

Media headlines

February 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

Chile launches the Latam-GPT artificial intelligence model

Death and disease: these are the most dangerous ultra-processed products for your health

Unprecedented shift in the energy industry: China has already created the first functional hydrogen battery

The tragic legacy of pesticides in Latin America

The UN chief explains how to prevent a planetary catastrophe

China is making progress in clean energy, while Trump is clinging to coal.

Study: The tropics could face a major climate threat

Garbage is invading the man-groves of tropical countries

Chile launches the Latam-GPT artificial intelligence model



DW, 02/10/2026

Synopsis: Chile launches Latam-GPT, a project aimed at providing Latin America with its own artificial intelligence model, with the goal of limiting certain biases observed in current systems.

The project is driven by the Chilean National Center for Artificial Intelligence (Cenia), a private corporation with public funding, and has the support of universities, foundations, libraries, government entities, and civil society organizations in countries such as Chile, Uruguay, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, and Argentina. It was created with just \$550,000 in funding, primarily from the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF).

Latam-GPT wants to break down "prejudices" and prevent Latin America's representation in the rest of the

world from "looking the same," Chilean Science Minister Aldo Valle told AFP.

The region "cannot be merely a passive user or recipient of artificial intelligence systems. That could result in the loss of a significant part of our traditions," he adds.

This tool is not a chat application for interaction. It is a free, "large database" trained on information from the region, which can be used to develop technological applications.

In addition to Latam-GPT, other alternatives have emerged, such as SEA-LION from Southeast Asia and UlizaLlama in Africa, which are more focused on their own cultures.

To train Latam-GPT, more than eight terabytes of information were gathered, equivalent to millions of books, and it is primarily in Spanish and Portuguese.

Its first version was developed in the Amazon Web Services cloud, but in the future it will be trained on a supercomputer that must be installed at the University of Tarapacá in the north of the country and which cost almost 5 million dollars.

The new normal: summers with fires



National Geographic, 02/01/2026

Synopsis: While the last few days in the Northern Hemisphere were marked by cold weather on both sides of

the Atlantic, the Southern Hemisphere is suffering from high temperatures and serious wildfires.

Marc Castellnou, a forestry engineer and head of the Forestry Area of the Catalan Fire Service, explained that "Heat waves used to last two or three days, and now they last almost three weeks. In June, the average temperature was 4.5 degrees higher than in a normal June. In the 1990s, we had 20 days above 32 degrees, and last year we had 219. It's a qualitative leap that is highlighting the stress on our forests."

"We continue working on understanding convection patterns and extre-

me weather events, which are conditioning forest cover for much more intense fires. It's a global network effort. We monitor fires in the Southern Hemisphere, analyze them, and learn from what's happening. As we said five years ago: we've had three or four decades of waves of change. All our ecosystems globally are out of their climatological range."

"It's not a matter of resources, but of stressed forests. The amount of vegetation available to burn is extremely high, so the fire potential exceeds the fire suppression capacity."

"In the last 40 years, the forested area of the Iberian Peninsula has

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

February 2026

doubled. When I joined the fire department, it was 35 or 37%, and now, due to rural depopulation, it's 70%."

"There's nothing more contagious than a city. We're surrounded by plastics and things that burn. For example, Chile had the most fatalities last week. Once the flames reach a city, they become much more uncontrollable."

Most Americans believe the government does not protect them from toxic chemicals.



CNN, 02/26/2026

Synopsis: More than 70% of American adults are very or somewhat concerned about exposure to toxic chemicals in their food and drinking water, to the point that 5 out of 6 said they want the federal government and industry to take more steps to protect them, according to a new Pew Charitable Trusts survey.

The survey results stand in stark contrast to recent actions by the Trump administration, said David Andrews, interim science director of the Environmental Working Group (EWG), a health advocacy organization that publishes an annual list of contaminated products called "The Dirty Dozen."

"While Americans across the political spectrum are demanding greater oversight and accountability for toxic chemicals, the administration is taking steps in the opposite direction," said David Andrews, acting science

director of the Environmental Working Group (EWG).

