected to place.

Reservations are required. To reserve your table, call +297 699 3982 or send an email to [reservations@infiniaruba.com](mailto:reservations@infiniaruba.com).

This is not just a menu. It is a new chapter for INFINI, where each dish becomes part of a larger story told through flavor, creativity, and intention. □



**Adriaan Laclé: One of Aruba's richest men in the twentieth century**

**(Oranjestad)—The name Adriaan Laclé may ring a bell to locals as one of the main roads on the island, but about a century ago, Adriaan Laclé was a rich businessman, well-known for his generosity, wealth, and taste.**

Adriaan was born in 1866 and was the eldest of six children. Not much is known about his childhood upbringing or any of his earlier business ordeals, but during his hay day he often helped people get loans, was a well-established trader, and owned several plots of land. In fact, he commissioned the construction of the famous La Quinta Carmen manor—now a restaurant.

Though he himself never lived in the beautiful manor, his own house also reflected his success and good taste. Currently, renovations are taking place to restore the Lacle house. It can be found in the back streets of main street Oranjestad.

Regarding his personal life, it has been said that he was married twice during his lifetime. He had his first daughter during his first marriage but lost his wife soon after her birth. During his second marriage, he fathered 16 children. However, it has been said that only 11 of those 17 made it past 18 years of age. Perhaps two of his most

well-known daughters are Maria Monica Laclé and Maria Veneranda Laclé, who went on to marry successful brothers Eloy Arends and Maximilian Arends, respectively. Their houses are still standing; Eloy and Maria Monica's mansion functions as the townhall, used to host civil marriages, while Maximilian and Maria Veneranda's house stands on the opposite side of the road to them—though currently under renovation after years left in ruin. □

**Source: De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba) by Evert Bongers.**



Article by Etnia Nativa

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Episode CCCLX - 360

## Who Is Erasing Aruba's Real Place Names?

Each week in this cultural space, Etnia Nativa, one of Aruba's foremost advocates for the preservation of the island's heritage, invites readers to rediscover the history, identity, and living traditions that have shaped Aruba for generations.

In this week's edition, Etnia Nativa raises an urgent concern: tourism should never redefine Aruba's identity. When the island's authentic place names are replaced or forgotten, Aruba risks losing an irreplaceable part of its cultural soul.

For centuries, Aruba's beaches, bays, hills, and natural landmarks have carried names that preserve the stories of our ancestors. These names were never created for tourism brochures or marketing campaigns. They were born from our language, our history, our families, and the lived experiences of the Aruban people. Yet today, many of these traditional names are gradually being displaced by English labels designed to appeal to the tourism industry, placing at risk a cultural legacy that deserves to be protected for future generations.

This is not simply a matter of translation. It is a gradual erasure of indigenous cultural identity.

Every year, new maps, travel blogs, tour operators, and social media influencers introduce alternative names for places that already have authentic Aruban names. Visitors may never realize that they are walking through locations with centuries of local history because the original names have been pushed aside for labels considered easier to market.

The consequences extend far beyond language. Mass tourism has brought economic opportunities, but it has also transformed the island in ways many residents no longer recognize. Beaches that were once quiet gathering places for local families are now crowded from sunrise to sunset. Hidden bays where fishermen once launched their boats have become stops on commercial tour routes. Natural areas are increasingly treated as attractions instead of fragile ecosystems deserving protection.

Along with this transformation comes a growing feeling that Aruba exists in two different realities. One is presented to visitors: a paradise carefully packaged for consumption. The other is lived every day by residents who witness traffic congestion, overcrowded beaches, rising living costs, environmental degradation, and the gradual disappearance of cultural traditions.

The renaming of places has become a powerful symbol of this divide.

When original names are replaced by labels such as "Eagle Beach", "Rogers Beach" "Baby Beach," "Blackstone Beach," "Sea Glass Beach," or "Bachelor Beach," something meaningful is lost. These names may attract tourists or fit neatly into travel guides, but they often overshadow the local names that connect Arubans to their heritage.

