

## No warning sirens during Maui blazes

*Associated Press*

LAHAINA, Hawaii — Hawaii emergency management records show no indication that warning sirens sounded before people ran for their lives from wildfires on Maui that killed at least 55 people and wiped out a historic town. Instead, officials sent alerts to mobile phones, televisions and radio stations — but widespread power and cellular outages may have limited their reach.

Hawaii boasts what the state describes as the largest integrated outdoor all-hazard public safety warning system in the world, with about 400 sirens positioned across the island chain to alert people to various natural disasters and other threats.

But many survivors said in in-

terviews that they didn't hear any sirens or receive a warning that gave them enough time to prepare and only realized they were in danger when they saw flames or heard explosions nearby.

The wildfires are the state's deadliest natural disaster since a 1960 tsunami that killed 61 people. An even deadlier tsunami in 1946, which killed more than 150 people on the Big Island, prompted the development of the territory-wide emergency system that includes the sirens, which are sounded monthly to test their readiness.

Gov. Josh Green warned that the death toll would likely rise as search and rescue operations continue. Cadaver-sniffing dogs

were brought in Friday to assist the search for the remains of people killed by the inferno, said Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen Jr.

Fueled by a dry summer and strong winds from a passing hurricane, at least three wildfires erupted on Maui this week, racing through parched brush covering the island.

The most serious one left Lahaina a grid of gray, ashen rubble, wedged between the blue ocean and lush green slopes. Skeletal remains of buildings bowed under roofs that pancaked in the blaze. Palm trees were torched, boats in the harbor were scorched and the stench of burning lingered.

"Without a doubt, it feels like a bomb was dropped on Lahai-

na," the governor said after walking the ruins of the town Thursday morning with the mayor.

Firefighters managed to build perimeters around most of the Lahaina fire and another near the resort-filled area of Kihei, but they were still not fully contained as of Thursday afternoon.

Hawaii Emergency Management Agency spokesperson Adam Weintraub told The Associated Press that the department's records don't show that Maui's warning sirens were triggered on Tuesday, when the Lahaina fire began. Instead, the county used emergency alerts sent to mobile phones, televisions and radio stations, Weintraub said.

## African nations prepare to send troops to Niger

*Associated Press*

NIAMEY, Niger — Tensions are escalating between Niger's new military regime and the West African regional bloc that has ordered the deployment of troops to restore Niger's flailing democracy.

The ECOWAS bloc said on Thursday it had directed a "standby force" to restore constitutional order in Niger after its Sunday deadline to reinstate ousted President Mohamed Bazoum expired.

Hours earlier, two Western officials told The Associated Press that Niger's junta had told a top U.S. diplomat they would kill Bazoum if neighboring countries attempted any military intervention to restore his rule.

It's unclear when or where the force will deploy and which

countries from the 15-member bloc would contribute to it. Conflict experts say it would likely comprise some 5,000 troops led by Nigeria and could be ready within weeks.

After the ECOWAS meeting, neighboring Ivory Coast's president, Alassane Ouattara, said his country would take part in the military operation, along with Nigeria and Benin.

"Ivory Coast will provide a battalion and has made all the financial arrangements ... We are determined to install Bazoum in his position. Our objective is peace and stability in the sub-region," Ouattara said on state television.

Niger, an impoverished country of some 25 million people, was seen as one of the last hopes for Western nations to partner with in beating back a jihadi in-

surgency linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group that's ravaged the region.

France and the United States have more than 2,500 military personnel in Niger and together with other European partners had poured hundreds of millions of dollars into propping up its military.

The junta responsible for spearheading the coup, led by Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, has exploited anti-French sentiment among the population to shore up its support.

Hundreds of people marched toward the French military base in Niamey on Friday waving Russian flags and screaming "Down with France." Many were young, including children, all chanting that the French should go.

Also Friday, the African

Union expressed strong support for ECOWAS' decision and called on the junta to "urgently halt the escalation with the regional organization." It also called for the immediate release of Bazoum. An African Union meeting to discuss the situation in Niger expected on Saturday was postponed.

On Thursday night after the summit, France's foreign ministry said it supported "all conclusions adopted." U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said his country appreciated "the determination of ECOWAS to explore all options for the peaceful resolution of the crisis" and would hold the junta accountable for the safety and security of President Bazoum. However, he did not specify whether the U.S. supported the deployment of troops.

# Air attacks traded as Ukraine cracks down on corruption

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia fired missiles at western Ukraine that killed an 8-year-old boy, local officials said, and drones that Russian officials blamed on the Ukrainian military targeted Moscow for a third straight day but reportedly didn't cause significant damage.

Also Friday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced the firing of all the heads of regional military draft boards, part of his crackdown on corruption since the outbreak of Russia's war in Ukraine more than 17 months ago.

The missile that killed the boy struck a house in western Ukraine's Ivano-Frankivsk region, about 60 miles from the Polish border, according to the office of Ukraine's prosecutor general.

