

## US races to keep up with Ukraine's needs

*The Washington Post*

The Biden administration's sprint to supply Ukraine with weapons central to its military success against Russia has yielded a promising acceleration of arms production, including the standard NATO artillery round, output of which is expected soon to reach double its prewar U.S. rate of 14,000 a month.

The stakes in the U.S. effort to shake up a sclerotic defense acquisition system are particularly high as Kyiv tries to claw back territory from Russian control in a slow-moving counteroffensive whose fate, U.S. officials now say, hinges on the West's ability to satisfy Ukraine's astonishing hunger for artillery ammunition.

But industry experts warn of major challenges in sustaining an elevated output of arms and equipment needed not just to aid Ukraine but to ensure the United States' own security in potential conflicts with Russia or China. Those include overcoming scarcity of key inputs including TNT and maintaining expanded capacity amid fluctuating budgets and uncertainty about future military needs.

"Whether you think it's going well or it's going poorly is whether you're a glass-half-full person or glass-half-empty," Cynthia Cook, a defense industry expert at the Cen-

ter for Strategic and International Studies, said of the attempt to ramp up arms manufacturing swiftly. "But also, it's how much you work in defense acquisition."

The war in Ukraine has brought a boom for American defense firms, which are racing to expand production and factory capacity. It also has meant a bureaucratic scramble at the Pentagon to get needed equipment in time.

A year and a half after Russian President Vladimir Putin's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, production deals are only gradually being cemented. Of the \$44.5 billion the United States has appropriated for manufacturing arms destined for Ukraine or replenishing donated U.S. stocks, the Defense Department to date has finalized contracts to produce weapons costing roughly \$18.2 billion, or 40.8% of that total.

To Cook and other industry experts, that ratio, as modest as it appears, is an achievement for the military's often slow, unwieldy acquisitions system, in which concluding a major contract often takes up to 16 months — let alone manufacturing a piece of complex equipment for use in battle.

Pentagon officials say the eventual value of Ukraine-related contracts concluded through Aug. 18 will be substantially higher than the \$18.2 billion figure, largely because

it doesn't account for contracts that give companies about half the expected value up front, with additional costs finalized later.

Experts say the United States, as it invests in expanding the production of munitions, drones, air-defense missiles and other arms that Ukraine needs, also must ensure that it can sustain expanded capacity as requirements evolve. After grueling counterinsurgency wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Pentagon has looked to fund the capacity to win, or deter, future conflicts that could require a very different set of capabilities and weapons systems — particularly against the threat posed by China's burgeoning military. But Russia's invasion of Ukraine laid bare a NATO-wide munitions crunch, highlighting important vulnerabilities in fighting the war of the present. "The question is making sure that this problem, which is illuminated now, isn't swept under the rug in future compromises," Cook said.

U.S. officials now say that the tactical shift made by Ukraine will require sustaining the country with a robust supply of artillery shells. While Ukrainian forces have created a munitions advantage on the battle's southern front by using extended-range missiles from France and Britain to strike Russian ammunition depots behind the front lines.

## USS Blue Ridge back at Yokosuka after 1st patrol in 4 years

**By ALEX WILSON**

*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy's oldest operational warship, the flagship of the U.S. 7th Fleet, steamed into its homeport last week after completing its first full patrol of the Indo-Pacific since 2019.

The amphibious command ship USS Blue Ridge returned Thursday to Yokosuka Naval Base, where it departed July 8 to little notice. In the interim, it spent 40 days at sea, sailed 8,840 nautical miles through the Philippine and South China seas and made port calls in Singa-

pore, Indonesia, Brunei and the Philippines, according to a 7th Fleet news release Thursday.

Patrols such as these are a "critical part" of the vessel's overall mission, and its crew was excited about getting back to one of its "core missions," after several years, 7th Fleet spokeswoman Cmdr. Megan Greene told Stars and Stripes by phone Friday.

"The mission that the ship has here in this region is actually really unique," she said. "This is a very vast region with countries spread far apart; to be able to go to those countries and be able to

have the amount of interactions we had is very special. I think that's one of the reasons this patrol was so important."

The Blue Ridge is a peacetime emissary and platform for humanitarian efforts in the region, but it also serves as 7th Fleet's command-and-control ship during fleet operations.

In Jakarta, Indonesia, 7th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Karl Thomas met with U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia Sung Y. Kim and high-ranking members of the Indonesian navy, while 7th Fleet staff members met with their Indonesian coun-

terparts, according to the release.

Thomas and his staff later met with several other key dignitaries in Brunei and the Philippines, according to the release.

The ship last completed a full patrol more than four years ago, when it spent 114 days at sea and visited 11 ports in nine countries between Feb. 4 and May 29, 2019.

The Blue Ridge in January 2020 made stops in Japan, South Korea and Thailand before the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed the Navy's port calls.

# Biden, Kishida, Yoon vow to bolster ties

*Japan News*

CAMP DAVID, Md. — Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol agreed to swiftly hold consultations in the event of threats affecting the common interests of their countries, during talks at Camp David on Friday.