"Last week, President Trump, with the support of HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., issued an executive order intended to increase the production of glyphosate, a probable carcinogen."

In response, the press secretary for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services stated that the administration was shifting toward "regenerative agriculture systems" and that until then, a sudden loss of pesticides "would reduce crop yields, increase food prices, and accelerate farm closures."

In addition, the survey revealed that more than 60% of American adults are also very or somewhat concerned about the chemicals the industry uses in children's toys and baby products, food packaging, and personal care goods such as makeup, according to the Pew survey.

The survey also found that 83% of American adults strongly or fairly strongly believe that "companies that manufacture chemicals found in everyday products cannot be trusted to guarantee the safety of their offerings without government oversight."

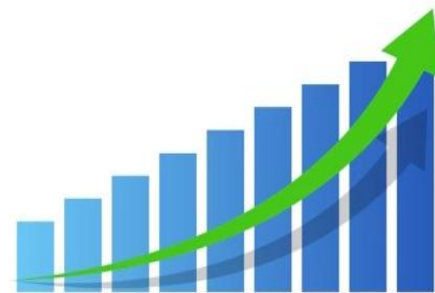
Concern about the risks of flame retardants, heavy metals, pesticides, and endocrine-disrupting chemicals that mimic hormones in the body has been growing as more studies are published pointing to the serious health consequences of these products for consumers.

OPEC reaffirms projections: Global oil demand will maintain "healthy" growth until 2027

La iguana.tv, 02/11/2026

Synopsis: The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) maintained its growth fore-

casts for the global energy market for the next two years.



In its most recent monthly report for February 2026, OPEC estimates a "healthy" increase in global oil demand, confirming the figures presented in January, which project an increase of 1.4 million barrels per day (bpd) for 2026.

Regarding the projection for 2027, an increase of 1.3 million bpd is anticipated.

Robust demand in the aviation sector and ground transportation (especially diesel-powered trucks and freight transport) will be the pillars of consumption, along with "healthy" activity in the construction, agriculture, and manufacturing industries.

A key factor in this analysis is the geographical disparity in growth. While OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries will show a moderate increase of just 150,000 bpd in 2026, non-OECD nations will lead the expansion with an increase of close to 1.2 million bpd year-on-year.

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

February 2026

Death and disease: these are the most dangerous ultra-processed products for your health



RT, 02/27/2026

Synopsis: Three articles published in The Lancet analyzed how the rise of ultra-processed foods is driven by large corporations that employ sophisticated political tactics to market them.

Therefore, appealing to education or individual changes is insufficient, because the deterioration of our diets already constitutes an urgent threat to public health. Coordinated policies and strong advocacy are required to reduce the consumption of ultra-processed foods.

Ultra-processed foods such as sugary drinks, sausages, frozen pizzas, gummy candies, and snacks have been displacing fresh foods, especially in children's diets, and their consumption is associated with obesity, diabetes, cancer, and other diseases, as well as causing attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children.

Studies have shown that ultra-processed foods are typically high in calories, sugar, unhealthy fats, and salt, and low in dietary fiber, protein, vitamins, and minerals. They also cause high glycemic responses and disrupt the gut microbiota, favoring microbes associated with inflammatory diseases.

Ultra-processed foods are industrial formulations made from food-derived substances. Their manufacture begins with the breakdown of whole foods into components such as sugars, oils, fats, proteins, starches, and fiber.

These substances are usually obtained from high-yield crops (corn, wheat, soy, sugarcane, or beets) and from the processing of animal products from intensive livestock farming.

Some of these components then undergo chemical modifications such as hydrolysis or hydrogenation. They are subsequently assembled with little or no whole food remaining, using techniques such as extrusion, molding, and frying.

Colorings, flavorings, emulsifiers, and other additives are added to make them tastier or more visually appealing. The process ends with packaging in synthetic materials, aiming to create highly profitable products: inexpensive ingredients, long shelf life, and well-known brands.