A name carries memory. It preserves stories, geography, and identity. Removing those names weakens the connection between future generations and the



island they call home.

The question is not whether tourists should visit Aruba. Tourism is an essential part of our economy and many families depend on it. The question is whether development should come at the expense of our cultural identity. Progress should never require the abandonment of our language, history, or heritage.

Protecting Aruba means more than preserving its beaches, coastline or ecosystem. It also means preserving the names, traditions, and stories that make those special places uniquely Aruban.

As visitors continue to discover our island, perhaps the greatest act of respect is to encourage them to learn the real names of the places they

visit and the stories behind them—not the names invented for convenience or marketing.

If we allow our place names to disappear, we risk losing more than words on a map. We risk losing part of who we are as islanders.

The future of Aruba should not be measured solely by visitor numbers or hotel occupancy. It should also be measured by our ability to protect the culture, language, history, and identity that existed long before tourism arrived.

The island belongs not only to those who visit for a week, but to the generations who have called it home for centuries. Their stories deserve to remain written on the land—in the names of its beaches, its bays, its hills, and its coast—for generations yet to come.

Each week, Etnia Nativa invites readers to explore the history, identity, and living traditions that define the Aruban spirit.

This week's reflection highlights an urgent truth: tourism should never redefine Aruba's identity. When traditional place names are replaced for commercial appeal, the island loses part of its history, memory, and cultural soul.

Aruba is more than a destination—it is a living culture. Go beyond the beaches, discover the island's authentic stories, and connect with its ancestral roots. □



This place was once known by locals as Brick or Puñit.

Reserve your mystical cultural experience with Etnia Nativa Aruba and discover the true spirit of Aruba.

WhatsApp: +297 592 2702  
Email: etnianativa03@gmail.com

## 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 Ju-*



lienii 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!

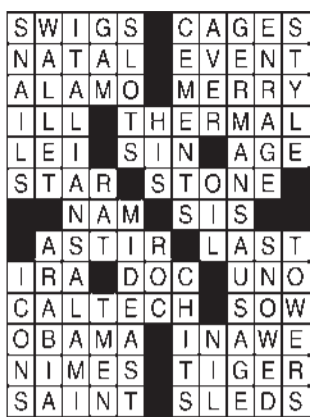
Lizards are wonderful creatures that are precious to our fragile, local ecosystem. Please be mindful of these residents as you enjoy your stay. □

Images: Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.



**CROSSWORD**

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

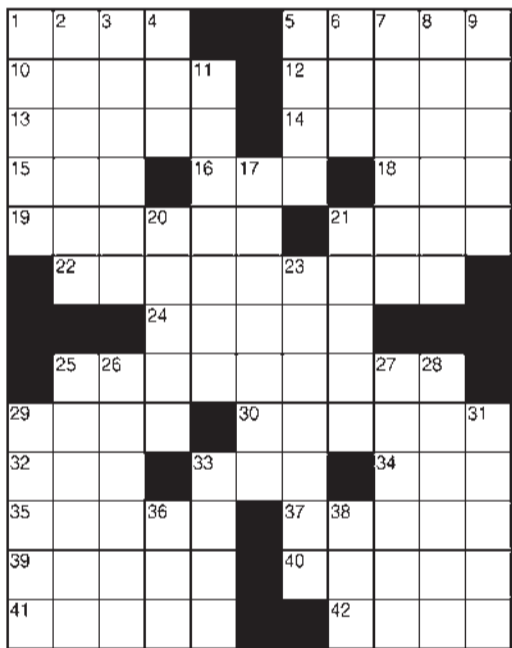


**ACROSS**

- 41 Canary chow
- 1 Travel need
- 5 Wall worker
- 10 Barcelona buddy
- 12 Verdi work
- 13 Squelched
- 14 Casual fabric
- 15 Sense of self
- 16 Chart model
- 18 Look upon
- 19 Painter Georges
- 21 Takes in
- 22 Slam on the brakes
- 24 Boyfriends
- 25 Diamond position
- 29 One-sided victory
- 30 Stressed type
- 32 Radius setting
- 33 Salon stuff
- 34 Some crime evidence
- 35 Play place
- 37 Chris of "The Avengers"
- 39 Wine grape
- 40 Man of many words