With North Korea and China in mind, the leaders also agreed to raise trilateral security cooperation to “a new height.”

At a joint news conference following the meeting at the presidential retreat in the suburbs of Washington, Kishida said: “To make the potential of our trilateral strategic collaboration bloom and blossom is only logical and almost inevitable, and is required in this era. The three of us here today declare our determination to pioneer the new era of Japan, U.S., ROK partnership.”

Biden said: “We’re elevating our trilateral defense collaboration to deliver in the Indo-Pacific region. That includes launching annual multidomain military exercises, bringing our trilateral defense cooperation to unprecedented levels.”

He added: “This is the first summit I’ve

hosted at Camp David as President. I can think of no more fitting location to begin the next era — our next era of cooperation — a place that has long symbolized the power of new beginnings and new possibilities.

“In the months and years ahead, we’re going to continue to seize those possibilities together — unwavering in our unity and unmatched in our resolve. This is not about a day, a week, or month. This is about decades and decades of relationships that we’re building.”

Meanwhile, Yoon stressed the significance of the summit, saying, “From this moment on, Camp David will be remembered as a historic place where the Republic of Korea, the United States and Japan proclaimed that we will bolster the rules-based international order and play key roles to enhance regional security and prosperity based on our shared values of freedom, human rights and rule of law.”

The leaders agreed to swiftly share information and coordinate responses in the event of challenges and threats affecting the common interests and security of the three countries, eyeing possible emergencies in

the Korean Peninsula and Taiwan.

“The coordination between the Japan-U.S. and the U.S.-ROK alliances will be reinforced, and trilateral security cooperation will be brought to a new height,” Kishida said.

After the meeting, the three countries released the Camp David Principles, a document that will guide medium- to long-term cooperation among the three nations, and the Spirit of Camp David, a joint statement that included specific details about their cooperation.

According to the Camp David Principles, Japan, South Korea and the U.S. “will continue to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific based on a respect for international law, shared norms and common values.”

According to the statement, the three countries will hold regular trilateral meetings at various levels — involving leaders, foreign chiefs and defense chiefs — and annual joint drills involving the Self-Defense Forces and U.S. and South Korean forces.

A new “Trilateral Indo-Pacific Dialogue” will also be launched to discuss regional affairs, according to the joint statement.

## China starts military drills around Taiwan

*Associated Press*

BEIJING — The Chinese military launched drills around Taiwan on Saturday as a “stern warning” over what it called collusion between “separatists and foreign forces,” its defense ministry said, days after the island’s vice president stopped over in the United States.

Taiwanese Vice President William Lai’s recent trip to Paraguay to reinforce relations with his government’s last diplomatic partner in South America included stops in San Francisco and New York City.

The mainland’s ruling Communist Party has claimed democratic Taiwan as part of its territory and says it has no right to

conduct foreign relations.

A spokesperson for China’s Eastern Theater Command said in a brief statement that the military exercises involved the coordination of vessels and planes and their ability to seize control of air and sea spaces.

It was also testing the forces’ “actual combat capabilities,” Shi Yi said. The drills in the waters and airspace to the north and southwest of Taiwan were a warning over provocations from pro-Taiwan independence forces and foreign forces, he added.

The command released footage of the drills online that showed soldiers running, as well as military boats and planes.

## China, Russia send flotilla of ships into Miyako Strait

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japan’s navy stayed on alert after a flotilla of Russian and Chinese warships transited a key maritime thoroughfare in the southern island chain last week, according to Japan’s Joint Staff.

The six Chinese and five Russian vessels, including destroyers and frigates, on Thursday passed through the Miyako Strait, a 155-mile-wide waterway between the islands of Okinawa and Miyako in southwestern Japan, before continuing into the East China Sea, according to the Joint Staff that day.

Tokyo saw the transit as a provocation, though the flotilla did not enter Japan’s 12-mile territorial

limit, Japanese public broadcaster NHK reported Friday.

The same 11 vessels were spotted near the Alaskan coast and the Aleutian Islands in southeast Alaska in early August, USNI News reported Thursday. While the ships never entered U.S. territorial waters, they were shadowed by four U.S. guided-missile destroyers and a P-8A Poseidon maritime surveillance aircraft.

The ships were first spotted westbound at 9 a.m. Tuesday approximately 175 miles northeast of Okinotori Island, according to the Joint Staff.

The next day, the group was westbound about 30 miles south of Okidaito Island, according to the statement.

# Tropical Storm moves near Baja coast

*Associated Press*

ENSENADA, Mexico — Tropical Storm Hilary was accelerating northward off Mexico's Baja coast on Sunday, no longer a hurricane but still packing what forecasters called "life-threatening" rain likely to unleash flooding across a broad region of the western U.S.

As of 8 a.m. Pacific time, Hilary was located about 220 miles south-southeast of San Diego, the National Hurricane Center reported. Hilary had maximum sustained winds of 70 mph and was moving northwest at 25 mph, remaining just off the Pacific coast.

The Mexican cities of Ensenada and Tijuana, directly in the storm's path, closed all beaches and opened a half-dozen shelters at sports complexes and government offices.

