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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Trump eyes new tariffs as markets drop

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Undeterred by a stock market collapse that has continued for days, President Donald Trump threatened additional tariffs on China on Monday, raising fresh concerns that his drive to rebalance the global economy could intensify a financially destructive trade war.

Trump's threat, which he delivered on social media, came after China said it would retaliate against U.S. tariffs he announced last week.

"If China does not withdraw its 34% increase above their already long term trading abuses by tomorrow, April 8th, 2025, the United States will impose ADDITIONAL Tariffs on China of 50%, effective April 9th," he wrote on Truth Social. "Additionally, all talks with China concerning their requested meetings with us will be terminated!"

If Trump implements his plans, U.S. tariffs on imports

from China would reach a combined 104%. The new taxes would be on top of the 20% tariffs announced as punishment for fentanyl trafficking and his separate 34% tariffs announced last week. Not only could that increase prices for American consumers, it could give China an incentive to flood other countries with cheaper goods and seek deeper partnerships with other trading partners.

As of midday on Monday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average had fallen 750 points, or 2%. The S&P 500 had slumped 1.5%, and the Nasdaq composite was off 1.2%. The drop in the markets briefly reversed in the morning after a false report that Trump was considering a pause in his tariff plans. The frantic trading, which sent stocks spiking before plummeting again, showed how investors are operating on a hair trigger and are eager for any sign of encouraging news.

The White House account said

it was "fake news" that Trump was considering a pause. The Republican president has remained defiant despite fears that he could be pushing the U.S. toward a recession, insisting that his tariffs are necessary for rebuilding domestic manufacturing and resetting trade relationships with other countries.

"Be Strong, Courageous, and Patient, and GREATNESS will be the result!" he wrote on Truth Social.

He accused other countries of "taking advantage of the Good OL' USA" said "our past 'leaders' are to blame for allowing this." Trump also called on the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates. On Friday, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell warned that the tariffs could increase inflation, and he said "there's a lot of waiting and seeing going on, including by us," before any decisions would be made.

Investors expect the U.S. cen-

tral bank to cut its benchmark interest rates at least four times by the end of this year, according to CME Group's FedWatch, a sign that concerns about inflation will be eclipsed by fears of layoffs and a shrinking economy.

Goldman Sachs issued a new forecast saying a recession has become more likely even if Trump backtracks from his tariffs. The financial firm said economic growth would slow dramatically "following a sharp tightening in financial conditions, foreign consumer boycotts, and a continued spike in policy uncertainty that is likely to depress capital spending by more than we had previously assumed."

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the European Union would focus on trade with other countries besides the United States, saying there are "vast opportunities" elsewhere.

US, UK conduct hypersonic engine trials, some at Mach 5

BY ALISON BATH

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — American and British researchers recently completed hundreds of successful tests of an engine capable of propelling a cruise missile at hypersonic speed, demonstrating what officials are calling a critical breakthrough in countering Russian and Chinese threats.

The 233 engine trials at a range of speeds, including Mach 5—or about 3,400 mph — were conducted over six weeks at the NASA Langley Research Center in Virginia, the U.K. Defense Ministry said in a statement Sunday. Mach 5 is the threshold for hypersonic speed, which is five times

the speed of sound.

The tests demonstrated the performance of "the high-speed air-breathing engine — enabling greater ranges than a conventional rocket," the U.K. said, adding that the achievement was a significant step in European defense.

It wasn't clear exactly when the tests were conducted but they involved "real-time data analysis to refine design aspects and boost propulsive performance," according to the statement.

Air-breathing engines use air to create the chemical reaction needed for fuel combustion, eliminating the need for a separate onboard system. The tech-

nology allows a missile to sustain flight at hypersonic levels permitting it to potentially evade an enemy's defense system, according to defense contractor Raytheon.

In comparison, a subsonic cruise missile such as a Tomahawk would take about an hour of flight time to reach a target 500 miles away. A hypersonic cruise missile would make the journey in less than 10 minutes, according to the Atlantic Council, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank.

The U.S. has progressed over the last five years in developing hypersonic weapons but has failed to field its first weapon, the Atlantic Council said in a March

12 report.

Meanwhile, Russia and China have aggressively pursued development of long-range hypersonic weapons, fielding several types that put U.S. land and sea bases at significant risk, wrote Michael White, the report's author.

"Russia has developed and deployed a nuclear-armed hypersonic weapon that holds the U.S. mainland at risk from a highly survivable nuclear first strike," White wrote.

He added that other potential adversaries, such as North Korea and Iran, also reportedly have developed and deployed hypersonic weapons.

Murky mission to defeat militants

Secrecy regarding Yemen raises questions about US progress against resilient Houthis

Bloomberg News

President Donald Trump has boasted that he's "decimated" the Houthis, the Iran-backed militants who have attacked commercial ships transiting the Red Sea since 2023. But three weeks into a campaign of U.S. airstrikes, his administration has offered limited evidence of weapons deployed and targets hit to back up that assertion.

Former President Joe Biden's administration provided frequent updates on its hundreds of operations against the Houthis, through Pentagon briefings and shared satellite images showing the results of strikes. Officials met with members of Congress before and after operations.

