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Tensions raised by N. Korean missile test

BY KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea's live-fire drills this past weekend, which apparently included its first ballistic missile test in more than a year, raised tensions as the U.S. struggles to get nuclear talks back on track.

The North confirmed Sunday that the weapons fired off the east coast of the divided peninsula the day before were "modern large-caliber long-range multiple rocket launchers and tactical guided weapons."

State-run media also released photos of what experts said was a new, truck-mounted, short-range ballistic missile that targeted an island.

That would be North Korea's first missile test since November 2017.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un observed the drills and expressed "great satisfaction," noting they had been conducted without advance notice, according to the Korean Central News Agency.

"He stressed the need for all the service members to keep high alert posture and ... to increase the combat ability so as to defend the political sovereignty and economic self-sustenance of the country," KCNA said.

The salvos came days before Stephen Biegun, the U.S. special representative for North Korea, was to travel to Tokyo and Seoul to discuss denuclearization efforts.

While all ballistic missile activities in North Korea are banned by the U.N. Security Council, Saturday's drills did not violate Kim's self-imposed

moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile tests.

But they served as a reminder that the communist state continues to develop military capabilities while U.S.-led diplomacy to persuade it to give up its nuclear weapons falters.

"It's definitely a solid fuel ballistic missile. But it's not a long range missile," wrote Vipin Narang, a nuclear proliferation expert and associate professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"Kim Jong Un may be starting his 'push the line' strategy, gradually seeing how much Trump will turn a blind eye to. Not good," he added.

South Korea's military said the projectiles detected Saturday had been 240 mm and 300 mm multiple rocket launchers and a new type of tactical guided weapons.

It didn't confirm a ballistic missile was involved but said the weapons flew for about 20 minutes and as far as 125 miles, which would mean they had the range to reach Seoul and American forces based there.

President Donald Trump — who has cited the moratorium as progress — responded hours after the launch on Saturday with an optimistic tweet, suggesting he did not believe the North had gone too far.

Trump and Kim vowed that talks would continue after their second nuclear summit collapsed without agreement in February in Hanoi, Vietnam.

But North Korea has shown growing frustration over the U.S. refusal to agree to an incremental approach to denuclearization that would include rewards such as sanctions relief for steps already taken.

Terror grips passengers as plane crashes into river

Wire reports

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — A military-chartered jet carrying 143 people landed hard, then bounced and swerved as the pilot struggled to control it amid thunder and lightning, ultimately skidding off the runway and coming to a crashing halt in a river at Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

It meant chaos and terror for the passengers in the Boeing 737 as the plane jolted back and forth and oxygen masks deployed, then overhead bins opened, sending contents spilling out.

Authorities said all the people aboard, a mix of military personnel and families, and a few civilians, emerged without critical injuries Friday night and lined up on the wings as

they waited to be rescued. A 3-month-old baby was hospitalized out of an abundance of caution, officials said.

Among those aboard was attorney Cheryl Bormann, who described the chaotic landing.

The plane "literally hit the ground and then it bounced. It was clear that the pilot did not have complete control of the plane because it bounced some more, it swerved and tilted left and right," she told CNN. "The pilot was trying to control it but couldn't, and then all of a sudden it smashed into something."

Bormann said people weren't screaming because the flight staff worked quickly to give direction. Everyone on board helped one another to put on their life vests and then evacuated to safety.

Another passenger on the chartered jet said passengers initially were told the aircraft might not be fit for takeoff. Then the flight was cleared to leave Cuba, but with the warning there would be no air conditioning.

Darwing Silva told the Tampa Bay Times that even though the plane was hot, there were no other problems during the flight from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

He said the landing at Naval Air Station Jacksonville seemed normal at first, but then the plane didn't stop on the runway. He said there was a loud bang, he hit his head on the ceiling, and the jet ended up in the water. He said he ushered people out an emergency door onto a wing.

Silva shared cellphone video

of other passengers and crew lining up on a plane's wing with a local television station. The video showed the crash survivors getting drenched by rain after the aircraft landed in the St. Johns river at the military base.

First responders were at the plane within a couple minutes of its landing, said Capt. Michael Connor, the base's commanding officer.

In emails obtained by The Washington Post, senior Navy officials were told that all passengers on the plane were housed overnight on cots on at the hospital at the base in Jacksonville.

The National Transportation Safety Board's investigators recovered the plane's flight data recorder Saturday.

Official: More US troops bound for Poland

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The U.S. and Poland are in talks on boosting the number of American troops in the country, with a final agreement expected before year's end, Poland's top defense official said Thursday.

"Everything seems to indicate that we will conclude negotiations with the United States this year," Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak told Polish media. "There will be an increase in the presence of U.S. troops in Poland."

For months, military and dip-

lomatic officials have worked on a deal in connection with Warsaw's offer to spend up to \$2 billion to fund a permanent U.S. base.

In September, Polish President Andrzej Duda suggested calling the facility "Fort Trump," in honor of President Donald Trump.

Trump, who has lambasted other European allies for not spending enough on defense, praised Warsaw for the offer and said it would get serious consideration.