But Ukrainian air defenses frustrated Russia's daylight at-

tack on Kyiv, Ukraine's capital. Debris from intercepted missiles fell on residential areas of the city, including the premises of a children's hospital, without causing casualties, local authorities said. Falling wreckage of missiles and drones has in the past killed people on the ground and damaged buildings in Kyiv.

Meanwhile, a drone fell in western Moscow after Russian air defense systems stopped it, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyannin said. Nobody was hurt, he said.

The drone plunged onto the Karamyshevskaya Embankment, officials said, which is about 3 miles from a Moscow business district that was hit twice in previous drone incidents.

Reports of drones in the area disrupted flights at two Russian airports. Flights later resumed at Vnukovo airport, one of Moscow's busiest and at Kaluga air-

port, southwest of the city. It was the third day in a row that Vnukovo airport halted flights due to drone attacks.

In Kyiv, Zelenskyy said he was firing draft board directors in all the Ukraine's regions. He said in a Telegram post that the jobs should go to war veterans, including those with injuries.

The step was taken after Ukrainian security services presented details of 112 criminal cases against draft board officials suspected of taking bribes and engaging in corrupt practices, as well as 33 suspects who have yet to be charged.

Zelenskyy previously fired senior officials suspected of corruption.

That has sent a signal to Western allies providing Kyiv with tens of billions of dollars in military aid that Ukraine is serious about clamping down on graft, which has long plagued the country's military.

## Russia told to return areas taken from Georgia

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Six Western nations marked the 15th anniversary of Russia's takeover of 20% of Georgia's territory by demanding on Thursday that Moscow return the South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions.

A joint statement by the six members of the U.N. Security Council — the United States, United Kingdom, France, Albania, Japan and Malta — said Russia's invasion of Georgia in 2008 "marked a more aggressive trend" in its policy toward its neighbors, something being witnessed today in Ukraine.

The statement, following closed council consultations on Georgia, said the six countries "are resolute" in reaffirming the country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity "within its internationally recognized borders."

In August 2008, Russia fought a brief war with Georgia, which had made a botched attempt to regain control over the breakaway province of South Ossetia. Moscow then recognized the independence of South Ossetia and another breakaway Georgian province, Abkhazia, and set up military bases there.

The statement, read by Albanian Ambassador Ferit Hoxha outside the Security Council surrounded by diplomats from the five other countries, condemned Russia's "brutal invasion" and continued occupation of South Ossetia and Abkhazia and its "steps toward annexation of these Georgian regions."

The Western nations also reiterated their condemnation of Moscow for its "unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine."

## China detains military group worker suspected of spying for the CIA

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — China has detained a worker from a military industrial group on suspicion of spying for the CIA, national security authorities said Friday, adding to the list of public accusations of espionage between Beijing and Washington.

The Ministry of State Security, the country's civilian spy agency, said in a statement that a military industrial worker surnamed Zeng had been providing military secrets to the CIA in exchange for large sums

of money.

The 52-year-old suspect had been sent to Italy to study by his employer. There, he met "an official with the U.S. embassy," who later turned out to be a CIA agent, the ministry claimed.

"Zeng gradually developed a psychological dependence on (the U.S. official), who took the opportunity to indoctrinate him with Western values," the statement, posted on the ministry's WeChat page, read.

It added that the U.S. official promised the Chinese suspect large amounts of money and to

help his family emigrate to the United States in exchange for sensitive information about China's military, which the worker had access to through his job.

"Having finished overseas study, Zeng returned to China and continued to have multiple secret meetings with the CIA agents and provided a great amount of key intelligence and collected funds for spying," the ministry said.

It added that the suspect had been detained and the case was being further investigated.

# Judge warns of speech limits for Trump

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal judge overseeing the election conspiracy case against Donald Trump agreed with the defense on a looser version of a protective order for evidence in the case, but largely sided with the prosecution on what sensitive materials should be protected as she vowed to keep politics out of her rulings.

U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan in Washington repeatedly said that Trump was subject to the court's rules as a defendant before trial even though he is also running for president at the same time. She warned that she would not let political considerations affect her rulings.

"Your client's defense is supposed to happen in this court-

room, not on the internet," Chutkan said.

Chutkan rejected prosecutors' broader protective order proposal that sought to prevent the public airing of all evidence they hand over to Trump's defense as they prepare for trial. She instead seemed poised to impose a more limited protective order that would bar the public release only of materials deemed "sensitive," such as grand jury materials.

She did, however, block other defense requests to broaden the scope of who can see discovery and what should be considered sensitive.

The government considers the vast majority of evidence in the case to be sensitive. The judge sided with the prosecution on what materials are consi-

dered sensitive and therefore protected under the order.

When prosecutors proposed the protective order, it became an early flashpoint in the case. The prosecutors called the judge's attention to a post on Trump's social media platform in which he said he would be "coming after" those who "go after" him.

They warned Trump could improperly share sensitive information online that could have a "harmful chilling effect on witnesses." They accused Trump of objecting to their proposal because he wants to be able to use the government's evidence to "try the case in the media rather than in the courtroom."