Hurricane Center Director

Michael Brennan said that while Hilary had weakened from a Category 4 hurricane, it's the water, not the wind, that people should watch out for most.

"Rainfall flooding has been the biggest killer in tropical storms and hurricanes in the United States in the past 10 years and you don't want to become a statistic," Brennan said in an online briefing from Miami.

One person drowned Saturday in the Mexican town of Santa Rosalia when a vehicle was swept away in an overflowing stream. Rescue workers saved four other people, said Edith Aguilar Villavicencio, the mayor of Mulege township.

Forecasters expected Hilary to make history as the first tropical storm to hit Southern California in 84 years, bringing

flash floods, mudslides, isolated tornadoes, high winds and power outages.

Light rain fell across normally sunny Southern California through Sunday morning, soaking streets from Los Angeles to San Diego. Some joggers took advantage of the cool rain in San Diego's Waterfront Park while surfers braved Orange County's breakers ahead of the coming wind and rain.

Tropical storm and potential flood warnings were posted for the entirety of Southern California, from the Pacific coast to interior mountains and deserts, and as far north as eastern Oregon and Idaho.

Hilary was expected to remain a tropical storm into central Nevada early Monday before dissipating.

Brennan said rainfall could reach between 3 and 6 inches in

many areas, with some higher amounts in isolated spots. Forecasters warned it could dump up to 10 inches — a year's worth of rain for some areas.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency. The Federal Emergency Management Agency said it has officials inside California's emergency preparedness office and teams on standby with food, water and other help.

Hilary is just the latest major climate disaster to wreak havoc across the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Hawaii's island of Maui is still reeling from last week's blaze that killed over 100 people and ravaged the historic town of Lahaina, making it the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century. Firefighters in Canada are battling blazes during the nation's worst fire season on record.

## Tanker believed to hold Iran oil offloads near Texas

*Associated Press*

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — An American-owned oil tanker long suspected of carrying sanctioned Iranian crude oil began offloading its cargo near Texas late Saturday, tracking data showed, even as Tehran has threatened to target shipping in the Persian Gulf over it.

Ship-tracking data analyzed by The Associated Press showed the Marshall Islands-flagged Suez Rajan was undergoing a ship-to-ship transfer of its oil to another tanker, the MR Euphrates, near Galveston, some 45

miles southeast of Houston.

The fate of the cargo aboard the Suez Rajan has become mired in the wider tensions between the United States and the Islamic Republic, even as Tehran and Washington have worked toward a trade of billions of dollars in frozen Iranian assets in South Korea for the release of five Iranian-Americans held in Tehran. Iran has been trying to evade sanctions and continue selling its oil abroad, while the U.S. and its allies have been seizing cargoes since 2019 after the country's nuclear deal allowing the trade

collapsed.

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard has already warned that those involved in offloading the Suez Rajan's cargo "should expect to be struck back."

The U.S. Navy has increased its presence steadily in recent weeks in the Mideast, sending the troop-and-aircraft-carrying USS Bataan through the Strait of Hormuz in recent days and considering putting armed personnel on commercial ships traveling through the strait to stop Iran from seizing additional ships.

## FBI arrests Air Force pilot on Jan. 6 riot charges

**By COREY DICKSTEIN**  
*Stars and Stripes*

An Air Force Reserve pilot based at Kessler Air Force Base, Miss., was arrested last week on charges that he illegally entered the U.S. Capitol among the throng of former President Donald Trump's supporters who rioted on Jan. 6, 2021, court documents show. Maj. David Scott Stapp was arrested by the FBI in Ohio on Monday on four mis-

demeanor charges accusing him of entering the Capitol and engaging in disorderly conduct during the Jan. 6 riot, federal court records unsealed last week show.

The FBI said in charging documents that airline and hotel records showed Stapp, 44, traveled to Washington on Jan. 5, 2021, and returned to Mississippi on Jan. 7, 2021. Photos gathered by the FBI show a man identified as Stapp giving a television interview

outside the Capitol before the riot began. Other photos show a man who they believe to be Stapp, wearing a beanie with the words "Legalize freedom," entering the restricted building with hundreds of others.

Stapp in private messages from his Facebook account boasted of entering the Capitol on Jan. 6 and sent photos to at least one other user privately from inside the building.



# Germany scraps defense spending plan

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

Germany is scrapping plans to commit to meeting the NATO threshold of spending 2% of gross domestic product on defense, according to news reports.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government had announced its intention to enshrine the defense spending target into law, given the heightened security concerns in Europe after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

But a clause committing the country to it was deleted from a draft of the budget financing law before the Cabinet passed it Wednesday, Reuters and the German newspaper *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* reported, citing unidentified government sources.

The omission means Berlin can continue its existing strategy of meeting the 2% goal on average over a five-year period. The German government, however, has still vowed to meet the 2% target despite not being legally obligated to do so.

In recent years, the United States and oth-

er NATO allies have criticized Germany heavily for failing to meet the alliance's voluntary 2% target. It spent about 1.5% of its GDP on defense last year, according to government figures.

