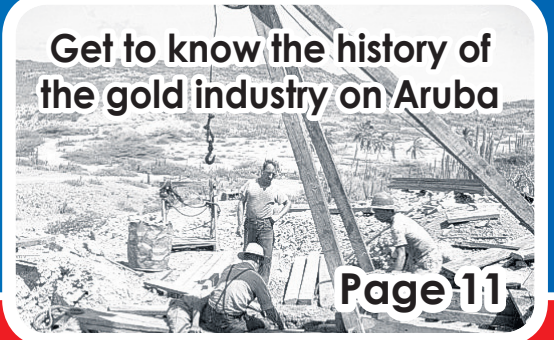




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Mexican drug lord 'El Mayo' sentenced to life in U.S. prison

New York, United States

Mexican drug lord Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, one of the world's most powerful and wealthy crime bosses, was sentenced Monday to life in U.S. prison for co-leading the notorious Sinaloa cartel.

The 76-year-old is the former top associate of the organization's kingpin founder, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who is serving a life sentence in a maximum-security prison in Colorado. Zambada was arrested at a Texas airport in July 2024 in cloudy circumstances, alleging that a son of El Chapo had kidnapped him in an apparent bid to win favor with U.S. authorities.

At a packed New York courtroom, the white-haired Zambada cut a frail figure as he was sentenced to life in prison and ordered to pay a \$15 billion forfeiture.

Wearing a tan jumpsuit, he read a prepared statement in Spanish in which he extraordinarily urged young people to turn away from violence.

"I stand before you today knowing that my actions caused harm," he said. "I chose this path and I understand that today I'm being held accountable for those decisions." Zambada, a former farm-



Images of Ismael Zambada Garcia known as "El Mayo" released by the attorney's office, in Mexico City, on August 01, 2023.

worker from the mountainous Sinaloa state, said he grew up in "an environment where violence and crime seemed normal, but now I know that is no excuse."

"Violence must end in Mexico and elsewhere...No one wins in a war like this," he added. "To the next generation I say this: Choose a different path."

U.S. district judge Brian Cogan, who also presided over El Chapo's trial, said that the amount of smuggled drugs and number of killings attributed to Zambada justified his sentence. "He is going to spend the rest of his days in prison. He has accepted that," Co-

gan said during the roughly 30-minute hearing.

- 'Poisoning American communities' -

Zambada pleaded guilty in August 2025 to several charges related to his leadership of the Sinaloa cartel under a deal with prosecutors that saw them waive their right to seek the death penalty.

"Despite being brought to the U.S. in questionable circumstances, Mr. Zambada made the decision to accept responsibility and plead guilty," Zambada's lawyer Frank Perez said Monday.

He emphasized that the

drug lord had not provided U.S. authorities any information on other cartel members or Mexican government officials.

The court heard that Zambada suffered from several health conditions and would need treatment in custody, with Judge Cogan describing him as "drifting towards cognitively impaired."

Zambada's 2024 arrest, along with the demise of El Chapo, sparked cartel infighting between members split between the men that has left thousands dead and disappeared in Mexico.

Founded in the 1980s, the

Sinaloa cartel is one of Mexico's oldest criminal organizations, with a reputation for infiltrating the highest echelons of the state.

It is one of several Mexican drug trafficking groups that U.S. President Donald Trump has designated as global "terrorist" organizations.

U.S. authorities accuse the cartel of trafficking the powerful narcotic fentanyl into the United States, where the opioid epidemic is linked to tens of thousands of deaths.

"Ismael Zambada Garcia spent nearly four decades poisoning American communities to make billions of dollars in profit and ordering the murders of anyone who stood in his way," Joseph Nocella Jr., US attorney for the eastern district of New York, said in a statement.

He praised collaboration with Mexican authorities in the case, though the Zambada's arrest is a source of tension between the neighboring countries.

Mexico is investigating whether the United States violated its sovereignty after the FBI this month exhibited the plane used to transport Zambada. Washington has denied any role in the operation to bring Zambada onto U.S. soil. □

Trump says new Air Force One to be 'maxed out' after security concerns



U.S. President Donald Trump disembarks from Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland on July 1, 2026.

Joint Base Andrews, United States

U.S. President Donald Trump said Sunday his new Qatari-gifted Air Force One jet needed to be sent off

for a month to be "maxed out," after reports of security concerns on a trip to Turkey.

Trump took his first flight on the retrofitted Boeing 747-8

plane on July 1, but questions swirled after he took an older jet home from a NATO meeting in Ankara on July 10.

The New York Times reported that the new plane lacked the same security countermeasures, including anti-missile defenses. Its reporters were then subpoenaed by the Trump administration.

"It has a lot of capability, but as I understand it, in about a month or so, they're going to send it to have it be maxed out," Trump told reporters when asked why he was still flying on a plane without full defensive capabilities.

"So they're going to be

sending it, and they'll have it be maxed out. It'll take about a month."

Trump, who was speaking after flying back to Washington from the World Cup final in New Jersey, did not give details about how the plane would be "maxed out."

The 80-year-old Republican has previously played down any suggestion of problems with the new aircraft.

He originally said he had sent the plane on ahead from the Turkey summit to an airbase in Britain so that service members could see it.

Qatar's royal family donated the luxury airliner

last year after Trump complained about the state of the two aging jets that have served as the US presidential plane since 1990.

Critics have raised a host of ethical, constitutional and security concerns about the gifting of an aircraft worth hundreds of millions of dollars by a foreign power like Qatar.

The aircraft features a new Trump-designed livery in red, white and navy blue, in a change from the previous white and light blue livery.

Two brand new Boeing Air Force Ones are due to be delivered later this decade after a series of delays and cost overruns. □

U.S. accuses Cuba of sweeping spy campaign, aiding American left

Washington, United States

A U.S. State Department report on Monday accused Cuban spies of infiltrating the highest levels of government in Washington and aiding "left-wing terrorism" on American soil.

Containing little new information, the report, titled "Cuba: The Capital of 21st Century Communism," comes as U.S. President Donald Trump pushes to end communist rule of the island while amping up anti-leftist rhetoric at home.

A months-long pressure campaign has seen Washington effectively impose an oil embargo on Cuba, while issuing economic sanctions against key state-run companies and even indicting the former president, Raul Castro.

Ahead of US elections in November, Trump and other Republican leaders have meanwhile revived Cold War-style rhetoric portraying left-wing U.S. political figures as a communist "menace."

The State Department report alleged that Cuba "has infiltrated the highest reaches of the U.S. government, recruited and cultivated generations of American activists (and) backed an unprecedented wave of left-wing terrorism on American soil."

While the allegations rep-



People walk through the interior of the Hermanos Ameijeiras Clinical Surgical Hospital beneath a poster depicting late Cuban leader Fidel Castro (L), former Cuban president Raul Castro and President Miguel Diaz-Canel, and reading "Revolution, Independence and Dignity," in Havana, on July 2, 2026.

resent an escalation in U.S.-Cuba tensions, espionage between the two countries has long been known.

Since the Cold War, the U.S. has made high-profile arrests of Cuban intelligence officers, including the "Cuban Five" who were convicted of infiltrating civil society groups in Florida in the 1990s, and Ana Montes, who spied from a senior position within the Defense Intelligence Agency.