However, U.S. military officials say the types of forces that could be stationed in Poland

are still being considered, suggesting the final arrangement could be something less than a sprawling base.

In March, Polish media reported that Washington was considering basing an Army division headquarters in Poznan, a special operations site near Krakow, and making permanent an Air Force detachment in Lask.

Regarding plans for a division headquarters, the EUCOM official said, "I don't believe there is any decision that is the case or not."

But while the details aren't final, an enhanced military

mission of some kind in Poland appears all but certain.

"We've come forward with, we think, a very serious, robust offer," Kathryn Wheelbarger, acting assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, told U.S. lawmakers in March.

As Washington nears its final decision, it will likely aim to strike a balance between satisfying Warsaw's desire for more troops with concerns among some allies such as Germany that an oversized military presence would risk an escalation with Russia.

Report details Chinese military's power projection

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

China is increasingly willing to project its military power, grow its armed forces and develop military technology, all with growing negative perceptions of the United States, according to a report on Chinese military power released Thursday by the Defense Department.

The report, mandated by Congress, highlights Chinese military advancements in power projection, stating that "ground, naval, air, and missile

forces are increasingly able to project power through peacetime operations."

China, the report states, is expanding its capacity to contest U.S. military superiority in the event of a regional conflict in the Indo-Pacific.

China is expected to commission its second aircraft carrier this year, further expanding the country's ability to project its military power beyond the militarized islands and reefs it's developed in the South China Sea since 2014, according to the report. The U.S. has 11 car-

riers, with four more under development.

The report also pointed to espionage activities by China to "acquire sensitive, dual-use, or military-grade equipment," including dynamic random-access memory computer technology, aviation and anti-submarine warfare technologies and military communication jamming tools.

It also mentioned China's growing interest in the arctic, referring to a "polar silk road" initiative. Beijing has invested in icebreaker vessels and last

year published its first arctic strategy.

The report warned of a possible strengthened military presence in the Northern Sea Route, "which could include deploying submarines to the region as a deterrent against nuclear attacks."

The report said China increasingly sees the U.S. "as adopting a more confrontational approach, reflecting China's long-held perception that the United States seeks to contain China's rise."

Former Army range manager admits taking bribes

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — A former range operations manager at Schofield Barracks admitted Thursday to conspiring to accept bribes — including an antique automobile — and to disclose sensitive Army procurement information, the Department of Justice said Thursday.

Franklin Raby, 67, of Greeneville, Tenn., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ronnie Greer of the Eastern District of Tennessee, the department said in a statement. His sentencing is scheduled for Aug.

5. The offense carries a maximum term of five years in prison and a fine of at least \$250,000.

Raby had retired as an Army sergeant major in 2004, according to court documents. He served as a range operations manager for the U.S. Army Hawaii Range Division at Schofield Barracks from May 2006 to May 2018, U.S. Army Hawaii said in a statement Thursday.

As part of his plea agreement, Raby admitted that from March 2015 through May 2018, while employed with the Army, he accepted tens of thousands of dollars' worth of bribes from an employee of a federal

contractor that sought and received business from the Army, the statement said.

In August 2017, the contractor shipped a 1969 Ford Galaxie to the home of Raby's son in Greeneville, court documents said. That same month, the contractor shipped a custom H&H 375 rifle to Raby's home in Ewa Beach, Hawaii, the documents said. He also received diamond earrings valued at \$2,300.

In return, Raby gave the contractor sensitive, Defense Department procurement information and also used his position to benefit the contractor in securing Army contracts, the statement said.

Taliban kill 13 Afghan police in attack on headquarters

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban stormed a police headquarters in northern Afghanistan on Sunday, killing 13 police and setting off a six-hour gunbattle, officials said.

The Interior Ministry said the attack in Puli Khumri, the capital of Baghlan province, began at noon with a suicide car bomber striking the entrance to the compound and eight gunmen rushing in after the explosion. It said 13 police were killed and an additional 55 people, including 20 civilians, were wounded before the attackers were all killed.

A police official who was inside the compound during the attack said the insurgents

all wore suicide vests and that three of them detonated their payloads, while the other five were shot and killed. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters.

Kalil Narmgo, a doctor at the main hospital in Puli Khumri, said more than 50 wounded people, both military and civilians, had been brought in, including “several” in critical condition.

The Taliban claimed the attack, the latest in an unrelenting wave of assaults on security forces. The insurgents effectively control nearly half the country, and have maintained their tempo of attacks despite holding several rounds of peace talks with the United States in

recent months.

In the capital, Kabul, a lawmaker was wounded and his wife was killed in a shooting attack late Saturday.

Police said Sunday it was unclear if the shooting inside Mohammad Afzal Shamil’s home was due to a personal dispute or a targeted attack. Shamil is a member of the upper house of parliament representing north-eastern Takhar province.

In the western Herat province, a roadside bomb killed three children and wounded another two on Saturday, according to Jelani Farhad, a spokesman for the provincial governor.

No one claimed responsibility, but the Taliban often plant bombs on the main roads.