But the start of the Russia-Ukraine war led Scholz to announce sweeping changes to Germany's defense and foreign policies.

"From now on, we will invest more than 2% of the GDP into our defense year after year," Scholz said at the time.

The Defense Ministry backed efforts to enact the commitment into law, but the Foreign Affairs Ministry opposed the move, saying the current legal status is adequate, *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* reported.

According to alliance data, only seven NATO countries hit the 2% mark last year: the U.S., Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and the United Kingdom.

In 2020, President Donald Trump threatened Germany with unspecified trade sanctions and announced plans to withdraw about 12,000 American troops from the country because Berlin wasn't meeting the

target.

Roughly 36,000 U.S. service members were in Germany at the time.

"We don't want to be suckers anymore," Trump told reporters at the White House in July 2020. "We're reducing the force because they're not paying their bills. It's very simple."

President Joe Biden, Trump's successor, stopped the planned withdrawal shortly after assuming office. Roughly the same amount of American troops are in Germany today as were in the country during Trump's presidency.

Last month, allied leaders attending the NATO summit in Lithuania pledged to boost spending on defense to cover things like modern weapons and missions.

"We affirm that in many cases, expenditure beyond 2% of GDP will be needed in order to remedy existing shortfalls and meet the requirements across all domains arising from a more contested security order," the leaders said in a statement.

# Record-setting temperatures forecast in Dallas

*Associated Press*

OKLAHOMA CITY — The summer of 2023 may be drawing to a close — but the extreme heat is not: More record-shattering temperatures — this time across Texas — are expected Saturday and Sunday as the U.S. continues to bake.

Highs of 109 degrees Fahrenheit forecast for Saturday and 110 F on Sunday in Dallas would break the current record of 107 F each day, both set in 2011, and would come after a high of 109 F on Thursday broke a record of 107 F set in 1951, according to National Weather Service meteorologist Tom Bradshaw.

"There really is no relief in sight, there is some hint by the end of August, maybe Labor Day, high temperatures will begin to fall below 100," Bradshaw said. "It's possible to see 100-degree-plus temperatures through the first half of September, at least off and on."

The heat wave causing misery in Texas this weekend is just

the latest to punish the U.S. this year.

Scientists have long warned that climate change, driven by the burning of fossil fuels, by deforestation and by certain agricultural practices, will lead to more and prolonged bouts of extreme weather including hotter temperatures.

The entire globe has simmered to record heat both in June and July. And if that's not enough, smoke from wildfires, floods and droughts have caused problems globally.

Just days ago, daily high temperatures in the Pacific Northwest broke records. At Portland International Airport, the daily high temperature Monday of 108 degrees Fahrenheit broke the previous daily record of 102 degrees, the National Weather Service said.

It was also the first time in 130 years of recorded weather Seattle had three days in a row with lows of 67 degrees or warmer.

Last month, the Phoenix area

broiled under a record-setting 31 days of daily high temperatures of 110 F or above. The historic heat began blasting the region in June, stretching from Texas across New Mexico and Arizona and into California's desert.

The previous record was 18 straight days, set in 1974. In July, the continental United States set a record for overnight warmth, providing little relief from daytime heat for people, animals, plants and the electric grid, meteorologists said.

Meanwhile, in Waco, about 90 miles south of Dallas, there has been no rainfall for a record-tying 49 straight days, since only a trace amount on July 1.

"There's no sign that's going to change anytime soon ... Waco is on track to be driest summer on record," Bradshaw said.

In Oklahoma City, the high is expected to reach 106 F degrees, tying a record set in 1934 and in Topeka, Kan., the high is

forecast to reach 108 F, one degree shy of the record set in 1936.

An excessive heat warning is in place from south Texas, western Louisiana across eastern Oklahoma, eastern Kansas and all of Missouri. Excessive heat warnings were also issued for parts of Arkansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, Illinois and Iowa.

In Minneapolis, where the average daily high is 81.7 F, the high is to reach 95 F, before a cold front drops temperatures into the mid-80s on Sunday, according to the weather service.

A heat advisory was issued for Sunday for parts of southern Wisconsin and high ozone levels are to affect air quality in Indiana where temperatures are expected to reach the mid-90s by Wednesday, the weather service reported.

A high of 95 F is forecast by midweek in Chicago, 12 degrees above normal.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Newsrooms developing standards for use of AI

**NY** NEW YORK — The Associated Press has issued guidelines on artificial intelligence, saying the tool cannot be used to create publishable content and images for the news service while encouraging staff members to become familiar with the technology.

AP is one of a handful of news organizations that have begun to set rules on how to integrate fast-developing tech tools like ChatGPT into their work. The service will couple this with a chapter in its influential Stylebook that advises journalists how to cover the story, complete with a glossary of terminology.

The journalism think tank Poynter Institute, saying it was a “transformational moment,” urged news organizations this spring to create standards for AI’s use, and share the policies with readers and viewers.

### University planning to sell alcohol at 4 games

**MI** LANSING — Michigan State University plans to sell alcohol at select home football games this season following a recent change to state law that permits liquor licenses to be issued to sporting venues at public universities.