Their resistance to spoilage, ready-to-eat format, irresistible flavor, and aggressive marketing give them a significant market advantage over minimally processed products.

The waters surrounding Japan are transforming at an unexpected rate, altering marine ecosystems and jeopardizing fishing and traditions.



El español.com, 02/04/2026

Synopsis: At the heart of this concern is the Kuroshio Current, one of the

great oceanic arteries of the Pacific, which transports warm waters and regulates the regional climate. However, in recent years it has shifted northward, raising sea levels in areas of the Japanese coast and altering water temperatures, with cascading effects on marine biodiversity.

According to Shusaku Sugimoto of Tohoku University, the northern end of the Kuroshio Current has moved up to 480 kilometers toward latitudes closer to the pole, causing the arrival of unprecedented warm waters in regions where they had never been recorded, such as off the coast of Sanriku, where the water temperature increased by up to 6 degrees Celsius.

Fishermen from different parts of the country report how once-common

species are disappearing, moving to colder waters or greater depths, while fish that were previously uncommon in these latitudes are beginning to appear.

The increase in water temperature alters the reproductive cycles of fish, modifies food availability, and disrupts ecological balances built up over centuries.

Furthermore, the Japan Meteorological Agency has indicated that extreme ocean conditions contributed to the record heat recorded in the north of the country during the summer of 2023.

For scientists, the message is clear: what happens beneath the ocean's surface is directly influencing life on land.

Unprecedented shift in the energy industry: China has already created the first functional hydrogen battery



OKDiario, 02/19/2026

Synopsis: The journal Nature published a paper from the Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics on the first functional prototype of a hydrogen battery based on hydride ions, which aims to solve one of the main challenges for electric mobility and the integration of renewables into the grid.

Unlike lithium batteries, this technology uses H₂ ions as charge carriers. According to the researchers, the use of hydrogen theoretically prevents the formation of metallic dendrites, structures that can compromise the safety and lifespan of batteries.

The battery is capable of conducting hydride ions at room temperature and also behaves as an ionic superconductor above 60 degrees Celsius.

However, the prototype still faces significant challenges. Industrial scalability, production cost, long-term durability, and the need to connect multiple cells to achieve higher voltages are outstanding issues. It could be said, then, that for the moment, this is not a battery ready for the market.

However, the fact that the hydrogen battery has gone from a theoretical concept to an experimental demonstration opens a new front in the energy transition.

Latin America in the sights of the great powers



DW, 02/15/2026

Synopsis: Rarely has the region been so intensely caught between great power rivalry, internal political tensions, and a profound economic reorientation as in 2026. In the presentation "Latin America between Political Tensions, Stability, and Security," organized by the Academy of Political Education in Tutzing, Germany, it was concluded that what was once considered a secondary geopolitical space is now at the center of international politics.

It was observed that the United States has adopted a clearly firmer stance toward the region. Security issues dominate its agenda: migration, drug trafficking, border control, and the containment of authoritarian tendencies. Trade policy is increasingly used as a geopolitical instrument, reflecting a perceived return to historical continuity.

Since the Monroe Doctrine of 1823, the United States has considered the Western Hemisphere a central security space. Interventions and political influence have been part of its foreign policy practice. What is new today is not so much the interest as the tone: more direct, less prescriptive, and more explicitly strategic.

In the background lies the systemic rivalry with China (and indirectly also with Russia). Great powers rarely tolerate strategic competitors in their sphere of influence.

This logic outweighs moral arguments in the current configuration of regional politics, as exemplified by the

kidnapping of President Nicolás Maduro, which "may be classified as illegal under international law, but is politically legitimate." For many Latin American countries, Chinese capital is attractive because of its speed and the absence of strong political constraints.

From Washington, this represents a risk that goes beyond trade. Thus, Latin America becomes an arena of global competition that is not so much ideological as structural.

In several countries, the powers of the executive branch are expanding, political polarization is increasing, and democratic institutions are facing growing challenges.