Ill. governor announces agreement to legalize weed

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker said Saturday he’s reached an agreement with key lawmakers on a plan to legalize recreational marijuana in the state starting next year.

The legislation would allow adults 21 and older to legally buy cannabis for recreational use from licensed dispensaries. Illinois residents could possess up to about an ounce of marijuana, while nonresidents could possess about half an ounce.

The measure also would automatically expunge some marijuana convictions.

If it passes, Illinois would join 10 other states, including neighboring Michigan, in legalizing recreational marijuana. While the Illinois law would take effect Jan. 1, the first licenses for Illinois growers, processors and dispensaries wouldn’t be issued until May and July 2020, the governor’s office said.

The proposal “starts righting some historic wrongs” against minority communities that have suffered from discriminatory drug policies and enforcement, the new governor said.

The measure includes a \$20 million low-interest loan program to help defray the costs of starting a licensed cannabis business for “social equity applicants.” Those applicants would include people who have lived in a “disproportionately impacted area” — or communities with high rates of poverty and high rates of arrest and incarceration for marijuana offenses — or been arrested or convicted of offenses eligible for expungement.

Critics of legalization, including law enforcement and the Illinois NAACP, have said it would lead to more addiction and mental health issues and would harm rather than help black communities.

Democrats search for ways to enforce requests on the Mueller investigation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — They’re talking at the Capitol about jailing people. Imposing steep fines. All sorts of extraordinary, if long-shot measures to force the White House to comply with Democratic lawmakers’ request for information about President Donald Trump stemming from the special counsel’s Russia investigation.

This is the remarkable state of affairs between the executive and legislative branches, unseen in recent times, as Democrats try to break through Trump’s blockade of investigations and exert congressional oversight of the administration.

“One of the things that everybody in this country needs to think about is when the president denies the Congress documents and access to key witnesses, basically what they’re doing is saying, ‘Congress you don’t count,’” said

Rep. Elijah Cummings, chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee.

“We cannot — we simply cannot — have a presidency that is run as if it were a king or a dictator in charge,” said Cummings, D-Md.

Trump’s blanket refusal to engage in oversight — and Democrats’ unrelenting demand that he do so — is testing the system of checks and balances with a deepening standoff in the aftermath of Robert Mueller’s investigation.

Trump derides the oversight of his business dealings and his administration as “presidential harassment” and has the backing of most Republicans in Congress. With Mueller’s work completed, Trump wants closure to what he has long complained was a “witch hunt.”

Stunned by the administration’s refusal to allow officials to testify or respond to docu-

ment requests, lawmakers have been left to think aloud about their next steps against the White House.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, the House Judiciary Committee chairman, has given Attorney General William Barr a Monday deadline to comply with a subpoena demanding a redacted version of Mueller’s report, along with its underlying evidence, or face a contempt charge.

Republicans are largely declining to join Democrats in pursuing the investigations any further.

The rejection of oversight is the latest and perhaps most high-profile example of the new normal in the Trump era. Gone are the daily White House press briefings, once a fixture in Washington. Top department vacancies go unfilled, leaving fewer officials to respond to congressional requests.

SpaceX launches supplies after power delays, repairs

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — SpaceX launched a load of supplies to the International Space Station on Saturday following a pair of unusual power delays.

A Falcon rocket raced into the pre-dawn darkness, carrying a Dragon capsule with 5,500 pounds of goods. This recycled Dragon — which is making its second space trip — is due to arrive at the orbiting lab Monday.

The booster, meanwhile, streaked to a smooth landing on a recovery ship just offshore.

SpaceX couldn't resist the Star Wars Day connection — Saturday was May 4.

"Dragon is now officially on the way to the space station," the SpaceX launch commentator announced once the capsule reached orbit and its solar wings unfurled. "Until next time, May the Fourth be with you."

The delivery is a few days late because of electrical power shortages that cropped up first at

the space station, then at SpaceX's rocket-landing platform in the Atlantic. Both problems were quickly resolved with equipment replacements: a power-switching unit in orbit and a generator at sea.

Minutes after liftoff, SpaceX landed its brand new, first-stage booster on the ocean platform roughly 10 miles off the coast, considerably closer than usual, with the sonic booms easily heard at the launch site.

The booster likely will be reused for SpaceX's next station supply run. That's why the company and NASA halted Friday's countdown at the last minute — so the recovery ship could be repaired and have full power for the landing operation. It was the first time a launch like this was nixed by rocket-landing concerns.

This latest cargo Dragon — making the company's 17th shipment — is carrying equipment and experiments for the six space station astronauts, including an instrument to monitor carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere.

Pope urges Bulgarians to open hearts to migrants

Associated Press

SOFIA, Bulgaria — Pope Francis urged Bulgarians on Sunday to open their hearts and homes to migrants, arguing that a country like Bulgaria, which is losing so much of its population to emigration, should well understand the forces that drive people to seek better lives elsewhere.

As he arrived in the Balkan nation for a two-day visit, Francis "respectfully suggested" that Bulgarians recognize that migrants are fleeing war, conflict or dire poverty "to find new opportunities in life or simply a safe refuge."