**DOWN**

- 1 Bud holders
- 2 Sights
- 3 Refrain from playing
- 4 In the past
- 5 Style
- 6 Clumsy one
- 7 Detecting device
- 8 Set straight
- 9 New parents' choices
- 11 In theory
- 17 Draw announcement
- 20 Metal man
- 21 — del Sol
- 23 Go-getter
- 25 Raid
- 26 Compassionate
- 27 Geriatrics topic
- 28 Beaten on the mat
- 29 Grating sounds
- 31 Play groups
- 33 Obtains
- 36 Jupiter or Neptune
- 38 Oath



3-11

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.

3-11

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

I N A B A W A B R G A F N D Y R .

W H M M R J A B L A W Q I F A Q B N Y .

— V N J H X A E H J N X N E A

**Cryptoquote:** THERE'S NOTHING MORE EMBARRASSING THAN TO HAVE EARNED THE DISFAVOR OF A PERCEPTIVE ANIMAL. — MICHAEL CHABON

**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.

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.

Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

**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.

**Supermarket hours**

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through

**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

**JULY CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE**

- 07 TUE** CANIVAL HORIZON  
Arrival: 8:00 | Departure: 22:00 | Berth: B  
GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS  
Arrival: 8:00 | Departure: 23:00 | Berth: C
- 08 WED** FREEWINDS  
Arrival: 8:00 | Departure: ..... | Berth: E
- 12 SUN** FREEWINDS  
Arrival: ..... | Departure: 24:00 | Berth: E
- 14 TUE** GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS  
Arrival: 8:00 | Departure: 23:00 | Berth: B  
ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS  
Arrival: 11:30 | Departure: 23:00 | Berth: C  
CARNIVAL VISTA  
Arrival: 13:00 | Departure: 23:00 | Berth: I
- 15 WED** ALLURE OF THE SEAS  
Arrival: 7:00 | Departure: 16:00 | Berth: I  
FREEWINDS  
Arrival: 8:00 | Departure: ..... | Berth: E
- 19 SUN** FREEWINDS  
Arrival: ..... | Departure: 24:00 | Berth: E
- 21 TUE** CARNIVAL HORIZON  
Arrival: 8:00 | Departure: 22:00 | Berth: B  
GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS  
Arrival: 8:00 | Departure: 23:00 | Berth: C

**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**

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

Difficulty: ★★★

7/8

**Answer to previous puzzle**

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

Difficulty: ★★

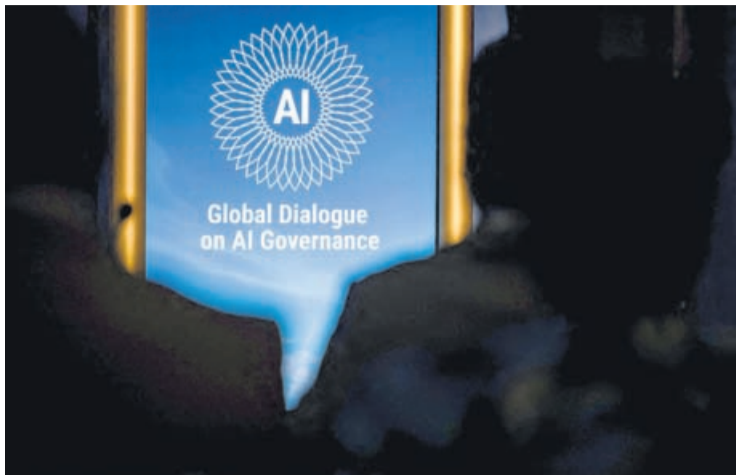
7/7

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# Global AI industry falls short on safety, think tank warns