Much of what's known about the recent U.S. attacks under Trump came by accident, from a Signal chat spelling out details of an impending assault that unintentionally included an editor from The Atlantic magazine.

The secrecy about Yemen is raising skepticism among foreign policy and national security experts that Trump's strategy—which he's touted as "powerful and decisive" — can restore freedom of navigation on one of the world's most important shipping routes. Major shipping lines continue to rely on a longer, and costlier, but safer route around the southern tip of Africa.

There's little doubt that the recent U.S. airstrikes have been intensive — more than \$200 million in munitions have been used so far, according to the New York Times — but the

Houthis have proved resilient through years of attacks.

Efforts by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the U.S. for most of a decade failed to defeat the militants. The group has seized control of northern Yemen, holding its capital Sanaa since 2014 as well as the key Red Sea port of Hodeida.

The recent airstrikes on the Houthis come as Trump is threatening to bomb Iran unless it engages in direct negotiations with the U.S. and then signs a deal renouncing nuclear weapons. Iran has said it will participate in indirect talks and maintains its nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes.

Trump backed up his threat by ordering that two aircraft carrier strike groups, rather than the usual one, be deployed to the Middle East to pressure Iran and protect U.S. interests.

The Houthis' operations, including the drones on which they rely, are easy to move from one place to another, making them difficult to target from the air, said Jonathan Panikoff of the Atlantic Council's Middle East Program.

"The question that I've been asking, and others have been asking, is, 'Why does the Trump administration expect this bombing of the Houthis to have any more effect than seven years of pretty extreme Saudi and Emirati bombings, including a ground invasion?'" said Annelie Sheline, a research fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft who spent a year serving in the State Department during the Biden administration.

In response to questions from Bloomberg News, a U.S. defense official said that Central Command is carrying out strikes across multiple Houthi

locations every day and night.

The official said the U.S. has confirmed the death of several Houthi leaders and destroyed command and control facilities, air defense systems, weapons manufacturing facilities and advanced weapons storage locations. The official spoke on condition of anonymity and declined to share specific military tactics and targets, citing operational security.

But Trump posted an aerial video on X Friday night showing an oval formation of people followed by a huge explosion.

"These Houthis gathered for instructions on an attack," he wrote. "Oops, there will be no attack by these Houthis!"

More than 60 civilians have been killed in the strikes since mid-March, according to the Houthi-run health ministry based in Sanaa. The Houthis have acknowledged that at least 40 of their fighters have been killed, including some with the rank of colonel. The Houthis' leader, Abdul Malik Al-Houthi, is still at large.

Trump promised before taking office to end "forever wars" like the past conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. But the Pentagon has so far offered no public blueprint for completing the mission in Yemen. Defense Department spokesman Sean Parnell has said that the U.S. plans to "use overwhelming lethal force until we have achieved our objective" but cautioned that "this is also not an endless offensive."

Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters at a foreign ministers meeting in Brussels that "the world should be grateful to the United States for being involved in this and doing this" because "nobody else can project power there and do this."

National security adviser

Mike Waltz has contrasted the overwhelming force of recent U.S. attacks with what he depicted as hundreds of slow and measured "pinprick" attacks under Biden that he derided as "feckless."

But the reliance on airstrikes shows that Trump is following the same core path as Biden, said Frederic Wehrey, a senior fellow in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and veteran Air Force officer.

"This is an administration that came to office promising an end to the forever wars," Wehrey said. "Now you have the administration going down the very same path as the Biden administration."

The lack of details about the current operations in Yemen has attracted attention in Congress.

Sens. Jeff Merkley, an Oregon Democrat, and Rand Paul, a Kentucky Republican, wrote to Trump asking him to explain his plan to deal with the Houthis.

The senators said the president failed in his responsibility to consult with Congress before the Yemen operation, as required under the long-disputed War Powers Act, and they raised concerns about the potential of war with Iran.

The Trump administration is "not sharing a lot of information in the sense of even after-action reports," said Ben Friedman, policy director of Defense Priorities, a Washington, D.C., think tank that's skeptical about the use of force. "The administration is conflating violence with success. They're talking about bombing buildings, collapsing buildings, as if that were a victory. The tactical effect is not particularly meaningful."

Attack that killed US troops likely preventable

The Washington Post

A drone attack that killed three U.S. soldiers in Jordan last year was most likely preventable, according to a military investigation that determined numerous failures — from complacency and indecisiveness to outright negligence — contributed to the worst assault on American troops since the fall of Afghanistan.

The small outpost, known as Tower 22, is along Jordan's border with Syria and Iraq, and largely had been spared from the assaults on American positions in those countries by Iranian proxies furious with the United States for its support of Israel's war in the Gaza Strip. However, on the morning of Jan. 28, 2024, while most of the base's 350 troops slept, there

were indications an attack might be imminent, Army investigators learned.

An intelligence report transmitted to Tower 22 approximately 90 minutes before the strike warned that militia groups had discussed openly on social media their intent to target U.S. forces in the area, prompting Tower 22's second-in-command to tell the watch team to "stay vigilant."

But when their radar picked up an unknown object heading toward the base, no one assessed it as a threat — and, vitally, no one issued an order for everyone to take cover.