Lawyers for Trump, who has railed against prosecutors and the judge on social media and

during campaign events, said the government's proposed order went too far and would restrict his free speech rights.

John Lauro, an attorney for Trump, raised the example of former Vice President Mike Pence — who is both competing against Trump for the Republican nomination and a potential witness in the case before Chutkan. Trump has repeatedly attacked Pence for being disloyal.

"President Trump has the ability to respond fairly to political opponents," Lauro said.

Trump, the early front-runner in the 2024 Republican presidential primary, says he is innocent of the charges, including conspiracy to defraud the United States. He has portrayed investigations of him as politically motivated.

## Sen. Joe Manchin mulling becoming an independent

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin said that he has been thinking "seriously" about leaving the Democratic Party and becoming an independent.

The West Virginia lawmaker, who has raised his national profile as a swing vote on major spending packages in the closely divided U.S. Senate, made the comments on MetroNews "Talkline" on Thursday.

"I would think very seriously about that. I've been thinking about that for quite some time. I

haven't made any decisions whatsoever on any of my political direction," Manchin said. "I want to make sure my voice is truly an independent voice, when I'm speaking I'm speaking about the good the Republicans do and the good the Democrats continue to do."

Manchin hasn't officially announced whether he will run for reelection, but two Republicans, Gov. Jim Justice and Rep. Alex Mooney, have already announced their candidacies for his Senate seat. The senator had recruited Justice to run for governor as a

Democrat before Justice switched to the GOP at a rally for former President Donald Trump during his first term.

The comments from Manchin on Thursday are the most serious he's made about a possible switch to independent.

"For me, I have to have peace of mind basically," he said. "The brand has become so bad. The 'D' brand and 'R' brand. In West Virginia, the 'D' brand because it's nationally bad. It's not the Democrats in West Virginia. It's the Democrats in Washington or the

Washington policies of the Democrats. You've heard me say a million times that I'm not a Washington Democrat."

In the Democratic caucus, his colleagues over the past few years have grown weary of Manchin, whose vote is one of two they cannot live without in a 51-49 Senate — but whose nearly constant chides at many in party, particularly Democratic President Joe Biden has left them concerned that he could switch parties and take away their slim hold on power.

## Wholesale inflation edged up in July from low levels

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Wholesale prices in the United States picked up slightly in July yet still suggested that inflationary pressures have eased this year since reaching alarming heights in 2022.

The Labor Department reported Friday that its producer price

index — which measures inflation before it hits consumers — rose 0.8% last month from that of July 2022. The latest figure followed a 0.2% year-over-year increase in June, which had been the smallest annual rise since August 2020.

On a month-to-month basis, producer prices rose 0.3% from

June to July, up from no change from May to June. Last month's increase was the sharpest since January.

Analysts said the July rise in wholesale prices, from the previous month's low levels, still reflects an overall easing inflation trend.

The figures the Labor Depart-

ment issued Friday reflect prices charged by manufacturers, farmers and wholesalers. The figures can provide an early sign of how fast consumer inflation will rise in the coming months. Since peaking at 11.7% in March 2022, wholesale inflation has steadily tumbled in the face of the Federal Reserve's 11 interest rate hikes.



# Six Colombians arrested in slaying of Ecuador politician

Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador — Ecuador's transformation into a major drug trafficking hub and the ensuing three-year surge of violence is weighing on the nation following the killing of a presidential candidate whose life's work was to fight crime and corruption.

Six Colombian men were arrested Thursday in connection with the fatal shooting of Fernando Villavicencio a day earlier in the capital, Quito. He was not a front-runner in the race, but his assassination in broad daylight less than two weeks before the special presidential election underscored the challenge Ecuador's next leader will face in any attempt to curb gangs and cartels whose activities have claimed thousands of lives.

A report of the men's arrest reviewed by The Associated Press showed the men were captured hiding in a house in Quito. Law enforcement officers, according

to the report, seized four shotguns, a 5.56-mm rifle, ammunition and three grenades as well as a vehicle and one motorcycle.

Ecuador's Interior Minister Juan Zapata described the killing as a "political crime of a terrorist nature" aimed at sabotaging the Aug. 20 election. The police report doesn't say whether the Colombians are members of a criminal group. But Zapata, who confirmed the arrests of some foreigners without giving their nationalities, said the suspects were linked to organized crime.

Villavicencio, 59, had said he was threatened by affiliates of Mexico's Sinaloa cartel, one of a slew of international organized crime groups that now operate in Ecuador. He said his campaign represented a threat to such groups.

"The Ecuadorian people are crying, and Ecuador is mortally wounded," said Patricio Zuquillanda, Villavicencio's campaign

adviser.

With almost 400 miles of Pacific coast, shipping ports and some key exports, Ecuador has been turned by international traffickers from a minor player in the drug business into a big regional hub for the smuggling of cocaine.

An intensifying struggle over power and territory since the pandemic has seen drug cartels battle among themselves and enlist local gangs and even recruit children, leaving Ecuadorians reeling from unprecedented violence.