**New York, United States**  
U.S. artificial intelligence lab Anthropic scored the highest in a semiannual safety ranking, but globally the industry fails to combat "existential" threats, according to a report released on Tuesday. Meta moved up two spots to fourth place, while xAI dropped three spots to seventh place, just ahead of China's DeepSeek and France's Mistral, which placed last, according to U.S.-based AI safety think tank Future of Life Institute, which ranked nine of the world's leading AI companies. Seven researchers and governance experts determined the rankings based on public data and information provided by the companies. They evaluated efforts across six distinct categories: risk assessment, current harms, safety frameworks, existential safety, governance and accountability, and information sharing. No company received an "A" in any single category, while Anthropic got the best overall score of "C+." Mistral was included on the list for the first time, though when asked by AFP to comment on its last place, the company said the report's framework isn't suited for its approach to developing AI models.

The French company develops so-called open models, which allow users to download and modify them. Many of its competitors develop closed AI models including Anthropic, OpenAI and Google DeepMind, which are also included in the report. "I was very disappointed to find that they came last, especially since Europe has really...been a leader in AI safety," Max Tegmark, an MIT professor and Future of Life president, told AFP. "We reached out many, many times" but Mistral did not respond to the organization's survey, Tegmark continued. Alibaba, xAI and DeepSeek did not respond to its survey either, the organiza-



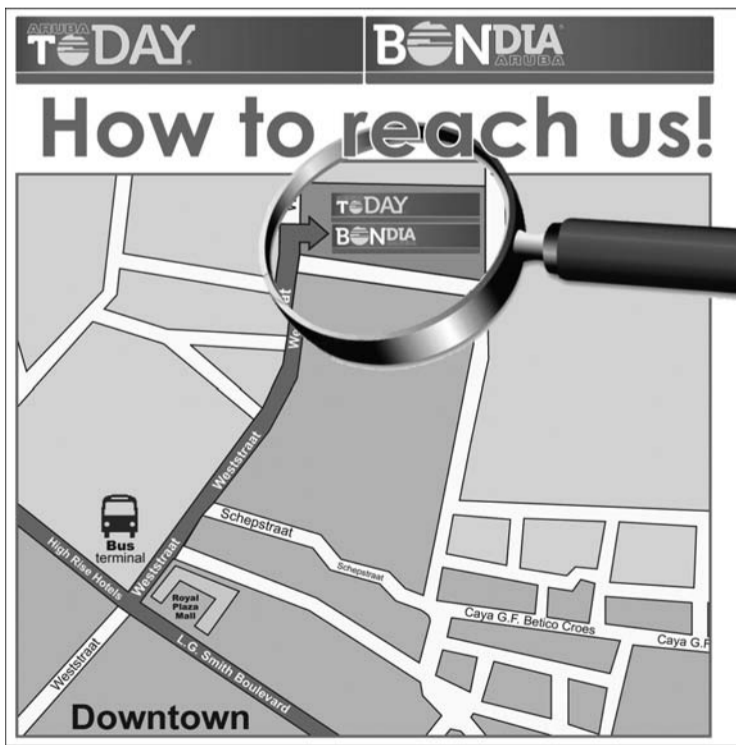
This photograph shows the logo of the first Global Dialogue on AI Governance displayed in Geneva on July 6, 2026.

tion said. Three Chinese developers included in the report also produce open models and landed in the bottom half of the ranking: DeepSeek (fifth), Alibaba Cloud (sixth) and Z.ai (eighth). - 'Questionable' practices - The report noted that several companies that previously banned their technology from military uses have "gradually reversed course," including Anthropic, which the report criticized for having "questionable military engagements."

The U.S. government used Anthropic's technology in military operations in Venezuela and Iran over the past year, according to various media reports though the company was subject to a recent ban by the Pentagon over disagreements on AI safety.