In more recent cases, State Department intelligence

analyst Walter Kendall Myers and former US ambassador to Bolivia Victor Manuel Rocha pled guilty in separate cases to spying for the communist country. Meanwhile, the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Cuban exiles tried to assassinate late Cuban president and revolutionary leader Fidel Castro more than 600 times, his ex-intelligence chief, Fabian Escalante, once estimated. Cuba's foreign minister Bruno Rodriguez, in a post on X, called the new report

"the latest fallacy from the U.S. State Department." He said it was part of US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's effort to create a "pretext for sustaining a cruel and criminal economic war that punishes every Cuban family, as well as his aspiration to launch a military attack on Cuba, for which he is desperately seeking the support of U.S. citizens."

- U.S. threatens takeover of Cuba -

The report released Mon-

day made sweeping -- if unsubstantiated -- allegations that Cuba has cultivated relationships with leftist groups across the world and in the U.S. to drive "overriding resentment and fundamental hatred of the United States and the broader West."

The State Department said that the communist country had influenced "a disproportionate share of America's most famous and influential extremist movements," in an effort to "turn America against itself."

The report makes the latest downturn in the long-fraught relationship.

In 2015, then president Barack Obama attempted a rapprochement with the Cuban government, hoping a more diplomatic approach would yield better relations after a half-century of hostility.

Trump quickly restored a hardline stance in 2017, and -- on returning to office in 2025 -- reinstated Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism on his first day in office. Earlier this year, the U.S. military overthrew Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro a long-time supporter of the Cuban government who provided subsidized energy to the island. □

Lebanon army begins taking over southern 'pilot zones': U.S.

Washington, United States

The Lebanese army began taking charge of security in three southern villages Monday, the United States said, as a deal to secure an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon and the disarmament of Hezbollah faced its first test on the ground.

The U.S. State Department said operations had started in "pilot zones" in Froun, Srafa and Zawtar al-Gharbiya "in accordance with the Trilateral Framework and under the auspices of the Military Coordination Group for Lebanon."

State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott described the step as a direct outcome of talks held be-

tween Israeli and Lebanese delegations in Rome last week.

The framework, signed by Lebanon, Israel and the United States on June 26, envisions a phased Israeli pullback from positions in south Lebanon.

In exchange, the Lebanese Armed Forces are to assume sole security control of vacated areas and certify that they have been cleared of Hezbollah weapons and infrastructure.

The pilot zones are intended to trial the approach in a handful of villages straddling the Litani River.

"It is an opportunity for the Lebanese state to begin to

reassert real control in areas historically dominated by Hezbollah," a U.S. official said.

"Any attempt by Hezbollah to derail, infiltrate, or re-arm in these zones would seriously harm the prospects for reconstruction and peace."

Hezbollah has rejected the framework, with the Iran-backed group insisting any arrangement in Lebanon be linked to wider negotiations between Washington and Tehran.

It has not said whether it will resist implementation in the designated areas.

The agreement does not set a timetable for Israel's withdrawal. Israeli officials have also vowed that their

forces will remain in a "security zone" 10 kilometres (six miles) deep along the frontier for as long as Hezbollah remains armed. Lebanon and Israel, which

have no formal relations, started negotiations after Hezbollah drew Lebanon into the broader Middle East war by attacking Israel in March. □



A photograph taken during a media tour organised by the French Catholic charity L'Oeuvre d'Orient shows peacekeepers with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) patrolling near the southern Lebanese village Biout es Sayed on July 20, 2026.



David Ellison, Chairman & CEO, Paramount Skydance speaks on stage during New York Upfront Partnership Event 2026 at Stori NYC on April 22, 2026 in New York City.

U.S. judge suspends Paramount's acquisition of Warner Bros.

San Francisco, United States

A federal judge in California on Monday ordered Paramount Skydance and Warner Brothers Discovery to temporarily pause their merger while a case brought by multiple states challenging the deal moves forward.

The companies are prohibited from closing their \$110 billion deal for 14 days until another hearing is held on August 3 regarding a preliminary injunction, which would prevent Paramount and Warner Brothers from closing the transaction before a final decision is reached.

The states raised "serious questions" about the deal's potential to be anticompetitive, the judge said in her ruling, adding that "the balance of equities and public interest tip sharply in favor of the Plaintiff States." Last week, 12 states led by California sued to block the deal in a direct challenge to the Trump administration's Justice Department, which approved the merger last month.

In a statement on Monday, California Attorney General Rob Bonta hailed the temporary restraining order as "a critical first win in our case to ensure this megamerger never sees the light

of day."

A Paramount spokesperson told Variety that the company is "grateful for the Court's swift order" and underlined that it "preserves the status quo while the Court considers the anti-trust issues presented."

The combined company which came about after Netflix bowed out of the battle to buy Warner Brothers would control a sprawling roster of assets, including CNN, Warner Bros. Pictures and the HBO Max streaming service.

In their complaint, the states claim the combined company would control roughly 27 percent of wide-release theatrical film distribution and a similar percentage of basic cable channel licensing.

The saga has become politically charged, with President Donald Trump publicly saying he would weigh in on the deal as the fate of CNN a frequent target of the president's ire hangs in the balance.

California's attorney general said last week that the combination of two of Hollywood's five major film distributors would lead to "higher prices, lower quality, and less content" for audiences.

"California and our sister states are fighting for free

and fair markets, not rigged markets. America has no kings in government or our economy," Bonta said.

The other 11 states joining the suit, all Democratic-led, are Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon and Washington.

Paramount pushed back on the suit's allegations, framing their deal as a boon for competition in the media industry.

"This merger is lawful, pro-competitive, and will benefit consumers, creators, workers, and the entertainment industry," the Paramount spokesperson said.

"We will continue to vigorously defend the transaction and will look forward to the hearings on the substance of the State AGs' action."

- Tinseltown tussle -

The Trump administration approved the blockbuster deal on June 12 without demanding a single change, clearing the way for one of the largest media mergers in years.

It was a major win for media mogul David Ellison his father, Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison, largely financed the takeover and is a Trump ally. □



Cars travel across the Delaware Memorial Bridge as wildfire smoke from Canada causes hazy conditions, in New Castle, Delaware, on July 18, 2026.

Canada faces one of its most intense fire seasons

Montreal, Canada

With nearly 1,000 active fires and an area as large as Belgium already burned, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney says his country is facing one of the "most intense" wildfire seasons in its history.

Barely halfway through the summer, virtually all Canadian provinces and territories have been affected. The largest fire, in Ontario, has forced mass evacuations and spread smoke as far as the U.S. East Coast.

- Thousands of firefighters -

While recent rainfall has slightly slowed the spread of the fires, more than 200 remained out of control across the country on Monday.

More than 5,000 firefighters and 300 water tankers have been mobilized, as well as the Canadian Armed Forces. So far, three million hectares (7.4 million acres) have burned.

In Quebec, authorities said assistance from the United States and France arrived at the weekend to "address the significant workload" in the northwest of the province.

Still, Yves Bergeron, a professor at the Centre for Forest Studies at the University of Quebec at Montreal, said it is "unrealistic to think we would have enough firefighters to extinguish all these fires," which are mostly in remote areas, inaccessible by road.

