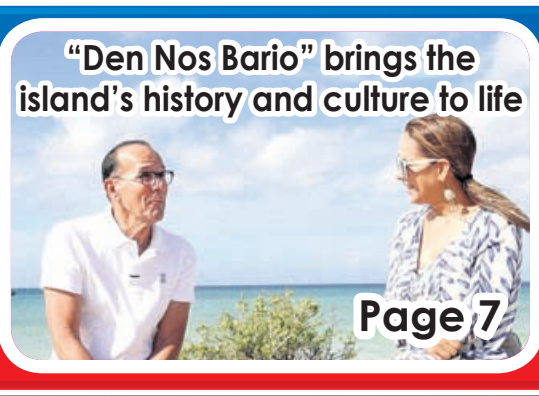
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California governor says commuting all death sentences in state

Los Angeles, United States
California Governor Gavin Newsom said Thursday he was commuting all death sentences across the state to life imprisonment, in a move that will affect over 500 prisoners.
Newsom, who is widely expected to make a run for the White House in 2028, said capital punishment was "incompatible" with the values of the most populous state in the US.
"Today I am acting on my long and deeply held conviction that individually and collectively we are stronger as a society when we reject state-sanctioned killing," he wrote in a letter addressed "to all Californians."
With 548 people awaiting execution in California, the state has one of the largest death row populations in the world.
However, it has not carried out a death sentence for two decades, even as courts continue to impose the penalty on those convicted of murder and other serious crimes.
"Many Californians feel that those who commit brutal crimes deserve to die. But as governor, I have concluded the state cannot morally kill them," he said, calling the decision "among the most difficult of my career."



California Governor Gavin Newsom speaks at a campaign rally at the Hollywood Palladium in Hollywood, California, on November 1, 2026.

"I do, however, pray that this action will finally separate the memories of the victims of these crimes from the fate of those who harmed them. We can now let these offenders die in obscurity while we forever remember and honor their victims."
The announcement comes with a renewed spotlight on the death penalty in the United States, one of the few wealthy countries to retain capital punishment.
In September, the state of Tennessee failed twice to kill convicted murderer Christa Pike with a lethal injection before rushing her to hospital. The drama made headlines around the world.

Last month Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced that the firing squad execution of a man who went on a shooting rampage at a US Army base would be livestreamed.
Days later and after an outcry from both sides of the political aisle, as well as from the Catholic Church and the United Nations, President Donald Trump cancelled the plan, saying Nidal Hasan would still die, but that the sentence would not be broadcast.

- 'Not by our hand' -
In a lengthy letter Thursday, Newsom appeared to be walking the public through his thought process and the discussions he said he has had on the issue.
He said the decision to issue a blanket commutation for all death row inmates came down to not differentiating among those affected by heinous acts.

"I have concluded that attempting to distinguish among crimes and offenders for clemency would inadvertently create two classes of murder victims those whose perpetrators deserve the death penalty and then the rest," Newsom said.
"I will therefore issue the same commutation to every condemned person life without the possibility of parole," he added.
"These offenders will die in prison, but not by our hand."
Jess Nichol, whose sister's killer is on death row in California, said she had previously wanted the culprit to die for his crime.
"But over time I've realized that whether he's executed has absolutely nothing to do with my recovery or with real public safety," she said.

e system tells survivors that execution matters to our healing. It doesn't. It's a distraction from what we actually need."
The American Civil Liberties Union applauded the move over a practice it said conlifted with "human dignity, fairness, and the values enshrined in our Constitution."❑

Leftist Nithya Raman beats Democratic incumbent to become L.A. mayor



Los Angeles mayoral candidate Nithya Raman speaks during an election night watch party at the Greek Theatre plaza in Los Angeles, on November 3, 2026.

Los Angeles, United States
Democratic socialist Nithya Raman ousted incumbent Democrat Karen Bass to become the next mayor of Los Angeles, ending a heated race that saw the one-time allies spar over frustration with the status quo.
Bass called Raman on Thursday to concede, after the latest numbers showed Raman with 52 percent of the vote against the outgoing mayor's 48 percent, with three-quarters of votes counted.
"I'm deeply honored to be your next mayor," said Raman, 45, in a statement on social media.
"I love this city. I believe in its people. The work ahead will be hard, and change will take time. And together, we are going to build a future as extraordinary as the city we call home."
Raman, 45, campaigned in the nation's second-largest city on a platform of "pothole politics" -- dubbing broken streetlights and jagged sidewalks as failures of her predecessor's leadership -- while harnessing the anger of younger voters over affordability.
Her victory is yet another in the win column for candidates backed by the Democratic Socialists of America, who have propelled a cadre of left-wing leaders into office in cities across the country as well as Congress.
Raman, who was the first DSA-affiliated Los Angeles city council member, will now helm the entertainment capital as it prepares to host the 2028 Olympics.
Bass, 73, was elected in 2022 as the first Black woman mayor in Los Angeles history, and entered the role with decades of state and federal government experience.
But her term was riddled with setbacks. She was haunted by her handling of deadly wildfires in 2025, which erupted while she was traveling for the Biden administration.
"While this is not the outcome we hoped for, the people of Los Angeles have spoken," Bass said in a statement.
"I have called Councilmember Nithya Raman to congratulate her on her victory, and I have committed to ensuring a smooth and seamless transition. Moving this city forward is what Los Angeles needs from all of us."

- 'Broken status quo' -
Raman was an 11th-hour entrant into the race, and had even initially backed Bass's re-election bid.❑

‘We’re not for sale’: Americans want to pump brakes on data centers

New York, United States

Voters in dozens of American cities approved restrictions or outright bans on data centers during Tuesday's midterm elections, in one of the clearest signals that a groundswell of anger over the AI boom has cut across political divides.

“Democrat, Republican, that didn’t matter,” said Alisha Lange, a farmer from Piqua, Ohio. “People want their town back.”

She was one of the driving forces behind the grassroots group Save Piqua, which advocated for a ban on data centers with a capacity of more than 25 megawatts, effectively ruling out any large-scale project.

The ban passed in a ballot measure on Tuesday and now jeopardizes the construction of a data center worth more than $1 billion planned by Meta, even though the project had already been approved.

The 42-year-old farmer wept with joy when she learned that two-thirds of voters approved the measure.

“We’re just a little farm town, and we would much rather just have a cornfield or have some sort of industry that provides an income to a larger amount of people,” she said, referring to the relatively small number of jobs that data centers tend to create after they’re built.



In an aerial view, a farm house is seen across the road from a portion of the Meta Prometheus Campus, an AI data center and super cluster project, is seen on November 1, 2026 in New Albany, Ohio.

While ballots are still being counted around the country, more than three dozen local measures have already passed that resulted in tighter regulations for data centers, according to consulting firm Redbud Consulting.

The outcomes add to restrictions already imposed by nearly 600 jurisdictions across the country, according to Electric Choice, including entire states in some cases, like New York and Texas.

Meta isn’t the only big tech company spending billions on data center construction -- Google, Microsoft and Amazon are also investing heavily in an effort to meet growing demand for their AI products and services.

- Last straw -

In Ottawa, a small town near Kansas City, residents also overwhelmingly approved a ban on large data centers.

“We’re not for sale,” Michael Lewis said.

Lewis is a member of a grassroots organization called Ottawa United, and ran for Congress this cycle as a Democrat, though he lost on Tuesday to the incumbent Republican.

“You can dangle some money in our face, it doesn’t mean we’re going to give away our resources and deal with the environmental issues that stem from” data centers, he said.

In Janesville, Wisconsin, a majority of city council members were initially open to a proposal from developer Viridian, which was ready to put $8 billion on the table to build a data center on a former General Motors site that closed in 2008.