This account is based on the report detailing the Tower 22 investigation, a copy of which was obtained by The Washington Post. The report is more

than 4,500 pages, though the Army withheld more than half of it and redacted much of the material it released.

The incident is the only deadly strike on U.S. troops since Iranian-backed militants unleashed their campaign of violence in response to the Gaza war.

The Pentagon rushed additional defenses to the region to shore up protections for deployed service members, but Tower 22 was deemed to be at lower risk of attack.

The investigation's findings appear to have some contradictions. For instance, investigators faulted Tower 22's leaders for failing to "visualize risk" and not appreciating the likelihood of an attack.

Yet commanders above them

also failed to envision the base's vulnerability. Four months before the attack, Army Central, which oversees operations throughout the Middle East, denied a request for an air defense system capable of shooting down drones because, investigators found, only one such system was available and troops in the United States needed it to prepare for deployments.

A request for a radar system that could better detect drones also was denied, the report said.

The Army's investigation places significant blame on the operations center's leadership and crews. The attack was allowed to happen because of their "failure to interrogate or assess the unidentified aircraft" that pinged on the radar, the investigation concluded.

Israeli strike at hospital kills, wounds journalists

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Israel struck a media tent outside a hospital in the Gaza Strip early Monday, killing two people, including a local reporter, and wounding six other journalists, medics said.

Thirty-two other people were killed in multiple strikes around Gaza, including 19 women and children and an emergency room doctor, according to hospital officials.

Israel has carried out waves of strikes across Gaza and ground forces have carved out new military zones since it ended its ceasefire with Hamas last month.

Israel has barred the import of food, fuel, medicine and humanitarian aid for well over a month as it seeks to pressure Hamas to accept changes to the agreement reached in January.

The strike outside Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis at around 2 a.m. set the media tent

ablaze, killing Yousef al-Faqawi, a reporter for the Palestine Today news website, and another man, according to the hospital.

The military said the strike targeted Hassan Eslahia, who it said was a Hamas militant who had entered Israel and taken part in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that ignited the war. Eslahia was among six journalists who were wounded in the strike, according to the hospital.

Eslahia had occasionally contributed images to The Associated Press and other international media outlets as a freelance journalist.

Israel also struck tents on the edge of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central city of Deir al-Balah, wounding three people, according to the hospital.

Israel has vowed to keep escalating military pressure until Hamas releases its remaining hostages, lays down its arms and leaves the territory.

Iran ready for talks with US through Oman on nuke deal

Bloomberg News

Iran has sent a "generous and wise" proposal for indirect talks with the U.S. about its nuclear program that could involve Oman, officials said.

President Donald Trump has said he wants direct discussions with the Islamic Republic over a new nuclear deal to replace the one that he abandoned during his first term. Iran has repeatedly rebuffed the idea of direct negotiations with the U.S.

Trump in March gave Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei two months to reach an agreement or face possible military action. In his reply, Khamenei made clear that Iran "won't start a war, but will respond to any threat with full force," the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency reported on Sunday, citing Maj. Gen. Mohammad Bagheri, chief of staff of Iran's armed forces.

On Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser

Kanaani said "we are waiting for the U.S. response. Our proposal for indirect negotiations is a responsible, generous, and wise offer."

He added that the Gulf-Arab Sultanate of Oman, which has facilitated dialogue between Tehran and Washington in the past, is a "main candidate" to mediate talks with the U.S.

In separate comments on Monday, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said "the ball is in the U.S. court."

"The offer for direct negotiations isn't acceptable to us for reasons repeatedly stated before, but we're ready for indirect negotiations through Oman," Araghchi said, according to the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

Kanaani added that a trilateral, expert-level meeting is taking place in Moscow on Monday involving Iranian, Russian and Chinese officials to discuss the moribund 2015 nuclear deal.

Swollen rivers inundate towns in South

Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky.—Days of unrelenting heavy rain and storms that killed at least 18 people worsened flooding as some rivers rose to near-record levels and inundated towns across an already saturated South and parts of the Midwest.

Cities ordered evacuations and rescue crews in inflatable boats checked on residents in Kentucky and Tennessee, while utilities shut off power and gas in a region stretching from Texas to Ohio.

"I think everybody was shocked at how quick (the river) actually did come up," said salon owner Jessica Tuggle, who was watching Monday as murky brown water approached her business in Frankfort, Ky., the state capital along the swollen Kentucky River.

She said that as each new wave of rain arrived over the weekend, anxious residents hoped for

a reprieve so they could just figure out how bad things would get and how to prepare.

She and friends packed up everything she could haul out of her salon, including styling chairs, hair products and electronics, and they took it all to a nearby tap house up the hill.

"Everybody was just 'stop raining, stop raining' so we could get an idea of what the worst situation would be," she said.

Officials diverted traffic and turned off utilities to businesses in the city as the river was expected to approach a record crest on Monday.

For many, there was a sense of dread that the worst was still to come.

"As long as I've been alive—and I'm 52—this is the worst I've ever seen it," said Wendy Quire, the general manager at the Brown Barrel restaurant downtown.

"The rain just won't stop,"

Quire said Sunday. "It's been nonstop for days and days."