The Board of Trustees at Michigan State University voted unanimously to authorize the school to request liquor licenses to sell alcohol at four football games beginning with a Sept. 16 game against the University of Washington.

If the liquor licenses are approved by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, the uni-

versity also plans to sell alcohol at Spartan Stadium on Sept. 23 against Maryland, Oct. 21 against Michigan and Nov. 4 against Nebraska. Officials said they chose not to sell liquor at the first two home games at the beginning of September because of logistical challenges.

Liquor sales will begin one hour before the start of the game and end with five minutes remaining in the third quarter.

### Code Talkers museum \$40M shy of reality

**NM** SANTA FE — A museum to honor the Navajo Code Talkers is about \$40 million shy of becoming a reality, according to organizers.

The state put \$6.4 million in capital outlay funds toward the project this year, but the museum’s organizers face a significant financial climb before doors can open, the Santa Fe New Mexican reported.

The complex, unbreakable code was developed by a group of 29 Navajo Marines in 1942. They used it in combat communications in Pacific campaigns during World War II and helped U.S. gain ground and victories.

### Court: Judge should be removed from bench

**GA** ATLANTA — The Georgia Supreme Court decided that a state appeals judge accused of ethical misconduct should be removed from the bench.

Christian Coomer, appointed by former Gov. Nathan Deal in 2018, was accused of flouting rules on how a lawyer should treat a client and of looting his

campaign account to pay for a family vacation to Hawaii and loans to keep his struggling law firm afloat.

A panel of the Judicial Qualifications Commission recommended in January that the state Supreme Court remove him from the bench. It reaffirmed that decision after further review.

### Canadian sentenced for sending Trump ricin

**DC** WASHINGTON — A Canadian woman was sentenced to nearly 22 years in prison in Washington in the mailing of a threatening letter containing the poison ricin to then-President Donald Trump at the White House.

Pascale Ferrier, 56, had pleaded guilty to violating biological weapons prohibitions in letters sent to Trump and to police officials in Texas, where she had been jailed for several weeks in 2019.

Her defense attorney Eugene Ohm said Ferrier has no criminal record prior to that.

But in September 2020, prosecutors said Ferrier made the ricin at home in Quebec and mailed the potentially deadly poison derived from processing castor beans to Trump with a letter that referred to him as “The Ugly Tyrant Clown.”

### Chunk of ice falls from sky, damages house

**MA** SHIRLEY — A large ice chunk fell from the sky and hit a house in Massachusetts, damaging the roof of the home, the homeowner said.

Jeff Ilg said he and his wife,

Amelia Rainville, suspect the ice fell off an airplane traveling to Boston Logan International Airport. Neither the couple nor their two children were hurt when the ice chunk, which Ilg said was initially estimated to be 15 to 20 pounds, hit the roof.

“We heard an explosion, basically,” he said. “The loudest pop, bang I’ve ever heard.” Then they heard debris rolling down the roof onto a lower roof, he said. Initially it was thought the house was struck by lightning. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating.

The couple ran outside where Ilg said he saw a giant partial block of ice on the back step, and debris scattered around the backyard and on the roof.

### Boston Market eateries shut over unpaid wages

**NJ** TRENTON — State labor officials have temporarily shut down more than two dozen Boston Market restaurants in New Jersey after finding multiple violations of workers’ rights, including more than \$600,000 in back wages owed to 314 employees.

A stop-work order was issued by the Department of Labor against 27 restaurants across New Jersey. The state also imposed nearly \$2.6 million in penalties against the firm.

The Labor Department’s initial findings included citations for unpaid or late payment of wages, hindering the investigation, failure to pay minimum wage, records violations and failure to pay earned sick leave.

The company has requested a hearing challenging the state’s findings, labor officials said.

**-From wired reports**

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News

# Spain claims Women's World Cup title

*Associated Press*

SYDNEY — Spain won its first Women's World Cup title less than a year after a player rebellion, holding off England 1-0 on Sunday after Olga Carmona's first-half goal.

The victory made La Roja the first team to hold the under-17, under-20 and senior world titles at the same time. Spain is the fifth winner in nine editions of the Women's World Cup and joined Germany as the only two nations to win both the men's and women's titles.

At the final whistle the Spanish players piled on each other in front of their goal. They were still dancing on the field until the trophy presentations, where they kissed the trophy and raised their arms in triumph as golden glitter fell from above.

"I think all of us we felt that this team had something special," Carmona said. "I believe that we've shown this on the field, we've shown this in the group stage, in the knockout stages. We've been fighting until the end. We never stopped."

The Lionesses were trying to

bring a World Cup back to England for the first time since the men won it in 1966. The wait will go on.

"They're a fantastic team. I think first half we weren't our best, second half, we definitely put the fire in," England captain Millie Bright said. "But yeah, we just couldn't finish it today. This is the hard part of football."

For England, Bright said, the loss brought a "huge amount of disappointment."

"You know at first you feel like you failed with not winning," she said. "I think in a couple of weeks and it settles it will be really, really proud."