"Current decisions can define long-term political trajectories," "Neither Washington nor Beijing will determine the future of the region on their own. It will be crucial for Latin American countries themselves to preserve their capacity for action," warns Professor Maihold of the Free University of Berlin.

The tragic legacy of pesticides in Latin America



DW, 02/18/2026

Synopsis: Toxic products banned and produced in Europe continued to be sold in countries like Nicaragua during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, where thousands of workers became ill or sterile.

In 2006, Nicaraguan courts ordered Shell, Dow Chemical, and Occidental Chemical, which sold the pesticide, to pay the victims approximately €640 million (in 2006 euros) in damages. All attempts to collect the compensation in the United States have failed.

Furthermore, a French court rejected on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, a lawsuit for compensation filed against US multinationals by Nicaraguan agricultural workers who became ill or sterile due to the continuous use of the pesticide Nemagon on banana plantations. Those affected

worked or lived in the Chinandega region, where the toxic chemicals were used, and suffered infertility, chronic kidney failure, skin conditions, or cancer after prolonged exposure to Nemagon, a pesticide containing dibromochloropropane (DBCP).

Nemagon was banned in the United States in 1977 after it was discovered to cause sterility in men, but it was exported abroad and used in Nicaragua and elsewhere well into the 1980s.

"Under EU export policy, banned pesticides can still be exported to Latin American countries," Frances Verkamp, a member of the NGO Friends of the Earth Europe, told DW. "Frankly, this is a disgusting form of neocolonialism, because it suggests that people in the Global South are less worthy of protection than Europeans."

Chlorothalonil, which can contaminate groundwater and has been linked to various types of cancer, was banned in the EU in 2019, but only four years later in Costa Rica. Bromacil, another possible carcinogen, has been off the market in the EU since 2009, but was used in Costa Rica until 2017. According to a recent report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), global pesticide use has doubled since 1990. However, actual usage data may be higher due to underreporting.

US inverted food pyramid faces heavy criticism



DW, 02/02/2026

Synopsis: US Secretary of Health Robert F. Kennedy Jr. presented the new dietary guidelines in January.

They are visualized as an inverted pyramid, where meat, poultry,

cheese, and dairy replace grains at the broad base.

The recommended protein intake increased from 0.8 grams per kilogram of body weight per day to between 1.2 and 1.6 grams. This is almost double the amount recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.

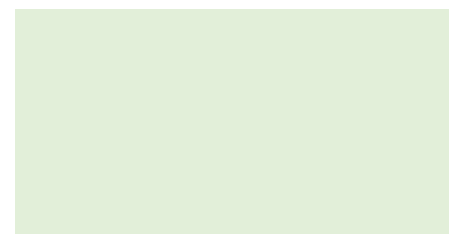
The new pyramid aims to combat diseases such as obesity and diabetes, and imposes greater restrictions on sugar, soft drinks, and highly processed foods.

Fruits and vegetables continue to be explicitly recommended.

Critics argue that rehabilitating red meat, butter, and full-fat cheese increases the risk of cardiovascular disease, certain types of cancer (especially colon cancer), metabolic di-

sorders such as type 2 diabetes, and overall long-term mortality. In US school cafeterias and other public institutions, the proportion of highly processed products is likely to officially decrease, which is, in general, a positive change.

N.R. Beyond any criticism, whether well-intentioned or not, we think it's excellent that proteins are being given precedence over refined grains and that, in addition, the weight of processed foods in the food pyramid is being reduced.



SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

February 2026

Who actually finances deep-sea mining?



DW, 01/31/2026

Synopsis: This industry, according to scientists, remains little known, but is capable of causing irreversible damage to the oceans.

A DW investigation has discovered that some of the more than 20 financial institutions worldwide that have publicly committed to not financing deep-sea mining have invested at least \$684 million (€581 million) in companies linked to this industry.

The banks contacted apply for financing for specific projects, not for investments in companies, thus avoiding directly financing individual seabed mining operations, while continuing to invest in companies that do.