"Ecuador has the geographical misfortune of being sandwiched between Colombia and Peru, the two largest cocaine producers in the world, and underlying it all is a certain degree of institutional weakness in the judiciary, police and military," said Cynthia Arnson, a distinguished fellow at the Washington-based Wilson Center and an expert in Latin America.

## Additional evacuations considered in Norway

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Authorities were on standby to evacuate more people in southeastern Norway on Friday, where huge amounts of water, littered with broken trees, debris and trash, were thundering down the usually serene rivers after days of torrential rain.

The level of water in swollen rivers and lakes continued to grow despite two days of dry but overcast weather, with houses abandoned in flooded areas, cars coated in mud and camping sites swamped.

In the Bagdammen lake, a helicopter with a net and cables attached was used to push a caravan toward the shore where it was pulled in by firefighters.

One of the most affected places was the town of Hoenefossen where the Begna river had gone over its banks and authorities were considering moving more people downstream for fear of landslides. A total of 3,600 people are estimated to have been already evacuated, the Norwegian news agency NTB said.

"We constantly try to think a few steps ahead. We are ready to press an even bigger red button," Magnus Nilholm, a local emergency manager in the Hoenefossen region, told Norwegian broadcaster NRK.

Ivar Berthling of Norway's Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE) told NTB that the water levels around Hoenefossen, some 25 miles north of Oslo, were expected to continue rising and remain high until at least Monday. Up north, near the Strondafjorden lake, the water level was reported to be 8.2 feet above normal.

"We are still facing critical days," the Ringerike municipality, where Hoenefossen lies, said in a statement.

## Russia launches moon-landing mission

Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia — A rocket carrying a lunar landing craft blasted off Friday on Russia's first moon mission in nearly 50 years, racing to land on Earth's satellite ahead of an Indian spacecraft.

The launch from Russia's Vostochny spaceport in the Far East of the Luna-25 craft to the moon is Russia's first since 1976 when it was part of the Soviet Union.

The Russian lunar lander is expected to reach the moon on Aug. 23, about the same day as an Indian craft which was launched on July 14. The Russian spacecraft will take about 5.5 days to travel to the moon's vicinity, then spend three to seven days

orbiting at about 62 miles before heading for the surface.

Only three governments have managed successful moon landings: the Soviet Union, the United States and China. India and Russia are aiming to be the first to land at the moon's south pole.

Roscosmos, Russia's space agency, said it wants to show Russia "is a state capable of delivering a payload to the moon," and "ensure Russia's guaranteed access to the moon's surface."

"Study of the moon is not the goal," said Vitaly Egorov, a popular Russian space analyst. "The goal is political competition between two superpowers — China and the USA — and a number of other countries

which also want to claim the title of space superpower."

Sanctions imposed on Russia after it invaded Ukraine make it harder for it to access Western technology, impacting its space program. The Luna-25 was initially meant to carry a small moon rover but that idea was abandoned to reduce the weight of the craft for improved reliability, analysts say.

"Foreign electronics are lighter; domestic electronics are heavier," Egorov said. "While scientists might have the task of studying lunar water, for Roscosmos the main task is simply to land on the moon — to recover lost Soviet expertise and learn how to perform this task in a new era."

# Texans' QB Stroud struggles in debut

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — C.J. Stroud wouldn't change much about stepping on the field for the first time against an NFL opponent.

Except for one play.

Stroud had a short and at times shaky debut that included an interception, Davis Mills threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to rookie Tank Dell and the Houston Texans beat the New England Patriots 20-9 in the teams' preseason opener Thursday night.

Stroud, drafted second overall out of Ohio State, played the first two series and went 2 of 4 for 13 yards. He rushed twice for 6 yards and was sacked once.

"I'm critical of myself," Stroud said. "But that is what being a quarterback and a rookie quarterback is. I hold myself to a different standard and I know that the guys in the locker

room aren't going to hold me down for this. ... One mistake on national television blows it all up. But, it's cool, I'll just keep growing."

Mills — who started 15 games last season — took over for Stroud and completed nine of 12 for 99 yards while playing the balance of the opening half. His touchdown pass capped a seven-play, 62-yard drive that ended with Dell juggling and pulling in the score from his back.

Dalton Keene added a 1-yard touchdown run in the third quarter. Case Keenum had a 5-yard TD pass to Alex Bachman in the fourth. Dell ended his night with five catches for 65 yards.

The Patriots gave most of their projected starters the night off, including quarterback Mac Jones.

Backup Bailey Zappe started in his place and went 12 of 14 for 79 yards, playing the entire first

half and one series in the third quarter. His best throw of the night was a 27-yard dart to Tyquan Thornton.

Patriots coach Bill Belichick said coming in with several offensive linemen dealing with injuries contributed to the offense being unable to finish some drives.

"It's tough for the backs. It's tough for the quarterback," Belichick said. "We didn't have a lot of space on the offense for the most part tonight."

Rookie quarterback Malik Cunningham, who went undrafted out of Louisville, added a late 9-yard touchdown run. Patriots rookie cornerback Christian Gonzalez had three tackles and forced a fumble.