"The important thing is to focus our energy on protecting villages and infrastructure," Bergeron told AFP.

- Repeated fires -

Canada's 270 million hectares of boreal forest -- that is forest in high-latitude environments -- comprises 28 percent of the world's boreal zone. It is naturally affected by lightning fires that spread rapidly through the canopy, making them difficult to control.

"Unlike Californian forests, where preventative measures can be taken through thinning, boreal forests, which are very dense, cannot be controlled," Bergeron said.

These trees "need natural disturbances such as fires," according to the government department Environment Canada, but suffer from repeated, intense fires that prevent them from regenerating.

Heat waves, low rainfall, and droughts contribute to the intensification of these violent fire seasons.

"There is real concern that the forest will become less resilient to climate change," said Bergeron, who added it is normal for between 0.5 and 1.0 percent of Canadian forests to burn each year. □

Tractors out, oxen in for fuel-starved Cuban farms



Farmers ride an ox cart along a street in Bauta, Artemisa province, Cuba, on June 27, 2026.

Caimito, Cuba

Alexander Quesada was gifted a tractor for turning a Cuban rubbish dump into a model farm, but these days he is using oxen to pull his plow as a severe energy crisis worsened by a US blockade hobbles food production.

The changing fortunes of Quesada's organic farm Finca Burgambilia named after the vibrant purple flowers that bedeck the entrance follow those of communist Cuba's relations with the United States over

the past decade.

Quesada, 52, looks back fondly on what he refers to as the "Obama years" a decade ago, when a historic detente with Washington helped spur a tourist influx.

As visitors began pouring off cruise ships into Havana, restaurant owners began beating a path to Finca Burgambilia, once a local dump, for gourmet greens like salad rocket that were virtually unheard of on the island.

The restaurant revenue

acted as a cash cow for the eight-hectare (20-acre) farm, allowing Quesada to expand and invest in new ventures, such as organic honey.

"We would sell a kilo of rocket and with that subsidize maybe 100 kilos of lettuce and therefore maintain a balance and continue developing," said the energetic father of two who buzzes with ideas for how to get ahead.

He pulled up the rocks that studded the farm, used them to make paths, built

raised vegetable beds and dug an irrigation channel. But since US President Donald Trump imposed a fuel blockade in January, which put a nail in the coffin of the already sputtering tourist industry, Quesada has struggled to remain afloat.

- No giving up -

The blockade intensified the worst energy crisis in Cuba's post-revolutionary history, plunging homes and businesses into darkness for up to 70 hours at a time.

With a liter of diesel now costing over \$3 -- around half the average monthly public sector wage -- the swanky red tractor Quesada received from the government as a reward for high yields sits idly in the shed.

A pair of oxen now pull the plow. Gone is the salad rocket, replaced by cheap root vegetables like yuca and sweet potato that locals can afford, but on which Quesada barely breaks even.

"We are at a standstill and rather in decline," he admitted.

Caimito lies just west of Havana in Artemisa province, the capital's breadbasket. The lush verdant landscape

was once carpeted in sugarcane plantations until the 1990s when the Soviet Union, the biggest market for Cuban sugar, imploded. As sugar revenues dissolved, the government moved to end the island's monoculture by dishing out state land to small farmers to grow food and raise livestock.

On the main highway west from Havana, a billboard featuring a picture of Fidel Castro proclaims: "Here, no-one gives up."

But the slogan rings increasingly hollow as farmers slash their output or stop planting crops altogether for lack of subsidized fertilizer, seeds, fuel and power for their irrigation pumps.

"The Special Period (the Cuban government's euphemism for the 1990s crisis) was hard, but nothing like this," said 52-year-old Raul Castillo Rodriguez, a farm hand at Burgambilia, his round face shaded by a straw hat.

Jose Joaquin Rodriguez, a 29-year-old farmer from Cuba's southwest coast whose family has been working the land for three generations, accused the communist authorities of quashing all initiative. □

India launches first hydrogen-powered train in clean energy push

Jind, India

India launched its first hydrogen-powered train Friday, joining a small group of nations testing the technology as part of efforts to decarbonize rail transport and cut dependence on fossil fuels.

The project is part of a broader push to modernize one of the world's largest rail networks while reducing carbon emissions.

The 10-coach train runs along an 89-kilometre (55-mile) route between Jind and Sonipat in India's northern state of Haryana, powered by a 1,200-kilowatt hydrogen fuel cell propulsion system.

Officials described the system as the world's most powerful for a train.

Hydrogen trains use fuel cells to generate electric-

ity by combining hydrogen and oxygen, emitting only water and steam.

"This is a very significant day in the direction of self-reliant India and sustainable development," Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who flagged off the inaugural journey, said in a social media post.

The railway ministry said the train was "developed entirely in India", although senior officials told reporters that some key components, including the fuel cells, were imported.

The ministry also inaugurated what it described as the country's largest railway hydrogen storage and refueling facility in Jind, with a capacity of some 3,000 kilograms, to "support hydrogen-powered train op-

erations".

The pilot project cost around \$12 million, according to a senior railway official who acknowledged it was significantly more expensive than a comparable conventional service. However, he said costs were expected to fall as the technology matures.

With the launch, India joins countries such as Germany, Japan, China and the United States that are testing or operating hydrogen-powered trains.

India's railways have undergone a major transformation since the first passenger steam train puffed out in 1853 from Mumbai. In recent years, New Delhi has pumped billions of dollars in investment aimed at upgrading infrastructure,

improving safety and expanding capacity.

The vast network carried 7.41 billion passengers and 1.67 billion tons of freight last year, official data shows.

India has also introduced its domestically designed

Vande Bharat trains, which can reach speeds of up to 180 kilometers (112 miles) per hour.

At the same time, the country is building its first high-speed rail line using Japanese Shinkansen technology. □



Indian Railways' hydrogen-powered train runs through Haryana's Gohana city on July 17, 2026.



Vania Tavares collects black sand from the seabed at a beach depleted by sand mining for commercial sale near Ribeira da Barca, on May 20, 2026.

Women sand miners toil stripped Cape Verde beach

Ribeira da Barca, Cape Verde

On a rocky Cape Verde beach, Maria and Vania fill their buckets with black sand the moment that waves recede, transporting it on their heads to a stockpile where it will be sold illegally.

The women struggle to keep their footing against the rough ocean while balancing the loads, which weigh dozens of kilograms (pounds).

The beach is far from the typical picture postcard image of the west African archipelago and Vania Tavares makes the sign of the cross before stepping into its dangerous waves.

The women, known as "sand thieves", have performed this grueling task almost daily for more than 15 years in order to survive in one of the island nations' poorest regions.

With solemn expressions, the pair plus four other neighboring women move in a silent, hours-long dance during low tide at Charco Beach near the town Ribeira da Barca, located on the main island of Santiago.

Maria Eleonore Monteiro's slender frame sways under the weight of the bucket as she climbs towards dry land to empty it beside a dozen large piles, which will be

sold to contractors or resellers.

Buyers pay around \$140 for a load of sea sand, often gathered over weeks, which is still cheaper than what is legally extracted from quarries.

"It's my only alternative, I have no other job", Monteiro told AFP, exhausted after a trip to the piles.