"It's greenwashing," emphasizes Mauricio Vargas, a former investment strategist. "The banks want to avoid negative publicity related to environmental controversies," he adds.

However, some banks, such as Storebrand, one of Norway's largest financial groups, divested millions of dollars from companies linked to this mining.

Goldman Sachs, which promotes itself as a leader in environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing, holds €187 million in stakes in companies that facilitate deep-sea mining.

"It's much cheaper to paint yourself green than to actually be green," says Tariq Fancy, former head of investments for sustainable investing.

The investigation analyzed investment data compiled by a non-profit organization, the Anti-Corruption Data Collective (ACDC), revealing that taxpayer money from countries that officially support a preemptive pause on deep-sea mining was invested in companies linked to the industry.

This is Milei's reaction after the approval of the Glaciers Law



RT, 02/27/2026

Synopsis: The Senate approval represented the third victory for La Libertad Avanza in a single day, as the Mercosur-European Union (EU) agreement and the appointment of the new ambassador to Belgium had previously been approved. President Javier Milei celebrated Thursday's legislative session with a football-inspired tone.

The environmental initiative to amend the Glaciers Law in the Senate obtained 40 votes in favor, 31 against, and one abstention.

Meanwhile, the President's Office also highlighted the Senate vote with a message signed by Milei, emphasizing that the initiative "guarantees the right to a healthy environment without relinquishing the rational use of natural resources," "returns to the provinces the authority that corresponds to them as the legitimate owners of their original resources, allowing them to identify, protect, and manage their water reserves efficiently, technically, and realistically," and that "the era of environmentalists waving a false, noble slogan and hindering the progress of Argentines is coming to an end."

The initiative generated controversy because it redefines the concept of protected areas to attract investment in the mining sector, which was strongly criticized by environmental advocates who believe it jeopardizes biodiversity and access to water.

Venezuela: "Fish Your Plastic" Plan Deployed in Morrocoy National Park to Protect Mangroves and Ecosystems



La Iguana, 02/25/2026

Synopsis. F The "Fish Your Plastic" plan has been deployed to protect areas of Morrocoy National Park in Falcón state, with the vital purpose of safeguarding marine fauna, reported the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Juan Carlos Loyo.

He explained that 380 fishing boats and tourism service providers participated in the event.

"We realized that fishermen play an important role. The greatest impact is along the mangroves, in areas where clean-up efforts rarely reach, and that's when the fishermen's boats arrive and collect all the plastic."

For his part, Governor Víctor Clark indicated that tourism should not focus solely on the economic or recreational aspects, "but rather be in harmony with our parks and nature."

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

February 2026

The UN chief explains how to prevent a planetary catastrophe



RT, 02/09/2026

Synopsis: United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres explained how to prevent a planetary catastrophe in remarks made after a meeting of leading global economists held last month at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

In Guterres's opinion, the future of humanity requires an urgent review of "existing accounting systems" because, he argues, they are leading the planet to the brink of disaster. "We must truly value the environment and go beyond gross domestic product [GDP] as a measure of progress and human well-being. Let us not forget that when we destroy a forest, we generate GDP. When we overfish, we generate GDP," he noted.

In this regard, the UN chief indicated that going beyond gross domestic product means measuring what truly matters to people and their communities. "GDP tells us the cost of everything and the value of nothing. Our world is not a giant corporation. Financial decisions should be based on more than just a snapshot of profits and losses," he argued.

Brazil wastes almost the equivalent of a hydroelectric plant on renewable energy



Img. pexels Folha de S. Paulo 02/04/2026

Synopsis: Last year, Brazil stopped producing 20% of the wind and solar energy that the country's plants are capable of generating, mainly due to cuts to contain the oversupply in the system. If generation exceeds demand, it could cause blackouts.

There is also an imbalance: there is a surplus of renewable energy during the day, but a shortage at the beginning of the night, when the country must resort to thermoelectric plants to meet demand.