Stroud is vying with Mills to be Houston's starter. The Texans have mostly split first-team snaps between the two during training camp.

Mills, despite a record of just

5-29-1 as a starter the past two seasons, looked much more comfortable Thursday. Meanwhile, Stroud spent most of his limited snaps under nearly constant pressure from the Patriots defense.

Starting on his own 25 following a game-opening touchback, Stroud came out throwing and completed an 8-yard pass to Nico Collins on the Texans' first play from scrimmage.

After a few short runs by Devin Singletary gave Houston a new set of downs, Stroud was dropped for a 15-yard sack when he was unable to avoid the grasp of Daniel Ekuale.

Stroud was flushed out of the pocket and scrambled for 4 yards on the next play. Facing third-and-21, he dropped back to pass again, throwing in the direction of Dell. But Jalen Mills read the play from the start, stepped in front and picked it off.

## Lock's two TD passes lead Seahawks past Vikings

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Despite being on Seattle's roster for more than a year, Drew Lock had never taken a snap at his home stadium in a Seahawks uniform until Thursday night.

Lock threw two touchdown passes, the second a 19-yard strike to Jake Bobo late in the third quarter, and the Seahawks defeated the Minnesota Vikings 24-13 on Thursday night in the preseason opener for both teams.

With starting quarterback Geno Smith serving as a spectator — along with most of the

starters for both teams — Lock showed that the Seahawks should feel comfortable about their backup.

"He needs to play football games. He sat around all last year," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "This formula of getting three quarters is just great for him."

Lock completed 17 of 24 passes for 191 yards. His one mistake was a tipped pass intercepted by Minnesota's Jaylin Williams in the third quarter.

Lock threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Easop Winston Jr. in the first half, and gave Seattle

a 17-13 lead by hitting Bobo in the final seconds of the third quarter. Bobo badly beat Andrew Booth Jr. off the line of scrimmage and hauled in the pass near the goal line.

Lock missed Seattle's one home preseason game last season after testing positive for COVID-19, a game he was scheduled to start. He never saw the field during the regular season with Smith taking every snap.

"Never walked out there in a Seahawks uniform and played a snap. Had a blast," Lock said. "Overall, it felt great just to play football again. It's weird

when you go a whole year without taking a snap."

Bobo has impressed during training camp and could be the latest undrafted rookie wide receiver to earn a spot on Seattle's roster.

Third-string QB Holton Ahlers added a 30-yard TD pass to Matt Landers in the fourth quarter.

Nick Mullens played a solid first half for the Vikings, solidifying his spot as Kirk Cousins' backup. Mullens completed 14 of 20 passes for 139 yards and a 4-yard touchdown toss to tight end Nick Muse.

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# Sweden stops Japan 2-1 in quarterfinals

Associated Press

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Sweden first knocked off the U.S. and then bounced Japan to snag a spot in the semifinals of the Women's World Cup.

The Swedes, the World Cup runners-up in 2003 and three-time third-place finishers, eliminated previously unbeaten Japan 2-1 in Friday's quarterfinal. With Japan out, this year's World Cup will crown a first-time winner.

The sold-out crowd at Eden Park, where Sweden will play in the semifinals on Tuesday against Spain, danced to songs by Swedish rock band ABBA as it was played throughout the stadium after the win.

Amanda Ilestedt scored a first-half goal and Filippa Angeldal converted a second-half penalty to give Sweden the mild upset and send the Swedes to the semifinals for the fifth time.

"I think we showed that we can play really good football," said Ilestedt. "The teamwork we are showing, it's unbelievable. Winning just feels amazing."

Japan had been so prolific with 14 goals in rolling to a 4-0

tournament record, but Japan struggled for most of the game to keep up with the taller Swedish team. When Sweden went up 2-0 late in the second, Japan seemed out of the tournament.

But the Japanese finally made a late comeback and seriously pressured Sweden goalkeeper Zecira Musovic, who is fresh off a World Cup-record 11 saves in the victory over the United States.

Riko Ueki's penalty attempt for Japan in the 76th minute hit the crossbar and bounced clear of the goal, but Musovic was beaten in the 86th minute when substitute Honoka Hayashi cut Sweden's lead to 2-1.

That was all the Japanese mustered as Sweden advanced to play Spain, which beat the Netherlands 2-1 in extra time earlier Friday. Japan had beaten Spain 4-0 in group play.

Saki Kumagai, playing in her fourth World Cup and Japan's captain, was in tears with the rest of her teammates following the loss.

"We fought so hard because we wanted it," she said. "We want to go to the next round, of course. We will come back

stronger."

Japan's exit means there will be a first-time winner at this World Cup. Japan won in 2011, and previous winners Germany, Norway and the United States were all eliminated earlier in the tournament.

Ilestedt broke through for Sweden in the 32nd minute off a free kick that ricocheted among the players in front of the goal before landing at her feet for the goal. It was the defender's fourth of the World Cup.

Angeldal added the penalty kick in the 51st minute after Fuka Nagano's handball in the box was confirmed by video review.