"To all Bulgarians, who are familiar with the drama of emigration, I respectfully suggest that you not close your eyes, your hearts or your hands — in accordance with your best tradition — to those who knock at your door," he told government officials at the presidential palace in Sofia, the capital.

Bulgaria's center-right, pro-Brussels coalition government includes three nationalist, anti-migrant parties. The government has called for the European Union to close its borders to migrants and has sealed off its own frontier with Turkey with a barbed-wire fence.

The Argentine pope has made the plight of migrants and refugees a hallmark of his papacy, urging governments to build bridges, not walls, and to do what they can to welcome and integrate refugees. His visit falls just three weeks before the European Parliament elections across the EU's 28 nations in which nationalist, anti-migrant parties are expected to make a solid showing.

On Monday, Francis will visit a refugee center in a former school on the outskirts of Sofia. Human rights groups have criticized Bulgaria and the EU's executive commission has formally cited the government over its treatment of asylum-seekers, especially unaccompanied minors.

Deadly Israeli-Hamas exchange intensifies

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Gaza militants on Sunday intensified a wave of rocket fire into southern Israel, striking towns and cities and killing at least three people in one of the bloodiest rounds of fighting since the 2014 war. At least nine Palestinians, including a pregnant woman and her 14-month-old niece, have also been killed.

Israeli forces struck dozens of targets throughout Gaza, including militant sites that the military said were concealed in homes or residential areas. The army also moved armored units toward Gaza as the sides headed closer to all-out war.

Israel and Hamas are bitter enemies that have fought three wars since the Islamic militant group seized control of Gaza in 2007, as well as numerous smaller flare-ups, most recently in late March.

These flare-ups have become increasingly frequent in recent years, ending in informal Egyptian-mediated truces

in which Israel pledges to ease a crippling blockade on Gaza imposed after the Hamas takeover while the militants promise to halt rocket fire.

As with previous rounds of fighting, the latest violence began late last week amid Palestinian accusations that Israel was not moving quickly enough to ease the blockade.

In Sunday's fighting, Moshe Agadi, 58, an Israeli father of four, was struck in the chest by shrapnel in a residential courtyard. The Barzilai Medical Center said a 49-year-old man was killed when a rocket hit an Ashkelon factory, while a second man was killed when his vehicle was hit by a projectile near Yad Mordechai, a small border community.

By late afternoon, the Israeli military said militants had fired more than 600 rockets into Israel, and that Israeli forces had launched some 260 airstrikes against militant targets in Gaza.

Palestinian health officials

reported nine dead, including six militants.

Palestinian officials identified one of the militants as Hamas commander Hamed al-Khoudary, who Israel said was a key player in transferring Iranian money to the militant group.

The sudden outburst has broken a monthlong lull as Egyptian mediators had been trying to negotiate a long-term cease-fire.

Israeli military spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus said Israel's strikes hit a variety of "high-quality" militant sites, including commanders' homes in which militant activity was observed.

The military spokesman said Israel was deploying an armored brigade along the Gaza front, with tanks ready for offensive missions as needed.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Hamas was paying a "heavy price" for its rocket attacks, as well as those by Islamic Jihad.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Hungry bears draw nuisance complaints

ME AUGUSTA — Wildlife authorities said the state has already received more than three dozen complaints this spring about nuisance bears, which are emerging from their dens hungry for food.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife said it has received 38 complaints so far, mostly in the areas of Ellsworth and Blue Hill along the eastern coast and Kennebunkport and Arundel in southern Maine.

University helps cat get new back legs

WI OAK CREEK — A tabby cat has new back legs, with the help of some University of Wisconsin-Madison students and a 3D printer.

Community Cat shelter Vice President Sarah Close said Chicago Animal Care and Control found the stray with infected legs last September and turned him over to the Whitewater, Wis.-based shelter.

A veterinarian amputated part of the male cat's back legs. Community Cat officials then asked a freshman engineering class for help.

The students made prostheses with a 3D printer and extra straps to keep them on.

Police say 2 stole \$21K worth of panties

PA HARRISBURG — Police have identified two suspects accused of stealing \$21,000 worth of Victoria's Secret underwear last month.

Lower Allen Township police said an 18-year-old woman and a juvenile entered the store at the Capital City Mall near Har-

risburg on April 7. Police allege the juvenile acted as a lookout as Aida Melcado took panties and stuffed them in a bag.

Police said they took about 2,000 pairs.

Police said the two were identified by officers conducting a drug investigation in Fairfax, Va., less than two weeks later. They also were allegedly in possession of stolen merchandise from a Victoria's Secret store in Bethesda, Md., and both were charged.

An arrest warrant was issued Friday for Melcado involving the Pennsylvania theft.

Attorney from TV ads sues son over name

SC CHARLESTON — An attorney famous for his television ads is suing his son for starting a law firm with the same name.

George Sink's federal lawsuit against George Sink Jr. said the father fired the son from the firm in February and the son then started his own law firm.

