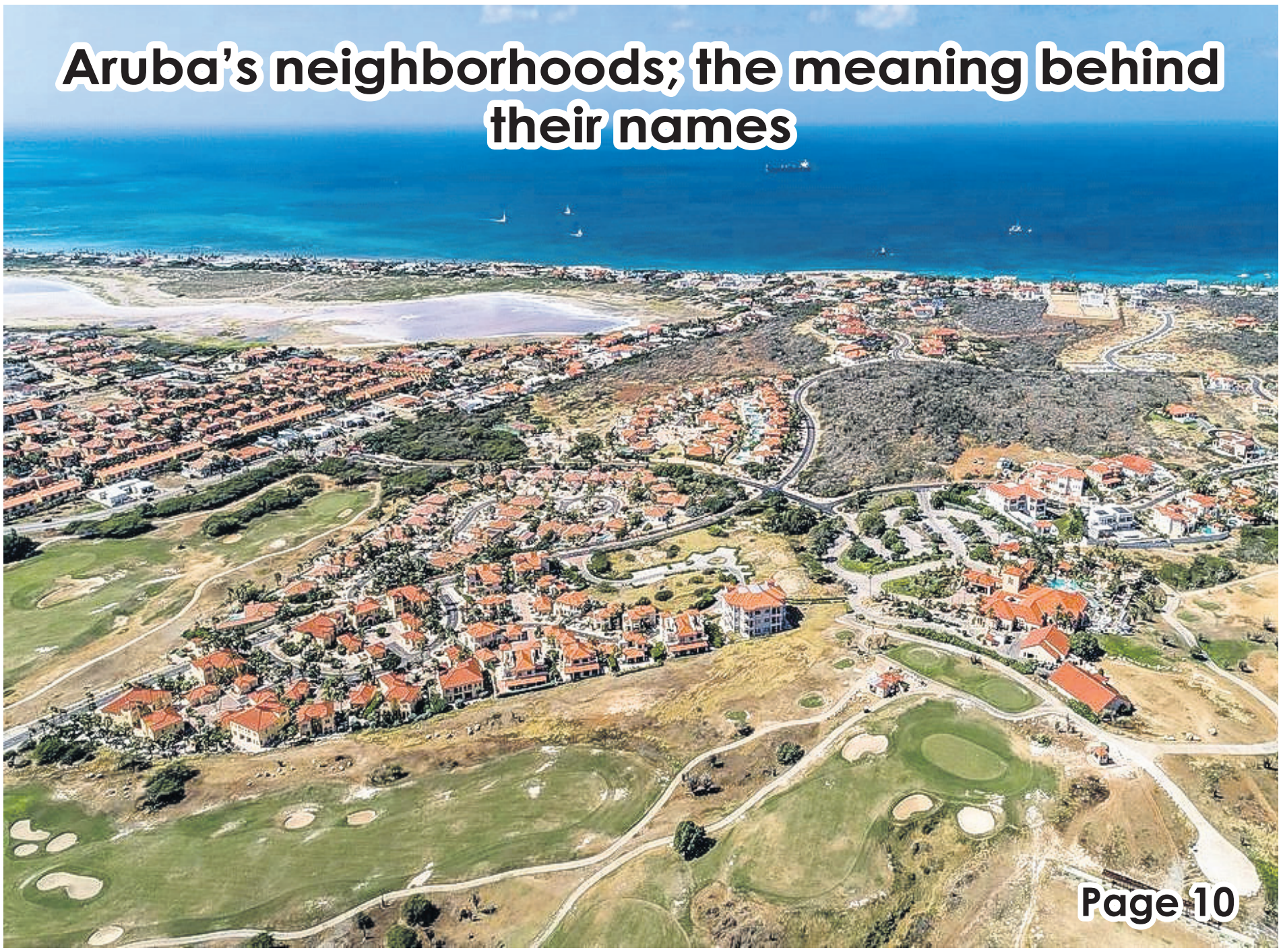
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Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba

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Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names



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Chair of America Is All In, former White House National Climate Advisor, and 13th U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator, Gina McCarthy, speaks during the press briefing "U.S. State and Local Leaders Press Conference" at the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) at the Antalya Expo Center in Antalya on November 12, 2026.

U.S. data centers' carbon footprint rivals small European countries

Washington, United States
A new study published Monday found that the United States' most powerful data centers accounted for around two percent of the country's electricity consumption and a carbon footprint comparable to that of a small European country a figure that is only growing.
The research, published in Nature Sustainability, was based on 403 "hyperscale" data centers that operated between May 2024 and April 2025, and represents only a "floor estimate," according to corresponding author Francesca Dominici, a professor of biostatistics at Harvard University.
There are now 1,200 such facilities operating across the U.S., and hundreds more are planned meaning the true figure is already likely to be several times higher.
"I am extremely pro-AI for scientific research," Dominici told AFP. "But we really need to study this in an objective, science-based manner, and we need to plan this expansion."
The paper comes as the U.N.'s climate chief Simon Stiell highlighted the "great potential and great peril" of artificial intelligence in the battle against global warming during the COP31 talks in Turkey.
Named after the Turkish Mediterranean city hosting the talks, the voluntary "Antalya Artificial Intelligence Pledge" seeks to tap the technology's potential in finding climate solutions and assess its growing environmental risks.

- Hyperscalers -
Data centers, facilities that house large numbers of computers, have been around for decades.

But it wasn't until the AI boom of 2022 and 2023, when ChatGPT and other large language models came to the fore, that "hyperscalers" the largest and most powerful class exploded in number.
They typically span 2,000 square meters (21,500 square feet) and have power capacities in the tens of megawatts. The team identified 675 sites that met their definition, but had to exclude hundreds because of difficulty obtaining good data.
The midpoint electrical power in the sample was 40 megawatts. Capacity is measured in megawatts because the electricity needed for computing and cooling is the main constraint.
Dominici said the work was motivated by the lack of peer-reviewed study on the topic since 2018, even as AI and climate change have become major talking points.
The team identified the mix of energy sources powering each data center, allowing them to quantify emissions.
They found the centers' electricity demand was roughly 82 terawatt-hours, or 1.8 percent of total US electricity consumption, approaching the levels of individual states including Indiana, Michigan and Tennessee.
The midpoint estimate for carbon dioxide emissions was 25.7 million metric tons equal to the annual emissions of five or six million gasoline cars, or similar to Denmark's entire output. Some 54 percent of the electricity was attributed to fossil fuels, 25 percent to renewables and 21 percent to nuclear.

- Transparency calls -
Gina McCarthy, who served as White House national climate adviser under former president Joe Biden, said in response to the study: "Sadly, it doesn't surprise me that the majority of hyperscale data centers rely on fossil fuels for their power generation despite the profound and lasting climate and health impacts."❑



U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent (L) and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick listen to President Donald Trump speak in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC, on August 6, 2025.

U.S. closes loophole on China's access to AI chips after Nvidia scandal

Washington, United States
The U.S. Commerce Department on Monday issued a rule aimed at stopping Chinese companies from using advanced American AI chips housed in data centers in other countries.
The move comes days after a spy scandal forced Jensen Huang to step down as head of Nvidia, amid widening suspicions that he may have helped Chinese companies gain access to his company's most powerful AI chips in violation of U.S. rules.
The Commerce Department, led by Howard Lutnick, has been accused by other voices inside the Trump White House of failing to properly enforce export controls that bar sales of Nvidia's most powerful AI chips to China.
One loophole allowed Chinese firms to rent AI computing power from data centers in Southeast Asia and elsewhere that run on U.S. hardware not available for export to China.
Scrutiny of that loophole grew after Huang resigned last week over his relationship with Alice Huang, a former executive at Singapore-based Megaspeed.
U.S. investigators suspect the Nvidia customer of illegally channeling the company's technology to China.
She is also suspected by some in U.S. government to be an asset for Chinese secret services, according to The New York Times.