The most critical times have been weekends, when the closure of industry and commerce reduces consum-

ption while solar generation remains at full capacity.

As solutions, specialists advocate expanding energy storage with large batteries and adopting time-of-use tariffs.

Why Trump is claiming victory with the biggest climate policy change ever seen in the US.



BBC, 02/13/2026

Synopsis: US President Donald Trump presented his drastic reduction of climate change measures as a political victory over the Democratic Party's "radical" environmental agenda, claiming he was revoking a 2009 Obama-era "declaration of danger" that held that pollution harms public health and the environment.

For nearly 17 years, the United States has used this scientific finding as the legal basis for policies aimed at reducing emissions from cars, power plants, and other sources of greenhouse gases that warm the planet.

Trump, who has called climate change a "hoax" and a "scam," dismissed the scientific basis underpinning the Obama-era policy, focusing instead on the economic repercussions of reversing the declaration of danger.

He argued that promoting fossil fuels instead of clean energy would lower energy costs for American consumers.

He also claimed that abandoning the declaration of danger would eliminate the "mandate" for electric vehicles. Lee Zeldin, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, stated that previous climate policies had "strangled entire sectors of the American economy." Trump has also withdrawn the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement, which set a limit on global temperature rise.

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

February 2026

China is making progress in clean energy, while Trump is clinging to coal.



DW, 02/26/2026

Synopsis: During a speech to global elites at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2026, US President Donald Trump claimed that China was selling wind turbines to "stupid people who buy them," while simultaneously not using wind energy in its own country.

China has reached record levels of both wind and solar capacity by 2025. And, according to some estimates, it may have already reached its peak CO2 emissions, much sooner than anticipated.

Furthermore, the Asian giant provides most of the clean technology needed for the global energy transition: it ma-

nufactures more than 80 percent of solar panels, 60 percent of wind turbines, and 75 percent of electric vehicles and batteries.

On the other hand, the Trump administration has ceased participating in and funding 66 international organizations, deeming them contrary to national interests, security, economic prosperity, or the country's sovereignty. "It has departed from the science that everyone accepts," David M. Hart, senior fellow for climate and energy at the Council on Foreign Relations, a US think tank, told DW. "It's a reckless decision and will harm the United States in the long run."

Although China is expanding renewable energy, its strategy regarding coal is shifting. Instead of using coal-fired power plants as a constant base of supply, the country has moved to using them flexibly.

China's shift involves viewing climate action not as a burden, but as an economic opportunity.

For its part, the United States has announced plans to expand its coal fleet. It is also promoting new gas projects, such as the largest natural gas-fired power plant ever built in Ohio.

The United States warns of the expansion of "extreme drought" in Florida amid alert in Miami



EFE, 02/13/2026

Synopsis: The U.S. National Weather Service warned of expanding "extreme drought" conditions in South Florida, where Miami is under a water shortage alert and dozens of counties have banned campfires due to wildfire fears.

The number of Florida residents in drought-stricken areas has risen to 18.1 million.

Because rainfall has been less than half of normal, according to the U.S. government's National Integrated Drought Information System, nearly 98.8% of the state is experiencing some form of drought, with most areas classified as "extreme" or "severe."

The death toll from storms in southeastern Brazil rises to 64

Aporrea, 02/27/2026

Synopsis: In addition, five people remain missing in the state of Minas Gerais, according to the regional Fire Department. Rescue teams suspended operations in the early hours of the morning due to heavy rains that

resumed Thursday night and caused new flooding in both towns.

The majority of the victims were in Juiz de Fora, where authorities reported 58 deaths and three missing persons.



The other six deaths and two missing persons are from Ubá, a municipality located about 100 kilometers away.

The cities of Juiz de Fora and Ubá are located in a mountainous region prone to intense rainfall during the summer, in southern Minas Gerais,

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

February 2026

and have suffered landslides, flooding, and serious infrastructure damage since the downpours began.

According to authorities, at least 4,200 people whose homes are in danger or were completely destroyed are in temporary shelters.