The 18 reported deaths since the storms began on Wednesday included 10 in Tennessee. A 9-year-old boy in Kentucky was caught up in floodwaters while walking to catch his school bus. A 5-year-old boy in Arkansas died after a tree fell on his family's home, police said. A 16-year-old volunteer Missouri firefighter died in a crash while seeking to rescue people caught in the storm.

The National Weather Service warned Sunday that dozens of locations in multiple states were expected to reach a "major flood stage," with extensive flooding of structures, roads, bridges and other critical infrastructure possible.

In north-central Kentucky, emergency officials ordered a mandatory evacuation for Flemington and Butler, towns near the bend of the rising Licking

River. Thirty years ago, the river reached a record 50 feet, resulting in five deaths and 1,000 homes destroyed.

The storms come after the Trump administration cut jobs at NWS forecast offices, leaving half of them with vacancy rates of about 20%, or double the level of a decade ago.

Forecasters attributed the violent weather to warm temperatures, an unstable atmosphere, strong winds and abundant moisture streaming from the Gulf.

The NWS said 5.06 inches of rain fell Saturday in Jonesboro, Ark.—making it the wettest day ever recorded in April in the city. Memphis, Tenn., received 14 inches of rain from Wednesday to Sunday, the NWS said.

Rives, a northwestern Tennessee town of about 200 people, was almost entirely underwater after the Obion River overflowed.

Kennedy visits epicenter of Texas measles outbreak

Associated Press

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. visited the epicenter of Texas' still-growing measles outbreak on Sunday, the same day a funeral was held for a second young child who was not vaccinated and died from a measles-related illness.

Kennedy said in a social media post that he was working to "control the outbreak" and went to Gaines County to comfort the families who have buried two young children. He was seen late Sunday afternoon outside of a Mennonite church where the funeral services were held, but he did not attend a nearby news conference held by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about the outbreak.

Seminole is the epicenter of the outbreak, which started in late January and continues to swell—with nearly 500 cases in Texas

alone, plus cases from the outbreak believed to have spread to New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas and Mexico.

The second young child died Thursday from "what the child's doctor described as measles pulmonary failure," and did not have underlying health conditions, the Texas State Department of State Health Services said Sunday in a news release. Aaron Davis, a spokesperson for UMC Health System in Lubbock, said that the child was "receiving treatment for complications of measles while hospitalized."

This is the third known measles-related death tied to this outbreak. One was another elementary school-aged child in Texas and the other was an adult in New Mexico; neither were vaccinated.

It's Kennedy's first visit to the area as health secretary, where he said he met with families of

both the 6- and 8-year-old children who died.

Kennedy, an anti-vaccine advocate before ascending to the role of nation's top health secretary earlier this year, has resisted urging widespread vaccinations as the measles outbreak has worsened under his watch. On Sunday, however, he said in a lengthy statement posted on X that it was "the most effective way to prevent the spread of measles."

The measles, mumps and rubella vaccine has been used safely for more than 60 years and is 97% effective against measles after two doses.

Dr. Manisha Patel, CDC incident manager, said in a Sunday news conference that the MMR vaccine is the best way to protect against measles. She also told parents in Gaines County that it was important not to "delay care" for a child who is sick with measles.

sles.

"Call your doctor and make sure you're talking to a health care professional who can guide you on those next steps," Patel said.

Neither the CDC nor the state health department included the death in their measles reports issued Friday, but the CDC acknowledged it when asked Sunday.

The number of cases in Texas shot up by 81 between March 28 and April 4, and 16 more people were hospitalized. Nationwide, the U.S. has more than double the number of measles cases it saw in all of 2024.

Dr. Peter Marks, the Food and Drug Administration's former vaccine chief, said responsibility for the death rests with Kennedy and his staff. Marks was forced out of the FDA after disagreements with Kennedy over vaccine safety.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Galapagos tortoises are parents at nearly 100

PA PHILADELPHIA — A pair of critically endangered, nearly 100-year-old Galapagos tortoises at the Philadelphia Zoo have become first-time parents.

The zoo said it is “overjoyed” at the arrivals of the four hatchlings, a first in its more than 150-year history. The babies are the offspring of female Mommy and male Abrazzo, the zoo’s two oldest residents.

The quartet is being kept behind the scenes inside the Reptile and Amphibian House for now, “eating and growing appropriately,” the zoo said. They weigh between 70 and 80 grams, about the weight of a chicken egg. The first egg hatched on Feb. 27 and more that still could hatch are being monitored by the zoo’s animal care team.

“This is a significant milestone in the history of Philadelphia Zoo, and we couldn’t be more excited to share this news with our city, region and the world,” President and CEO Jo-Elle Mogerman said in a statement.

“Mommy arrived at the Zoo in 1932, meaning anyone that has visited the Zoo for the last 92 years has likely seen her,” she said.

White House cuts plan to cover obesity drug

DC WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump’s administration has decided not to cover expensive, high-demand obesity treatments under the federal government’s Medicare program.

The Centers for Medicare

and Medicaid Services said it would not cover the medications under Medicare’s Part D prescription drug coverage. Medicare covers health care expenses mainly for people age 65 and older.