But communities are starting to ask for more than job creation potential and total investment when scrutinizing new construction projects.

“What we’re seeing now is that there is a much broader range of indicators that indicates a good project or a bad one,” Cathy Erdman, a member of Janesville for Responsible Development, said.

A project’s impacts on local tax streams, broader infrastructure, quality of life and other land uses “can be equal to or greater in importance than the number of jobs or just the dollar amount in capital investment,” Erdman said.

Under pressure, the city council ultimately rejected the Viridian project in June, then adopted a one-year moratorium, before a majority of voters on Tuesday backed new restrictions.

Any large-scale project on the former General Motors site must now be approved by referendum.

While some in Janesville went to the polls to express their outright opposition to data centers, others simply wanted “more transparency,” Erdman said.❑

Melania Trump calls for ‘more enduring’ Ukraine ceasefire

Washington, United States

U.S. First Lady Melania Trump called for a new, “more enduring” ceasefire in Ukraine as she hosted officials from the war-torn country and its invader Russia at the White House on Thursday.

Trump earlier helped negotiate a six-day ceasefire in the Russian-occupied town of Oleshky, which ended on Sunday. The brief pause was one of the most notable instances of Russian-Ukrainian cooperation since Moscow invaded its neighbour in 2022.

“I hope Oleshky inspires greater peace. Every significant transformation begins with a small spark,” Trump told reporters at a joint press conference with Russian presidential envoy Kirill Dmitriev and Ukrainian ceasefire negotiator David Arakhamia.

“Now we must use the courage we brought to Oleshky to find common ground through a shared concern for the suffering of innocent people,” Trump added. “Together, we can create something more enduring than a temporary ceasefire.”

She concluded by saying that she had written personal letters to Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky.

“The ceasefire in Oleshky would not be possible without President Putin and President Zelensky. Their cooperation establishes a meaningful precedent for advancing peace throughout the region,” she added.

Ukraine’s human rights ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets presented Melania Trump with a national award for her role in brokering the Oleshky ceasefire that enabled the evacuation of civilians.

Dmitriev said that “on behalf of President Putin, on behalf of people of the Russian Federation, we would like to thank First Lady Melania Trump for her distinguished humanitarian role in resolving Oleskhy situation.”

The rare, if brief halt in fighting, which was respected by both sides, allowed roads to be demined and residents to depart for either Ukraine or Russia.

The first lady has also been involved in efforts to return Ukrainian children taken to Russia.❑



Russia’s presidential envoy Kirill Dmitriev (L) presents U.S. First Lady Melania Trump with a child’s drawing during an event marking the ceasefire in the Russian-occupied city of Oleshky, at the White House in Washington, DC, on November 5, 2026.

India's 'Lord of the Rings': filmmakers hail 'Ramayana' epic

London, United Kingdom

The makers of an Indian blockbuster based on the ancient Hindu epic Ramayana have hailed the new film as an unprecedented fusion of homegrown and Hollywood talent, calling it India's first truly global release.

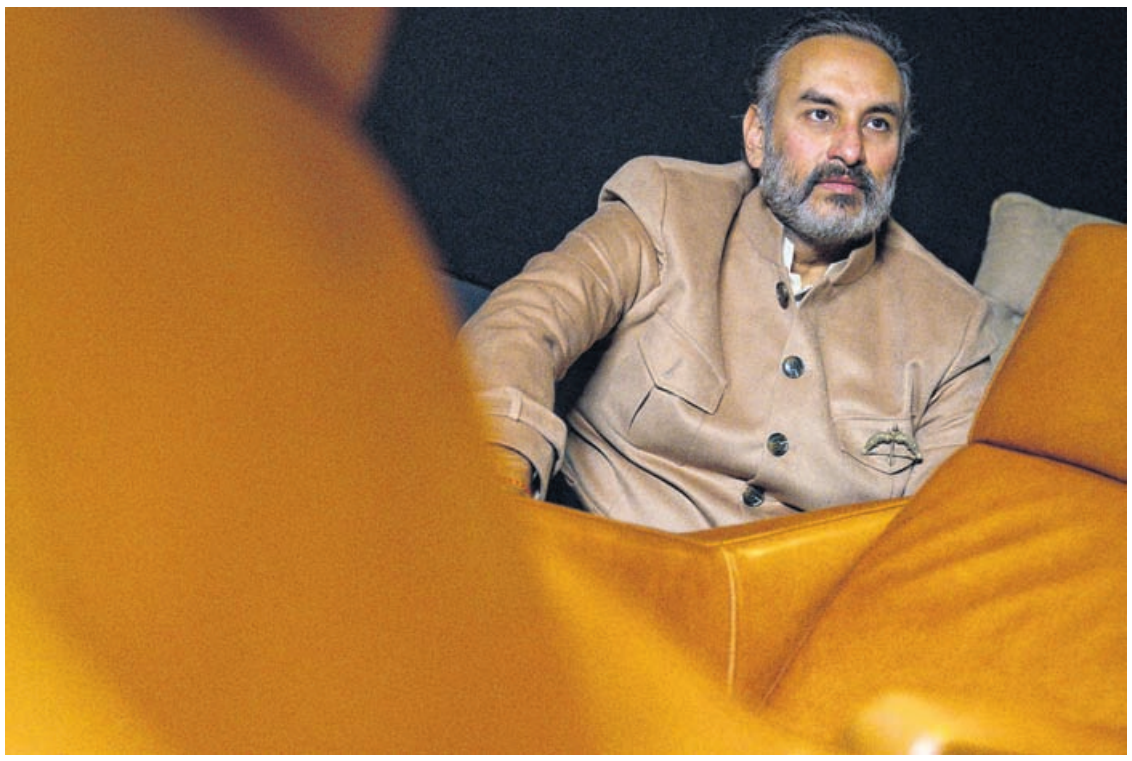
"Ramayana: Rise of a Legend" -- in cinemas worldwide from Thursday -- has been more than a decade in the making, with a reported mega $420 million combined budget.

It draws on the talents of Oscar winners in visual effects and music, buoyed by a stellar cast featuring some of Indian cinema's biggest names.

"People from all over the world came in to work on this project," Bollywood superstar Ranbir Kapoor told AFP in London before its release.

"So we really had the platform to really express (ourselves) in the best way possible."

The film, inspired by the millennia-old Sanskrit epic that serves as a foundational text for Hindus, chronicles the virtuous Rama's (Kapoor) battle to save his kidnapped wife Sita from the evil demon king Ravana, played by fan-favourite Yash, who goes by one name.



This photo taken on April 29, 2026 shows Namit Malhotra, CEO of Double Negative (DNEG), a film special effects company, posing for a portrait at their London offices.

This latest screen adaptation featuring flying elephants and gargantuan-sized demons is bursting with computer-generated visual effects, known in the industry as VFX.

The brainchild of producer Namit Malhotra, his UK-headquartered visual effects arm DNEG has won eight Academy Awards for work on films including "Inception" and "Dune".

The movie, which has Hindi and English versions, has been scored by Oscar-winning composers Hans Zimmer and A.R. Rahman, while its action directors and production designers boast numerous Hollywood credits.

Planned as a two-part spectacle, the creators believe it heralds a breakout moment globally for India's film industry, which has yet to win an Oscar in the coveted film categories.

- 'Authentically Indian' -

"It's the largest production in the history of Indian cinema," said Malhotra, who has branded it India's "Star Wars" or "Lord of the Rings".

"The story and the scale and the spectacle is something that the world, I think, is ready to consume."

Long dominated by mass-market Hindi-language Bollywood, Indian cinema churns out around 2,000 films each year and has been expanding its global appeal.

That has been fuelled in part by the country's strong diaspora networks and increasing access to Bollywood offerings on streaming platforms such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video.