Megaspeed is under U.S. investigation for possible export control violations and has denied wrongdoing. Alice Huang, who is not related to Jensen Huang, has not been charged, and Beijing has rejected the espionage allegations.
Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Friday blamed the Commerce Department for failing to blacklist Megaspeed over the alleged violations.
Under the new rule, data centers anywhere in the world will need a U.S. license to provide large volumes of computing power from advanced chips to companies headquartered in China, Macau or other countries under U.S. arms embargoes.
The rule also requires licenses to ship advanced chips to Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Brazil, which it says present a "higher-than-normal risk of diversion."
The rule "is designed to ensure that existing restrictions on access to sensitive American technology cannot be circumvented through remote computing arrangements involving data centers in third countries," the department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) said in a statement.❑

China says Xi, Trump, Putin to discuss 'world peace'

Beijing, China
The leaders of China, Russia and the United States will discuss "world peace" when they hold their first trilateral summit in Shenzhen this week, Beijing said on Monday.
Presidents Xi Jinping, Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin are due to meet in the southern Chinese city on Thursday on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.
Trump told reporters on Monday he could also meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in China, saying: "He may come, I don't know. That's up to President Xi."
China has provided few details as to what the three leaders will discuss but said they would hold "in-depth exchanges on safeguarding world peace and promoting strategic stability in major-power relations".
"It will be of ground-breaking significance," foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told a news briefing on Monday, hours after Beijing confirmed the meeting.
Trump said the leaders would discuss the "tough subject" of denuclearization, as well as the wars in Iran and Ukraine.
"We'll all be talking about economics and trade," he added as he left the White House.
The Kremlin said "the significance and symbolism of this meeting are hard to overestimate".



This combination of pictures created on November 15, 2026 shows (L/R) Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on November 11, 2026, Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on November 2, 2026, and U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington, DC, on November 5, 2026.

- Denuclearization -
Washington, which dislikes China's rapidly expanding nuclear arsenal, said it wants Beijing to be part of a nuclear arms control deal.
Beijing, however, has long maintained that the US and Russia should reduce their giant nuclear arsenals before it agrees to talks on its own stockpile.
After a U.S.-Russia bilateral treaty on nuclear weapons expired in February, Trump called for a "better agreement" including China.
Beijing at the time declined to join disarmament negotiations.
But in a call this week, China's top diplomat Wang Yi and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio "agreed on the importance of meaningful leader-level conversations to advance goals such as peace and denuclearization", the US State Department said.
"We're going to talk about denuclearization tough subject because it's very hard for any of us to say we'll get rid of our nukes, right?" Trump told reporters on Monday.
U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that if the three leaders "really commit themselves to a meaningful denuclearization; it will be a great achievement for the world".
"We have been for a long time... talking and requesting the need of disarmament in the nuclear field, and we believe that we will only be entirely safe when we would be entirely (without) nuclear weapons," Guterres said during an ASEAN summit in the Philippines.

- Iran -
Trump has said the three leaders will also likely discuss his war in Iran.
"We're going to be talking about denuclearization. We'll talk about Iran. We have Iran in very good shape, but we'll talk about Iran a little bit," Trump told reporters on Monday.
China, a top economic partner of Iran, has long sought to mediate in the conflict triggered by US-Israeli strikes on Tehran.
The months-long crisis has disrupted global shipping and sent oil prices soaring globally.
Trump said in late October that the United States had knocked out much of Iran's military but still has to "take care of" one or two targets.
China, meanwhile, said avoiding a return to hostilities is a "top priority", and has in recent weeks hosted leaders and diplomats from various Middle Eastern countries in an effort to persuade parties back to the negotiating table.

- 'European conflict' -
In contrast, the subject of Russia's invasion of Ukraine could prove to be a no-go during the talks this week.
A Wall Street Journal report last month said that Putin wanted the three-way talks to broker a peace deal in Ukraine that would be favorable to Moscow, which launched its invasion in 2022.
It is unlikely, though, that Xi would touch on the highly sensitive topic.
American officials had said Trump was not expected to raise the issue, but the US president said Monday the leaders would address Ukraine.❑

Three U.S. aircraft carriers operating in the Middle East

Washington, United States
The USS Theodore Roosevelt is operating in the Middle East, the U.S. military said on Monday, bringing the number of American carrier strike groups in the region to three.
The Roosevelt and the ships accompanying it add to the already large U.S. naval presence in the region, which includes two other carriers the George H.W. Bush and the George Washington and more than a dozen destroyers.
"The aircraft carrier is currently operating in the CENTCOM area of responsibility as part of a scheduled deployment," Central Command which is responsible for US forces in the Middle East said in a post on X.
The carrier's deployment to the Middle East comes during a flareup in the more than eight-month-long Iran war, with Tehran saying Sunday that its forces carried out a drone attack on a U.S. radar system at a helicopter base in the Gulf kingdom of Bahrain.
Bahrain's military said it intercepted the drones, "preventing them from reaching their intended targets."
The Islamic republic also fired drones at Bahrain on Friday the first strikes since September against countries in the energy-rich Gulf, which has been heavily targeted in the conflict that began with U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran in February.

CENTCOM said it shot down two Iranian drones that day, reporting no casualties or damage.
Efforts to end the Middle East war have made little headway.
Tehran has insisted that Washington meet conditions including the release of frozen assets abroad, sanctions relief and an end to the US naval blockade of Iranian ports in exchange for reopening the Strait of Hormuz.
Iran has blockaded the waterway, which is a vital global energy conduit, since the start of the war, but has said it is ready to reopen it within two days if Washington agrees to its terms.
U.S. President Donald Trump has said he plans to discuss the war at a trilateral meeting with his Chinese and Russian counterparts Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin this week.❑



This US Navy handout photograph released by US Naval Forces Central Command on November 4, 2026, shows the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) sails alongside Royal Australian Navy Supply-class replenishment oiler HMAS Stalwart (A304).

UK actor Robert Pattinson to be new James Bond

London, United Kingdom
British actor Robert Pattinson was Monday named as the new James Bond, stepping into the coveted role of the world's most famous fictional spy.
"Amazon MGM Studios have announced that Robert Pattinson will take on the iconic role of James Bond," the studio said on the official 007.com website.
Pattinson will succeed Daniel Craig as the super-suave MI6 agent, "ushering in a new era for one of cinema's most celebrated characters", the studios added.
The choice received immediate royal approval, with the British monarchy's social media accounts sharing the announcement with the comment: "Welcome to His Majesty's Secret Service, Mr Bond."
It will be the first 007 film since long-term producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael Wilson stepped back and Amazon took creative control of the franchise, after acquiring the series' parent company MGM.
"James Bond is one of the most legendary characters in cinema, and to be entrusted with 007 is the honour of a lifetime," Pattinson said in a statement.
"To say this role is a dream come true is an understatement," he added.
There had long been rumors that Amazon could seek to stir things up by bringing in a black actor, or a woman, to play the iconic role created by author Ian Fleming.
Acting legends such as Sean Connery, Roger Moore, and Pierce Brosnan have all stepped into the Bond tuxedo in the decades since the spy first came to the screen in the 1960s.
Pattinson who has already played a leading franchise role, in director Matt Reeves's 2022 "The Batman" beat out rumored 007 rivals including British actors Callum Turner, Josh O'Connor and Jack Lowden.



British actor Robert Pattinson attends the photocall of "Primetime" presented in competition at the 83rd International Venice Film Festival, at Venice Lido on September 5, 2026.

- 'Obvious choice' -
Amazon MGM had already announced that Oscar-nominated Canadian director Denis Villeneuve, behind such box-office hits as the "Dune" films, would be directing the next Bond movie from a script by "Peaky Blinders" creator Steven Knight.
"It's not hard to see from Amazon MGM's perspective why Pattinson was the obvious choice," Variety magazine said.
"He is, almost unquestionably, 2026's most in-demand movie star and has the box office record to show for it."
Knight said in May that Amazon has given him a licence to play with the legendary secret agent.
"Bond has been bullet-proof. People have been able to make mistakes and variations and the character has survived," Knight told Screen magazine at the Cannes Film Festival.
"Because the core of it is like a diamond. You can't touch it," he added.
Knight also told reporters that he had done research with "the SAS and even more secret outfits" for his reinvention of the next 007 movie.