Trump’s predecessor, Joe Biden, proposed a rule in late November after Trump won reelection that would have extended coverage of drugs like Zepbound and Wegovy. The rule was not expected to be finalized until Trump took office.

2 US border inspectors charged in taking bribes

CA SAN DIEGO — Two U.S. border inspectors in Southern California have been charged with taking thousands of dollars in bribes to allow people to enter the country through the nation’s busiest port of entry without showing documents, prosecutors said.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers Farlis Almonte and Ricardo Rodriguez were assigned to immigration inspection booths at the San Ysidro Port of Entry. They were charged after investigators found phone evidence showing they had exchanged messages with human traffickers in Mexico and discovered unexplained cash deposits into their bank accounts, according to a criminal complaint unsealed.

Surveillance video showed at least one instance in which a vehicle with a driver and a passenger stopped at a checkpoint but only the driver was documented as having entered the country, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said the officers waved dozens of vehicles carrying people without documents.

They said both men were paid thousands for each vehicle they waved through.

Rep’s ex-husband gives apology for harassment

GA JOHNS CREEK — The ex-husband of Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., has apologized for berating three Muslim women in Georgia days after a video of the incident went viral.

“I came today just to meet with the young ladies that I was mean to and treated disrespectfully about their religion and about what they were doing,” Perry Greene said at a press conference outside the women’s place of worship in Johns Creek, Ga.

“I just wanted them to know that I humbly apologized to them because no one should be treated that way, and that’s not the right way for us to treat anybody.”

According to the three women, they were praying at the empty parking lot when a man driving a Tesla Cybertruck interrupted them and demanded to know what country they were from.

The man, later identified as Greene, went on to tell them they were “worshiping a false god” and instructed them to “go back to [their] country.”

Judge temporarily blocks new immigration law

FL TALLAHASSEE — A federal judge temporarily blocked police and prosecutors from enforcing a new state law that makes it a crime for immigrants to come into Florida after they enter the

country illegally.

Calling the law likely unconstitutional, U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams suspended enforcement of it for 14 days and scheduled a hearing for April 18.

The ruling is a setback for Gov. Ron DeSantis and law-enforcement officials who were already making arrests and prosecuting cases under the law, which was enacted in February following a contentious special session meant to enact policies that would help President Donald Trump’s immigration enforcement plans.

Order for school district to return books on hold

CO DENVER — The saga surrounding 19 “highly sensitive” books that Colorado’s Elizabeth School District removed from its libraries last year continued Friday as the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals paused a federal judge’s order requiring the district to re-shelf the titles.

U.S. District Judge Charlotte N. Sweeney on Thursday had denied an appeal from the Elbert County school district and ordered the books be returned by 5 p.m. Saturday.

But the district filed an emergency motion in the 10th Circuit late Thursday and, on Friday, the appellate court issued a temporary stay.

Elizabeth school board members voted in the fall to pluck the books — including “The Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini, Toni Morrison’s “Beloved” and “The Bluest Eye,” and Angie Thomas’ “The Hate U Give” — from shelves

— From wire reports

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Ovechkin breaks career goals record

The Washington Post

NEW YORK — The enduring image of the 895th goal of Alex Ovechkin's career, the one that completed his pursuit of Wayne Gretzky's NHL record and put his name at the top of the league's most celebrated list, will be his full-extension belly slide across the ice, with the jubilant exuberance of a child despite his 39 years of life.

That was it. He had done it. There would be no more questions of if. Those questions, in recent years, had shifted to when, then grew in intensity and volume along with the chants of his name everywhere the Washington Capitals went. With one trademark flick of his stick from the top of the left faceoff circle on the power play, Ovechkin became the NHL's all-time leading goal scorer, converting from the spot where he built his legend to achieve his biggest accomplishment yet.

The anticipation reached a fever pitch in the seconds before Ovechkin, who burst into the NHL two decades ago and has hardly slowed down since, lit the lamp. The Capitals fell to the

New York Islanders, 4-1, at UBS Arena on Sunday, but the result hardly mattered to those who filled the stands, sporting red and transporting Capital One Arena north to Long Island for the afternoon.

When Washington went on its first power play, seven minutes into the second period, those red-clad fans rose, all eyes on what they hoped was about to happen.

Chants of "Ovi! Ovi! Ovi" drowned out the announcement of the penalty; it was a tripping call on Casey Cizikas, drawn by defenseman Rasmus Sandin, but few could hear it in real time. What they could hear instead: the buzz of anticipation, perhaps even expectation, as history loomed.

Winger Tom Wilson sent a pass across the ice to Ovechkin as he flew at full speed into the offensive zone, and when Ovechkin caught the pass at the top of the left circle, there was no doubt. A power-play goal from the spot that he turned into his office was the only way No. 895 could go. And as he rocketed the shot past Ilya Sorokin —

the 183rd goaltender Ovechkin has scored on — the anticipation turned into an explosion.

"To be honest with you, when I was tying the record [Friday], I still can't believe it," Ovechkin said. "It was so emotional, it was such a great night, but this is something crazy. I'm going to need a couple more days or maybe a couple weeks to realize what does it mean to be number one. But I can say I'm very proud. I'm really proud for myself. I'm really proud for my family, for all my teammates that help me to reach that milestone and for all my coaches. It's huge. It's unbelievable. It's an unbelievable moment, and I'm happy."