With its English version, Hollywood special effects and epic battle scenes, "Ramayana" appears aimed at international audiences as much as the movie-mad country of 1.4 billion people.

Made by Malhotra's Mumbai-based Prime Focus Studios and actor Yash's Monster Mind Creations, with Sony Pictures the international distributor, it eschews some hallmarks of traditional Bollywood, in particular its elaborate song-and-dance routines.

But many of Bollywood's core ingredients -- melodrama, romance and action alongside awe-inspiring landscapes and a long running time of nearly three hours for the English version -- are present.

"It's a very original telling of a very original story from India, and it makes no compromises in that regard. It keeps it authentically Indian," Malhotra said.

Yash, a hugely popular figure in India's Kannada-language cinema who co-produced and co-stars in "Ramayana", told AFP that "East and West have come together in a true sense".

The release and its global nature were "a very important moment" for Indian cinema, he added.

- 'Personal connection' -

In the film, Sita, played by South Indian star Sai Pallavi, is a fearless, fighting character.

She and other cast members highlighted the responsibility they felt in their roles, since many Indians have "a very personal connection with these characters". ❑

Met Gala unveils new theme after Galliano controversy



This combination of file pictures created on March 17, 2026 shows British designer John Galliano at the end of Christian Dior ready-to-wear Spring-Summer 2010 fashion show in Paris and the logo of Zara pictured in Paris on August 16, 2025.

New York, United States

New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art on Thursday announced a new theme for the exhibition accompanying its prestigious annual Met Gala, after scrapping a planned retrospective of British designer John Galliano amid controversy over his past anti-Semitic remarks.

Running from May 9, 2027, to January 9, 2028, the exhibition, titled extraORDINARY, "will examine how design reveals unexpected possibilities within everyday things," the renowned New York museum said in a press release.

The exhibition was initially planned as a retrospective of Galliano, but the designer and the museum announced in late August that it would not go ahead, following criticism from donors and political figures over the fashion designer's past comments.

"After much reflection and discussion with all those involved, I have decided, with great sadness, that it is best for the exhibition not to take place at this time," Galliano, 65, wrote on Instagram then.

"I remain fully accountable for the pain caused by my words in the past, particularly the hurt I caused to the Jewish and Asian communities, and I remain deeply sorry," he added.

Galliano, who served as creative director of Christian Dior from 1996 to 2011 and is widely regarded as one of his generation's most talented designers, saw his career collapse after making antisemitic remarks to customers at a Paris bar.

He was subsequently convicted by a French court over the incident.

After a period of rehabilitation and personal work, he found a new home at the discreet but influential fashion house Maison Margiela. He served as the label's creative director for a decade, leaving in 2024.

In March 2026, he announced a two-year artistic partnership with Spanish fashion retailer Zara.

The Met's annual Costume Institute exhibition is largely funded by its star-studded gala, which draws leading figures from fashion and entertainment. The 2027 edition of the event is scheduled for May 3.❑

Canada budget calls for 'economic independence,' shift from U.S.

Ottawa, Canada

Canada unveiled a budget on Thursday that calls for "economic independence" and says that while reducing its reliance on the United States will take time, "the shift is underway."

Prime Minister Mark Carney's second budget since taking office last year was presented to parliament just two days after President Donald Trump suffered a sweeping midterm election rebuke.

While Democrats, who will take control of the US House and Senate next year, have already voiced a desire to ease Trump's trade war with Canada, Carney's budget affirms that the Canadian economy cannot remain dependent on the U.S. market.

"Canada and the United States will not return to our old relationship," the budget says, echoing Carney's message that pre-Trump tariff-free North American trade is not coming back.

The budget, titled "Masters of our Destiny," details plans for Canada's first-ever sovereign wealth fund.

The CAN$25 billion ($18.3 billion) Canada Strong Fund will invest in major national projects, with Ottawa hoping that a government stake in such projects will help attract private capital.



Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney speaks to members of the press on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada on November 5, 2026.

The budget further marks Carney's decisive break with his predecessor, Justin Trudeau, another Liberal, whose economic stewardship faced criticism.

The budget presented by Finance Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne says Carney's government inherited an economy plagued by weak productivity growth in which "private sector investment lagged," while "Canada remained excessively dependent on the United States."

"Diversification will take time, given the scale and depth of Canada's economic relationship with the United States. But the shift is underway," the budget says.

Speaking earlier Thursday, Carney told reporters that political developments in the United States are "important" and that bilateral relations will "evolve," but his priority remained more "independence."

"We're focused here, we're focused on the same issues as we were at the start of the week," before the midterms, he said.

- 'Mega deduction' -

The budget also details a tax incentive Carney introduced at a major investment summit in September, where he gathered global financial heavyweights in Toronto to try to persuade them to invest in Canada.

The "Productivity Mega Deduction" allows businesses of all sizes to deduct the costs of new investments and, according to Ottawa, makes Canada an increasingly attractive investment destination compared to the United States.

"Put simply, a company will pay approximately 60 percent less tax on the return from a new investment made in Canada than on the same investment made in the United States," the budget says.

The budget also acknowledges the pain Trump's tariffs have inflicted across key sectors of the economy, notably automaking, steel, aluminum and lumber.

It says CAN$44 billion has already been announced for businesses and workers impacted by tariffs.

Ten billion of that is allocated to workers, nearly CAN$13 billion is to provide liquidity for larger businesses facing cash flow challenges due to tariff disruptions, and another CAN$20.6 billion is to help businesses adapt in response to Trump's tariffs.

"The rules that Canada relied on for decades can no longer be taken for granted," Champagne told reporters before his budget speech, insisting Canada was in a strong fiscal position with "room to maneuver."

In Canada, governments collapse if their budgets are rejected, and last year Carney's government needed opposition support and abstentions to survive, but his Liberals have since secured a parliamentary majority.❑

Are chocolate bear cubs France's new macarons?

Paris, France

Eclairs, cream puffs and cookies have all been contenders but after a high-end makeover, little chocolate-covered marshmallow bear cubs -- "oursons au chocolat" -- could be France's new macarons as they excite taste buds across the country.

Familiar to French palates since the 1960s, pastry chef Christophe Michalak gave the sweet treats a gourmet twist in the early 2000s.

Since then, with social media and pop-up stores boosting interest and visibility, no chocolatier now seems willing to do without them -- nor do customers.

Fillings and coatings range from bitter dark chocolate and marshmallow to passion fruit confit and crisp praline -- the latter coming from chocolatier Caffet, which has trademarked the phrase: "Without doubt the best bear cubs in the world."

- Comfort blanket -

The little bear began its life in a factory back in 1962, produced by confectioner Bouquet d'Or, since bought by Cemoi.

They are still being made in Villeneuve-d'Ascq in northern France, but since their 21st-century makeover, the rate of production has ramped up, according to Cemoi factory boss, Armando Mendes, interviewed by AFP, who prefers not to give any figures.

What might explain the French sweet tooth for the bear cubs?

For Sylvie Douce, creator of the Salon du chocolat and owner of Le Boissier, a specialist in old-fashioned confectionery, their success is rooted in psychology.

"The chocolate-marshmallow teddy has a sort of gustatory comfort-blanket side, "she said.

"Chocolate is the reassuring, hard side, and marshmallow is the soft side," she added.

"With the bear cub there's also a kind of impulse, because you eat it by trying to tear off the head or a foot first, it's thrilling."

- Treat for all seasons -

Given their generally high-end range of treats, "chocolatiers need entry-level products," said Patrick Morliere, managing director of La Maison du Chocolat.



This photograph taken on October 27, 2026, shows chocolate bears displayed at French chain of chocolate stores 'La Maison du Chocolat' in Paris.

They launched their bear cub range in September, achieving "incredible sales figures," he said.