State of emergency declared in several districts across 14 Peruvian regions due to heavy rains



Aporrea, 02/26/2026

Synopsis: The Peruvian government declared a state of emergency in several districts across 14 regions of the country due to the imminent danger posed by heavy rains, in order to protect the population.

The declaration covers districts in the provinces of Chachapoyas, Bongará, Luya, and Rodríguez de Mendoza, in the department of Amazonas; Huaraz, Bolognesi, Carlos Fermín Fitzcarrald, Huari, Huaylas, Pomabamba, and Santa, in the department of Áncash; Arequipa, Caravelí, Castilla, Caylloma, Condesuyos, and La Unión, in Arequipa; as well as Cajamarca, Chota, Contumazá, Jaén, San Ignacio, San Miguel, San Pablo, and Santa Cruz, in Cajamarca.

In addition, the emergency includes localities in Ica, Chincha, Nasca, Palpa, and Pisco, in the department of Ica; Chanchamayo, in the department of Junín; and in La Libertad, the provinces of Trujillo, Ascope, Bolívar, Chepén, Julcán, Otuzco, Pacasmayo, Pataz, Sánchez Carrión, Santiago de Chuco, Gran Chimú, and Virú.

In Lambayeque, the measure includes the provinces of Chiclayo, Ferreñafe, and Lambayeque; in Lima, Barranca, Cajatambo, Canta, Cañete, Huaral, Huarochirí, Huaura, Oyón, and Yauyos; in Madre de Dios, Tambopata and Manu; and in Piura, Piura, Ayabaca, Paíta, Sullana, Talara, and Sechura.

The provinces of Puno in the department of Puno are also included: Puno, Azángaro, Carabaya, El Collao, Lampa, San Román, and Sandía; and in San Martín, Moyobamba, Bellavista, El Dorado, Huallaga, and San Martín. and in Tumbes, Contralmirante Villar and Zarumilla.

Portugal deploys 1,641 military personnel in 41 municipalities affected by storms



Ultimas Noticias, 02/07/2026

Synopsis: The Portuguese Army, in a statement, indicated that it is working in coordination with the relevant authorities to "guarantee a continuous, integrated response tailored to the needs identified on the ground."

The statement detailed that they have 135 light tactical vehicles and 130 heavy tactical vehicles, 24 engineering vehicles, and 15 generators, as well as communications modules. "The effort undertaken so far has resulted in the protection and recovery of homes. To date, soldiers have removed 451 tons of debris, cleared 169 kilometers of roads and highways, and provided 1,826 beds for the affected population; they

have also carried out 762 patrols and provided support in 229 situations of social hardship.

Portugal remains on alert due to the passage of Storm Marta, after Storm Leonardo caused one death last Wednesday in Pias, near the border with Huelva (in Andalusia).

This is in addition to the five other people who died last week from Tropical Storm Kristin."

Brazil's most populous state suffers from water shortages due to a water crisis



RT, 02/17/2026

Synopsis: In São Paulo, intense storms have caused power outages affecting more than 70,000 properties. At the same time, this state, the most populous in Brazil, is grappling with a severe water crisis, exacerbated by increased water demand, which has forced authorities to restrict consumption.

Climate change is disrupting rainfall patterns, with torrential downpours at times and prolonged droughts at others, plunging São Paulo into one of the worst water crises.

Study: The tropics could face a major climate threat



DW, 02/05/20265

Synopsis: According to a recent study analyzing millions of years of Earth's past, some tropical regions could warm more drastically than previously predicted as climate change progresses.

When CO2 levels were similar to today's, between 2.5 and 5 million years ago, during the Pliocene epoch, tropical lands warmed twice as much as the oceans.

At that time, the planet was, on average, between 2.5 and 4 degrees Celsius warmer than it is today. Scientists warn that history could repeat itself.

To reach this conclusion, a 580-meter sediment core extracted from the Bogotá Basin, the capital of Colombia, was studied. The core was recovered in 1988 by a team of Dutch and Colombian scientists.