The elder Sink said in court papers his son had gone by "Ted" or "Teddy" all his life before opening the George Sink II Law Firm in North Charleston this year.

Media outlets reported George Sink is suing his son for trademark infringement, unfair competition, cybersquatting, unfair trade practice and dilution.

Police: Oblivious dad was getaway driver

ME LEWISTON — Police in Maine said a man who robbed a bank used his unwitting father as a getaway driver.

An affidavit written by a police detective said Keith Tilton dropped his son, Joseph Donald Tilton, 39, at a Lewiston bank

Tuesday afternoon. In the few minutes he was inside, police said Joseph Tilton robbed the bank.

After dropping his son off in a different part of Lewiston, Keith Tilton drove past the bank, and was stopped by police who had the getaway car's description. Keith Tilton wasn't charged, as police don't think he knew what was happening.

Joseph Tilton was charged with felony robbery, accused of stealing \$620.

Woman accused of stabbing son's python

NH DERRY — Police said a woman was charged with animal cruelty after she allegedly stabbed her son's pet python with a steak knife while the snake was inside its tank.

The Eagle-Tribune reported Sharon Magyar, 54, of Derry, pleaded not guilty and was released on personal recognizance.

Derry police Capt. Vern Thomas said officers were unable to find the snake as it had fled the tank.

It was found a few days later, and officers noted the snake had a half-inch wound on its body that was mostly healed.

Man, 90, will be college's oldest grad

IL CHICAGO — A 90-year-old great-grandfather is about to make history by becoming the oldest student to earn a bachelor's degree from Northeastern Illinois University since the school started keeping records in 1962.

Bob Dwyer, an Army veteran and retired widower, is expected to graduate from the university with a degree in interdisciplinary studies on Monday.

One of Dwyer's professors said he believes students benefit from having a fellow student with more life experience.

Turnpike toll evader ordered to pay \$11K

PA PHILADELPHIA — The worst toll evader in Pennsylvania is being ordered to pay up.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reported that Jarrett Stiff, 36, didn't pay for trips on the Pennsylvania Turnpike 2,264 times from 2012 to 2017, more than anyone else in the state. The man from suburban Philadelphia racked up nearly \$128,000 in unpaid tolls and subsequent fines.

In a deal with prosecutors, he pleaded guilty in April to theft of services, was ordered to pay more than \$11,500 and was sentenced to five years' probation.

Landlord accused of taking tenant's cat

OR PORTLAND — An Oregon man is accusing his landlord of "catnapping" his feline pet in a lawsuit filed in Portland.

The Oregonian/Oregon Live reported Joshua Smith is seeking up to \$250,000 from landlord Devon Andrade and property owner Axford Lane LLC for entering his rental home in southeast Portland and removing his 3-year-old tabby cat, Frank.

Andrade declined to comment and Axford Lane LLC couldn't immediately be reached.

Smith's lawyer said there aren't rules prohibiting him from keeping a pet. Smith is offering a \$500 reward for information about Frank, who remains missing.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

DQ upends Kentucky Derby

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Maximum Security led the Kentucky Derby every step of the way except for the last one — into the winner's circle.

The colt became the first winner disqualified for interference in the Derby's 145-year history, leading to an agonizing wait and an eventual stunning reversal that made 65-1 shot Country House the winner Saturday.

Country House finished second in the slop before objections were raised, causing a 20-minute delay while three stewards repeatedly reviewed different video angles before they unanimously elevated him into the winner's circle.

That gave Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott his first Derby victory at age 65.

"It's bittersweet. You always want to win with a clean trip and have everybody recognize the horse as the very good horse and great athlete that he is," Mott said. "Due to the disqualification, I think some of that is diminished."

Jockey Flavien Prat, one of two jockeys who originated the claim of foul, also won his first Derby.

"I'm kind of speechless right now," Prat said, letting out a long sigh.

Country House paid \$132.40 to win — the second-highest payout in Derby history. He was the least affected horse in the chain of events, but the biggest beneficiary.

"Looking at the tote board there's probably a lot of people that didn't think we could win," Mott said, "but that's horse racing."

Gary West, who owns Maximum Security with his wife, Mary, indicated they may pursue an appeal.

"I think this is the most egregious disqualification in the history of horse racing," he told The Associated Press by phone, "and not just because it's our horse."

Country House was dismissed as a long shot with a bad post on the far outside. It was only the chestnut colt's second

win in seven career starts and his first stakes victory.

The disqualification was a crushing turn of events for Maximum Security trainer Jason Servis and jockey Luis Saez, who already had begun celebrating what they thought were their first Derby victories.

Instead, previously undefeated Maximum Security was dropped to 17th of 19 horses for veering out turning for home and stacking up War of Will, Long Range Toddy and Bodexpress (also owned by the Wests), according to Barbara Borden, chief steward of the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission. Country House, in turn, was brushed by Long Range Toddy.

Sent off as the 9-2 second choice, Maximum Security was placed behind all the horses that he bothered.

"I never put anybody in danger," Saez said.