Chocolatiers are also eyeing world markets.

For Morliere predicts the US is "only a matter of time". With Asia however, which has less of a sweet tooth "it's more complicated".❑

Boy George sparks delight in Israel as rare international pop performer

Tel Aviv, Israel

When cheers erupted at a packed Tel Aviv stadium for Boy George, it was not only a sign of the 65-year-old singer's enduring fame. It was the sound of national delight at an international pop star willing to perform in an increasingly isolated Israel.

A smattering of Israeli flags dotted the crowd as the flamboyant Culture Club frontman took the stage in a sequined jacket for Wednesday's sold-out performance with a simple greeting of "Shalom!"

The British singer is one of the few international artists to have defied calls for a cultural boycott of Israel that have intensified over its military offensive in Gaza since Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack.

"Culturally speaking, he is the most amazing thing that has ever happened to us," Nachum, a Boy George fan for more than 40 years, told AFP as he prepared to enter the arena.

"I'd even call him a hero -- especially considering the courage he showed in coming here, despite receiving a great many threats."



British singer Boy George performs onstage during a concert in Tel Aviv on November 4, 2026.

Boy George's vocal support of Israel came to the fore in July, when he released a song titled "We Will Dance Again", whose lyrics offer solidarity with October 7 victims and support for Israel's campaign in Gaza.

The reggae-infused song, which starts with the lyrics: "You say genocide, I say war", has triggered widespread backlash which led Boy George to drop out of a West End musical.

But on Wednesday in Tel Aviv, the biggest applause of the night came during that song, with huge cheers erupting as the star sang: "If you're ever confused, I stand with the Jews."

Addressing the stadium during a musical interlude, Boy George told supporters to "show the world that hate is far less fun than love".

"He's really brave, really brave to stand out for us," said Merav, a fan whose friends had come to the show decked out in Boy George merchandise.

"Especially nowadays when people are afraid to support Israel, when all the propaganda is against us, he's standing for us and I think it's something we should all really appreciate."

- 'Old Boy George no longer exists' -

October 7, 2023 was the deadliest day in Israel's history, when Palestinian fighters breached the Gaza border and stormed southern Israel with gunfire, rockets and grenades.

The attack resulted in the deaths of 1,221 people, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures, with militants dragging 251 hostages into Gaza.

It triggered a massive Israeli military offensive that has left Gaza in ruins and killed more than 74,500 people, according to Gaza's health ministry, which is under Hamas authority and whose figures are considered reliable by the United Nations.

Few international artists have performed in Israel since then, with support seen as increasingly taboo.

Last year saw the launch of a music collective called "No Music for Genocide", with artists including Bjork and Massive Attack seeking to block the streaming of their songs in Israel.

A campaign to boycott Israel, known as the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, began 20 years ago over the country's occupation of Palestinian territory. The Israeli government accuses its supporters of being anti-Semitic, charges they deny.

In September, BDS published a call by a pro-Palestinian group for a boycott of British pop star Ed Sheeran's world tour after US rapper Macklemore was dropped as a supporting act over pro-Palestinian comments.

During his visit to the country, Boy George acknowledged the pressures he had faced over his pro-Israel stance.

"In some ways, the old Boy George no longer exists, because some people don't see me in the way they used to, and a lot of other people see me in a new way," he said while meeting President Isaac Herzog.

The LGBTQ trailblazer, whose real name is George O'Dowd, has often spoken of feeling a kinship with the Jewish community around which he grew up in London.

On Tuesday, he visited the site of the Nova music festival, where Hamas-led militants killed more than 360 revellers on October 7.

Boy George said the tragedy inspired him to write his latest song. He is due to perform another Tel Aviv concert on Saturday, with 1,500 tickets donated to survivors and bereaved families.❑

Nepal court gives green light to 'controlled' cannabis cultivation



A Sadhu, or Hindu holy man, smokes marijuana on the premises of Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu, Nepal, on February 25, 2025, the eve of Maha Shivaratri.

Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepal's top court gave the green light to regulated cannabis cultivation for some uses, decades after the Himalayan nation banned the crop, a petitioner in the case told AFP on Thursday.

The Supreme Court ordered the government to make the "necessary arrangements" for the "controlled cultivation and production of cannabis".

The framework would allow cultivation for medicinal, scientific, agricultural, horticultural and industrial purposes. The court also asked for wider consultations on recreational use.

The ruling was issued in May 2025, but court documents were destroyed in a fire that September during protests that toppled the government. Its full text was released only this week.

"We feel grateful to the Supreme Court for this verdict," Saroj Adhikari, one of the petitioners, told AFP.

Nepal revoked licences for cannabis dealers in 1973 under international pressure during a US-led campaign against drugs.

Before that, Kathmandu had been a magnet for cannabis enthusiasts, with thousands of foreign backpackers flocking to buy hashish from government-licensed shops.

Former health minister Birodh Khatiwada has long called for the ban to be lifted.

"The decision came after a long wait," said Khatiwada, who sponsored a related parliamentary motion in 2020.

"Many developed nations have adopted legal cultivation, and we should not delay for it," he added, arguing that regulation could create jobs and generate income while curbing illegal trade.❑

Discover the Aruba Beyond the Beaches:

"Den Nos Bario" brings the island's history and culture to life

ORANJESTAD — Aruba is known around the world for its beautiful beaches, warm hospitality, and unforgettable vacation experiences. But beyond the island's famous attractions lies a rich history of communities, traditions, and remarkable people whose stories deserve to be told.



Den Nos Bario ("In Our Neighborhood"), a cultural and educational documentary series presented by Siomara Everon, invites residents and international visitors alike to discover this lesser-known side of Aruba.

With English subtitles made possible through collaboration with the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA), the series offers visitors an opportunity to connect with the island's authentic cultural heritage, understand its communities, and experience Aruba beyond the traditional tourist attractions.

The latest installment of Den Nos Bario features three episodes dedicated to Noord, one of Aruba's best-known districts. The first episode premieres on Friday, November 6, 2026, at 7:00 PM on TeleAruba, with episodes also available on YouTube.

Discovering the stories behind Aruba's communities

For the past three years, Den Nos Bario has been documenting the social, economic, and cultural history of Aruba's neighborhoods. The project began in San Nicolas and has now reached Noord, where the production team explores the people, traditions, and historical events that shaped the district.

Through interviews with longtime residents, historical research, and personal accounts passed down through generations, the series brings to life stories that might otherwise be forgotten.

The new episodes reveal fascinating details about Noord's past, including freshwater wells once located near the coastline, where boats could reportedly enter to collect drinking water. These wells played an important role in the daily lives of earlier generations.

Another story introduces Pedro Matacuatro, a figure associated with a tragic event that continues to evoke strong emotions among those familiar with the district's history.

These stories offer a different perspective on places visitors may already know, revealing the lives and experiences of the people who helped shape Aruba.

Preserving Aruba's Heritage for Future Generations

At the heart of Den Nos Bario is a commitment to preserving Aruba's oral history: the memories, experiences, and stories shared from one generation to the next.

Presented by Siomara Everon, the series combines personal testimonies with historical research conducted in collaboration with the National Archaeological Museum, National Archives, National Library, anthropologists, historians, and local community members.

The production also uses artificial intelligence to animate historical photographs and documents and recreate scenes from the past, helping viewers visualize how life in Aruba once looked.

The project is supported by UNOCA, contributing to the documentation and preservation of Aruba's cultural heritage.

Beyond entertainment, the documentaries are intended to serve as educational resources, particularly for younger generations learning about their island's history.

An Invitation to Experience the Authentic Aruba

Through its collaboration with the Aruba Tourism Authority, Den Nos Bario is expanding its accessibility to international audiences by providing English subtitles.