Her legs are scarred from falls and accidents on the rocks: "I've been gathering sand for so long that I have back pain. Sometimes I spend three days in bed", she said.

- Stones and craters -

Far from the idyllic white or black sand beaches found on some Cape Verdean islands, Ribeira da Barca attracts no tourists, much like the majority of Santiago Island's beach areas.

For decades these sites have served as artisanal open-pit mines for harvesting sand sold at rock-bottom prices, leaving behind a desolate landscape of stones and craters.

The actual beach at Charco has mostly vanished, forcing the women to extract the remaining sand from the water, even though many of them cannot swim.

Sand mining is illegal in Cape Verde under laws passed between 1997 and

2017, punishable by fines or imprisonment.

Yet the practice persists, with authorities sometimes turning a blind eye when it's a matter of survival.

The women interviewed by AFP have not had any run-ins with the police in three years.

As the only natural resource in the impoverished archipelago, sand fuelled urban expansion in the 1980s and 1990s.

Most of the capital, Praia, was literally built with it, Ana Veiga, director of the NGO Lantuna, told AFP.

To reach the remote beach where they gather sand, Monteiro and her neighbours walk half an hour from their poor community, which lacks running water. This is where Tavares also lives. She was forced to drop out of school at age 13 to work, and has been harvesting sand for the last 16 years to feed her children.

On the day AFP visited, she was cooking over a wood fire that emits an acrid smoke, unable to afford gas.

Sand mining is one of the few means of survival for single mothers like Tavares's sister, Vanilda, 32, who has three children by three different fathers, "none of whom help" raise them. □



The ruins of the fifth century Church of Saint Simeon Stylites (Deir Simaan) are pictured at the site about 30 kilometres northwest of Aleppo in northern Syria on July 18, 2026, during a tour with representatives of the French embassy to assess damages in the wake of the Syrian Civil War.

Scars of war linger on Syria's Saint Simeon monastery

Dayr Sim'ān, Syria

Near the base of a column atop which Saint Simeon Stylites once perched, scattered stones lay bare the damage inflicted on the surrounding Byzantine monastery in northern Syria by war, looting and rampant illegal excavations.

AFP accompanied a French archaeological delegation to inspect the site after more than a decade of conflict and assess what could be restored.

The fifth-century monastery and its church are, alongside hundreds of abandoned ancient villages in northern Syria known as the "dead" or "forgotten cities", a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Holding her camera and notebook, archaeologist Micheline Kurdy walked through the ruins to document the site's state and plan the first "quick interventions" to restore it, she told AFP.

"There is irreparable damage in the monastery in the southeastern section, but on the other hand the church is standing firm and in good condition," the 42-year-old French-Syrian said.

Inside the monastery, AFP journalists saw cracked arches and partially collapsed stone walls, while the monks' living quarters remained intact.

- 'Rebuild it' -

Syria was once an archaeologist's paradise, home to some of the oldest and best-preserved jewels of ancient civilisations.

Following the start of the civil war in 2011, archaeological sites across the country were damaged, museums looted and historic city centres levelled.

One of the most famous cases was Palmyra, the Roman-era city in Syria's desert with an imposing kilometre-long colonnade, where the Islamic State jihadist group launched a campaign of destruction and looting after capturing the site in 2015.

The Saint Simeon monastery itself was subjected to "looting, illegal excavation, military use and neglect", according to site director Abdel Jalil Arabi.

It was controlled by various armed groups throughout the war, he said.

An airstrike hit the monastery in 2016, which UNESCO condemned without naming the party responsible, while it was further damaged by a major earthquake in 2023. □

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our “Dorado”

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the “Dorado”, a common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Dorado.

Dorado has many different names it can be referred to. Dral, Dorao, Drals, Drado, are some of them in Papiamentu. In English, it is also called Mahi Mahi, Dolphin-fish, or Dorado. It's a good example to reflect on why there can be many names. The same fish becomes known by different common names, why? Common names come only when a group of people, to understand each other, assign a name to a fish. Mahi Mahi, for example, comes from Hawaii and means “very strong”. Dorado is based on Spanish and refers to the golden yellow color that the fish shines with under the sun. Why it's



called Dolphin-fish in English is not well defined and while there are several stories around this, none have been confirmed.

Dorado is found in all tropical to subtropical oceans around the world. Dorado is very popular both for recreational fishing and for consumption. It is known

among fishermen as an exciting catch and a fish that puts up a good fight. Its meat is very good for consumption and it is also commercially fished for that reason.

They grow very fast, up to 2.7 inches (almost 7 cm) per week. They can live up to a maximum of 5 years al-

though very few reach that age. Most become adults within 1 year but many become reproductive after just 5 or 6 months and reproduce very quickly too. They live in open water on the surface most of the time. Many fish seek them around sushi lines or floating objects on the sea. Often you will find a group landing

together and if you keep a male on the line, often the others will stay close or can keep the group interested by giving shrimp or squid.

Description:

Dorado has a distinctive body. It has a large tail and its long, flat body ends in a large blunt head. Its color of yellow and green or blue makes it immediately recognizable, even with small variations in these colors.

Dorado has clear differences between adult females and males. The male is larger and can easily reach 50 to 80 pounds and has a much flatter head compared to the female. Therefore, male Dorados are also called “bull Dorado”.

Dorado can be found in our waters around the island all year round, but there are periods when it is easier to find than others. □

Source: The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).

Another treasure of Aruba's beaches: Sea Glass!

(Oranjestad)—It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge” and the huge red anchor close to “Grapefield” beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea

glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process.

It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass.

The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is “Sea glass.

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges.

Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and



the easiest to find are the brown, green and clear glass.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □

Nights of Culture, Music, and Entertainment at Paseo Herencia



(ORANJESTAD)—As the sun sets, Paseo Herencia comes alive with entertainment that celebrates Aruba's culture, music, and vibrant energy. The open-air plaza transforms into a lively hub where locals and visitors gather to experience the island's rhythm, sights, and flavors. Evenings at Paseo Herencia invite guests to slow down, connect, and enjoy a mix of music, dance, and immersive experiences in a relaxed, welcoming setting.

This month, we proudly celebrate Dia di Betico, a day honoring the life and legacy of Betico Croes, a key figure in Aruba's journey toward autonomy. A beloved traditional Aruban band will perform live on January 25th from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Known for their authentic rhythms and lively performances, Grupo di Betico brings a strong sense of cultural pride to the plaza, offering both visitors and residents a memorable evening filled with local heritage and island sounds.

Weekly programming ensures that every night offers something new. Cultural Wednesdays celebrate Aruba's musical heritage, starting with steelpan music at 7:00 pm and followed by a cultural dance show at 8:00 pm that

highlights traditional movements and storytelling. Saturdays in January are dedicated to Carnival Nights beginning at 8:00 pm, filling Paseo Herencia with dazzling costumes, lively music, and spirited performances that immerse guests in one of Aruba's most beloved celebrations. The plaza's entertainment continues with themed nightly water show at 7:30 pm, 8:30 pm, and 9:30 pm, creating a natural transition from live performances into the evening's activities.

For younger visitors, the carousel and kids' train provide joyful, memorable experiences that bring a touch of magic to the plaza. Thrill seekers can also enjoy the Airsoft attraction located behind The Lazy Turtle, ensuring that there is entertainment for all ages.