All nine companies are failing when it comes to combating "existential" threats such as pursuing models that reach human-level intelligence, known as "artificial general intelligence" or AGI, the report said. Although "constructive attempts exist," efforts across the board are "entirely inadequate." Other risks include the possible misuse of a model to carry out a cyberattack or perform tasks potentially harmful to humans. Anthropic was thrust into the spotlight recently after it released its most powerful model yet, called Mythos. □

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sleep 12  
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

# Nordic joy as Traeen takes yellow, Pedersen wins Tour de France 4th stage

## Foix, France

Norwegian Torstein Traeen claimed the coveted race leader's yellow jersey as Denmark's Mads Pedersen won the fourth stage of the Tour de France on a day of Nordic delight on Tuesday. Traeen stripped reigning champion Tadej Pogacar of the jersey just two days after Norway stunned five-time winners Brazil at the World Cup thanks to a brace from Erling Haaland. "Football is pretty big and I've seen how they are rowing in front of the castle and everything... it's a big public party and we're obviously doing pretty well," Traeen said about the football team's success.

"So all I'm dreaming about now is to have a Norway jersey with my name on the back so I can wear it for the next game!"

Pedersen, who was world champion in 2019, stormed to victory in a sprint finish ahead of Lidl-Trek teammate Quinn Simmons in



Trek team's Danish rider Mads Pedersen celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the 4th stage of the 113th edition of the Tour de France cycling race, 182 km between Carcassonne and Foix in southwestern France, on July 7, 2026.

second with Spaniard Raul Garcia taking third at the end of the 182km stage from Carcassonne to Foix in scorching temperatures which topped 40C at one point.

It was Pedersen's third stage victory at the Tour following one each in 2022 and 2023 and was enough to see him take the green points jersey.

"For sure, this was a master-

piece in teamwork," said the 30-year-old Dane.

"I was suffering a lot in the last climb, but with Quinn and (Mathias) Vacek there, it was an incredible day and they did incredible on the climb to pace it well for me.

"They were just machines from there to the finish line. So, what a team effort and what a team win today."

Traeen, who had started the day just over five min-

utes behind reigning champion Tadej Pogacar in the race lead, was part of an initial 34-man breakaway which formed around 25km into the stage.

That had been whittled down to 10 over the day's final climb and Traeen came home in eighth.

With the peloton finishing 13 minutes after the stage winner, Traeen now leads the yellow jersey standings by 28 seconds from Ameri-

can Sean Quinn, a fellow breakaway companion who finished ninth on the stage.

Pedersen's Lidl-Trek teammate Mathias Vacek, who finished the stage in 10th, is now third overall at 3min 50sec and now leads the young rider's white jersey competition.

Pogacar dropped to fourth at 7min 53sec, on the same time as his arch rival Jonas Vingegaard in fifth.

## - Traeen had yellow in his sights -

For Traeen, 30, it will be the second time he has led a Grand Tour, having worn the leader's red jersey at last year's Vuelta a Espana for four days.

He is the third Norwegian to wear the Tour's yellow jersey after Thor Hushovd, who is now Traeen's Uno-X Mobility team manager, did so in 2004, 2006 and 2011, and Alexander Kristoff, who held it for one day in 2020.

A 34-man breakaway group went clear in the first 25km and it was soon clear that Pogacar's UAE Emirates-XRG team had no intention of controlling the gap, or holding onto the yellow jersey. □

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## Cavs agree on Mitchell deal as LeBron watches: report

**Washington, United States**  
 Donovan Mitchell has agreed to a maximum four-year NBA contract extension worth \$273 million with the Cleveland Cava-

liers, his agent said Tuesday, a move that could help bring back LeBron James. Austin Brown told ESPN that Mitchell could have

waited until next year and added another year and \$80 million to his deal but wanted to commit to a long-term deal as soon as possible.

Mitchell's contract includes a player option for the 2030-31 campaign, according to the report.