- Oscar buzz -
Pattinson, 40, got his early break in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" (2005) as Cedric Diggory, a champion for Hogwarts.
But he rocketed to global fame for his part as brooding teen heartthrob Edward Cullen in the romantic vampire saga "Twilight".
Oscar buzz is already building around his role in the newly-released psychological thriller "Primetime".

In the film, based on a real series, Pattinson plays the host of an American TV reality show working with a vigilante group to catch child predators.
He was also seen in an edgier role playing Antinous, the scheming suitor to Penelope in Christopher Nolan's epic "The Odyssey". He received critical acclaim after switching to more independent films and was nominated for best actor at the Cannes festival in 2017 for neo-grindhouse crime caper "Good Time" by New York-based brothers Josh and Ben Safdie.❑

Glenn Close, Ridley Scott receive honorary Oscars in career firsts

Hollywood, United States
Hollywood royalty Glenn Close and Ridley Scott both received an honorary Oscar on Sunday, the first golden statues of their decades-long careers, at a lavish gala bringing together industry elites.
Screen legend Close, 79, has been tipped for Academy Awards eight times during her five-decade career, including for her roles in "Fatal Attraction" and "Dangerous Liaisons."

British director Ridley Scott, 88, known for box-office hits including "Alien," "Blade Runner" and "Gladiator," is a nine-time nominee but had also never won the award.
The honorary Oscars, awarded annually by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, celebrate cinema legends for their careers and contributions to the film industry.
US actor John Malkovich, who is tipped for Oscars glory for his role in dark comedy "Wild Horse Nine," introduced Close as "a friend and a treasured colleague."
"She is a true master," said Malkovich, who starred alongside Close as the arch seducer in "Dangerous Liaisons."
"Glenn is unafraid to go there, and I love that about her."



U.S. actress Glenn Close attends the 17th Annual Governors Awards at the Ray Dolby Ballroom at Ovation Hollywood in Hollywood, California on November 15, 2026.

- 'Happy ending' -
Close, who dedicated the award to her daughter, earned a standing ovation.
"As an outsider, I have never worried about whether I was going to win or not, though some years I thought I might have a chance," said the actress, who earned her first nomination for 1983 hit "The World According to Garp."
"I have always felt that the great honor is to be in the room," she added.
Three-time Best Director nominee Scott received his gong from Matt Damon, who paid tribute to the master of the modern screen epic.
"It is about time we all saw him with an Academy Award in his hand," said Damon, who worked with Scott on 2015 box office smash "The Martian."❑



Swiss ambassador Julien Thoni delivers an opening speech as president of the United Nations (U.N.) Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), where discussions focus on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), often referred to as "killer robots," in Geneva on November 16, 2026.

Russia plunges U.N. killer robot talks into 'procedural impasse'

Geneva, Switzerland

A UN conference focused on lethal autonomous weapons systems often dubbed "killer robots" stumbled before even getting started on Monday, as procedural objections from Russia blocked the adoption of an agenda.

The United Nations' Review Conference of the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) kicked off with UN chief Antonio Guterres appealing for countries to work towards imposing strict and binding rules on the use of lethal autonomous weapons systems, or LAWS.

"Take action to prevent the use and spread of these merciless weapons," he said in a video message.

Warfare is undergoing a radical transformation as armies seek to capitalize on artificial intelligence to boost their fighting abilities by identifying and striking targets more quickly, and with greater accuracy.

Amid a chorus of warnings against handing the power of life and death to autonomous machines, representatives from the 128 countries that are parties to the convention are this week due to determine whether or not to launch negotiations towards regulating the use of such weapons.

"I call on you to move towards negotiating a legally binding instrument to regulate autonomous weapon systems including clear prohibitions and restrictions," Guterres said.

Others have also warned of the dangers if LAWS are permitted to select and kill targets without human intervention.

The NGO Human Rights Watch told the conference that a failure to act would leave civilians "dangerously exposed".

- High stakes -

But even before discussions could begin on Monday, Russia triggered a procedural stand-off by objecting to allowing observers including the European Union and civil society organizations to participate in the debate.

This blocked the adoption of an agenda for the talks and brought proceedings to a halt before noon, as conference president Julien Thoni, of Switzerland, ordered informal consultations in a bid to resolve the deadlock.

But six hours later, Thoni said he was still seeking "a solution to our current procedural impasse" and that closed-door informal discussions would continue on Tuesday.

"You can count on the full, positive and constructive support of the Russian Federation," Moscow's representative said.

Campaigners suggested the Russian move was a bid to dodge criticism of its own alleged use of such weapons in its war in Ukraine.

"States must ensure that Russia, or any of the handful of governments blocking progress, are not allowed to hold the future hostage," insisted Anna Hehir, head of military AI governance at the Future of Life Institute.

"The stakes are too high."

- 'Carefully cultivated ambiguity' -

The discussions had always been expected to be challenging, with countries at odds, and full consensus needed for any decisions.

While many states are in favor of tighter rules, countries that have the technology, including the United States and Russia, are reluctant to have their hands tied.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is calling for a ban on two categories of autonomous weapons: so-called "unpredictable autonomous weapons" and those designed or used to directly target humans.❑



Britain's Prince William, Prince of Wales speaks at the Earthshot Prize Impact Assembly in Mumbai on November 16, 2026.

Britain's Prince William in India for Earthshot Prize

Mumbai, India

Britain's Prince William played street cricket and took a metro ride in India's financial capital Mumbai on Monday ahead of hosting his environmental Earthshot Prize, on a visit that will also include a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The future king, accompanied by his wife Princess Catherine, took part in India's beloved game of "gully" cricket with batting legend Sachin Tendulkar in the Ballard Estate area of the city.

The princess, dressed in a lime-green blazer and white trousers, tried her hand at batting before posing for photographs with young local players.

The three-day visit is the first official overseas trip undertaken together by the couple in four years, with Catherine's cancer diagnosis and treatment limiting international travel.

The royal couple also hopped on for a ride in the city's metro train to highlight sustainable travel.

"Catherine and I are delighted to be in India for this year's Earthshot Prize," the Prince of Wales said in a social media post.

The prize, which supports innovative solutions to the world's most pressing environmental challenges, selects five winners from 15 finalists in categories covering nature conservation, ocean protection, waste reduction, climate action and clean air.

Each winner will receive £1 million ($1.3 million) at Tuesday night's ceremony to expand their work.

Hosted by filmmaker Karan Johar, the event is expected to draw Oscar-winning actor Rami Malek and Bollywood stars Alia Bhatt and Sonam Kapoor.

William said that India had "become one of the most exciting places in the world for environmental innovation, with people across the country developing practical solutions to some of the greatest challenges we all share".

"I am very appreciative that the royal family has taken up such a noble cause," Tendulkar, international cricket's all-time leading run-scorer, told reporters.

- 'Great challenges' -

The clean-air category includes Indian vehicle manufacturer Mahindra Last Mile Mobility, which is expanding its electric three-wheeler business. Other finalists include Uganda's AirQo, which uses artificial intelligence and pollution monitors to track air quality, and Argentina's Satellites on Fire, which uses satellite data and artificial intelligence to detect wildfires.

"We know that there are still great challenges but we cannot wait for everyone to agree before we act," William said at a ceremony where the Earthshot finalists were introduced.❑

AI cheating sparks alarm ahead of South Korea's college exam

Seoul, South Korea

A South Korean exam cheat who confessed to using AI to post near-perfect accountancy test scores has sent teachers and officials scrambling to prevent similar misconduct ahead of this week's crucial college entrance exam.

Known as the Suneung, the intense once-a-year exam will bring much of South Korea to a standstill on Thursday, with flights temporarily halted during the English listening section and stock trading delayed by an hour.