For those continuing the night, Paseo Herencia offers a variety of vibrant nightlife



experiences. Gusto Nightclub is known for high-energy DJ sets, VIP bottle service, and a daily happy hour from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. The club brings together locals and visitors for a lively, unforgettable party atmosphere. Frenchie's Karaoke Bar provides a relaxed outdoor setting where guests can take the stage, sing, and perform while enjoying the support of friendly staff and fellow patrons. Flamingoes Bar offers a social all-ages experience with inventive cocktails, delicious snacks, and a spacious terrace ideal for groups, making it a top choice for music, conversation, and a lively bar vibe.

With stores open daily from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm, visitors can combine shopping, dining, and entertainment into one seamless visit. Parking at Paseo Herencia is complimentary for up to two hours when shopping, dining, or enjoying a movie, simply by presenting a purchase receipt to the parking cashier. Whether visiting for an evening show or staying late into the night, Paseo Herencia offers a complete island experience where music, culture, and entertainment come together to create memorable moments for all ages. □



Beaches for the whole family to enjoy!

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when traveling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to traveling parents to list off some of the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

Baby Beach in San Nicolas
Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited

beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of Pos Chiquito. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around

your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

Eagle Beach/Palm Beach

Yet another highly popular beach sites, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these

beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay

beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore. □



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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". □

Ivana Gutiérrez: "Aruba to me is where my heart belongs"

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish



your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Ivana Gutiérrez from Washington, DC.

She wrote to us saying: "I was born in the United States and spent part of my childhood in Venezuela. My father is Venezuelan, mother is Argentine, and I now live in Washington, where I work in the hospitality industry. Growing up surrounded by different cultures has been a wonderful part of my life, but one thing has always remained the same—my love for Aruba.

For as long as I can remember, Aruba has been a special part of my life. Now, at 25, I still try to come back at least once a year.

This visit will be a short one—just ten days—but every time I return, it feels like coming home. Aruba is where some of my happiest childhood memories were made, and where



I continue to create new ones. No matter where life takes me, Aruba will always be my favorite place. Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous "Red" Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea. Usually a bright red color, the anchor was painted blue this year in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Aruba's flag and anthem.

Where to find the anchor?

The anchor is a "must see" landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when you're visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean Sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the "T" junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the anchor Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the "fluke" or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.



This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the anchor come from?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

"According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude

Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately

they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain."

Story 2:

"Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them."

How did the anchor become a landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr., local businessman. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The "anchor", which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option.

Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated "To All Seamen" on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr. died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated "To All Seamen" in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The best time to visit

When you're planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. □

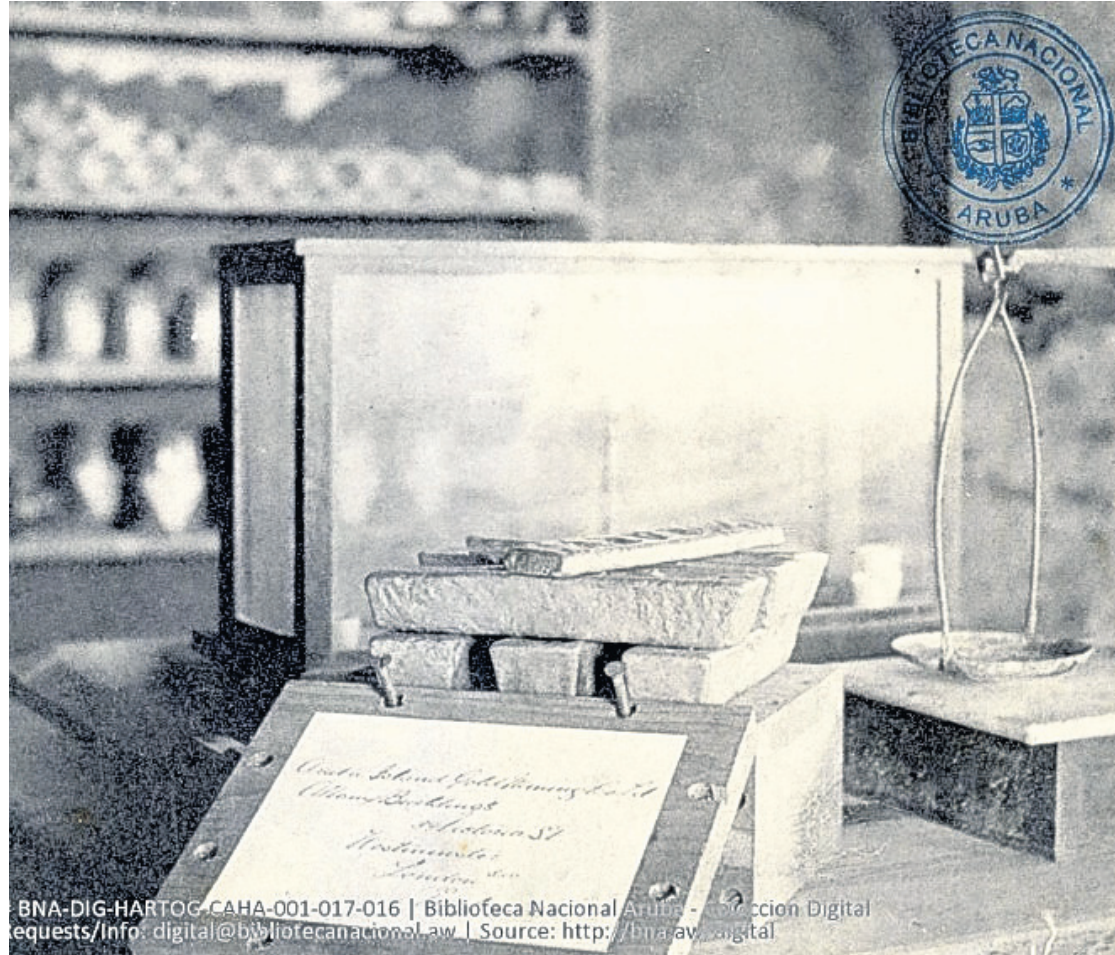


Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba

(Oranjestad)— We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.



When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjes-

tad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground.

Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession,

along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments.