Donovan Mitchell #45 of the Cleveland Cavaliers looks on against the New York Knicks during the first quarter in Game Four of the NBA Eastern Conference Finals at Rocket Arena on May 25, 2026 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mitchell, who joined the Cavs in a 2022 off-season trade from Utah, said after being eliminated from the playoffs in May by the eventual champion New York Knicks that he had "unfinished business" trying to bring another NBA crown to Cleveland.

James led the Cavaliers to the 2016 NBA title after winning two titles with Miami after leaving the Cav-

aliers in 2010. He left again for the Los Angeles Lakers in 2018 and won a title with them in 2020.

The four-time NBA Most Valuable Player, however, is a free agent and has said he will not return to the Lakers, with his hometown Cavaliers, Philadelphia, Miami and Golden State among those listed as favorites as landing spots for the 41-year-old forward. Mitchell, a 29-year-old guard preparing for his 10th NBA season, averaged 27.9 points, 5.7 assists, 4.5 rebounds and 1.5 steals a game last season, when the Cavs reached the Eastern Conference finals before being swept 4-0 by New York. □



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## Argentina produce epic World Cup fightback to beat Egypt, reach quarters

### Atlanta, United States

Argentina staged a stunning comeback from 2-0 down to avoid crashing out of the World Cup at the hands of Egypt on Tuesday, as Lionel Messi played his part in a 3-2 win to reach the quarter-finals.

The holders looked down and out when goals from Yasser Ibrahim and Mostafa Ziko, either side of Messi having a penalty saved, put the Pharaohs in sight of a historic victory in Atlanta. However, Cristian Romero's header sparked the comeback as Argentina struck three times in the final 11 minutes plus stoppage time.

Messi smashed home the equaliser to score for a ninth consecutive World Cup game and retake the lead for the Golden Boot with eight this tournament. Enzo Fernandez completed the turnaround with a superb header two minutes into stoppage time.

At the end, Messi shed tears of joy as he embraced his teammates.



Argentina's midfielder #24 Enzo Fernandez scores his team's third goal during the 2026 World Cup round of 16 football match between Argentina and Egypt at Atlanta Stadium in Atlanta on July 7, 2026.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said: "I'm really emotional right now. What a group of players, man."

Egypt goalkeeper Mostafa Shoubir, who had an inspired game, was heartbroken. "We were so close to victory," he said. "Small

details make the difference in the big games. We're sad because we had the match in our hands."

Egypt were left furious after a number of controversial calls went against them, including a disallowed

second-half goal, and a member of their coaching staff was red-carded after the winning goal.

But despite a second almighty scare against African opposition, Argentina will face either Colombia or

Switzerland in the last eight on Saturday.

Scaloni attempted to refresh a side that looked dead on their feet in the closing stages of a 3-2 win over Cape Verde in the last 32 on Friday.

Nicolas Tagliafico, Leandro Paredes and Julian Alvarez came in from the team that started in Miami, but Argentina got off to another slow start.

Marwan Attia's deep cross to the back post was powered home by Yasser.

Argentina had the chance to level five minutes later when Tagliafico was wiped out by Haissem Hassan inside the box.

However, there was another chapter to Messi's misery from the penalty spot at World Cups.

The eight-time Ballon d'Or's strike was tentative and Shoubir flew to his left to save, meaning Messi has now missed four of his eight non-shootout penalties at World Cups. He also became the first player to miss two in a single tournament,

having also failed to hit the target against Austria in the group stages.

The penalty save was just the start of Shoubir's inspired afternoon.

Alexis Mac Allster's powerful header from point-blank range was next to be parried by the Al Ahly stopper. Shoubir then produced one of the saves of the tournament to prevent Alvarez's shot finding the bottom corner.

Egypt thought they had doubled their lead on the hour mark after a brilliant counter-attack.

Mohamed Salah played in Mostafa Ziko, who dinked the ball perfectly over the onrushing Emi Martinez. □

## Victorious Belgian footballers troll Trump with YMCA dance



Youri Tielemans #8 of Belgium applauds fans after the 4-1 victory during the FIFA World Cup 2026 Round of 16 match between USA and Belgium at Seattle Stadium on July 06, 2026 in Seattle, Washington.