The trickster's admission on Sunday to using a miniature camera and smartphone in two national tax tests earlier this year has "caused panic among teachers", said Kim Seung-ho, a high school educator in the central city of Cheongju.

"Each testing centre is assigned six to seven metal detectors, but not enough for every classroom," he told AFP, adding "the problem is we don't know if they can detect miniature cameras or nano-scale earphones".

More than half a million students are set to sit the grueling nine-hour test this year in highly competitive South Korea, where getting into a top university is seen as a ticket not only to well-paid jobs but also to better marriage prospects.



Students wait for the start of the annual college entrance exam, known locally as Suneung, at an exam hall in Seoulon November 13, 2025.

Song Ji-eun, who will take the test, told AFP that she would struggle to concentrate "if supervisors keep checking my glasses" for tiny cameras.

"There's a saying that even a slight breeze can affect your focus, your score and even your entire life," the 18-year-old said.

- Possible Wi-Fi cut -

The cheating revelation prompted South Korea's presidential office to announce plans to deploy thermal cameras at exam centers, though it was unclear whether they would be installed at all 1,312 testing sites.

Education officials were also considering suspending public Wi-Fi hotspots near college entrance exam sites.

"We are reviewing all measures, including suspending public Wi-Fi networks," an education ministry official told AFP, adding that an announcement would be made before the exam takes place.

According to local media reports, the government has also been discussing cutting off 5G and LTE mobile data around exam sites and activating signal-jamming devices.

"As devices themselves have become more advanced, including those that can be attached to the body, it is not easy to detect 100 percent of cheating without completely blocking communications," Vice Education Minister Choi Eun-ok said.

However, experts say it would be technically impossible as it would disrupt communication in surrounding residential areas and block emergency calls.

Asked whether signal-blocking measures could be introduced at examination centers, Education Minister Choi Kyo-jin said his office was consulting with the science ministry "to see whether it would be possible, even for part of the examination".

The minister rejected calls for the exam to be rescheduled, saying it "could cause even greater confusion".

- Trust at stake -

The test cheat's video confession, which was posted on his lawyer's YouTube channel, came after questions were raised about his performance.

He ranked first in both rounds of the qualification exam, answering all but one of 160 questions correctly in the first round, a feat many tax accountants had deemed nearly impossible.

His confession has also fuelled suspicions that AI-assisted deception may have already taken place in other high-stakes exams, including law school admissions and university transfer tests.❑

Jordan, Iraq ban Telegram app over extremism concerns

Amman, Jordan

Jordan and Iraq announced bans on the Telegram messaging app on Monday, both citing concerns that it was being used to spread extremism.

"We announce the blocking of the Telegram app in Jordan, in the framework of efforts aiming to bolster digital security and protect users," the Jordanian security directorate said.



The app for Telegram, a cloud-based instant messaging and social media service, is visible on an iPhone screen.

Jordanian authorities said their move came "in the context of the commitment to protecting society and countering any uses that could contribute to and facilitate committing cybercrime, threats, blackmail or spreading illegal content," adding that they also sought to counter "attempts to spread radicalisation and extremism which affect national security".

Jordan experienced a rare attack on a church on October 23 that killed nine people and wounded dozens more. There is no evidence the attackers, whom authorities described as followers of a hardline Islamist ideology, used Telegram in the attack.

Also on Monday, Iraq's Communications and Media Commission said it had "decided to ban the Telegram application" following a decision by Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi and as part of efforts aimed at curbing the "exploitation of social media platforms to spread radical speech, incite sedition, violence and hatred".

The Iraqi ban comes amid a worsening confrontation between Zaidi and a powerful Iran-backed armed faction, whose affiliates are among Telegram's most active users in Iraq, where the app is widely used by government institutions, media outlets and armed groups.

Iraq previously restricted Telegram for a short period during the Middle East war that began in February, without the government announcing an official ban. In a statement to AFP, Telegram said it "enforces its Terms of Service to remove harmful content, but it will not censor investigative journalism, peaceful free expression, or calls to protest".

"Telegram's substantial efforts to combat terrorism are publicly documented and go well beyond legal obligations in order to protect more than one billion users," it said.❑

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 Oranjestad 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.





Aruba's kite flying tradition

(Oranjestad)—Every year for King's Day, Arubans gather with friends and family to fly kites. Big or small, paper or plastic, blue skies fill up with these colorful flying contraptions, brightening our yearly celebration of the Dutch Monarch.



The tradition of flying kites starts at home in the weeks leading up to King's Day. These kites were traditionally made with things found in the nearby mondi* and in the kitchen at home. Using dried up cactus sticks for the frame, old news papers, and glue made from flour, water and salt to dry faster (some people even use cornstarch slurry as glue), kids usually make their own kites with their friends, parents or other close family members. Tails are made from old bed sheets, ripped and tied together to create a long string of fabric trailing behind the back end of the kite. To finish off the process, people used fish lines or thin rope to tie three corners of the kite together. Another long string of rope is tied in the knotted center and bundled up, used to steer the kite as it flies in the air. Decorating the kite was especially important, and children would use paint to create their own designs—the more colorful, the better!

People usually fly their kites in big open fields, like empty soccer and baseball fields found all around the island around noon, when the sun is at its brightest. In the past few years, kite flying has become a sport in which groups of people would battle against each other to see whose kite is the biggest, the prettiest, and whose could fly flawlessly and longer in the air.❑

***Mondi: Aruban woods.**

The Lionfish and its threat to our marine wild life

(Oranjestad)—Despite its colorful and striking appearance, the lionfish has become a Caribbean-wide problem for Atlantic sea life. The Aruban marine wild life is also affected by this beautiful dilemma, as it is foreign to our waters and has become a danger to our local fish and reefs.



Originating from the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the lionfish is a relatively small fish. It has no teeth, but it does protect itself against predators using its sharp, colorful spikes. It is said that the sting of a lionfish can be up to 100 times more painful than that of a bee's sting.

Its natural predators in the Indo-Pacific are sharks and barracudas, but in the Caribbean Sea, local fish do not recognize the lionfish as part of their diet. In other words, the lionfish has no predators in the Caribbean Sea. And this becomes a major problem for our local marine life; if there are no predators to stimulate population control of lionfish, these fish can continue to reproduce and expand to other parts of the Atlantic, become more invasive and dangerous for other types of fish.

For Aruba, the lionfish is a problem especially for our local coral reefs. According to Patrick van Brakel, lionfish expert and hunter from the Hunting Lionfish Aruba foundation, every reef has a "cleaning station"—tiny fish that eat algae and other types of waste on a reef, thus maintaining the reef's health and providing food to the fish population in the area. However, as the lionfish feeds off of these tiny fish, it becomes harder for the coral reef to maintain its health.

Patrick also shares the origins of lionfish in the Caribbean Sea. It is theorized that the introduction of these fish in the Atlantic happened in Florida, where people would buy lionfish from across the world to keep in their aquariums. However, lionfish grow, and as these buyers realized that the fish were too much upkeep, they were let out into the ocean to roam free. From continental USA, the lionfish travelled to and invaded the entire Caribbean area, from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao up to New York. In Aruba, lionfish were discovered in 2009.

Controlling the lionfish population is challenge, as each female fish can lay up to 40,000 eggs a day. Luckily, we have people like van Brakel who dedicate their lives hunting and capturing these invasive species, using them for consumption and jewelry making.

They are caught with a hand spear, an object resembling a garbage picker with 4 sharp prongs. These spears are used like a sling shot to catch lionfish from a distance. These fish are then put into a collecting tube and taken out of the water. This way, he does his part in protecting the local wild life.❑

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Birds of Aruba: Soaring through the blue skies







(Oranjestad)—Aruba's nature is very diverse and is home to several beautiful and majestic wildlife. Among these is the bright Trupial, whose angelic voice is always heard with the rising sun; the cuddly parakeet, always in company of another, and the majestic Warawara, a mighty bird that can be seen soaring in the clear blue skies.