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue. □



CROSSWORD

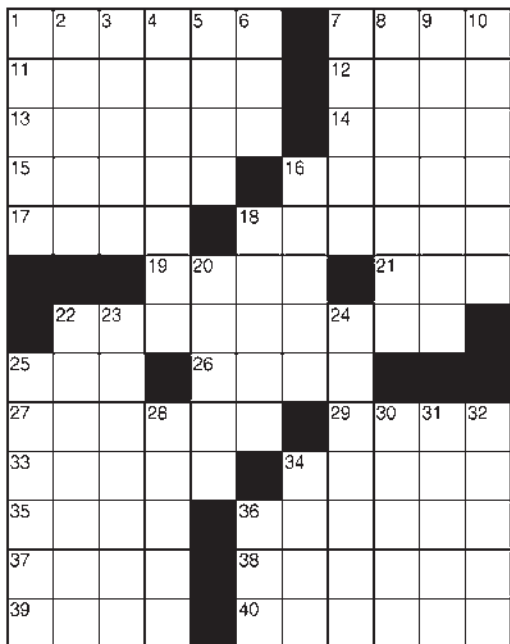
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Little lad ones
7 Stan-
dard
11 Holiday event
12 Open space
13 Bankrupt
14 Veto
15 Dined at home
16 "Love Story" writer
17 Holler
18 Placid
19 Norse trickster
21 Got together
22 Quadri-lateral type
25 Runner Sebastian
26 Stratum
27 Come to
29 Crimson Tide, for short
33 Light lunch
34 "Eat up!"
35 Ninny
36 Genetic oddity
37 Take it easy

DOWN

- 1 Mist
2 — cuisine
3 "The Tempest" sprite
4 Cream soda
5 Perfect place
6 Spectrum end
7 Au naturel
8 Folding art
9 Akin
10 Croquet need
16 Grab
18 Yarn buy
20 Made a choice
22 Take to the im-pound lot
23 Become aware of
24 Satellite
25 Rook
28 Hudson and Jackson
30 Visibly stunned
31 Breath fresh-eners
32 Fidgeting
34 Slacker address
36 — jonn



3-25

A XYDLBAAXR
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.

3-25 CRYPTOQUOTE

M N T G N P S X H W B B N

Q N G H W Z F P S X O I F O C N Y K F M ' O

U F S L F U F C Q G N H W O .

— K I F G S X B H . B K I Y S J

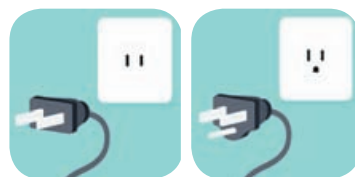
Cryptoquote: THE TREES WILL TELL
THEIR SECRETS TO THOSE THAT TUNE IN. —
STEVEN MAGEE



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.

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 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 occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE	
JULY	
21 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
22 WED	FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E
26 SUN	FREEWINDS DEPT. Arrival: Departure: 24:00 Berth: E
28 TUE	CARNIVAL MAGIC Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
29 WED	FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E

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

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

Difficulty: ★★

7/21

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★

7/20

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Data center battles marking politics worldwide

Paris, France

Governments worldwide are pushing to attract AI computing infrastructure, but must grapple with data centers' demands on resources and mounting local opposition. The massive buildings stuffed with specialized chips hungry for power and water have sparked objections from locals around the world. Voter concerns have sparked action from local and national governments, while American activists have called for nationwide demonstrations on July 18. Here are some key points to know about the data centre debate:

What are the objections? -

Opposition to data centers from the U.S. to India tends to focus on three major themes: land, power and water. Data centers can occupy vast swathes of land, with Meta's Prometheus site in Ohio measuring "a significant part of the footprint of Manhattan". In countries with weaker property protections, some have complained of being shouldered aside in favor of tech construction including Indian farmers in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, as tech news outlet Rest of World reported in April. Meanwhile data centers filled with top-of-the-line chips can draw the energy of a city. At 630 megawatts according to industry tracker Epoch AI, Prometheus is equivalent to around half a million American family homes.

Bloomberg News found in a September 2025 analysis that electricity could be as much as 267 percent more expensive in areas of the U.S. with high concentrations of data centers.

And companies' off-grid generators such as SpaceXAI's gas turbines at its Colossus facility in Memphis have drawn complaints of their own. The NAACP campaign group in April filed a legal



This picture taken on June 30, 2026 shows Yasuo Yamazaki, a representative of a citizens' group expressing concerns about the construction of the data centre, posing next to a protest flag reading, 'Do Not Push Forward with the Data Centre Construction!'

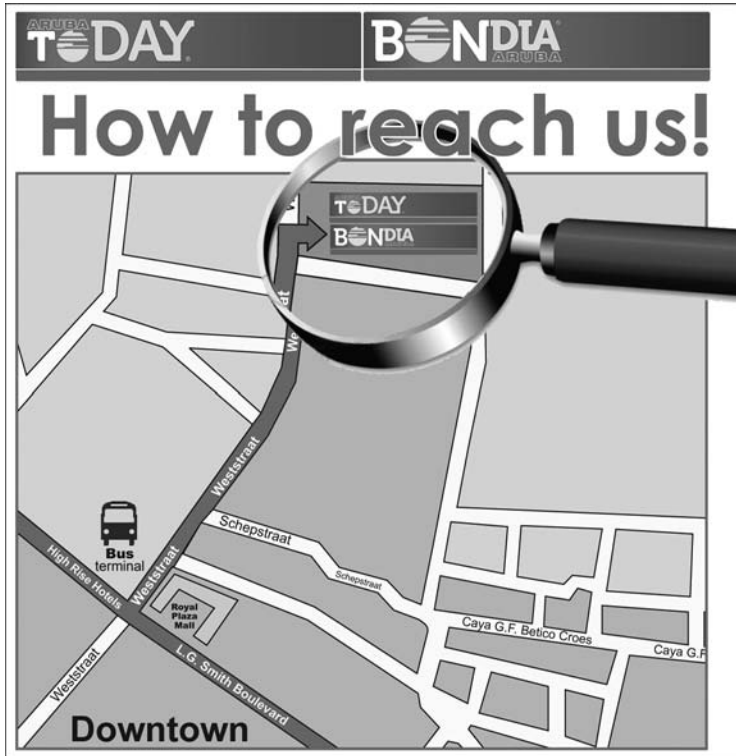
case alleging the turbines are harming mostly Black neighborhoods with pollutants.

As the chips get hot while they work, data centers need cooling mostly using water. While the absolute amount of water used is small around 0.3 percent of total supply in the US, according to electronics magazine IEEE Spectrum many are built in areas already facing high water stress. Other complaints against data centers include carbon emissions, noise and ultra-low-frequency "infrasound" vibrations that can be felt in the body.

- How have people responded? -

American campaign group Humans First has called for a "national day of protest" against "the unaccountable buildout of data centers" on Saturday 18. It was not clear in advance how many will follow the call from the conservative group, which follows months of a rising drumbeat of local opposition across the US. Beyond civil opposition to data centers, security non-profit The Soufan Group in May highlighted "a rise in direct threats against individuals perceived as driving (AI) technology forward" in the U.S..

Two major incidents this year have been a Molotov cocktail attack on OpenAI chief Sam Altman's house and a gun attack on the home of an Indianapolis politician.



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HEALTH



DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad Hospital 7:00 pm/10:00pm Tel. 527 4000	San Nicolas IMSAN 24 HOURS Tel. 524 8833
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PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Oduber Tel. 582 1780	San Nicolas: Aloe Tel. 584 4606
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OTHER

Dental Clinic	587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba	587 0002
Urgent Care	586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic	588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Police Oranjestad	527 3140
Police Noord	527 3200
Police Sta. Cruz	527 2900
Police San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulance	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

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Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

AID FOUNDATIONS

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FAVI- Visually Impaired Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous Tel. 583 8989
Against Domestic Violence(FCVR) Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Swiss researchers hoard vast trove of NASA climate data

Geneva, Switzerland

Researchers have copied massive quantities of publicly-available climate and environmental data from NASA onto a Swiss super-computer to train artificial intelligence models -- and for safekeeping amid US funding cuts.