This initiative allows visitors to discover a side of Aruba that is not always visible during a traditional vacation.

From the stories of fishing communities and historic neighborhoods to the traditions that continue to shape everyday life, the documentaries offer a deeper understanding of the island and its people.

The production also aims to make the documentaries accessible in hotels and at the airport, giving travelers additional opportunities to discover Aruba's history and cultural identity.

For visitors interested in cultural experiences, local heritage, and the stories behind their favorite destinations, Den Nos Bario offers a meaningful way to connect with Aruba.

Where to Watch

The first of three new episodes dedicated to Noord premieres Friday, November 6, 2026, at 7:00 PM (Aruba time) on TeleAruba.

Viewers can also find Den Nos Bario on YouTube by searching for the series title. Previous productions are available there as well.

Whether you are visiting Aruba for the first time, returning to your favorite Caribbean destination, or simply curious about the island's history, Den Nos Bario invites you to discover the stories, traditions, and communities that make Aruba truly unique.

Because Aruba is more than a destination. It is an island of stories worth discovering.❑



Rock stacking and its harmful effects

(Oranjestad)—The organization Aruba Birdlife Conservation has in the past raised concerns about the phenomenon of "rock stacking" in the area of Baby Beach and warned about the dangers it poses, especially for children.

As known, "rock stacking" is not illegal in Aruba, but its impact on nature is harmful as the stones form part of the natural habitat of small animal species living in Aruba's wilderness. Experts warn that "rock stacking" could even lead certain species to extinction.

In Aruba, much of the "rock stacking" also occurs near Arikok National Park. Although this activity is not illegal in Aruba, it may be time for park authorities to impose stricter regulations on this activity.

Tourists often believe that the meaning behind this activity is making a wish, but they do not realize its negative impact.



Aruba Birdlife Conservation's post not only raises alarms about the activity but also now that this phenomenon has reached Baby Beach, some of the stacked stone towers are up to 1.7 meters high, which can be very dangerous, especially for children.❑



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Bucuti & Tara Wins Prestigious International Award for Best Service



ORANJESTAD — Aruba's Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort has received another international distinction, winning the award for Best Service in North America (USA & The Caribbean) at the 2027 Condé Nast Johansens Awards for Excellence.

Founder and owner Sir Ewald Biemans personally accepted the award during a ceremony held on November 2 at Montcalm Mayfair in London, where hospitality professionals gathered to recognize excellence in luxury tourism.

The Condé Nast Johansens Awards for Excellence recognize outstanding hotels, resorts and spas worldwide. Winners are selected through a combination of guest feedback, online voting and assessments by experienced hospitality experts.

Located on Eagle Beach, Bucuti & Tara has built an international reputation as an adults-only luxury resort specializing in romantic getaways and personalized service. The property has received numerous distinctions, including nine consecutive years of recognition in Condé Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards.

"We are deeply honored to receive this recognition from Condé Nast Johansens," Biemans stated. He described the award as a tribute to the resort's employees, whose dedication and personal attention contribute to the guest experience.

The recognition comes as Bucuti & Tara undergoes further development under Managing Director Crescenzia Biemans, granddaughter of the resort's founder.

Recent investments include renovations and modernization of guest accommodations, introducing contemporary designs and improved comfort. The resort has also expanded its culinary offerings with Terra by Jeremy Ford, a restaurant associated with the acclaimed American chef.

Wellness is another growing priority. The resort now offers up to five daily activities, including yoga, meditation and fitness, supported by a dedicated Wellness Concierge.

Beyond luxury hospitality, Bucuti & Tara has received international recognition for its environmental initiatives. In 2018, it became the Caribbean's first Certified CarbonNeutral resort and subsequently received a United Nations Global Climate Action Award.

In April 2026, Ewald Biemans was appointed Knight of the Order of Orange-Nassau by King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, recognizing his contributions to Aruba, sustainable tourism and society. The latest award adds to the resort's international achievements and highlights Aruba's presence in the competitive luxury hospitality market.❑

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Aruba to Honor World War II Hero Boy Ecury on November 6

ORANJESTAD — On Friday, November 6, Aruba will commemorate one of its greatest national heroes, Segundo Jorge Adelberto "Boy" Ecury, a young Aruban resistance fighter who sacrificed his life during World War II.

The official remembrance ceremony will take place at Parke Boy Ecury in Oranjestad, beginning at 9:00 AM, marking 82 years since his execution by Nazi German forces in the Netherlands.

For visitors to Aruba, the commemoration offers an opportunity to discover an important chapter of the island's history and learn about a young man whose courage and determination made him a lasting symbol of freedom and resistance against oppression.

Although Aruba is geographically far removed from the European battlefields of World War II, its history is closely connected to the conflict through its relationship with the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Boy Ecury's story is perhaps one of the most remarkable examples of this connection.

From Aruba to the Dutch resistance

Boy Ecury was born in Aruba on April 23, 1922. He spent his childhood on the island before his father sent him to the Netherlands in 1937, when he was just 15 years old, to continue his education.

As a young man of Caribbean and Haitian heritage living in Europe, Ecury experienced racial discrimination. These experiences contributed to his strong opposition to injustice and oppression, even before the outbreak of World War II.

When Nazi Germany invaded the Netherlands in May 1940, Ecury witnessed the devastating consequences of the occupation, including the bombing of Rotterdam. Rather than remain a passive observer, he decided to become involved in the Dutch resistance movement.

Continued on next Page





A brief history of the California Light House



(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck.

These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations.❑

Aruba to Honor World War II Hero Boy Ecury on November 6

Continued ... fom Page 9

While continuing his studies and living with relatives in Tilburg, Ecury came into contact with people involved in producing and distributing underground newspapers. These publications played an important role in spreading information and opposing Nazi propaganda during the German occupation.

This marked the beginning of his involvement in several resistance groups over the following years.

Ecury participated in dangerous underground activities, including helping resistance members escape German soldiers, assisting people who needed to go into hiding, and taking part in sabotage operations targeting German military transportation and infrastructure.

His courage and willingness to confront occupying forces made him a valuable member of the resistance, but his activities also placed him in constant danger.

A young life sacrificed for freedom

In 1943, Ecury received an order requiring him to report for labor in Germany. He refused and went into hiding, moving between different addresses and cities to avoid arrest.

Despite being wanted by the German authorities, he remained determined to continue supporting the resistance.

In 1944, following the arrest and execution of his friend and fellow resistance fighter Luis de Lannoy from Curaçao, Ecury moved to Delft and became involved with another resistance group operating in Rotterdam.

By this time, the risks were enormous. German authorities were actively searching for members of underground resistance networks, and capture could mean imprisonment, torture, or execution.

Ecury reportedly wrote a farewell letter to his family during this period, suggesting that he understood the possibility that he might never return home.

On November 5, 1944, he was arrested by German forces and taken to the Oranjehotel prison in Scheveningen, near The Hague. The prison was notorious for holding members of the Dutch resistance and others accused of opposing the Nazi occupation.

Despite interrogation, Ecury refused to reveal the identities of his fellow resistance fighters.

According to accounts of his final hours, he told a fellow prisoner that he would face death with a smile on his face.

On November 6, 1944, Boy Ecury was executed. He was only 22 years old.

His life had been tragically short, but his actions left a legacy that continues to be remembered more than eight decades later.

Aruba remembers its national hero

Following World War II, Ecury's courage received official recognition. In 1949, a monument honoring him was erected in Oranjestad, ensuring that his story would remain part of Aruba's public memory.

In 1984, he was posthumously awarded the Resistance Memorial Cross, a Dutch decoration recognizing those who participated in resistance activities during World War II.

Today, Boy Ecury is remembered as a national hero whose life represents courage, sacrifice, and the defense of freedom and human dignity.