Trupial
Icterus icterus, or known locally as the Venezuelan or Orange Troupial, is a striking songbird whose bright orange feathers can be spotted from a far distance. Known to be the first bird to sing at the first sign of sunrise, this beloved songbird likes to wake up with a tune. But don't let their angelic songs fools you; the Trupial can be a bit aggressive towards any threat, protective over their nesting spots—nesting spots they most likely stole from other birds. Trupials can be seen regularly, often in trees or on top of a cactus.

Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez

Prikichi (parakeet)
The Brown-throated Prikichi (Aratinga pertinax) became the national bird of Aruba back in 2015, at the request of Aruba Birdlife Conservation. The bright green, adorable parakeet usually flies in flock of 30 or more, but its population has been declining since the 2010s. Prikichis are a shier breed than the trupial, often flying away at the sign of any threat. They use termite nests for breeding spots and feed mostly on seeds from the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi tree and fruits.

Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez

Warawara
The Warawara or Caracara is one of the biggest birds found in the Aruban mondi. At a heigh of 41 to 60 cm, their wingspan can measure up to 125 cm. Known as the "garbage man", this bird of prey mostly feeds on dead animals. Its coat is dark brown, with a cream-colored neck, orange face, thick beak and long legs. The Warawara prefers to build its nest in the middle of tall cacti and produces a rattling, screaming sound, throwing its head back onto its back while calling.

While these birds are a beautiful sight to behold, it is very important to keep your distance and respect their habitats. This is how we protect our wildlife. By admiring the beauty of Aruba in a safe and respectful manner, we can do our part in protecting our sacred nature.

Photo Credit: Aruba Birdlife Conservation

Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.





Anabui/Tierra Del Sol

This neighborhood can be seen on Van Raders map and Werbata as Anna Boei. Anna Boei is a name of which there isn't much information about its origin.

The best historians were able to deduce is that this name came to be because of a miscommunication between Van Spengler and the natives who were living on the island. In the Arawak/Taino language one can find the word Anaiboa, which consists of Ana meaning flower or the best and Iboa; the juice of a cassava, which together would mean "the best juice of a cassava".

If one assumes that the actual word heard was Anaboio instead, consisting of Ana meaning the best and Boio (bohio); house, the iteration of Anabui would mean "the best house." This is the origin that has been more or less speculated and assumed for the word Anabui and its meaning.

During the Second World War and later, this area was used as a terrain for training of shooting by militia and later on Korps Mariniers (the marines of Aruba). By the end of the previous century a large part of Anabui was developed to have luxurious villas and a golf course, which lead to it getting the name Tierra Del Sol, Spanish for Land of the Sun. The name is not an official name, but the name of the development project that took place. It is hoped that the original and 'old' name of Anabui is never lost and now it will be remembered by both locals and tourists.

Angochi

This name can be seen on the Werbata map with little and cursive letters. It is the unofficial name for the area given by a tenant to the land that was rented to him.

The biggest probability that historians believe is that it comes from native descent, during the time in the 19th century where Mestizos still lived on Aruba. The name can't really be explain and according to books on its history seems to be more of a sign of corruption.

However, it seems to come from combining A(n), which is a generalizing prefix and Goeiza, which means 'the spirit of a living man'. Angochi remains more of a guess.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; An.❑

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Picuda!

(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 "Picuda", a very common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Picuda.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? This is an informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamento, which the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, known as "Santa Rosa", wants to share and also obtain information from the public.

Picuda, Sphyraena barracuda, Greater Barracuda

Well known is the Picuda on the island—Barracuda in English. Its scientific name is Sphyraena barracuda. It is a widely caught fish. It is found throughout the year in our waters, where it is a so-called "ambush predator" that stays still or floats in the water waiting for its prey to approach so it can attack it with lightning speed. It is well known for fishermen, especially for its white flesh in fish soup. In fishing culture, there are many other names, such as Pecho blanco, Blekito, Banana, or Bleki. The names vary according to size.

Description

The Picuda is a long fish, with a round body like a torpedo and silver in color with shiny black stripes. Below, the belly, is whiter, while the top part is darker. Its snout is very pointed, and the lower jaw is longer than the upper one. Its peduncle, where the body meets the tail, is thick, while the tail also forms a crescent but in this case one more "full" than that of mullet or conefish. This reflects the hunting style of the Picuda. It needs to be able to accelerate quickly when the prey gets close.



In Aruba:

Picuda can be found in our waters around our island throughout the year. Picuda, in our waters, is edible without any problem. Picuda is also a highly sought-after fish by sports fishermen or recreational fishermen because it puts up a good fight once hooked. It can be caught via trolling from a boat, casting from shore with a line or rod, or by jigging, casting the lure (artificial bait) and moving it with certain rod motions. ❑

Picture courtesy of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (Santo Rosa).

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today loves to share parts of the Aruban culture with our readers, diving into (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this article, we'll look at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.



In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamento we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is 'placa'. Cents are called 'cen' (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called 'Dos Placa'; 10-cent coins were called 'Debchi'; 25-cent coins were called 'Diez Placa' and the 50-cent coin was once called 'Yotin' (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism

10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Tortuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.



50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (forkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

The word "florin" is supposedly named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.❑

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

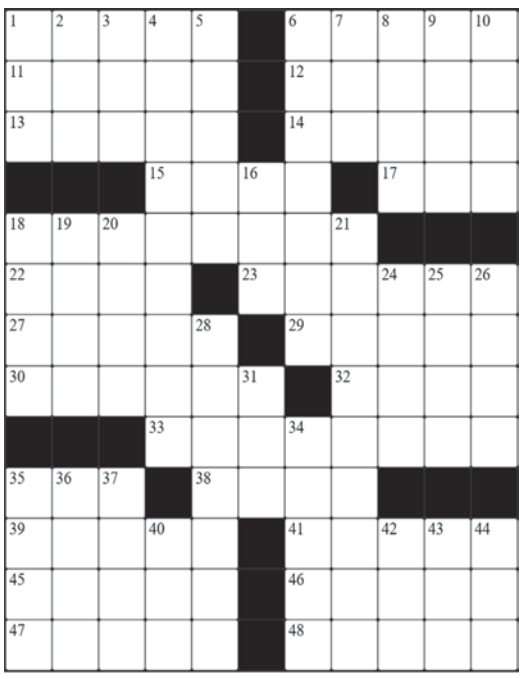
1. Raise with ropes
6. Heathen
11. Boise's state
12. Rome's nation
13. Choir member
14. Sioux shelter
15. Floor covers
17. Bus. card abbr.
18. Curated collections given as presents
22. Bad day for Caesar
23. Car parts
27. Theater units
29. Appear unexpectedly
30. Foretelling decks
32. Heap
33. Plant with poisonous purple berries
35. Last letter
38. Tuscany city with a tower
39. Luggage clip-on
41. Rough guesses
45. Ship of 1492
46. Showy display
47. Mailing need
48. Disreputable

DOWN

1. Sold-out show
2. Poem of praise
3. McKellen of "X-Men"
4. Diamond position
5. Bagel's shape
6. Refueling break for a racer
7. Had lunch
8. Stare in disbelief
9. Baseball's Rodriguez
10. Russian denial
16. Sparkler
18. Essence
19. Concept
20. Phobia
21. Race timer
24. Mayberry kid
25. Hold power
26. Went fast
28. Temporary fix
31. Enjoy Aspen
34. Snaky shapes
35. Moves swiftly
36. Fix copy
37. Sicilian peak
40. Money dispenser
42. In the style of
43. Misbehaving
44. Porker's pen

1 S	2 T	3 A	4 L	5 E	■	6 B	7 A	8 B	9 A	10 R
11 T	E	T	O	N	■	12 E	L	O	P	E
13 A	C	T	I	V	■	14 E	I	D	E	R
15 T	H	E	S	I	16 S	■	■	17 E	M	U
18 I	N	N	■	19 S	M	20 I	21 D	G	E	N
22 C	O	D	■	23 I	O	N	I	A	N	■
■	■	■	24 S	O	L	V	E	■	■	■
■	25 A	26 G	E	N	D	A	■	27 R	28 A	29 G
30 C	R	E	A	S	E	S	■	31 E	T	A
32 R	A	M	■	■	33 R	I	34 G	G	E	R
35 A	B	I	36 D	37 E	■	38 O	R	G	A	N
39 F	I	N	E	S	■	40 N	O	I	S	E
41 T	A	I	N	T	■	42 S	W	E	E	T

Saturday's answer



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.