Switzerland's Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH) university announced the move late last week, saying its researchers had copied around 100 petabytes of NASA data to the Swiss National Supercomputing Centre (CSCS) in the southern city of Lugano.

"The sheer amount is impossible to visualize," Reto Knutti, professor of climate physics and head of ETH's Center for Climate Systems Modeling (C2SM), told AFP. It had taken approximately a year to copy the roughly six billion files, he said -- the equivalent of around 20 million feature-length films, in terms of data volume.

And going forward, the researchers are also planning to copy large quantities of datasets from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).



NASA Associate Administrator for Science Thomas Zurbuchen speaks during the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) Technology Media Workshop Telecon Briefing and tour at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland, on September 12, 2022, ahead of the September 26th project test mission.

The datasets, gathered over decades, contain vital information about Earth systems, including greenhouse gases, clouds, precipitation and ice sheets.

They will be used to help train AI models capable of swift and reliable forecasting in areas like weather, climate and natural hazards.

- U.S. cuts -

Though it was not the main driver for the move, the researchers said their mission was partly motivated by concern over the impact of dramatic U.S. funding cuts for the scientific community.

ETH professor and former NASA chief scientist Thomas Zurbuchen, who initiated the data transfer, highlighted in a statement the key role the United States had

played in Earth observation for decades.

Without the extensive measurement programs run by NASA and NOAA, the world "would know far less about our planet today", he said. But since his return to office last year, U.S. President Donald Trump has pursued deep cuts to federal climate science and Earth-observation funding, including programs that

contribute data to international monitoring networks. Knutti pointed out that "so far, the US has not restricted access to the data".

"But we also know that decisions in the US administration are sometimes quick, and not completely obvious."

All the data copied so far had been publicly available, he stressed.

"It's not a secret."

- Data is 'gold' -

"Data is the new gold," Knutti said.

He pointed out that data-driven forecasting models -- known as foundation models -- were already beating the traditional models, which use mathematical equations to simulate the complex processes taking place in the oceans and atmosphere.

"Some of the foundation models are getting really, really good in terms of prediction skill," Knutti said, adding that they could also be "1,000 times faster than the physics-based models". Instead of the hours it traditionally took, "you can run a global weather forecast for multiple days -- the whole globe in a minute or so", he said. □

India successfully launches first private orbital rocket

Sriharikota, India

India's first privately built orbital rocket took its maiden flight on Saturday, its company said, marking a significant step for the South Asian giant as it eyes a bigger slice of the global space economy.

The Vikram-1 rocket, built

by Skyroot Aerospace and designed to carry small satellites into low-Earth orbit, took off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota amid loud cheers.

"Hello space, we have arrived!" Skyroot Aerospace said in a post on X. "Vi-

kram-1's Test Flight-1 has completed its mission. The first ever Indian private sector launch has been successfully completed."

Vikram-1 is about as tall as a seven-storey building and capable of carrying payloads weighing up to 350 kilograms (771 pounds).

Pawan Goenka, chairman of the government's Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre, said the achievement went "way beyond expectation for the very first orbital launch ever taken by an Indian private company".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the endeavour as "a defining moment in India's space journey".

"The growing participation of our private sector is opening new frontiers and

accelerating innovation," Modi said.

"This achievement will encourage countless youngsters to dream bigger and innovate fearlessly."

The rocket is carrying a diverse range of payloads, including a lab-grown diamond and robotic arms capable of removing space debris.

A miniature 18-karat gold rocket that has mini sculptures of Indian physicists Vikram Sarabhai, CV Raman and former Indian president and noted aerospace engineer APJ Abdul Kalam is also aboard the vehicle.

India's space ambitions, built on decades of investment by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), have gathered pace in recent years.

The country's space econ-

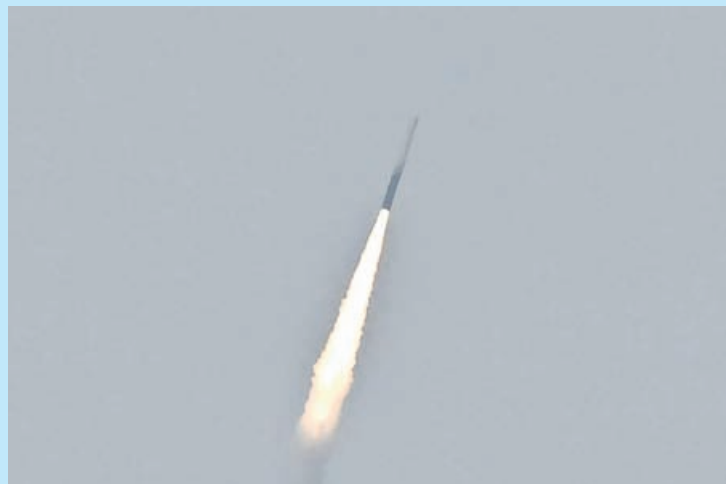
omy -- valued at around \$8.4 billion -- has rapidly expanded since the sector opened up to private players in 2020, and is now home to more than 400 space startups.

- 'New heights' -

"India's space ambitions soar to new heights!" Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar said after the successful launch.

In August 2023, India became only the fourth country to successfully land an unmanned spacecraft on the Moon, after Russia, the United States and China.

Former ISRO chairman K. Sivan hailed the work done by space startups, adding that the country was witnessing the "fruits of the seeds sown" when it opened up the sector to private players. □



India's Skyroot Aerospace orbital rocket Vikram-1 blasts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota on July 18, 2026.

Cyclists rage over Tour de France night-time doping tests

France

Professional riders and anti-doping testers were at loggerheads at the Tour de France after former winner Jonas Vingegaard crashed out following a night-time control.

Reigning champion Tadej Pogacar led the protests describing being woken up in the middle of the night for a doping test as "inhuman".

The drama broke on Sunday morning with a report in Le Parisien newspaper about both Vingegaard and Pogacar the two men who have dominated the Tour for the last six years being tested in the night.

Vingegaard confirmed he had been awoken at 2:00 am while Pogacar said that testers had been to his hotel at 5:00 am.

Both said that their sleep had been disturbed.

Vingegaard's Visma-Lease a Bike team-mate Matteo Jorgenson said he was "furious".

"This is a complete lack of respect for the riders," he told reporters.

The International Testing Agency (ITA) was responsible for the controls and issued a statement de-



Red Bull - BORA - hansgrohe team's Belgian rider Remco Evenepoel cycles to the finish line to win the 15th stage ahead of UAE Team Emirates - XRG's Slovenian rider Tadej Pogacar during the 113th edition of the Tour de France cycling race, 183,9 km between Champagnole and Plateau de Solaison in the Jura mountains, on July 19, 2026.

fending its actions, insisting that it had to conduct night-time tests to ensure it operates an "effective" anti-doping programme to protect "the integrity of cycling races".

It said that its "testing activities" were "subject to the safeguards established under the World Anti-Doping Code, the UCI Anti-Doping Rules and French law".

It also denied that it had

discarded "riders' welfare, equity and fundamental rights".

But the issue took on another dimension when Vingegaard crashed out with 20km left of Sunday's 183.9km stage from Champagnole in the Jura region to Plateau de Solaison in the Alps.