Japan's run in the World Cup ended with 14 goals, more than any team left in the tournament. Hinata Miyazawa finished with five of those goals to lead the Golden Boot race, matching the team record set by Homare Sawa in Japan's 2011 title run.

Sweden was riding high after eliminating the two-time defending champion U.S. on penalties following a scoreless draw Sunday. The win came by millimeters, when goal-line technology showed that Lina Hurtig's attempt crossed the

line before it could be saved by American goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher.

Japan, No. 11 in the FIFA rankings, earned a place in the quarterfinals with a 3-1 victory over Norway.

The game was a clash of styles from the start: third-ranked Sweden was more physical while Japan was more technical. Sweden dominated possession for much of the match and had the better chances.

Stina Blackstenius beat a defender Saki Kumagai and faced Japan goalkeeper Ayaka Yamashita one-on-one in the 25th minute but her shot went wide.

After Ilestedt's goal, Kosovare Asllani nearly doubled the lead in the 42nd minute, but her blast from the top of the box was pushed away by a diving Yamashita.

Angeldal's penalty appeared to rattle the Japanese, who struggled against the more athletic Swedes. Japan didn't get a shot off until the 63rd minute. Japan had scored at least twice in each of its previous games, but had never come back from down two goals in World Cup play.

## Spain edges Netherlands 2-1 to reach first semifinal

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Jorge Vilda was more interested in the aftermath back in Spain if his team won its Women's World Cup quarterfinal than he was about a rattling 5.0 magnitude earthquake that shook Wellington an hour before kickoff against Netherlands.

Salma Paralluelo was unshaken by the tremor or the high-pressure stakes, scoring late in extra time Friday to give Spain a 2-1 victory and a place in the Women's World Cup semifinals for the first time.

"We were so concentrated," Spain coach Vilda said, recall-

ing how his team prepared for the game even as the ground shook. "Yes, it was a middle (moderate) shake, an earthquake, but not today. The earthquake was the victory of Spain."

The 19-year-old Paralluelo started the match on the bench for the first time at this World Cup and made her entry just in time to make history. Spain dominated a scoreless first half and 2019 finalist Netherlands had a penalty scrubbed out by the VAR in the 62nd minute after a tussle between Irene Paredes on Dutch forward Lineth Beerensteyn.

Mariona Caldentey scored from the spot in the 81st minute

after defender Stefanie van der Gragt was penalized for handball as a cross was fired into the area.

Then van der Gragt, moving up front, scored in stoppage time to equalize at 1-1 and send the match into extra time.

Paralluelo broke down the left off Jennie Hermosa's pass in the 111th minute, swiveled past one defender, propped and sent her left-foot shot into the far corner of the net. Spain will meet either No. 3-ranked Sweden in the semifinals.

"It was a unique moment, great euphoria to have lived through that," Paralluelo said.

Vilda rode the roller-coaster

of emotions that fans in Spain and the Netherlands, watching a match that for them kicked off at 3 a.m., and the 32,000 fans in the stadium experienced.

"They played an extraordinary level, all players, and there was a match with a lot of emotions," Vilda said. "And the goal from Salma, it was sheer joy. We had to wait for a few minutes to get the end result of the whistle in the end, and I'm extremely happy."

Vilda was confident that fans who watched in the early morning would not have been disappointed.

"It's a great day for Spanish women's football," he said.



# AL-leading Orioles defeat Astros 5-4

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Adley Rutschman and Ryan Mountcastle homered, Félix Bautista worked through another shaky ninth inning and the Baltimore Orioles extended their streak to 76 series without being swept, edging the Houston Astros 5-4 on Thursday.

It was 5-3 when Bautista came on to pitch the ninth. Jose Altuve's one-out double and Alex Bregman's walk allowed the go-ahead run to come up, but catcher James McCann caught Yordan Alvarez's foul pop, holding onto the ball as he lost his balance and fell.

Tucker then drew a walk to load the bases, and Yainer Diaz followed with a line drive to the left side. Third baseman Ramón Urías made a dive for it and couldn't catch it, but he did prevent it from going all the way through and only one run came home.

Bautista then retired Jon Singleton on a popup for his 31st save in 37 chances.

Dean Kremer (11-4) allowed two runs and six hits in seven innings for AL East-leading Baltimore. Hunter Brown (8-8) allowed five runs and eight hits in six innings.

Houston got homers from Diaz and Altuve, who also singled and doubled twice.

Baltimore took a three-game lead in the AL East over Tampa Bay when the Rays lost to St. Louis later Thursday. Houston fell to 2½ games behind first-place Texas in the AL West.

**Cardinals 5, Rays 2:** Matthew Liberatore didn't allow a run in a career-best eight innings, Andrew Knizner and Tommy Edman homered as visiting St. Louis took two of three games in its series with Tampa Bay.

Liberatore (2-4), making his second start since being called up from Triple-A Memphis, gave up two hits and had a ca-

reer-high seven strikeouts. He retired his final 14 batters.

The Rays scored twice on two hits, including Wander Franco's RBI triple, against JoJo Romero in the ninth.