The game came to a halt as Ovechkin's teammates streamed onto the ice, matching his joy with exhilaration of their own. It was even more enthusiastic than their celebration less than 48 hours earlier, when Ovechkin tied Gretzky at 894 on Friday. The sheer delight was tinged with relief, primarily for the man whose No. 8 was on the backs of many of the red jerseys in the stands.

Islanders players shook his hand as the arena prepared for a ceremony, with a carpet emblazoned with "Alex Ovechkin" and "895" placed at center ice. Gretzky, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, Capitals owner Ted Leonsis and Ovechkin's family — wife Nastya, sons Sergei and Ilya, mother Tatyana and Nastya's father Kirill — joined him to celebrate the moment.

"We have all witnessed history in front of greatness," Bettman said.

As he waited for the ceremony, Ovechkin skated to the bench to celebrate with the rest of the Capitals' staff, starting with a hug for longtime equipment staffer Craig "Woody" Leydig, who has been with Ovechkin every step of the way in Washington.

"What a day, huh? Like I always said, all the time, it's a team sport, and without my boys — the whole organization, the fans, the trainers, coaches — I would never stand there and obviously I would never pass the Great One," Ovechkin said during the ceremony.

Rossi's goal in overtime helps Wild end skid at 4

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Marco Rossi scored on a power play 58 seconds into overtime for the Minnesota Wild, who stopped a four-game losing streak by beating the Dallas Stars 3-2 on Sunday.

Matt Boldy, who scored early in the third period and assisted on Marcus Foligno's go-ahead goal less than two minutes later, drew a tripping penalty on Jason Robertson to give Minnesota a 4-on-3. Boldy and Mats Zuccarello set up Rossi's tap-in.

Filip Gustavsson made 23 saves for the Wild, who lead the Flames by six points for the last spot in the Western Conference

playoffs.

Minnesota has four games left, including a crucial one at Calgary on Friday. The Flames have six games remaining.

With rare consecutive losses, the Stars missed a chance to catch the Jets for the Western Conference lead. Dallas is three points behind Winnipeg, and both have five games left.

Senators 4, Blue Jackets 0: Linus Ullmark made 30 saves for Ottawa's second straight shutout and the host Senators moved to the brink of their first playoff appearance since 2017, beating Columbus for their third straight victory.

With five games left, Ottawa

holds the first wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference — five points ahead of Montreal.

Red Wings 2, Panthers 1: Alex DeBrincat and J.T. Compher scored in the second period and Cam Talbot finished with 32 saves to help host Detroit keep its fading playoff hopes alive.

Golden Knights 3, Canucks 2: Victor Olofsson broke a tie with 3:14 left off William Karlsson's nifty feed from behind the net and visiting Vegas beat Vancouver.

The Golden Knights increased their Pacific Division lead over Los Angeles to five points. The Canucks are eight

points out of a playoff berth with four games to go.

Blackhawks 3, Penguins 1: Ilya Mikheyev scored twice, Frank Nazar added a goal and Spencer Knight stopped 28 shots as host Chicago snapped a five-game skid with a win over Pittsburgh.

Sabres 6, Bruins 4: Tage Thompson had a hat trick, Jason Zucker scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period and host Buffalo beat Boston for its fourth straight victory.

Canadiens 2, Predators 1: Cole Caufield and Patrik Laine scored in the second period to rally visiting Montreal to a victory over Nashville.

UConn crushes South Carolina for title

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — During the final sweet moments of UConn's 12th national title, Geno Auriemma and Paige Bueckers embraced after the star guard departed her final game with the Huskies.

It was the moment they wanted all along.

"They've all been gratifying, don't get me wrong," Auriemma said. "But this one here, because of the way it came about and what's been involved, it's been a long time since I've been that emotional when a player has walked off the court."

Bueckers, Azzi Fudd and Sarah Strong led the way as UConn returned to the top of women's college basketball by rolling to an 82-59 victory over defending champion South Carolina on Sunday.

Fudd, who was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four, scored 24 points. Strong had 24 points and 15 rebounds, and Bueckers scored 17

points for the Huskies (37-3).

"Well, it's amazing to have three players, three people like that on the same team," said the 71-year-old Auriemma, who became the oldest coach in major college basketball to win a championship. "And Sarah, you would think Sarah was graduating the way she plays, right? All three of them complement each other so well. They all have such unique skill sets."

Bueckers capped her stellar career with UConn's first championship since 2016, ending a nine-year drought for the team. That was the longest period for Auriemma and his program without a title since Rebecca Lobo and Jen Rizzotti led the Huskies to their first championship in 1995.

Since then, UConn has had dominant championship runs, including in the early 2000s led by Sue Bird and Diana Taurasi, 2009-10 with Maya Moore and finally the four straight from 2013-16 with Breanna Stewart.

All were in attendance on Sunday.

"You just never know if you'll ever be back in this situation again," Auriemma said. "And there were so many times when I think we all questioned, 'Have we been here too long? Has it been time?' And we kept hanging in there and hanging in there and that's because these players make me want to hang in there every day."