In an open game featuring multiple chances for both teams, Carmona's left-foot strike in the 29th minute — finishing off a fast-breaking counterattack after Lucy Bronze lost possession — remained the only goal.

Carmona also scored the game-winner in the 89th minute of Spain's 2-1 semifinal victory over Sweden, becoming the first player since Carli Lloyd in 2015 to score in a World Cup semifinal and final.

Spain had a chance to double the lead in the 68th after a VAR review awarded a penalty for Keira Walsh's handball, but Jenni Hermoso's penalty attempt was saved by Mary Earps, who anticipated perfectly and dived to her left.

England coach Sarina Wiegman said she thought that would be the momentum shifter for her team.

Spain's victory comes despite a near-mutiny by players last year. Fifteen players said they were stepping away from the national team for their mental health while also calling for a more professional environment.

Three of those players — Ona Batlle, Aitana Bonmatí and Mariona Caldentey — reconciled with the federation and were at the World Cup.

England had momentum going into the tournament after winning the European Championship at home last summer, including a quarterfinal win over Spain. But three of the team's best players, captain Leah Williamson, Fran Kirby and Beth Mead, all had knee in-

juries that kept them off the World Cup squad.

Wiegman was the first coach to take her teams to back-to-back World Cup title matches. She led the Netherlands to the final in 2019, but fell 2-0 to the United States. She's now 0-2 in the championship match.

"When we found out that we had England in the final, we analyzed them and saw how they played," Bonmatí said. "We prepared it well, we came out confident of what we were doing, of our game, of our fight, of our dedication."

England was coming off a 3-1 victory over host Australia in the semifinals. Lauren James, who was the team's top scorer with three goals and three assists, was forced to sit out two matches after being suspended for stomping on Nigeria's Michelle Alozie to open the knockout stage.

While James was available for the final, Wiegman started Ella Toone and used the Chelsea winger as a second-half substitute in a double change to spark the attack.

## Sweden tops co-host Australia in third-place game

*Associated Press*

BRISBANE, Australia — Nobody beats Sweden on the rebound from a Women's World Cup semifinal loss. Not even the tournament hosts.

The Swedish women extended their perfect record in World Cup third-place matches to four, with Fridolina Rolfo and Kosovare Asllani scoring Saturday in a clinical 2-0 win over Australia.

"It feels amazing. We showed from minute one, we were the better team," Rolfo said. "We deserve this medal."

It was a disappointing finish for the Matildas, who captivated their country during their run to the semifinals for the first time.

The tournament co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand has set attendance records, and two of Australia's matches became the most-watched programs on do-

mestic commercial TV in 20 years.

With the Sydney Opera House lit up in the green-and-gold colors of Australia and supporters flocking to fan zones to watch on giant screens in cities across the country, there was still hope of some kind of medal for the Matildas.

Ultimately, it ended with back-to-back losses to the No. 3- and No. 4-ranked teams in the world even with star striker Sam Kerr back in the starting lineup.

"We wanted to win. We wanted to have some hardware to take home. Wasn't to be," Kerr said. But, "the way the fans have got behind us, the way girls have carried themselves, I think we've proven to the world we are a footballing nation."

"We couldn't get it done tonight, but hopefully we've inspired people for many years to come."

Spain defeated European champion

England 1-0 in the final in Sydney on Sunday, and Sweden's win means European nations finished first, second and third.

The Swedes won all three group games and then ousted the two-time defending champion U.S. team on penalties in the round of 16 and beat Japan in the quarterfinals.

Staying compact and organized and exploiting holes in the defense, Sweden was dominant for most of the match against Australia.

Rolfo converted from the penalty spot with a low, curling left-foot shot in the 30th minute after Australian defender Clare Hunt was penalized after a VAR review for tripping up Stina Blackstenius.

Asllani's well-timed strike to finish off a long-range Swedish counterattack in the 62nd sealed the win.



# Messi leads Miami to Leagues Cup title

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Lionel Messi scored early in regulation and converted the first shot in penalty kicks as Inter Miami beat Nashville SC 10-9 on penalties in the Leagues Cup final on Saturday night.

Messi scored midway through the first half, his 10th goal in seven games since joining Inter Miami — all in the Leagues Cup competition — as his new team claimed its first trophy.

Messi also opened the penalties by converting his shot. The penalty kicks ended in the 11th round in a showdown between the goalkeepers. Drake Callender scored his penalty for Miami and then made the title-clinching stop on a shot by Nashville's Elliot Pannico.

Miami players hoisted Messi on their shoulders and had an extended celebration on the field long after the trophies had been handed out.

Miami Coach Tata Martino credited the new group of newcomers like Messi, Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba quickly gelling with the team.

"We had to incorporate a lot of new players, but I'm very impressed how it came together,"

Martino said through a translator.

"I remember the first days (in charge)," Martino continued. "We needed to do more trainings to give shape to the team and I was thinking how convenient it is to move on in this tournament because we can take advantage of this month to play more. But after this month, we are champions."