### Seattle, United States

It is Donald Trump's signature dance, but triumphant Belgian footballers stole his "Y.M.C.A." moves after he intervened before the match in which they knocked the United States out of the World Cup.

The Belgian team copied Trump's unmistakable swaying fist pumps as they celebrated their 4-1 thrashing of the co-hosts on Monday, dancing and singing the song on the pitch and in the changing room.

Before the game, Trump had called FIFA and pushed for a review of a one-match ban for US star Folarin Balogun. To widespread astonishment and anger, Balogun's ban was suspended and he was allowed to play.

Belgian captain Youri Tielemans said his team had been fired up by the decision.

"We told ourselves we needed to do our talking on the pitch. That's what we did today," he said.

Trump, 80, often breaks out his Y.M.C.A. dance at rallies and speeches, drawing cheers from his supporters. □



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Serbia's Novak Djokovic waits to receive a return from Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime during their men's singles quarter-final tennis match on the ninth day of the 2026 Wimbledon.

## Sinner eyes Djokovic showdown after moving into Wimbledon semis

### London, United Kingdom

Jannik Sinner is on course for a blockbuster Wimbledon showdown with Novak Djokovic after the defending champion ended German veteran Jan-Lennard Struff's fairytale run in the quarter-finals.

Sinner won 7-5, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 on Court One and will face Djokovic in the last four if the seven-time Wimbledon champion beats Canadian

Felix Auger-Aliassime later on Tuesday.

In the women's tournament, Coco Gauff and Karolina Muchova reached their first Wimbledon semi-finals.

With Wimbledon basking in sweltering temperatures this week, world number one Sinner had to answer some uncomfortable questions about his ability to withstand the heat.

The 24-year-old Italian wilted in the recent French Open when the mercury reached boiling point, sparking a stunning second-round defeat against Juan Manuel Cerundolo, who battled back from two sets and 5-1 down to beat Sinner.

Bidding to win Wimbledon for the second successive year, Sinner lived up to his claim that he would cope with the London heatwave against Struff -- at 36 the oldest man to become a first-time quarter-finalist at the majors in the Open era.

The four-time Grand Slam champion wasn't at his best, but his booming serve kept world number 74 Struff at bay as he reached his 10th Grand Slam semi-final and third at Wimbledon.

"It was a huge test today. I felt comfortable on the physical side, a good step forwards," Sinner said.

"We worked a lot after Paris trying to understand what went wrong and prepared in the best possible way." Djokovic hopes to equal Roger Federer's record of eight Wimbledon singles titles by winning a record 25th major.

That would make him the oldest man to win a Grand Slam in the Open era.

Victory for the 39-year-old Serb against third seeded

Auger-Aliassime would take Djokovic into a record-extending 15th Wimbledon semi-final and 55th at the Grand Slams.

He would also reach the Wimbledon last four for an eighth consecutive time, setting a new record for the longest streak of men's singles semi-final appearances at the All England Club.

### - Gauff in uncharted territory -

The all-American encounter on Centre Court went Gauff's way as the seventh seed beat fellow American Jessica Pegula 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. Gauff a two-time major champion was appearing in the last eight at the All England Club for the first time.

The 22-year-old made a sluggish start as fourth seeded Pegula, 32, took the first set.

But Gauff hit back emphatically, seizing the momentum in the second set before sealing victory in the third.

Seven years after she became the youngest player to reach the Wimbledon main draw aged 15 and then stunned Venus Williams on her debut, Gauff is two wins away from an even more impressive feat at the All England Club.

She is into the semi-finals of a Grand Slam for the first time since winning her most recent major at the French Open last year.

She is the youngest player to appear in all four Grand Slam semi-finals since Maria Sharapova in 2007.

"Considering I hadn't won a match in two years on grass before this tournament, I'm really happy with how I played today," Gauff said. □

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