Bueckers, the expected No. 1 pick in the WNBA draft on April 14, delivered for UConn throughout this season.

Winning a title was the only thing missing from an incredible Huskies career that was slowed by injuries. She was the first freshman to win AP Player of the Year before missing much of her sophomore season with a tibial plateau fracture and meniscus tear. She then tore an ACL before the next season.

"It's been a story of resilience, gratitude of overcoming

adversity and responding to life's challenges," Bueckers said. "I wouldn't trade it for the world."

UConn closed the first half up 10 points and then put the game away in the third quarter, with Fudd, Strong and Bueckers combining for 23 of the team's 26 points in the period. The Huskies were up 50-39 with 3:21 left before closing with a 12-3 run.

Fudd and Strong got it started with back-to-back 3s, and the rout was on. Auriemma subbed Bueckers, Fudd and Strong out with 1:32 left in the game.

UConn's trio finished the tourney with 368 points, including an NCAA freshman record 114 for Strong. It was the highest point total for three teammates in a single NCAA Tournament, according to Stats Perform. Chamique Holdsclaw, Tamika Catchings and Semeka Randell scored 363 points for Tennessee in the 1998 women's tournament.

Doncic scores 30, leads Lakers to romp over Thunder

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Luka Doncic scored 30 points and the Los Angeles Lakers routed the league-leading Oklahoma City Thunder 126-99 on Sunday.

Austin Reaves scored 20 points and LeBron James added 19 points and seven assists for the Lakers, who have won four of five.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 26 points and Jalen Williams added 16 for the Thunder.

Oklahoma City remained two games ahead of the Cleveland Cavaliers in the race for the league's best record with five games to play. Instead of closing in on the top seed and home-court advantage throughout the playoffs, the Thunder lost consecutive games for just the second time this season.

The teams will meet again

Tuesday in Oklahoma City.

Los Angeles led 78-56 at half-time after making a franchise record 15 3-pointers in the first half. It was the most points the Thunder had given up in any half this season. Doncic led the way with 22 points and hit five 3-pointers, with most being well contested.

Bulls 132, Hornets 117: Coby White scored 37 points, shooting 6-for-8 from 3-point range, Josh Giddey added 23 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists and visiting Chicago rolled past Charlotte for its third straight win.

Raptors 120, Nets 109: Rookie Jonathan Mogbo tied his career highs with 17 points and 11 rebounds as visiting Toronto beat Brooklyn.

Celtics 124, Wizards 90: Luke Kornet scored 13 points

and had 14 rebounds, Al Horford had 11 points with 10 boards and host Boston ran away from undermanned Washington.

Kings 120, Cavaliers 113: Zach LaVine scored 37 points, including 11 in the decisive fourth quarter, and visiting Sacramento remained in position for a play-in spot with a victory over Cleveland.

Trail Blazers 120, Spurs 109: Toumani Camara had 23 points and 11 rebounds and host Portland held off a late rally by San Antonio for a victory.

Hawks 147, Jazz 134: Onyeka Okongwu had 27 points and 12 rebounds, Trae Young added 23 points and 15 assists and host Atlanta beat Utah, extending its losing streak to nine games.

Knicks 112, Suns 98: OG Anunoby scored 19 of his 32 points in a perfect third quarter

to keep up the best scoring stretch of his career, and host New York beat Phoenix.

Pacers 125, Nuggets 120: Obi Toppin scored 22 points in his second start of the season and visiting Indiana overcame the absence of Pascal Siakam to hand reeling Denver its fourth consecutive loss.

Bucks 111, Pelicans 107: Gary Trent Jr. scored a season-high 29 points, and visiting Milwaukee improved its hold on fifth place in the Eastern Conference by defeating New Orleans.

Rockets 106, Warriors 96: Alperen Sengun had 19 points and 14 rebounds, Dillon Brooks scored 24 points and visiting Houston snapped Golden State's five-game winning streak in a matchup of Western Conference powers.

Castellanos, Phillies rally twice to beat Dodgers

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA—Nick Castellanos hit a grand slam, and the Philadelphia Phillies rallied with two runs in the seventh inning to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 8-7 on Sunday.

Philadelphia took two of three from defending World Series champion Los Angeles, a series that might not mean much by October but put a little juice into an early April weekend.

Teoscar Hernández homered twice and had five RBIs for the Dodgers, whose only two losses this season have come in this three-game series.

Castellanos hit his eighth career grand slam on reliever Alex Vesia's first pitch in the third inning. The Phillies scored six times in the third and led 6-4 into the seventh.

LA went ahead in a three-run seventh against Philadelphia's bullpen. Mookie Betts hit an RBI double, Hernández's fifth RBI came on a tying sacrifice fly and Will Smith knocked a run-scoring double off the right-field wall for 7-6 lead.

Bryson Stott tied the game 7-all in the seventh with an RBI single off Blake Treinen (0-1) and Edmundo Sosa beat out at first base a potential double-play ball to shortstop that brought home the go-ahead run.