Martino's postgame press conference ended when Miami players burst into the room, singing and spraying champagne on the coach. But the team won't have long to celebrate. Miami faces Cincinnati in the U.S. Open Cup final on Wednesday.

Nashville coach Gary Smith tipped his hat to Messi.

"You're looking at a game with the greatest player on the planet possibly being the difference in what went on today," Smith said.

Callender was proud of the role he played in helping Inter Miami claim the tourney crown.

"It's a huge honor to play a role in our first win in a final," Callender said. "It's pretty surreal. Very emotional. This team works so hard day-in, day-out to be able to perform like this on a

night like this. And to have it come down to the very end, it was amazing to see the grit, just the belief of what we're capable of. It's something special and I'm just blessed to be a part of it."

Callender said he tried to stay as calm as possible through the numerous kicks.

"I just had to stay focused, breathe through it, stay as calm as possible," he said. "I mean, this atmosphere here tonight is electric. So I embraced the moment and I just believed in the work that I put in and the repetitions I put in leading up to that moment and it just ended up going our way."

Messi opened the scoring in the 23rd minute. The ball landed at his feet after a pass from teammate Robert Taylor was blocked. Messi dribbled past Nashville defender Walker Zimmerman and unleashed a bending shot from just outside the penalty box into the top left corner of the goal. A diving Pannico had no chance at playing the ball.

"It's one of those things where the bounces don't go your way and his ability to put it in the top corner is what makes him a special player," Zimmerman said.

"No mistakes were made on that play. It was a good challenge and a little unfortunate bounce there."

Messi wasn't particularly influential before he scored the goal, and the crowd showered him with boos each time he touched the ball. But the stadium erupted in cheers when the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner who led Argentina to the World Cup crown last year scored.

Nashville tied the game in the 56th minute when Fafa Picault's header off a corner kick ricocheted off Miami's Benjamin Cremaschi and into the net off goalkeeper Callender.

Messi had a shot from the area he had scored from earlier in the 71st minute, but hit the post as the teams played to a 1-1 draw in regulation.

Messi mania had gripped Music City after Nashville SC advanced to the final against Miami with a win against Monterrey of the Mexican league on Tuesday. Ticket prices skyrocketed after they went on sale the following day but eased somewhat in the days before the game. The cheapest seats still cost several hundred dollars. A capacity crowd of 30,109 filled Geodis Park.

## Kerley out in Worlds 100 semis; other favorites roll on

Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary — There will be a new world champion in the men's 100 meters after American Fred Kerley failed to advance out of the semifinals Sunday.

Kerley, who came in as the favorite, finished third in the final heat with a time of 10.02. The top two finishers in each of the three heats automatically advanced to the final, along with the two fastest finishers who weren't among those top finishers, but Kerley missed the final wildcard spot by .01.

Noah Lyles, who has said he

thinks he can run 9.65, won his heat easily in 9.87 — the fastest time of the three semifinals. Another American, 2019 world champ Christian Coleman, won the second semifinal in 9.88.

Kerley started an entertaining verbal tussle with Lyles earlier in the week when he said the 100 was his to win and that if Lyles ran 9.65, he'd run faster. Lyles shot back: "That's what they all say 'til they get beat."

That showdown is off. Instead, the top contenders will include Lyles, Coleman, Jamaica's Oblique Seville, and Zharnel Hughes, who broke Linford

Christie's 30-year-old British national record in June. Hughes' new record, 9.83, is the fastest time in the world this year.

Earlier in the day, the opening round of the women's 100 went to form.

Sha'Carri Richardson, Marie-Josée Ta Lou, Shericka Jackson and defending champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce all won their 100-meter heats to stay on course for a showdown in what had, until Kerley bowed out, looked like possibly the most unpredictable race of the nine-day track meet.

Richardson, the American

national champion, had the day's fastest time, 10.92 seconds. She pretended to flick some sweat off her brow — no big deal, not that anyone expected that in the first round.

Fraser-Pryce, the Jamaican who is seeking to tie a record by winning her sixth individual world championship in the same event, was slowing down as she crossed the line in 11.01.

All in all, it was a low-drama start to what might be the most hotly contested race of the meet, and a possible preview of more to come at the Paris Olympics next summer.

# Betts helps Dodgers take 2 from Marlins

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Mookie Betts homered twice to lead the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 3-1 win over the Miami Marlins in the second game on Saturday night to complete a doubleheader sweep.

Betts had a two-run single to cap a three-run eighth inning as the Dodgers won the first game by an identical 3-1 score.

After his solo home run in the third inning in the night game, Betts saluted Lakers star LeBron James, who was sitting in a suite with his family on his bobblehead night. When he hit his 34th homer of the season in the fifth, Betts also saluted James as he crossed home plate, and the NBA star tipped his cap to him.

"It was kind of a thank you and shoutout to him," Betts said. "He's done it during his game, so I returned the favor."

Betts said they've met a couple of times and talked a few times, and the salute was

spur-of-the-moment.

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts thought there was a bit more to it.