11-16 CRYPTOQUOTE

V HZOXQD VP WQMLQB PQQW WZOQWG HIQO JIQG BQQ JIQVD OQVEICZDB PMWWVOE.

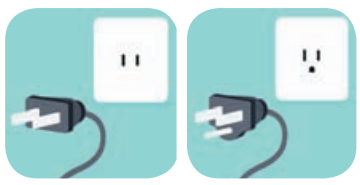
— SZIO YTVD

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: AUTUMN BURN BRIGHTLY, A RUNNING FLAME THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS, A TORCH FLUNG TO THE TREES. — FAITH BALDWIN

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 underprepared. 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

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

Difficulty: ★★ 11/17

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★ 11/16

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WHO sounds the alarm on antimicrobial resistance threat

Geneva, Switzerland

The spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is threatening modern medicine despite progress in combating drug-resistant bacteria, senior World Health Organization officials said Monday.

WHO officials said countries had expanded efforts to tackle AMR, but warned that progress in prevention, diagnosis and the appropriate use of antibiotics remained too slow to meet global targets.

Bacteria have long evolved resistance to medicines designed to kill them.

The widespread use of antibiotics in human health, animal husbandry and food production has accelerated the problem, making AMR one of the leading causes of infectious-disease deaths worldwide.

"Antimicrobial resistance is widespread and threatening the future of modern medicine," said Jean-Pierre Nyemazi, interim head of antimicrobial resistance at the WHO.

"Unlike COVID-19, which was very visible, drug-resistant infections have been taking people's lives for years without us noticing it and raising the alarm as we should," said Nyemazi.

In 2021 alone, AMR was directly responsible for more than one million deaths and linked to some 4.7 million others, said the agency.

A WHO investigation in 183 countries into the progress of the fight against antimicrobial resistance this year revealed that nearly nine countries in 10 had a national action plan against the phenomenon. In 2017, the figure was only around four in 10.

But only 42 countries -- less than one in five -- said they had a plan that was financed, implemented and monitored, said Pravasha Prakash, an AMR technical officer with the global health agency.

"Countries are moving forward in every step but progress still needs to be speeded up to reach the 2030 targets," she added.

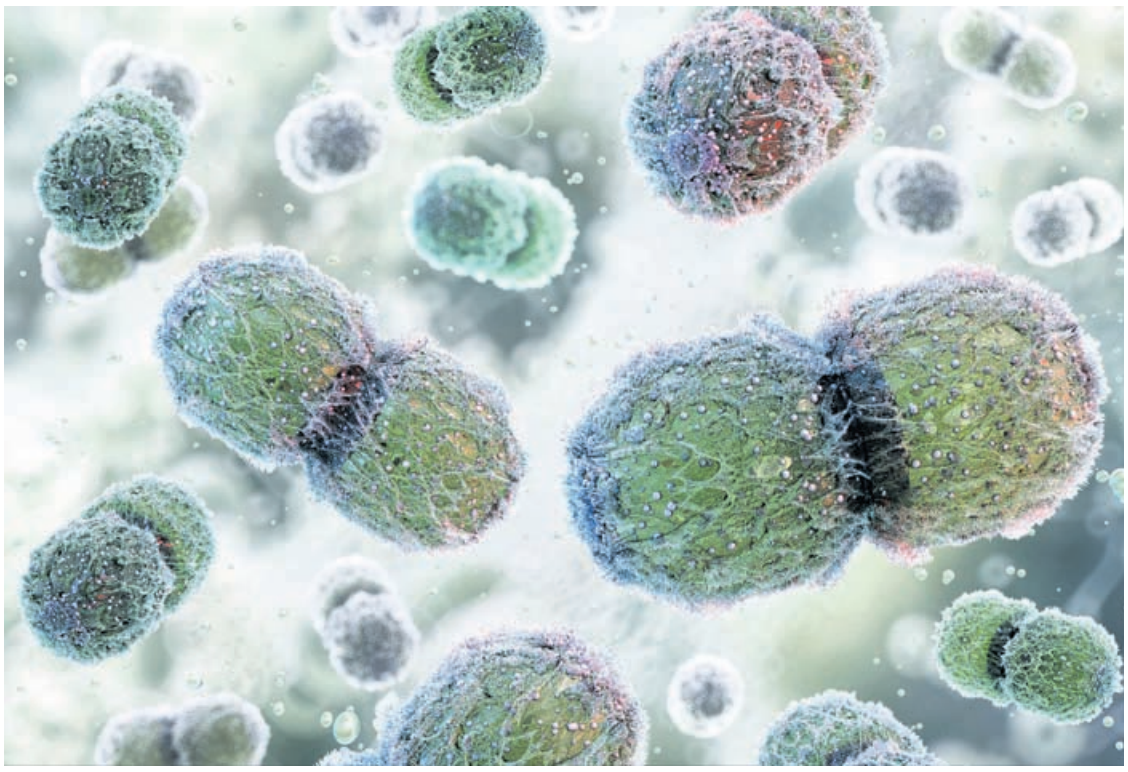


Illustration of vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus (VRE) bacteria. Enterococci cause a range of illnesses, mostly among patients receiving healthcare, including bloodstream infections, surgical site infections and urinary tract infections.

- Poor access to diagnostics -

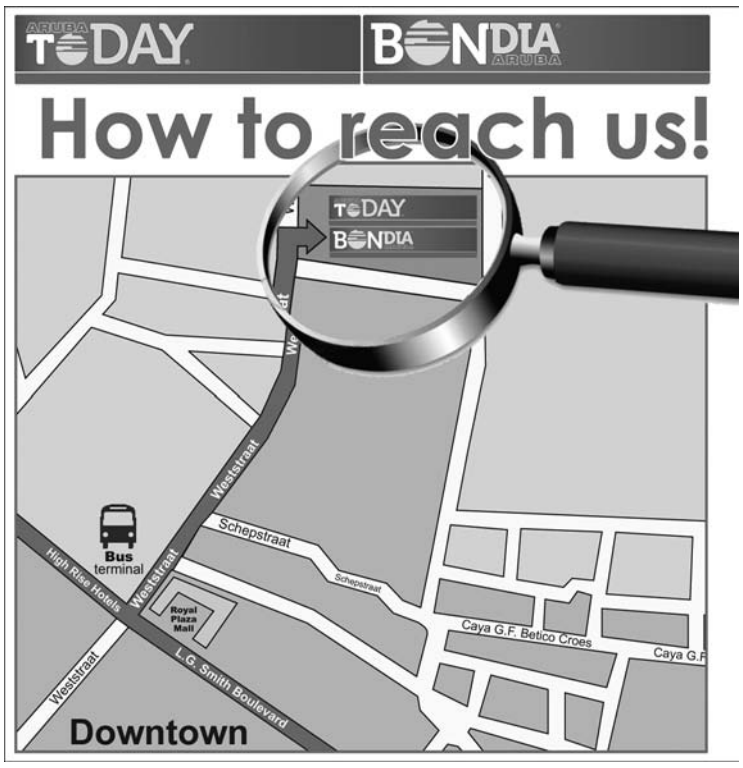
One of the main weaknesses remains access to diagnostics. Only 36 percent of countries had a national reference laboratory capable of testing for resistance in all bacteria and fungi monitored by the WHO -- well short of the 80 percent target set for 2030.