Servis backed up his jockey, saying: "He's right. He straightened him up right away and I didn't think it affects the outcome of the race."

Prat claimed that Maximum Security ducked out in the final turn and forced several horses to steady, including Long Range Toddy, whose jockey, Jon Court, also lodged an objection. War of Will came perilously close to clipping heels with Maximum Security, which could have caused a chain-reaction accident.

"There were two horses in the race that lost all chance to win a Kentucky Derby," Mott said. "They were in position at the time to hit the board. If what happened to us was the only thing they were looking at I don't think you would have seen a disqualification."

Mott said the incident was caused by Maximum Security's action and not Saez's tactics.

"I don't think Luis Saez did anything intentionally," the trainer said. "My heart actually aches for them a little bit. That's the way it is. I've been on the other end of it, just not in the Kentucky Derby."

The stewards reviewed race footage and interviewed the affected jockeys while keeping

the crowd of 150,729 and millions more watching on television and online in suspense, clutching their betting tickets. Trainers and jockeys involved stared at the closest video screen waiting for a result.

"I know the stewards had a very, very difficult decision," Mott said. "I'm damn glad they put our number up."

Code of Honor was moved up to second and Tacitus — also trained by Mott — was third.

Improbable was fourth and Game Winner fifth, two of trainer Bob Baffert's trio of entries. His other horse, Roadster, was 15th.

The last claim of foul by a jockey in the Derby was unsuccessful. John Velazquez, aboard runner-up Invisible Ink in 2001, alleged interference at the quarter pole against Monarchos and Jorge Chavez, who crossed the finish line 4½ lengths in front. The stewards didn't change the result.

The only other disqualification in the Derby occurred long after the race in 1968. Dancer's Image, the first-place finisher, tested positive for a prohibited medication, and Kentucky state racing officials ordered the purse money to be redistributed. Forward Pass got the winner's share. A subsequent court challenge upheld the stewards' decision.

Country House wore the garland of red roses, but it's possible the situation doesn't end here. There could be appeals to the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission or the courts.

"We are exploring our options to appeal," West told the AP. "If we can't appeal to the stewards, our other options are the state racing commission. If those don't work, we might go to legal options."

Mott hopes it doesn't come to that.

"That's a nightmare. It's a no-win situation for anybody involved," said Mott, who spoke with Servis after the reversal. "I didn't get a hint of that from him. He's been around long enough, and I'm sure he watched the films well enough. He knows what happened."

Alvarez adds title

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Daniel Jacobs was bigger. Canelo Alvarez was better — but not by much.

Alvarez added another title belt to his collection Saturday night by winning rounds early and outboxing Jacobs in their middleweight showdown to take a close but unanimous 12-round decision.

Two ringside judges scored it 115-113, while the third had it 116-112. The Associated Press scored it 115-113 in favor of Alvarez.

"It was just what we thought," Alvarez said. "We knew it would be a difficult fight. We just did our job."

Jacobs, who lost \$1 million out of his purse by not making the contracted weight the morning of the fight, was clearly bigger than Alvarez and landed perhaps the biggest punch of the fight in the ninth round when he connected with a left hook.

But Alvarez was fast and quick and kept Jacobs off balance with his movement as he won a narrow decision in the same arena where he fought to a draw and a close win over Gennady Golovkin.

"He's a pot shatter," Jacobs said. "I felt I did enough to get the victory."

The judges didn't, though, largely because Alvarez was more active early and was the more aggressive of the two fighters. Alvarez built a lead early, winning the first five rounds on one scorecard and four of the five on the other two.

But Jacobs seemed to find himself midway through the fight and roared back to make it competitive on the scorecards. He won the 12th round on two of the three scorecards.

Alvarez, a 5-1 favorite at fight time, was tested but did enough to win in a fight that had no knockdowns and no serious fouls. Neither fighter ever appeared badly hurt, though Jacobs landed some of the bigger punches in the late rounds.

Braun's big hit gives Brewers marathon win

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Ryan Braun knew the best night of his career at the plate wouldn't mean much if the Milwaukee Brewers didn't win.

Braun made sure they did with his career-high sixth hit, a two-run single with one out in the 18th that lifted the Brewers to a 4-3 comeback victory over the New York Mets on Saturday night in the longest game in Miller Park history.

"That's a game you badly want to win because if you do win it, it feels like you won two or three games," Braun said. "If you lose, it feels like you lost 10."

Braun stood on first base with his hands raised above his head as Yasmani Grandal

slid across home plate with the winning run, ending the game that lasted 5 hours, 22 minutes. A jubilant bunch of Brewers ran out to greet Braun, who was the only Milwaukee player to have multiple hits.

"We had 11 hits and one guy had six of them," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. "That should say everything about how crazy this game was."

The Mets took a 3-2 lead in the top of the 18th on Jeff McNeil's run-scoring single off Taylor Williams (1-1), who was Milwaukee's eighth and final pitcher. McNeil was thrown out at second base for the third out after trying to stretch his hit.

The Brewers — the last major league team to play an extra-inning game this season — were far from done.