Tampa Bay starter Zack Littell (2-3) allowed three runs and seven hits over six innings.

**Dodgers 2, Rockies 1:** Max Muncy drew a bases-loaded, two-out walk to force in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning, Clayton Kershaw returned from the injured list and host Los Angeles edged Colorado.

It was Daniel Bard's 36th walk in 40 innings for the Rockies.

The NL West-leading Dodgers won their fifth in a row against the division's worst team and extended their lead to 6½ games over the San Francisco Giants.

Kershaw gave up one run and three hits in five innings, struck out four and didn't walk anyone in his first outing since July 27. The 35-year-old left-hander missed 35 games with left shoulder soreness.

Ryan Yarbrough (5-5) got the victory with three innings of relief. Brusdar Graterol pitched the ninth to earn his fifth save. Tommy Doyle (0-1) took the loss.

Elehuris Montero homered for Colorado.

**Pirates 7, Braves 5:** Ke'Bryan Hayes drove in three runs for the third consecutive game, Liover Peguero knocked in two and host Pittsburgh rallied past Atlanta.

Pittsburgh salvaged a split of a four-game series with the NL East leaders by overcoming an early four-run deficit behind Hayes and a strong effort out of the bullpen by Thomas Hatch (1-0), who worked four scoreless innings in earning his first win in nearly three years. Colin Holderman earned the second save of his career.

Matt Olson hit his 40th home

run of the season for Atlanta to move into a tie with Shohei Ohtani for the major-league lead. Orlando Arcia also homered for the Braves and Austin Riley added three hits. Bryce Elder (8-4) gave up five runs and six hits with two walks and five strikeouts in five innings.

**Phillies 6, Nationals 2:** Trea Turner, Nick Castellanos and J.T. Realmuto hit two-run homers, leading host Philadelphia past Washington.

The Phillies took three of the four games in the series from the Nationals, including Michael Lorenzen's no-hitter on Wednesday night. Philadelphia moved 1½ games ahead of idle San Francisco for the top spot in the NL wild-card race.

The only sour note in Thursday's victory for the Phillies was slugger Bryce Harper leaving the game in the top of the fifth inning with what the club called mid-back spasms. He was undergoing evaluation, the team said.

Matt Strahm (8-3) picked up the victory for the Phillies.

CJ Abrams, Joey Meneses, Keibert Ruiz and Ildemaro Vargas each had two hits for Washington (50-65). Vargas knocked in both Washington runs with two doubles.

**Tigers 3, Twins 0:** Riley Greene homered in the sixth inning and Detroit won a pitchers' duel to take three of four games against visiting Minnesota.

The Twins, who managed two singles, had won five straight after taking Monday's opener.

Reese Olson (2-5) pitched six scoreless innings, allowing the two hits and three walks while striking out eight. Chasen Shreve pitched the seventh, and converted starter Beau Brieske pitched the last two innings for his second save.

Kenta Maeda (3-7) took the loss despite only allowing Greene's homer in his six innings. He gave up three hits and

a walk with four strikeouts.

Zack McKinstry hit a two-run double for Detroit.

**Guardians 4, Blue Jays 3:** Noah Syndergaard won for the first time since April 30 and rookies Brayan Rocchio and José Tena sparked host Cleveland's win over Toronto.

Syndergaard (2-5) allowed one run in 5½ innings and was removed with the bases loaded and two outs in the sixth. Nick Sandlin retired Nathan Lukes on a ground ball to end the inning. Emmanuel Clase pitched the ninth for his 31st save in 39 chances.

Rocchio had RBI doubles in the second and fifth. Tena had an RBI single in the second for his first major league hit and a double in the fifth as the teams split the four-game series.

Alek Manoah (3-9) allowed four runs and four hits in four innings, striking out six and walking three. Whit Merrifield, Brandon Belt and Santiago Espinal had RBIs for Toronto.

**Red Sox 2, Royals 0:** James Paxton worked 5½ scoreless innings and five pitchers combined for the seven-hit shutout in host Boston's victory over Kansas City.

John Schreiber, Josh Winckowski and Chris Martin followed Paxton, and Kenley Jansen retired the side in order in the ninth inning for his 25th save as Boston moved five games over .500 at 60-55 and took three of four games from the Royals.

Alex Verdugo hit a sacrifice fly in the fourth inning to give Boston a 1-0 lead and Adam Duvall added an RBI double in the fifth. Paxton (7-3) scattered six hits with six strikeouts and no walks.

Austin Cox and Taylor Hearn worked the first three innings for Kansas City. Alec Marsh (0-6) went the final five innings, allowing two runs while striking out three.

# Gambler: Mickelson wagered over \$1B

*Associated Press*

Phil Mickelson has wagered more than \$1 billion over the past three decades and wanted to place a \$400,000 bet on the 2012 Ryder Cup while playing for Team USA, according to a much-anticipated book by renowned gambler Billy Walters.

Mickelson denied ever betting on the Ryder Cup.