Already in the Holocene epoch, the tropical Andes land region was approximately 3.7 degrees Celsius warmer than it is today, according to the University of Colorado Boulder (USA), one of the authors of the study. Modern El Niño events have already caused significant warming and droughts in the northern Andes, and the team warned that the area could experience further warming due to climate change.

There are many feedback mechanisms in nature, and exceeding certain thresholds "could trigger a series of cascading events that amplify the changes."

"If we want to study climate change to help people, we must pay more attention to regional changes so that those who live there know what to expect," explained Lina Pérez-Ángel, from the research team.

Heavy rains cause flooding in Venezuela and ruin carnival celebrations



ASI: 02/15/2026

Synopsis: The unexpected rise of the Guanare River, near the Trunk Road 05 bridge in Portuguesa state, surprised personnel who were setting up stages, generators, and sound equipment within the riverbed.

Videos from the scene show that the river's surge also flooded a stage that had been prepared for the event, as well as a truck and a water tanker. Authorities in Portuguesa are advising residents of the lower-lying areas of

Guanare to take precautions and attribute the unexpected situation to recent rains.

Lima in emergency: Senamhi activates red alert for historic heat wave



El Comercio.pe, 02/26/2026

Synopsis: Lima is experiencing a 14-day heat wave of extreme heat. The National Meteorology and Hydrology

Service of Peru has declared a red alert in the capital, where some districts are already registering heat indices exceeding 36°C (97°F).

Specialists explain that this phenomenon is mainly due to an unusual increase in the temperature of the Peruvian sea surface.

In addition to the heat increase, the alert warns that the lack of cloud cover at midday will facilitate the direct passage of ultraviolet radiation, increasing the risk of skin damage.

Furthermore, the accumulation of cloud cover during the night and the lack of ventilation will raise the minimum temperature, prolonging the feeling of muggy conditions into the early morning hours.

Garbage is invading the mangroves of tropical countries



Universitat de Barcelona, 01/22/2026

Synopsis: Mangroves, typical of tropical and subtropical latitudes, have become veritable natural traps for land-based and marine trash. The roots of the trees, known as mangroves, have a great capacity to trap trash—from both land and sea—which fragments over time until it becomes buried in the muddy bottom.

An article published in the journal *Environmental Pollution* warns that the accumulation of trash threatens the envi-

ronmental balance and biodiversity of these coastal ecosystems.

The study was conducted by researchers from the University of Barcelona, the Institute of Marine and Coastal Research of Colombia, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Catholic University of the North of Chile.

In Colombia alone, the problem affects a large part of the 290,000 hectares covered by mangroves. Much of the trash reaches the mangroves through rivers, rainwater, and tidal currents. The largest amounts of trash—especially plastics—accumulate in marginal mangroves, a type of forest that grows along the edges of open bays and lagoons, where it is exposed to tidal action.

Over time, the trapped trash degrades and accumulates in the mangrove soil, disrupting the delicate ecological balance.

Fish, crustaceans, and birds can become entangled in the trash or mistakenly ingest fragments—for example, microplastics—which can introduce toxins or pathogenic microorganisms into the food chain.

Venezuela: Morrocoy touches the soul and inspires us to continue defending nature and respecting its biodiversity: Acting President Delcy Rodríguez



La iguana, 02/25/2026

Synopsis: The acting president of the Republic, Delcy Rodríguez, reaffirmed that the preservation of Mother Nature and "respect for her biodiversity" is one of the most important poli-

cies of the Bolivarian State, especially when it comes to a heritage site as significant and emblematic as Morrocoy National Park (Falcón).

Among this tourist and scenic gem that "inspires Venezuela in its progress" are the keys, mangroves, and crystal-clear waters.

"Morrocoy touches the soul; it is a truly spectacular, incredibly beautiful park that we must protect for everyone. We arrived here at the park after a Carnival where, amidst the healthy recreation, situations of imbalance (pollution) occurred that we must correct," instructed President Rodríguez.