The annual remembrance ceremony provides an opportunity for Aruba to honor his contribution and pass his story on to younger generations.

An Important Part of Aruba's Heritage

For international visitors, Boy Ecury's story offers a different perspective on Aruba, an island whose history includes much more than its world-famous beaches, warm climate, and tourism industry.

His life illustrates how the people of a small Caribbean island became connected to one of the defining struggles of modern world history.

As Aruba commemorates the 82nd anniversary of his death, the island remembers not only a resistance fighter, but also a young Aruban who chose to stand against injustice at the cost of his own life.

Visitors interested in Aruba's history and cultural heritage can discover this important chapter of the island's past through the monument and commemorative park in Oranjestad.

Boy Ecury's story remains a powerful reminder that courage and the defense of freedom know no geographical boundaries.❑

Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

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



The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

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

Sometime after trying to hitch a ride home, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that the there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

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

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone grew quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

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

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

Source: visitaruba.com

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Candelchi!

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 "Candelchi" (Squirrelfish), a common, yet shy fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, known as Santa Rosa, offers this informative article that illustrates some fish and their names in Papiamento.

Candelchi, Squirrelfish, Holocentrus adscensionis:
Candelchi actually refers to the entire squirrelfish family or, as some say, when we say candelchi, we mean several different species but without distinguishing them by species. In this picture, we are showing the most common one in our waters, which is called squirrelfish in English or scientifically known as Holocentrus adscensionis.



Under candelchi, we in Aruba generally refer to all the different species of squirrelfish. They all look alike and it's really difficult to distinguish between them.

The squirrelfish family is distinguished by the following characteristics. They are heart-shaped with pink or red hues and often show heart-shaped streaks between the scales along the body. They have hard fins and are always armed. Over at our sister island Curaçao, they are called "bari di clabo" (nail barrel) for that reason.

In our waters, there are 7 to 8 types or species present and they are sometimes caught and seen occasionally. They can be distinguished by different marks such as color on the dorsal spine or marks on the body.

In Aruba:
Candelchi are found on reefs or areas with structure in the water where they can hide. Although they prefer to hunt for food at night, they are also active during the day. They are edible and delicious when prepared dry and crispy with lime. It is particularly challenging to scale the fish, which is why it is not one of the favorites among fishermen. They often live in groups.❑





CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH



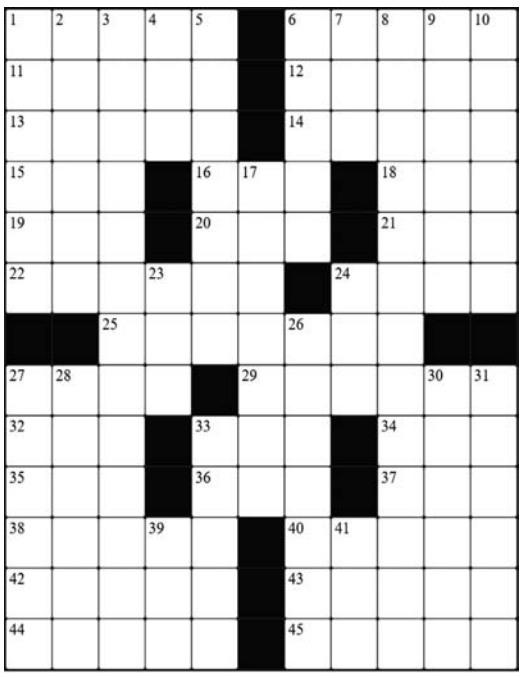
Yesterday's answer

ACROSS

1. Tycoon John Jacob
6. Oompah producers
11. Baseball's Joe
12. Island ring
13. Hunter in the stars
14. Cellist Casals
15. "SNL" airer
16. She sheep
18. Tentative taste
19. "A mouse!"
20. Empty talk
21. Clinic cost
22. Mall businesses
24. Honcho
25. Steer stealer
27. Postmark part
29. Air traffic trackers
32. Screw up
33. Setting item
34. Chest muscle
35. Rival
36. Mont Blanc, for one
37. Soup of Vietnam
38. Run up
40. Crude carrier
42. Crew members

DOWN

1. Makes amends
2. Icy dessert
3. Has some Halloween fun
4. Spanish gold
5. Misplays at cards
6. Eight-tracks, e.g.
7. Hagen of acting
8. Has some Halloween fun
9. Friends
10. Skiing spots
17. Spendthrift
23. Regret
24. Garden area
26. Parody
27. Slander
28. Kitchen come-ons
30. Prepare leftovers
31. Derides
33. Bombastic
39. Sailing site
41. Bar rocks



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.

11-4 CRYPTOQUOTE

P B M M N H T Y D S C

N A C S P B U N B Y S

EYACQSN. — BDQSMB CBIAN

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: OF COURSE I TALK TO MYSELF. I LIKE A GOOD SPEAKER, AND I APPRECIATE AN INTELLIGENT AUDIENCE. — DOROTHY PARKER

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.



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

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

Difficulty: ★★★★ 11/6

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/5

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Greenhouse gas levels hit new record highs in 2025: U.N.



Emissions spew from a large stack at the coal fired Brandon Shores Power Plant, on March 9, 2018 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Geneva, Switzerland

Greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere rose to new record highs in 2025, locking in climate impacts that will persist for centuries to come, the United Nations said Tuesday.

Levels of the three main greenhouse gases -- the climate-warming carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide -- all rose to unprecedented figures in 2025, the U.N.'s weather and climate agency said.

The World Meteorological Organization said the rise would lead to more long-term temperature increases for the planet.

The WMO's 22nd annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin comes ahead of the COP31 U.N. climate summit in Antalya, Turkey, running from November 9 to 20.

"Another year, another new record," said WMO deputy secretary-general Ko Barrett.

"Greenhouse gases are trapping an unprecedented amount of heat in the atmosphere, providing energy for more extreme weather and associated risks to our economies and societies.

"The past 11 years have been the warmest on record and this trend is set to continue. Carbon dioxide (CO2) has a very long lifetime and so will affect the global climate not just for years but for decades and even centuries."

- El Nino effect -

The bulletin looks at greenhouse gas concentrations -- the amount of those gases in the atmosphere -- rather than new annual emissions amounts as the world burns more coal, oil and gas.

In 2025, carbon dioxide concentrations were at 426.8 parts per million (ppm); methane at 1,948 parts per billion, and nitrous oxide at 339.1 parts per billion.

That takes them respectively to 153 percent, 267 percent and 126 percent of the pre-industrial levels witnessed before 1750.

Of the three major greenhouse gases, CO2 accounts for about 66 percent of the warming effect on the climate.

Around half of the total CO2 emitted each year remains in the atmosphere; the rest is absorbed by the land and oceans.

From 2024 to 2025, the global average concentration of CO2 rose by 2.8 ppm -- smaller than the record surge from 2023 to 2024 of 3.6 ppm.

WMO senior scientific officer Oksana Tarasova said this reflected the "recovery of the land carbon sinks and reduced fire carbon emissions in 2025 after the strong 2023/2024 El Nino", the naturally-occurring, climate-warming weather phenomenon.

"However, a 2.8 ppm annual increase is still a substantial addition of carbon to the atmosphere from fossil fuel burning."

It is also above the average growth rate over the past decade of 2.6 ppm -- a figure that stood at 0.8 ppm in the 1960s.

Monitoring station data shows that that CO2 levels have continued rising in 2026.

"Every additional part per million matters because it traps additional heat," Barrett told reporters.

"In effect, we are supercharging the ocean and the atmosphere. That means that heatwaves, tropical cyclones, and rainstorms are intensifying faster than our historical baselines prepared us for."