"Without testing, clinicians must treat without knowing the cause of infection or which antibiotic will work," said Sylvia Bertagnolo, head of surveillance for AMR at the WHO.

The latest global surveillance data show that in 2023, one in every six laboratory-confirmed bacterial infections flagged to the WHO was resistant to antibiotics used to treat it.

As a result, the WHO has announced the release of two new tools designed to help countries strengthen their diagnostic capacities. The first defines the tests that should be available at every level of the healthcare system, from primary care centres to referral hospitals.

The second compiles 73 laboratory procedures, from sample collection to the identification of pathogens and antibiotic susceptibility testing.❑



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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

AI helps cosmetic giants overcome perfume's nasal 'paradoxes'

Paris, France

There may be a hint of bergamot in the top notes and sweet iris as a follow-up, but there is a noticeable dose of Artificial Intelligence emerging in new perfumes, according to industry specialists.

The traditional world of perfumes has not been able to turn up its nose to new technology and algorithms even though the industry insists that human sensorial expertise can never be fully replaced.

The U.S. cosmetics giant Estee Lauder opened a perfume innovation centre in Paris in 2025 that uses AI to mix savoir faire and cutting edge technology and help its billion dollars brands that include Jo Malone of London, Kilian Paris, Le Labo and Tom Ford Beauty, according to Lucas Nanini, the group's vice president for fragrance innovation.

He tests some of the new formulas uncovered on visitors to the Maison des Parfums.

"AI will allow us to work on what we call 'paradoxes'," Nanini told AFP. "For example, how can we create an oil that is rich, yet fine enough to be diffused?"



A corner of the Estee Lauder booth is seen ahead of the ninth China International Import Expo in Shanghai, east China, November 4, 2026.

AI helps perfumers identify oils with properties that would take them years to develop by manual trial and error.

Machine intelligence also helps with regulatory tasks. Nanini highlighted the time it takes to check whether different countries allow each ingredient in a perfume.

With a single click he can now verify whether an ingredient from the one thousand-plus used is legal in a specific country as well as the maxium concentration allowed.

AI can also be used to find molecules to substitute for certain animal-derived ingredients.

Civet, taken from the glands of African civet and other cats in the species, was traditionally used to give perfume a musky tone but has been phased out in the face of animal rights protests.

- Fast fragrance -

International Flavors and Fragrances (IFF), another major U.S. player, estimates that AI cuts between 25 and 30 percent of the time needed to develop and make a perfume.

With niche perfumes taking a bigger share of a growing market, enterprises like Givaudan of Switzerland and Robertet of France have heavily invested in tools to help them find new molecules.

IFF has developed its own AI tools using decades of internally collected data.

One suggests ingredients that complement each other and is used by IFF perfumer Tanguy Guesnet.

"Every perfumer is searching for that 'accord' that combination that will spark the emotion of tomorrow," he said.

The tool looks at the molecules in a single ingredient and suggests others with similar characteristics. Mint essence, for example, contains menthone, and the tool can propose other ingredients that also include the compound.

"Some pairings might seem obvious, while others might appear a bit outlandish, but that is precisely the richness of the tool," said Guesnet.

"It stimulates creativity and so I consider highly original combinations."

Not everyone is convinced by the AI revolution, however.

Guillaume Teule, co-founder of the French fragrance house Helius, insisted that he remains in control of how a scent develops. "I maintain my own vision."

"Much like in music, resonances and dissonances emerge when you start altering ingredients -- and it is precisely these dissonances that are interesting, and which only a human being knows how to leverage effectively," he said.

"I don't believe any AI would have suggested 'Angel'," he said of Thierry Mugler's so-called 'gourmand' fragrance launched in 1992 and considered revolutionary because of its sweet notes.

"It was like a stone thrown into a pond, when it was first released," commented Teule.❑

Amazon loses 40 satellites in failed rocket launch

San Francisco, United States

Amazon lost 40 satellites from its internet constellation on Sunday after a rocket failed during the first of several dozen flights the tech giant has purchased, marking a setback in Jeff Bezos' race against Elon Musk's Starlink.

The Vulcan rocket operated by United Launch Alliance (ULA) lifted off at 12:40 pm local time (1740 GMT) from Cape Canaveral, Florida, and "suffered an anomaly 10 minutes into the flight and failed to deliver the Amazon mission to orbit," ULA said in a statement.

ULA is a joint venture between Boeing and Lockheed Martin, and the company said on X it "exists to provide assured access to space for our nation and for the customers who depend on us" by taking on "some of the hardest missions in spaceflight."

Amazon has purchased 38 launches from ULA, and over the long term, Vulcan is supposed to launch nearly half of the first generation of Amazon Leo, which is to comprise 3,232 satellites.

The e-commerce giant founded by Bezos has launched around 400 satellites since April 2025.

Sunday's failed launch was going to send up the largest batch of satellites ever attempted for Amazon, which has not carried out any launches since July.



A United Launch Alliance (ULA) Vulcan VC6L rocket lifts off from Space Launch Complex-41 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, United States, on November 15, 2026, carrying 40 Amazon Leo broadband satellites on the Leo Vulcan 1 (LV-01) mission.

Amazon had announced plans to use the satellites to open its commercial internet service Amazon Leo in 2026.

"There is risk with any launch, and that's especially true for inaugural missions," Amazon Leo posted to X, adding it believes ULA will "learn from this mission and deliver on their long-term plans for Vulcan."

The setback came a day after Musk's SpaceX deployed 26 large Starlink satellites during a test flight of its Starship mega-rocket, pulling off the first-ever "catch" of a spaceship to demonstrate the feasibility of reusable rockets.

Bezos-founded Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket, which Amazon is also relying on for launches, has been grounded since an explosion during a test in May.❑

Mahomes throws five touchdowns as Chiefs thrash Falcons

Los Angeles, United States
Patrick Mahomes proved he is back to his imperious best with five touchdowns and 348 passing yards as the Kansas City Chiefs thrashed the Falcons 35-13 at Atlanta on Sunday.
In the three-time Super Bowl champion quarterback's most impressive showing since a nine-month injury absence with torn knee ligaments, Mahomes completed 22-of-35 passes with zero interceptions and one sack.
Victory took the Chiefs level with the idle Denver Broncos at the top of the AFC West, on 7-2.
Rookie Emmett Johnson twice found the end zone, while Josh Downs had a touchdown on his Kansas City debut following a deadline day trade from Indianapolis.
Cyrus Allen and Andrew Armstrong each scored their first Chiefs touchdowns, grabbing passes of 39 yards and 43 yards respectively.
"It just showcases another level to our offense, that we can continue to get better and better," said Mahomes.
Johnson stepping up for Kenneth Walker III, who was absent with a groin injury -- also led the Chiefs' running game, with 22 carries for 101 yards.

"I thought we did a great job picking up, obviously Kenneth not being here. I thought Emmett did a great job," said Mahomes.



Ja'marr Chase #1 of the Cincinnati Bengals catches a pass against Asante Samuel Jr. #22 of the Pittsburgh Steelers during the second quarter at Paycor Stadium on November 15, 2026 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

It was another miserable day for the Falcons, who trailed 28-3 before Bijan Robinson's fourth-quarter touchdown, and have lost five of their past six.
San Francisco beat the Dallas Cowboys 46-40 in a high-scoring, back-and-forth duel.
The 49ers had moved 19 points clear in the second half at Dallas, as Deebo Samuel scored a 70-yard touchdown from a trick play and Christian McCaffrey added another.
Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott rallied his team with two touchdowns, before McCaffrey took a Brock Purdy pass 66 yards to seemingly put the game to bed.
But CeeDee Lamb grabbed another touchdown in the final minute and Dallas converted the two-point attempt, to ensure a nervy finish.
Victory moved San Francisco to a joint NFL-best 8-1, along with Buffalo who beat the misfiring New York Jets 31-12.