Eric Thames then drew a leadoff walk from Chris Flexen (0-2), who got Mike Moustakas to fly out to center. But Flexen, just recalled from Triple-A Syracuse earlier in the day, walked Grandal and Travis Shaw to load the bases for Braun. The Brewers' longest-tenured player hit a sharp grounder past first baseman Pete Alonso and into right field, scoring the tying and winning runs.

Manager Mickey Calloway praised the overall performance of his staff after the Mets (16-17) fell below .500n.

"We threw the ball great," Calloway said. "There at the end, we didn't throw the ball over the plate. You give free passes, you're going to be beat."

MLB roundup

Red Sox batter White Sox with big 3rd inning

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Boston Red Sox strung together 10 straight hits against White Sox left-hander Manny Banuelos, ending one hit shy of the major league record during a nine-run third inning in a 15-2 rout Saturday of Chicago.

Banuelos (2-1) retired his first eight batters before Christian Vazquez opened Boston's two-out rally with a single. Xander Bogaerts, Michael Chavis and Eduardo Nunez each homered, Mookie Betts and J.D. Martinez had RBI doubles, and Vazquez capped the streak with another single before White Sox manager Rick Renteria pulled Banuelos with a 9-1 deficit. Carson Fulmer replaced Banuelos and interrupted the hit parade by walking Andrew Benintendi. Betts flew out to right to end the inning after 14 batters.

Reds 9, Giants 2: Nick Senzel hit his first major league homer two innings after being robbed of one by center fielder Kevin Pillar, and host Cincinnati beat San Francisco.

Pillar climbed the fence and made a spectacular grab on Senzel's drive in the third, but the Reds' top prospect left no doubt his next time up in

the fifth. He followed Derek Dietrich's third homer in two games with his own solo shot into the right-field seats, one of five homers for the Reds.

Astros 14, Angels 2: Alex Bregman hit two of Houston's five home runs and the Astros broke out the bats in a big way, routing Los Angeles in Monterrey, Mexico.

Michael Brantley, Yuli Gurriel and George Springer also homered for Houston in the opener of a two-game series in Mexico. After totaling just four runs in losing their previous two games to Minnesota, the Astros teed off at the raucous Estadio de Beisbol de Monterrey. Houston scored in each of the first six innings in building a 10-2 lead.

Nationals 10, Phillies 8: Kurt Suzuki and Victor Robles hit consecutive home runs in the eighth inning to rally Washington to a win at Philadelphia.

It was just the third win in the last 10 for the Nationals, whose injuries continued to pile up. Already without Ryan Zimmerman (foot), Anthony Rendon (elbow) and Trea Turner (finger), Washington placed left fielder Juan Soto (back) on the 10-day injured list before the game. The Nationals suf-

fered two injuries during the game, with first baseman Matt Adams jamming his left shoulder and center fielder Michael Taylor injuring his left wrist.

Braves 9, Marlins 2: Ozzie Albies hit a grand slam, Ronald Acuna Jr. tied a career best with four hits and Atlanta won at Miami. Brian McCann drove in three runs for the Braves, who trailed 2-0 after five innings before breaking out against the Marlins' bullpen.

Twins 7, Yankees 3: Jake Odorizzi kept up his impressive run, pitching two-hit ball over six shutout innings and leading Minnesota. The Twins had lost nine straight times at Yankee Stadium, including the 2017 AL wild-card game.

Indians 5, Mariners 4: Carlos Santana hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning and host Cleveland rallied past Seattle, sending the Mariners to their sixth straight loss.

Cubs 6, Cardinals 5: Javier Baez led off the eighth inning with a tiebreaking homer, and surging Chicago wiped out a four-run deficit to win at home.

Orioles 3, Rays 0: Dylan Bundy took a two-hitter into the eighth inning, Dwight Smith Jr. homered and host Baltimore blanked Tampa Bay.

Pirates 6, Athletics 4: Kevin Newman hit a go-ahead two-run triple in the seventh inning and host Pittsburgh rallied past Oakland.

Royals 15, Tigers 3: Alex Gordon homered as part of a four-run first inning, and Kansas City routed host Detroit after chasing Tyson Ross (1-4) in the second inning and scoring the game's first seven runs.

Rangers 8, Blue Jays 5: Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit a bases-loaded triple during a four-run second inning and drove in a career-high four, as host Texas ended a three-game skid by scoring eight runs in the first three innings.

Diamondbacks 9, Rockies 2: Luke Weaver pitched seven strong innings, Nick Ahmed and Carson Kelly hit back-to-back home runs in a three-run second and Arizona won at Colorado for its ninth win in 11 games.

Dodgers 7, Padres 6: Alex Verdugo drew a bases-loaded walk from Kirby Yates to bring in the go-ahead run with two outs in the ninth inning and Los Angeles overcame two home runs by former teammate Manny Machado to win in San Diego.

Rockets outlast Warriors in OT

Associated Press

HOUSTON — James Harden made a three-pointer to finish off the Golden State Warriors in overtime.

Eric Gordon helped the Rockets get to that point with the best playoff performance of his career.