- Growing concerns over H2, SF6 -

Methane accounts for about 16 percent of the warming effect on the climate by long-lived greenhouse gases, though it has a much shorter lifetime than CO2.

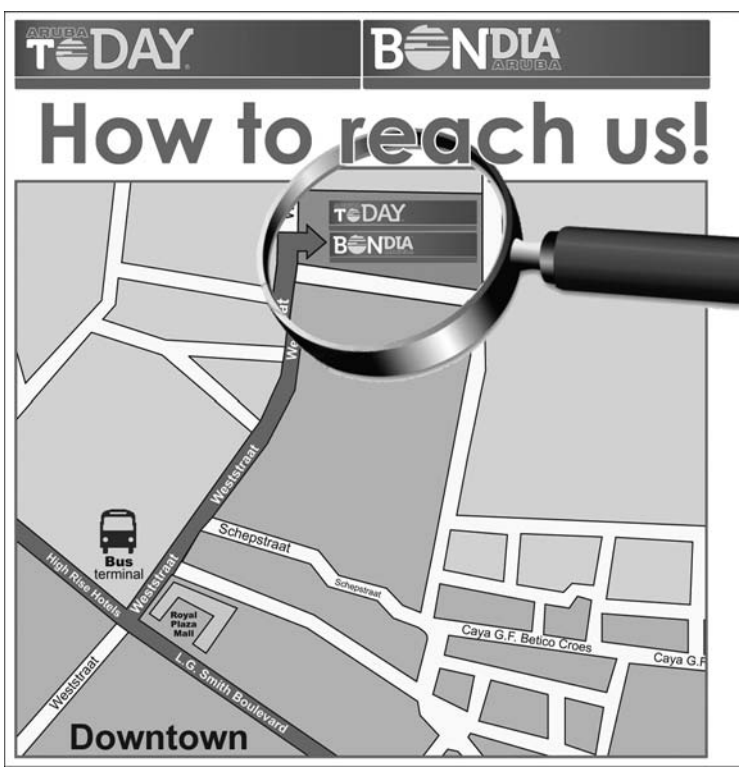
Around a third of methane emitted into the atmosphere comes from natural sources like wetlands, with the rest from anthropogenic sources such as cattle, rice farming, landfills and biomass burning.

The bulletin said that as countries shift their energy systems towards decarbonization, more attention should be paid to two potent but less abundant trace gases closely related to electricity production and distribution: molecular hydrogen (H2) and sulfur hexafluoride (SF6).

Primarily as a spark suppressant in electricity distribution, SF6 has been rising steadily over the past three decades.

"Why should we be concerned? Because SF6 has an atmospheric lifetime of up to 3,200 years. Its global warming potential is more than 24,000 times that of CO2," Barrett told reporters.

Why H2 levels have increased over the past decade is unknown but it has begun to be used as an energy storage medium.❑



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Alcoholics Anonymous
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Narcotics Anonymous
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Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)
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Child Abuse Prevention
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From Carnegie to Claude: AI wealth could reshape philanthropy

Washington, United States

A wave of American wealth created by artificial intelligence companies could produce some of the largest charitable sums since the era of Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller, raising questions about where the money goes.

Anthropic, the maker of the Claude chatbot, has said it would commit 5 percent of its shares to a new Anthropic Public Benefit Fund, a stake that could be worth around $100 billion if the company reaches the $2 trillion valuation investors are eyeing for a stock market debut expected as early as November.

Combined with pledges by its seven co-founders to give away 80 percent of their equity and a program matching employees' donations, Anthropic says roughly a fifth of its shares will be dedicated to public-benefit purposes.

"This might be one of the biggest stories in corporate philanthropy ever," said Michael Moody, a professor of philanthropic studies at Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

The OpenAI Foundation, the nonprofit that controls ChatGPT maker OpenAI, holds a 26 percent stake in the company that was valued at about $130 billion when it was restructured a year ago, more than the endowment of the Gates Foundation.



Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim (C) and Ruth Porat (5th from R), president and chief investment officer of Google and its parent company Alphabet, pose for the group picture with other Malaysian officials during the groundbreaking ceremony for Malaysia's first Google data centre, in Kuala Lumpur on October 1, 2024.

Nan Ransohoff of payments firm Stripe has described the moment as a "third wave" of American philanthropy, after the industrial fortunes of the late 19th century and the internet billionaires of recent decades.

- 'Dies disgraced' -

Carnegie argued in his 1889 essay "The Gospel of Wealth" that "the man who dies thus rich dies disgraced," and by his death had given away the bulk of his fortune, about $350 million.

Carnegie transferred what remained into a trust, which has continued to make grants for more than a century.

Rockefeller's money built universities and funded medical research and public health campaigns around the world.

Railroad magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt gave comparatively little, apart from the $1 million that founded the university bearing his name.

Anthropic is setting up its fund as a limited liability company that it wholly owns, rather than as a nonprofit foundation, which must pay out a minimum share of its assets each year and file public tax returns.

"The trade-off is that decision-making stays with the company and transparency is voluntary," said Sarah Wolfolds, who studies nonprofit organizations at Cornell University's SC Johnson College of Business.

Anthropic has said the fund's equity will not be used for lobbying or political giving and that it will report on its activities.

- 'Where the money is' -

Many Anthropic founders and staff have close ties to effective altruism, a movement that favors causes such as AI safety and global health because of their measurable impact.

"Nonprofits tend to reorient their programs toward where the money is," Wolfolds said, warning that other causes can become neglected.

Moody said the philanthropic world would be "looking closely at which causes they support," including whether research funding is limited to AI.

Laura McGarry, of fundraising consultancy Graham-Pelton, said the charities best placed to benefit are those that already have relationships with the newly wealthy.

"It's really about values alignment," she said, adding that charities that court the newly rich only after their big payday risk looking transactional.

Effective altruism has shaped some donors' giving but has not "dramatically upset the apple cart," she said.❑

Google unveils $15B data centre investment in Malaysia



Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim (C) and Ruth Porat (5th from R), president and chief investment officer of Google and its parent company Alphabet, pose for the group picture with other Malaysian officials during the groundbreaking ceremony for Malaysia's first Google data centre, in Kuala Lumpur on October 1, 2024.

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Google announced plans on Wednesday to invest $15 billion in Malaysia over the next two years to build data centers and other infrastructure as demand booms for artificial intelligence services.

The country is Southeast Asia's fastest growing hub for new data centers -- warehouse-like buildings crammed with servers that can train and run AI tools such as chatbots and image generators.

"Malaysia is one of Southeast Asia's most dynamic digital economies, driven by 99 percent internet penetration and rapid AI adoption across government agencies, businesses, and consumers," the US tech giant said in a statement.

It said the $15 billion investment will be made "over the next two years (2027 to 2028)", expanding on a $2 billion investment announced in 2024.

AI data centers require large amounts of electricity -- placing increased pressure on grids often still reliant on fossil fuels -- and, in many cases, water to cool down hot computing equipment.

A backlash is growing worldwide against their environmental impact, and there are also concerns over noise, pollution, their appearance and how many jobs the facilities actually create.

The company said it would work to "bolster local water security, and add more than one gigawatt of clean energy capacity" to the national grid.

"Once operational, the facilities are projected to sustain more than 9,000 local jobs per year, with wages averaging 45 percent above the national median," it added.

Malaysia accounts for more than half of under-construction data centre capacity among Southeast Asian countries, including Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam, according to market intelligence firm DC Byte.

The International Monetary Fund forecasts that Malaysia's economy will grow by 5.2 percent in 2026, partly encouraged by data centre activity.