Red Sox 5-18, Cardinals 4-7:

Alex Bregman hit a three-run homer and tied a career high with six RBIs, Rafael Devers had four hits and drove in three runs, and host Boston rolled to a win and a doubleheader sweep of St. Louis.

Wilyer Abreu added a double and three RBIs for the Red Sox, who finished with a season-best 22 hits. It was the 14th career four-hit game for Devers. Bregman posted his 10th career game with four hits.

All that offense made for an easy night for Hunter Dobbins (1-0), who scattered five hits and gave up two runs over five innings to win his major league debut. Cooper Criswell gave up four runs in the ninth, but went three innings for his first save.

In the makeup of Saturday's rainout, Abreu singled off the Green Monsterto drive in the winning run in the bottom of the 10th inning as Boston rallied for a victory in the opener. Devers, who began the season 0 for 21 with 15 strikeouts, also hit his first homer of the year in the first game.

Nationals 5, Diamondbacks 4: Alex Call and Paul DeJong each had two hits and drove in a run and Trevor Williams (1-0) struck out six in five innings as host Washington beat Arizona and ace Corbin Burnes (0-1).

The Nationals took two of three from the Diamondbacks, winning a series from Arizona for the first time since 2021. It was Washington's first home series victory over the D-backs since 2017.

Mets 2, Blue Jays 1: Pete Alonso hit a go-ahead single in the third inning and host New York beat Toronto for its first series sweep of the Blue Jays in 24 years.

The Mets extended their winning streak to four by taking three in a row from Toronto. New York had last swept the Blue Jays from July 15-17, 2001, at Shea Stadium.

Tigers 4, White Sox 3: Spencer Torkelson smacked a two-run double to cap host Detroit's three-run rally in the ninth inning and give the Tigers a win over Chicago.

Royals 4, Orioles 1: Kris Bubic (2-0) took a shutout into the seventh inning and host Kansas City won its first series of the season with a victory over Baltimore.

Brewers 8, Reds 2: Jackson Chourio homered twice and matched a career high with five RBIs as host Milwaukee beat Cincinnati.

Pirates 5, Yankees 4 (11): Tommy Pham's run-scoring single in the bottom of the 11th inning lifted host Pittsburgh to a victory over New York for just its second win in eight games.

Astros 9, Twins 7 (10): Jose Altuve drove in the go-ahead run with a single in the 10th inning after Yordan Alvarez tied it with a two-run homer in the ninth and visiting Houston rallied from an early six-run deficit to beat Minnesota.

Rockies 12, Athletics 5: Chase Dollander (1-0) won his major league debut with five solid innings, and host Colorado beat the Athletics, snapping a six-game skid.

Rangers 4, Rays 3: Jonah Heim's walk-off single with two outs in the ninth inning to center field scored Josh Smith and host Texas beat Tampa Bay for its fifth consecutive win.

Angels 6, Guardians 2: Logan O'Hoppe homered in his fourth consecutive game, and Jorge Soler hit a tiebreaking shot in the sixth inning of host Los Angeles' victory over Cleveland.

Padres 8, Cubs 7: Luis Arraez had four hits, Fernando Tatis Jr. scored the go-ahead run in the ninth inning when first baseman Justin Turner couldn't make the catch to finish a double play, and visiting San Diego beat Chicago.

Giants 5, Mariners 4: Wilmer Flores hit an RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning and host San Francisco beat Seattle to sweep the three-game series.

Hamlin holds off Byron in overtime at Goodyear 400

Associated Press

DARLINGTON, S.C.—Denny Hamlin did his job so his pit crew could do its most stellar stop at the perfect time.

Hamlin came into the pits after a final caution in third place and told himself to hit every mark, then let his guys take over.

And that's what the Joe Gibbs Racing group did, pulling off a perfect winning moment that sent Hamlin out with the lead. He took over on the final restart and held off William Byron to win the Goodyear 400 on Sunday.

It was Hamlin's 56th career NASCAR win, his fifth at Darlington Raceway and his second straight this season.

"When you think about 56 wins, that's a huge deal," said Gibbs, Hamlin's longtime car

owner.

Hamlin said he hung on throughout as Byron and others looked like they might pull out victory. Instead, Hamlin waited out his time and then pounced as he broke away during the green-white-checkered finish.

"I can still do it, I can do it at a high level and look forward to winning a lot of races this year," Hamlin said.

Hamlin won for a second straight week after his success at Martinsville.

Hamlin chose the outside lane for a final restart and shot out to the lead and pulled away from series points leader Byron and NASCAR wins leader Christopher Bell.

Hamlin looked like he'd have a strong finish, but not a winning one as Ryan Blaney

passed Tyler Reddick for the lead with three laps left. But moments later, Kyle Larson spun out forcing a final caution and the extra laps.

It was then time for Hamlin's Joe Gibbs Racing pit crew to shine as it got him out quickly and in the lead.

Byron, who led the first 243 laps, was second with Hamlin's JGR teammate Bell in third.

"There are two people I really love right now, my pit crew and Kyle Larson," Hamlin said to a round of boos from those in the stands.

Reddick was fourth and Blaney was fifth. The rest of the top 10 finishers were Chris Buescher, Ross Chastain, Chase Elliott, Ty Gibbs and Kyle Busch.