- 'Tough three years' -
Returning to the Minnesota Vikings on trade deadline day Tuesday, Kirk Cousins threw for two touchdowns to beat divisional rivals Green Bay 30-10.
Cousins spent six successful seasons with the Vikings but tore his Achilles tendon at the Packers' Lambeau Field in 2023, and subsequently left for stints at Atlanta and Las Vegas before returning this week.
"It was emotional, coming to the stadium three years ago, tearing my Achilles here... it's been a tough three years," said Cousins.
The Cleveland Browns rallied from 17-0 down to stun the Houston Texans 27-24, as Quinshon Judkins ran in a touchdown with less than a minute remaining.
Houston led with C.J. Stroud's first-half passing touchdowns to Nico Collins and Xavier Hutchinson, but allowed Cleveland two touchdowns and two field goals without reply.

The Texans thought they had salvaged the win with a Dalton Schultz touchdown, before Watson led yet another late game-winning drive with 53 seconds left.
"Personally for me it was definitely special," said Watson, who was drafted by Houston in 2017 and traded to Cleveland five years later.

The Detroit Lions thrashed New England 35-10 in Munich, Germany.
Patriots quarterback Drake Maye left the field with an ankle injury following a sack by Aidan Hutchinson -- who suffered a knee injury celebrating the sack.
Jahmyr Gibbs had 153 rushing yards with two touchdowns, and another 99 receiving yards, in the Lions' fifth straight win.

The Carolina Panthers needed a field goal with two seconds remaining to beat their divisional rival New Orleans Saints 20-17 and move top of the NFC South.
Indianapolis snapped their five-game losing streak with a 24-22 win over Miami.
Super Bowl champions Seattle beat Las Vegas 21-13, ensuring a frustrating debut start for Raiders quarterback Fernando Mendoza. The top draft pick was sacked six times, but opened the scoring with his first NFL touchdown.
In Sunday's final game, Cincinnati stormed to a fifth straight win, crushing Pittsburgh 38-18, with another four touchdowns and 409 yards for in-form Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow.❑

Alcaraz sweeps aside Tiafoe in ATP Finals demonstration of force

Turin, Italy
Carlos Alcaraz looked in ominous form on Monday as he began his bid to win the ATP Finals for the first time by cruising past Frances Tiafoe in straight sets, 6-2, 6-2.
World number three Alcaraz took just over an hour to deal with American Tiafoe and show why he is the favourite to win the whole thing in Turin, where he was the beaten finalist last year.
Since returning in August from a wrist injury that kept him off the tour for four months Alcaraz has won three of the five tournaments he has entered, most recently the Paris Masters.
Alcaraz, 25, can book his place in the semi-finals on Wednesday by beating Italian Flavio Cobolli, who in the absence of former world number one Jannik Sinner is the crowd favourite.
"Sometimes I feel really comfortable," Alcaraz said.
"I feel like I'm better than the opponent in every aspect of the game.
"If I qualify to the semi-final or not, I think it's a great experience, a great week, getting experience," he added.
Tiafoe had a nightmare debut match at the season-ending tournament, the 28-year-old having no answer to Alcaraz's speed and power.
Only briefly in the second set did he look like challenging his opponent, a seven-time Grand Slam winner, when at 3-2 down he wasted three opportunities to break back.❑



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz hits a return to USA's Frances Tiafoe at the ATP Finals tennis tournament, in Turin on November 16, 2026.

ARUBA TODAY

Spurs streak to 12th win, Lakers roll on

Los Angeles, United States
The San Antonio Spurs were forced to dig deep before defeating the Utah Jazz 110-102 to clinch their 12th straight victory on Sunday as the Los Angeles Lakers extended their winning streak to eight games.

Utah, languishing at the bottom of the Western Conference with only one win, had threatened to pull off a huge upset after leading by five points midway through the fourth quarter.

But San Antonio closed with a 16-4 run in the final three minutes to improve to 12-2 at the top of the Western Conference standings, neck-and-neck with the Lakers. Dylan Harper led San Antonio's scorers with 31 points, while French star Victor Wembanyama had another big game at both ends with 26 points, 10 rebounds, six assists and five blocks.

Los Angeles kept pace with their rivals from Texas on Sunday after Luka Doncic delivered his seventh 40-point performance of the season in a 131-123 road win over the Phoenix Suns.



Dylan Harper #2 of the San Antonio Spurs rushes the ball up the court against Darryn Peterson #22 of the Utah Jazz during the second half of their game at the Delta Center on November 15, 2026 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Doncic, who is averaging 39 points per game, drained five three-pointers en route to 43 points with nine assists in a wire-to-wire victory.

The Lakers had appeared to be strolling towards a rout after surging into a 31-point lead late in the third quarter.

But they were given a huge scare in the fourth quarter as Phoenix threatened a sensational comeback after closing the gap to just five points.

Despite being outscored 43-27 in the final frame, the Lakers held off the rally to move to 12-2 in the Western Conference.

"We got a little bit sloppy in that fourth quarter so we've really got to work on that," Doncic said.

"I know we've got eight in a row, but we've got to do better at that."

With the Lakers still missing the injured Austin Reaves, Doncic was given scoring support from Quentin Grimes, who rattled in five three-pointers in a 22-point haul.

Collin Sexton added 16 from the bench, and Walker Kessler finished with a double-double of 14 points and 12 rebounds.

The Oklahoma City Thunder snapped their three-game losing streak. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 37 in a 125-103 win at Sacramento.

- 'Super humbling' -

In the Eastern Conference, LeBron James moved into third place on the NBA's all-time assists list as the Philadelphia 76ers overpowered the Indiana Pacers 131-124.

James finished with 15 points and 11 assists as the Sixers improved to 11-3.

James is now one ahead of Jason Kidd's 12,091 career assists. Chris Paul is second on the list with 12,552, while John Stockton leads with 15,806.❑

Icon Ronaldinho makes winning return to pro football in Italy's third division

Ravenna, Italy

Greying and rounder in the face than during his prime, Ronaldinho made a winning return to professional football on Sunday for Ravenna, an ambitious club in Italy's third tier dreaming of reaching Serie A.

Under the watchful eye of Ignazio Cipriani, the Italian-American businessman who has owned the club since 2024, Ronaldinho perfectly played his role as the centrepiece of a clever PR stunt. The 46-year-old Brazilian great put in a low-key performance in his first competitive match since playing for Fluminense in 2015, as Ravenna, bidding for promotion to Serie B, beat local rivals Forli 2-0 in front of a packed Stadio Bruno Benelli near Italy's Adriatic coast.



Brazilian football star Ronaldinho kicks the ball during the Italian Serie C football match between Ravenna and Forli at the Benelli stadium in Ravenna on November 15, 2026.

Known for his dynamic dribbling and often outrageous ball control in his Barcelona and Brazil heyday, Ronaldinho largely strolled around the pitch and laid off simple passes to his teammates, who would once upon a time not have been anywhere near his level as players.

"It was wonderful to see so many young footballers who grew up watching me play, and who now find themselves coming out onto the pitch alongside me," said Ronaldinho as he left the field. Ronaldinho's arrival has given Ravenna a previously unimaginable profile, and Cipriani would no doubt have been delighted to see the pack of reporters and photographers that descended on the Benelli.

The 2005 Ballon d'Or winner only played in the first half but was involved in the move which ended with Giulio Donati smashing hosts Ravenna ahead in the 36th minute.

Ronaldinho entered the field to great fanfare, with the 5,000-capacity Benelli having a temporary stand with 1,800 places dubbed "R10" added for the occasion.

Flares and smoke bombs were let off in the stands while Andrea Bocelli's "Con Te Partiro" blasting out of the stadium's speakers. He left after the first half, but not before plenty of handshakes with his teammates and match officials and questions from awaiting journalists.

Only he knows whether he will play for Ravenna again, although he had only taken part in a single training session with his teammates before this one-off appearance. Cipriani announced the signing of Ronaldinho back in June as part of his efforts to build up the club's image, with an official presentation taking place at the end of August.❑