But by 2035, data centers are forecast to swallow up one-third of Malaysia's total energy consumption, the deputy prime minister told parliament in July.❑

Wemby magic powers Spurs past Mavs as Sixers roll on

Los Angeles, United States

Victor Wembanyama produced a career-high 52-point performance as the San Antonio Spurs battled past the Dallas Mavericks 112-111 on Wednesday.

French superstar Wembanyama, whose previous best was a 50-point display in 2024, dominated at both ends of the court to power San Antonio to their sixth win of the season.

Wembanyama's masterpiece included a record-breaking first-half that saw him reach the interval with 29 points, 15 rebounds, five blocks and two steals.

The 22-year-old would go on to finish with 52 points, 24 rebounds and eight blocks as San Antonio held off a ferocious second-half rally to claim victory.

Wembanyama, who was backed by 21 points from Dylan Harper and 17 from Stephon Castle, praised San Antonio's "relentless" approach.

"We did mostly the right thing, the most ambitious," Wembanyama told ESPN. "It was just relentless. We wanted it more tonight."

Asked about his own performance, Wembanyama replied: "It's very good because I'm trying to show the example."

Team-mate Harper paid tribute to Wembanyama's professionalism.



Victor Wembanyama #1 of the San Antonio Spurs dunks past Naji Marshall #3 of the Dallas Mavericks in the second half at Frost Bank Center on November 4, 2026 in San Antonio, Texas.

"Just the mentality, the dedication, the discipline he has every day that he comes into the gym with is unmatched," Harper told ESPN.

Kyrie Irving led the Mavericks scoring with 29 points, including five three-pointers.

- Sixers down Pistons -

Jaylen Brown and Joel Embiid combined for 56 points as the Philadelphia 76ers defeated the Detroit Pistons 112-106 in their top-of-the-table Eastern Conference clash.

Brown finished with 30 points and Embiid added 26 to give the Sixers another impressive road win that moved them to 8-1 at the top of the standings, with Detroit (6-2) in second.

Brown and Embiid led another balanced offensive performance from Philadelphia, who saw all five starters reach double figures.

LeBron James added a double-double with 13 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists while Tyrese Maxey drained three three-pointers on his way to a 19-point haul.

Brown, who arrived from the Boston Celtics in the offseason, said he was "still adjusting" to his new team-mates. "I'm still figuring it out," Brown said, before paying tribute to the performance of 41-year-old team-mate James.

"LeBron has been great," Brown said. "To see what he's doing at his age makes sense for LeBron James, but for nobody else would it make sense."

The Sixers moved into the lead towards the end of the first quarter and kept their noses in front for the remainder of the game, stretching the lead to 18 points before a late rally from Detroit.

Duncan Robinson led the Pistons with 27 points while Cade Cunningham added 26.

The reigning champion New York Knicks scored their biggest win of the season with a 135-105 blowout over the Chicago Bulls at Madison Square Garden.

The Knicks, who have made a slow start to the new campaign, improved to 4-4 after a dazzling 33-point performance from Jalen Brunson, who drained five three-pointers while making 10-of-17 from the field.

O.G. Anunoby scored 18 points while Karl-Anthony Towns added 17 for a Knicks team who led by as many as 44 points midway through the third quarter.

The Oklahoma City Thunder rolled to a 124-116 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers thanks to 42 points from reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Shai Gilgeous-Alexander.

In Sacramento, Luka Doncic also posted a 40-point display as the Los Angeles Lakers defeated the Kings 116-103.

In Boston, the Milwaukee Bucks threatened to pull off a huge comeback before finally succumbing 109-102 to the Celtics.

Paul George (25 points) and Derrick White (24) led the scoring for Boston, who appeared to be cruising after leading by 20 early in the third quarter.❑

Alcaraz into Paris Masters quarters after Berrettini withdraws



U.S.' Taylor Fritz plays a forehand return to France's Arthur Fils during their men's singles match on day four of the Paris ATP Masters 1000 tennis tournament at the Plenitude Arena in Nanterre, on the outskirts of Paris, on November 5, 2026.

Paris, France

Carlos Alcaraz moved into the quarter-finals of the Paris Masters on Thursday after his last 16 opponent Matteo Berrettini withdrew.

Alcaraz, a seven-time Grand Slam champion, was scheduled to play the Italian, but Berrettini pulled out ahead of their encounter with an elbow injury.

"Unfortunately, the pain in my arm that I've been putting up with for the past few days means I won't be able to take to the court tonight," Berrettini posted on social media.

After receiving a bye through the first round as a top-eight seed, Alcaraz is into the last eight with only one match under his belt in Paris, a straight-sets success against Alex Michelsen.

He will meet American Taylor Fritz on Friday for a spot in the semi-finals. Fritz beat French sixth seed Arthur Fils 6-3, 6-4 to stay in the running for a place at the ATP Finals.

Alcaraz has never won the Paris Masters. The Spaniard is the top-ranked player remaining in the draw after world number one Alexander Zverev lost on Wednesday.

Berrettini, 30, has endured an injury-plagued career and was forced to retire earlier this season in Paris when a hip issue brought a premature end to his French Open quarter-final clash with Matteo Arnaldi.

Ben Shelton overcame France's Arthur Rinderknech in a third-set tie-break to secure his passage into the quarter-finals.

The American third seed battled past the 68th-ranked Frenchman 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (7/5) to avoid becoming the latest high-profile departure.

Shelton will next play compatriot Tommy Paul after the 12th seed beat Frenchman Quentin Halys 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 in the day's opening match on centre court.

"It's been a long time since we've been on the court, but I'm looking forward to it," Shelton said of taking on Paul for the first time since losing to the world number 14 in Dallas two years ago.

"He's in great form right now. A great player, a great friend."

Australian qualifier Rinky Hijikata continued his run as he backed up his second-round victory over 24-time major champion Novak Djokovic with a 2-6, 6-3, 7-5 win against Tomas Martin Etcheverry.❑

LIV Golf league to shut down after five years



Bryson DeChambeau of Crushers GC plays his shot from the second tee during day four of LIV Golf Indianapolis at The Club at Chatham Hills on August 23, 2026 in Westfield, Indiana.

New York, United States

The rebel LIV Golf tour will shut down after five years that rocked the global game, saying Thursday that an effort to relaunch after losing its original Saudi backers has been scrapped.

The announcement follows reports that BC Partners Credit, the lead investor in "LIV 2.0," had withdrawn from the project after struggling to convince several star players to fully commit to the league going forward.

In a statement, LIV Golf said only that attempts to implement its Restructuring Support Agreement with BC Partners had foundered.

"Despite extensive discussions, the relevant parties were ultimately unable to reach a consensual resolution of certain outstanding terms of the Transaction contemplated by the RSA," LIV Golf said. "In light of the current circumstances, we believe shifting toward an orderly wind-down is the most responsible path forward for the League at this time."

The statement confirmed LIV attorney Matthew Williams's statements in a 13-minute hearing in bankruptcy court in New Jersey on Thursday.

The once free-spending Saudi-backed league that had turned the golf world upside-down by luring superstars away from the traditional PGA Tour will begin liquidating its remaining assets on Monday, the court heard.

Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) had poured an estimated $5 billion into the tour since 2022, before abruptly pulling the plug earlier this year.

LIV formally filed for bankruptcy protection in September, though officials vowed to relaunch as "LIV 2.0" next season with a shorter schedule and reduced prize money, and equity stakes in the league for players.

BC Partners Credit had pledged an initial funding commitment of a potential $300 million.

But several former LIV stars including Jon Rahm publicly announced their decisions to withdraw from the new version of the tour in recent weeks. Several others were believed to be on the fence. Even Bryson DeChambeau arguably the breakaway circuit's biggest name, who continued to back the tour did not publicly commit to returning. BC Partners Credit said in a statement that there was "great support" for a revamped LIV circuit, but that ultimately no agreement on terms could be reached.❑