"I think that was intentional," Roberts said of the salute. "Hitting a baseball is as hard as anything there is to do. I just think Mookie had another gear tonight to show out. We were all beneficiaries. It was fun to watch him and LeBron. Two great ones."

Betts has five multi-homer games this season and 28 in his career.

The NL West-leading Dodgers bounced back nicely from an 11-3 loss on Friday night that snapped an 11-game winning streak. They got back on track with two wins to improve to 17-2 in August.

Julio Urias (11-6) allowed just one run—a solo homer to Josh Bell in the first inning—and five hits in seven innings, striking out five.

"He was awesome," Roberts said of Urias. "The energy tonight, he responded.

The City Connect jerseys. LeBron in the house. Crowd really energetic and he just fed off it. Tonight it was the Mookie and Julio show."

Brusdar Graterol allowed two singles in the ninth before getting out of the jam to earn his sixth save. He was aided by a nice diving play by Amed Rosario for an out and Kiké Hernández made a throw from deep at third to get Jesus Sanchez out to end the game.

The Marlins, fighting for an NL wild card, have lost four of five.

"The one thing they have in that clubhouse is that they don't ever stop or quit," Marlins manager Skip Schumaker said. "They fight. ... There's a lot of games left and we're still in the mix."

Miami wasted a terrific performance by Eury Pérez in the first game as the 20-year-old struck out 10 while pitching six innings of two-hit ball.

# Urias' grand slam powers Red Sox over Yankees

Associated Press

NEW YORK—Until a few days ago, Luis Urias of the Boston Red Sox had never hit a grand slam in the Major Leagues. Now the light-hitting infielder is in a category with Hall of Famer Jimmie Foxx.

Urias became the first Red Sox player to hit grand slams on consecutive pitches and the first in 80 years to hit slams in consecutive games in leading Boston to an 8-1 victory over the fading Yankees Saturday, sending New York to its seventh straight loss.

Urias cleared the bases in his last at-bat against Washington reliever Robert Garcia on Thursday night, and the ninth-place hitter stunned Yankees ace Gerrit Cole in the second inning with a blast to left center.

Urias, who was acquired from Milwaukee in a deal at the trade deadline, is the first Red Sox to hit grand slams in consecutive games since Foxx on May 20-21 in 1940. He is also the first player in the majors to hit grand slams in consecutive trips to the plate since Josh Wil-

lingham with Washington in 2009.

Before hitting the grand slam, the infielder had a combined .181 average with Milwaukee and Boston.

**Angels 7-4, Rays 6-18:** Harold Ramírez had a career-high four hits, Isaac Paredes added three hits, including a three-run homer in the sixth inning, and visiting Tampa Bay routed Los Angeles for a doubleheader split.

In the earlier game, Randal Grichuk drove in two runs for the Angels, who won for just the fifth time in 17 August games. Grichuk also made a leaping catch at the wall in the second inning to rob Yandy Diaz of a home run.

**Orioles 7, Athletics 2 (10):** Ryan Mountcastle singled in Adam Frazier with the go-ahead run as part of a five-run 10th inning, and AL-leading Baltimore beat host Oakland.

**Diamondbacks 6-8, Padres 4-1:** Gabriel Moreno hit a grand slam and drove in five runs to lead visiting Arizona over San Diego for a sweep of a day-night

doubleheader.

In the opener, Tommy Pham hit a two-run homer and tripled to lead the Diamondbacks to a 6-4 victory.

**Mariners 10, Astros 3:** Julio Rodríguez set a major league record with his 17th hit in four games, Dylan Moore homered twice, Logan Gilbert registered his 14th quality start of the season and visiting Seattle won its fifth straight.

**Blue Jays 4, Reds 3:** Davis Schneider hit a tiebreaking solo homer and Jordan Romano worked out of a jam in the ninth inning, sending visiting Toronto over Elly De La Cruz and Cincinnati.

**Phillies 12, Nationals 3:** Trea Turner hit two home runs in an eight-run eighth inning and visiting Philadelphia went deep five times, rallying past Washington.

**Braves 6, Giants 5:** Eddie Rosario had four hits, including a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning, and host Atlanta earned its fifth straight win.

**Brewers 6, Rangers 1:** Willy

Adames was 4-for-4 with two RBIs and Carlos Santana homered for the second consecutive day to lead visiting Milwaukee over Texas.

**Pirates 7, Twins 4:** Mitch Keller pitched six strong innings and visiting Pittsburgh broke through late against Sonny Gray to beat Minnesota.

**Cubs 6, Royals 4:** Cody Bellinger homered twice and Justin Steele pitched six effective innings, helping host Chicago beat Kansas City.

**Tigers 4, Guardians 3:** Kerry Carpenter hit a three-run homer and Javier Báez had a solo shot as visiting Detroit handed Cleveland rookie Tanner Bibee his first loss in more than two months.

**Mets 13, Cardinals 2:** Francisco Lindor had four hits and stole home, Daniel Vogelbach hit a grand slam and visiting New York won its fourth straight game.

**Rockies 11, White Sox 5:** Kyle Freeland pitched five innings for his first win in three months, and host Colorado earned its second straight win.