"While it is well known that I always enjoy a friendly wager on the course, I would never undermine the integrity of the game," Mickelson said in a statement Thursday.

The estimates Walters provides — from his own detailed record and from what he describes as two reliable sources — are detailed in an excerpt of Walters' book, "Gambler: Secrets from a Life of Risk."

The book is scheduled to be available on Aug. 22. The Fire Pit Collective obtained the excerpt.

Walters is widely regarded as America's most famous gambler who claims to have a winning streak of more than 30 straight years.

He said he ended his betting partnership with Mickelson in 2014. Two years later, Walters was indicted in an insider trading case that partly involved stock tips prosecutors said he illegally passed to Mickelson. Mickelson was never charged but had to repay about \$1 million he made off a stock deal. Walters was convicted and sentenced to five years in prison. He claims he could have avoided prison if Mickelson had told a "simple truth."

Walters said he never told Mickelson he had inside information on Dean Foods stock, and he believed that Mickelson could have helped him by testifying.

"All Phil had to do was publicly say it. He refused," Walters wrote. "The outcome cost me my freedom, tens of millions of dollars and a heartbreak I still struggle with daily. While I was in prison, my daughter committed suicide — I still believe I could have saved her if I'd been on the outside."

Walters said Mickelson told him he had two offshore accounts, and that Mickelson had limits of \$400,000 on college games and \$400,000 on the NFL.

He said based on his detailed record and additional records provided by sources, Mickelson's gambling between 2010 and 2014 included:

■ Betting \$110,000 to win \$100,000 on 1,115 occasions, and betting \$220,000 to win \$200,000 on 858 occasions. That alone comes out to just over \$311 million.

■ Mickelson in 2011 made 3,154 bets for the year and on one day (June 22) he placed 43 bets on Major League Baseball games that resulted in \$143,500 in losses.

■ He placed 7,065 bets on football, basketball and baseball.

In his statement, Mickelson said he has been open about his gambling addiction. In an interview with Sports Illustrated last year, Mickelson referred to it reaching a point of being "reckless and embarrassing."

## More Iowa, ISU players charged in gambling probe

*Associated Press*

Jirehl Brock and three other Iowa State football players along with three current or former Iowa football players and a student assistant were charged Thursday in connection with the state's investigation into illegal sports wagering at the schools.

A total of 15 football and basketball players and staffers with ties to the schools have been charged since last week in the investigation. Current athletes face a loss of eligibility for violating NCAA gambling rules.

Brock and ISU teammates Isaiah Lee, DeShawn Hanika and Jacob Remsburg were charged in Story County on suspicion of tampering with records to disguise that they were under the legal betting age of 21 when they placed wagers. Former Iowa players Arland Bruce IV and Reggie Bracy, current player Jack Johnson and student assistant Owen O'Brien face the same charge in Johnson County.

According to court documents:

■ Brock, the Cyclones' leading rusher last season, placed 1,327 illegal wagers totaling over \$12,000 between February 2022 and February 2023. The bets were made on a FanDuel account controlled by him but registered under the name of Lindzey Paysen. Paysen's relationship to Brock was unknown.

Brock is accused of making bets on three Iowa State football games, two in which he played, and 13 ISU basketball games.

■ Lee, a defensive lineman, made 115 wagers totaling over \$885 between September 2021 and January 2023 on FanDuel. Among them were 21 wagers on seven ISU football games in 2021 and five more games in 2022. He played in each of the games. His account was registered under the name of a woman described as his fiancée, Kayla Cameron.

■ Hanika, a tight end, made 288 wagers totaling \$1,262 between March 2022 and April

2023 through DraftKings, with 70 of the bets on ISU basketball games. His account was registered under the name of his mother, Kim Hanika.

■ Remsburg, an offensive lineman, made 273 wagers totaling \$1,108 between May 2022 and February 2023 through FanDuel. Six bets were on ISU basketball and football games. Remsburg's account was registered under the name Keri Remsburg. The filing also referenced a DraftKings account registered under the name of his mother, Keri Meis. It was unclear whether Keri Remsburg and Keri Meis are the same person.

■ Bruce, a receiver who started 12 of 25 games before transferring to Oklahoma State, made 132 bets totaling \$4,342 with DraftKings. Among those were wagers on six Iowa football games in 2021 and six games last season. Bruce played in each of the games. His account was registered under the name of Vincent Bruce,

whose relationship to Arland was not listed.

■ Bracy, a defensive back who is now at Troy, used the DraftKings account registered to Vincent Bruce to place 66 bets totaling \$715 between February and November 2022. He made eight bets on Iowa sporting events, including two football games in which he played.

■ Johnson, a walk-on receiver, made 480 bets totaling over \$2,500 with DraftKings between September 2021 and January 2023. Of the bets, about 380 totaling \$1,800 were made before he was of legal age. All were on an account registered under the name of his mother, Jill Johnson.

■ O'Brien was a student assistant prior to becoming a graduate assistant in December. O'Brien made 350 wagers totaling over \$3,047 with FanDuel between March 2021 and December 2022 on an account registered under the name of his mother, Audra O'Brien.