- 'It is ridiculous' -

Cycling has a dark and

murky history with doping but has significantly cleaned up its act over the last 15 years.

The days of looming suspicion over riders and whistleblowers revealing sordid details have been long left in the past.

The last Tour winner to be stripped of a victory was Spaniard Alberto Contador in 2010.

Lance Armstrong's seven

victories from 1999 to 2005 were erased from the record books while fellow American Floyd Landis was also stripped of his 2006 victory.

Dane Bjarne Riis and German Jan Ullrich admitted to doping in their respective 1996 and 1997 Tour wins, while suspicions remain over numerous other former Tour winners.

But the current generation race in a different, cleaner era.

Pogacar said that he was committed to demonstrating that the sport has changed.

"If this is necessary to still prove that we are riding clean... then I totally accept it," he said.

But the peloton was still up in arms.

His UAE Emirates-XRG team-mate Florian Vermeersch called the night-time testing "almost inhuman and insane".

"People will say that we are complaining and whining, but it is ridiculous," he said.

Olympic champion Remco Evenepoel was celebrating his first road stage victory at the Tour on Sunday but was still fuming about the testing. □

DeChambeau threatened to call Trump over British Open penalty: reports

London, United Kingdom

Bryson DeChambeau reportedly threatened to call US president Donald Trump in a bid to resolve his rules row at the British Open.

DeChambeau was given a two-shot penalty on Friday after tournament officials ruled he had improved the area of his backswing by flattening down some long grass on Royal Birkdale's fifth hole.

The 32-year-old American is believed to have hinted he would call Trump during lengthy discussions with the officials regarding the penalty, which dropped him from second place and two off the lead on Friday.

The two-time major winner is a friend of Trump, serving

on the President's council on sports, fitness and nutrition, playing golf with him and making an appearance at the White House in May.

Trump asked FIFA to review a red card shown to USA forward Folarin Balogun during the World Cup, and football's world governing body suspended the player's one-match ban.

DeChambeau wanted a similar intervention, but Trump apparently did not get involved on this occasion.

It is not known whether DeChambeau made contact with Trump privately, but on Saturday R&A chief executive Mark Darbon was asked whether the President had been in touch.

"No, I have not received a call from President Trump," he told BBC Sport.

"Irrespective of which player this affected, it is the same decision from a rules perspective it was clear cut."

It is understood that after his round on Saturday, DeChambeau visited Darbon, where his request to gain possession of his scorecard from the previous day was declined.

Rory McIlroy responded to DeChambeau's penalty by calling his rival's antics "performative".

DeChambeau finished the tournament in 14th place, six shots behind champion Ryan Fox, and refused to speak to the waiting media on Sunday.

"A lot of ups and downs

this week, to say the least. But I'm proud of the way I fought through it," DeChambeau said on Instagram.

"Thank you to all my sup-

porters for carrying me through. Onwards and upwards from here. Congratulations to Ryan Fox on an incredible win!" □



U.S. golfer Bryson DeChambeau leaves the 7th green on day four of the 154th Open Golf championship at Royal Birkdale Golf Club near Southport in north-west England on July 19, 2026.





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'The last of Messi': Argentines mourn loss and end of an era

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Nervous excitement and rowdy cheers turned into anguished groans, nailbiting tension and tears, as Argentines' hope of yet another epic comeback led by Lionel Messi in the World Cup fizzled out against Spain.

At the Cafe Relax bar in the historic center of Buenos Aires, fans with tears in their eyes after the final whistle blew on the 1-0 defeat said that what saddened them most was that it was almost certainly 39-year-old Messi's last shot at a World Cup. "I feel empty. Empty because of Messi, because I won't see him in a World Cup again. This is the last one," said Camilo Cichero, a 22-year-old architecture student who was comforting his crying friend.

"It's not how we expected it to go. At least it gives me peace of mind knowing he's already won everything there was to win."

Composing himself, his friend Juan Saenz, 22, a



Argentina's forward #10 Lionel Messi reacts after Spain won the 2026 World Cup football tournament final match between Spain and Argentina at the New York/New Jersey Stadium in East Rutherford on July 19, 2026.

law student said: "This was the last of Messi...it was the very end, and it finished this way."

"I was born while Messi was playing, and this was the end of that era."

But it was not all tears.

Around the city fireworks went off, car horns honked, and thousands of fans still made their way to the iconic Obelisk, the traditional place for football celebrations.

Initially crestfallen, they

soon began partying again to celebrate their team and many said that despite the defeat, they would take to the streets to welcome the team home on Monday.

"Thank you so much, players!!! You fought until the

very end. Argentina will always stand tall," President Javier Milei wrote on X.

- They gave it their all -

After a scrappy World Cup run built on a series of narrow victories, Argentines were confident they could pull off a second victory in a row in the final in New Jersey.

Draped in their blue-and-white flag and donning the national football jersey, they braved an icy cold day to pack bars and public squares, fizzing with excitement at the start of the game.

In Cafe Relax, which displays a flag saying it is "forbidden to forget" the Falkland Islands, which Argentina invaded in 1982 only to be ejected by a British task force, nervous energy and excited chants gave way to tension by half-time.

In the second half angry shouts at the screen were interspersed with excited chants, and increasingly foul language, while some sat arms folded, feet tapping and chewing their nails or burying their heads in the flag.

"Oh no, it can't be, please, please!" wailed one woman when Enzo Fernandez was sent off for two yellow cards.

Before extra time began, Teresa Dolores del Rio Varela, 87, complained that "it drags on and on, and you start to get nervous. I'm happy, but I just want it to end because it's getting long."

Joaquin Romero, 22, who works in sales said the game was "incredibly complicated. I don't know how it'll happen, but it's going to happen for us. We're Argentine. e're champions and we're going to win." □

Mbappe retains World Cup Golden Boot crown

East Rutherford, United States

Kylian Mbappe became the first player to win the World Cup Golden Boot twice after Lionel Messi failed to add to his tally in Sunday's final.

The France captain scored 10 goals to top the charts ahead of Argentina great Messi, who finished with eight.

England midfielder Jude Bellingham and Norway striker Erling Haaland each scored seven times.

Real Madrid forward Mbappe, 27, also won the prize with eight goals at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, where France were beaten finalists.

The Frenchman, who made his World Cup debut in 2018, scored twice in Saturday's third-place play-off, which England won 6-4.

Mbappe is now the top scorer in World Cup history, with 22 goals across three World Cups, one ahead of Messi, who failed to sparkle in Sunday's 1-0 defeat by

Spain.

"When you score that many goals in the World Cup, it certainly takes you to a whole new level," he said after the match against England.

"But I would have preferred not to be the top scorer and to have played in the final. It's good for my legacy once I've retired, but right now, that's not what's on my mind."

Outgoing France coach Didier Deschamps, who has guided Mbappe through each of his World Cup campaigns, said: "He's an extraordinary player. He is a brilliant captain."

Spain midfielder Rodri won the Golden Ball award for player of the tournament, while his teammate Unai Simon claimed the Golden Glove award for best goalkeeper after conceding just once in eight games.

Spain defender Pau Cubarsi, 19, won the FIFA young player award. □



Kylian Mbappe of France looks on during the 2026 FIFA World Cup bronze-final match between France and England at Miami Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida, United States, on July 18, 2026.