Harden scored 41 points, and Houston outlasted the Warriors 126-121 on Saturday night to cut the deficit in the Western Conference semifinals to 2-1.

A layup by P.J. Tucker put Houston up by three with about 2 minutes left and the

Warriors missed shots on their next two possessions. That set up the three-pointer by Harden with 49 seconds left that made it 124-118.

Kevin Durant made three free throws after that, but Harden added a layup to stretch the lead. Stephen Curry, who dislocated a finger in Game 2, missed a wide-open layup and Harden grabbed the rebound to secure the victory.

Gordon added a playoff career-high 30 points with a playoff-best seven three-pointers.

“It’s all about bringing something to the table, offensively, defensively every single night to give yourself a chance to win,” he said.

Durant said Gordon was “very important” to Houston’s win.

“He kept them afloat for a while,” he said.

The Rockets withstood a 46-point performance from Durant and late surge by the Warriors to avoid falling into a 3-0 hole in the best-of-seven series.

Hertl’s 2 goals propel Sharks past Avalanche

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — As loud as the Shark Tank got following Tomas Hertl’s two goals, the roar was even more deafening when injured captain Joe Pavelski emerged from the tunnel to wave a towel for the fans in the third period.

Hertl’s goals led the San Jose Sharks to a 2-1 victory over the Colorado Avalanche in Game 5 on Saturday night, leaving them one win away from a berth in the conference final and a greater possibility that their fallen leader will be able to return to the ice.

“That was as loud as this building gets,” forward Logan Couture said of the ovation for Pavelski about a minute after Hertl’s tiebreaking goal in the third period. “That was a pretty cool moment. I had goose bumps on the ice.”

Pavelski made his first public appearance since his head slammed against the ice and he was helped off with a bloody concussion in Game 7 of the first round against Vegas. The Sharks rallied around their captain by scoring four goals on the ensuing power play to erase a three-goal deficit and eventually advancing with an overtime win.

Pavelski got back on the ice skating earlier this week and coach Peter DeBoer said he’s

getting “closer” to making a return to the lineup that would likely lead to even louder cheers than he got during this game.

“I didn’t know it was going to happen but (it was) a give-you-a-chill type moment. That type of ovation,” DeBoer said. “Our coaching staff would give him the same kind of ovation when we find out he’s back.”

But in order to increase those chances, the Sharks will need more games like this, where they controlled the play for almost the entire game and rode the strong play from Hertl, Couture, defensemen Erik Karlsson and Marc-Edouard Vlasic, and goalie Martin Jones to a win.

Hertl tied the game with a power-play goal in the final minute of the second period and then delivered the go-ahead score with 13:34 remaining in the third for his first two goals of the series after recording six in the first round.

“If you have tough game, you have to just let it go,” Hertl said. “I know I can play really good. ... I know the team needs me and I have to step it up. I try to every night.”

The Sharks will look to clinch the series in Game 6 on Monday night in Colorado.

Tyson Jost scored the lone goal for the Avalanche.

Bruins take 3-2 series lead behind Pastrnak

Associated Press

BOSTON — David Pastrnak took control of the game, and then he took over the postgame news conference from line-mate and Game 5 co-star Brad Marchand.

After scoring twice, including the tiebreaking goal with 1:28 left, Pastrnak noticed that the man known as a “Little Ball of Hate” was getting a little salty about the questions surrounding their line’s lack of production earlier in the playoffs.

“I’ll take this,” Pastrnak said with a smile, “Marchy’s a bit crispy tonight.”

One game after the Bruins’ top line combined for five points, Pastrnak, Marchand and Patrice Bergeron scored three goals and totaled six points in Game 5 on Saturday night to beat the Columbus Blue Jackets 4-3 and give Boston a 3-2 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Pastrnak flipped a cross-ice pass from Marchand into the goal to cap a wild third period, and Tuukka Rask stopped 33 shots for the Bruins. Marchand had a goal and two assists, and David Krejci also scored for Boston.

“They break through the other night and now they’re feeling good about themselves,” Bruins coach Bruce Cassidy said. “They’re dominant when

they’re on. And when they’re feeling it, it’s a tall task for the other team.”

Sergei Bobrovsky made 32 saves for the Blue Jackets, who need a win in Game 6 on Monday night back in Columbus to force the series back to Boston for a decisive seventh game on Wednesday.

The winner will advance to the Eastern Conference finals to face the Carolina Hurricanes, who swept the New York Islanders in their series.

“Things happen for a reason. I truly believe that,” Blue Jackets coach John Tortorella said. “We’ll be back here for Game 7.”

Asked what gives him that confidence, he said: “Because we will.”

When the comments were relayed to Marchand and Pastrnak, they declined to take the bait.

With Hall of Famer Bobby Orr greeting the team before the game and then watching from a box, Rask got some help from the post when Matt Duchene stretched out to try to tip the tying goal in with less than a minute remaining and Columbus goalie Sergei Bobrovsky off for an extra skater.

In all, six goals were scored in the third, four during a 3½-minute span that turned Boston’s 2-0 lead into a 3-3 tie.