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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Defense chief prioritizes China, Russia

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on Friday elevated protecting against a war with China and Russia as the U.S.'s primary security concern, stating “great power competition” has surpassed terrorism as the Pentagon’s chief focus for the first time in two decades.

The U.S. must develop a more lethal and technologically advanced force to counter the recent growth in military power and increased aggression demonstrated by China and Russia, Mattis said in a speech detailing the Pentagon’s new National Defense Strategy. The strategy, summarized in an 11-page, unclassified version released Friday, is the first of its kind in a decade and outlines a vision for restoring the military’s combat readiness, which Mattis said has been depleted by 16 years of continuous war and years of budget instability.

“Our military is still strong, yet our competitive edge has eroded in every domain of

warfare — air, land, sea, space and cyberspace — and is continuing to erode,” Mattis said at Johns Hopkins University’s Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. “We have no room for complacency, and history makes clear that America has no preordained right to victory on the battlefield.”

The strategy includes a three-part effort to strengthen the U.S. military and to deter the potential for new conflicts. Mattis said the U.S. must do everything it can to build a more lethal force, it must strengthen its existing alliances and build new partnerships, and it must reform the way the Pentagon manages its budget and acquires new technology.

Despite the increased focus on China and Russia, Mattis said the Pentagon is aware other threats still remain. He included the threats from rogue regimes in North Korea and Iran as top-tier concerns for the Pentagon, followed closely by the continuing threat of terrorism from groups including Islamic State, al-Qaida and Hezbollah.

The new defense strategy derides recent actions of China and Russia. China has increased tensions in Southeast Asia with its buildup of artificial and often militarized islands in the South China Sea and its use of “predatory economics to intimidate neighbors,” according to the strategy summary. Russia has worried neighbors in Eastern Europe with its illegal annexation of Crimea, invasions of Ukraine and Georgia, and meddling in the elections of western nations, according to the strategy documents, which also call out Russia’s military intervention in Syria.

Nonetheless, Mattis’ strategy emphasizes the need to seek “peace through strength” and find opportunities to cooperate with both nations.

“Should cooperation fail, we will be ready to defend the American people, our values, and interests,” the strategy summary reads. “The willingness of rivals to abandon aggression will depend on their perception of U.S. strength and the vitality of our alliances and partnerships.”

Defense Department braces for government shutdown

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — With only hours to go before a midnight deadline and Congress still unable to reach a deal to fund the federal government, the Department of Defense is preparing for an array of scenarios come Saturday if it is required to shut down parts of its operations.

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill were still scrambling to approve a temporary spending measure, known as a continuing resolution, by midnight Saturday. By Friday afternoon, however, leaders for a long list of government entities, including the Pentagon, were putting together emergency contingency plans if Congress fails to reach a deal.

“As I stand here this morning, watching the news off the Hill, we’re on the verge of a government shutdown or, at best, yet another debilitating continuing resolution,” Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Friday.

The military, along with the rest of the

government, is operating off its fourth short-term funding bill since the 2018 fiscal year started Oct. 1. It’s become a common practice for Congress to rely on the continuing resolutions until a full budget is approved. But this is one of the closest shutdown prospects in years.

A House-passed stopgap bill still awaits approval in the Senate, where Republicans need support from their Democratic colleagues to pass a plan. Senate Democrats, meanwhile, are threatening to reject the plan without a fix for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program.

“Secretary [Mattis] and I hope that Congress will enact a short-term continuing resolution or an annual appropriations bill for defense activities,” Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan wrote in a 14-page shutdown memorandum to

Pentagon leaders Thursday. “However, prudent management requires that the department be prepared for the possibility of a lapse in appropriations.”

Without the temporary budget deal, a large share of the government could shut down, triggering a disruption to many federal operations and services, including military pay and programs. Starting Saturday, the federal government would send home nonessential workers without pay, would close national parks and museums and would trigger new administrative delays.

“Military personnel are considered essential, so they continue to do their jobs” and this extends to other law enforcement services such as the Secret Service and the FBI, said Andrew Sherbo, a University of Denver finance professor who has tracked government and defense budget issues. “It is really a partial U.S. government shutdown; it is not a complete shutdown.”

But people who do work won’t get their paychecks on payday, including military and civilian employees. In past shutdowns, everybody eventually got their full pay back even though some of them did not work, Sherbo noted.

USAF: Budget woes could delay delivery of B-21s

Los Angeles Times

Congress' inability to pass a set budget for this fiscal year could delay delivery of the B-21 bomber, a major project that is key to the revival of the Southern California aerospace industry, an Air Force official warned Thursday.

Undersecretary of the Air Force Matthew Donovan said during an Air Force Association advocacy group breakfast program in Washington that a long-term continuing resolution — a stopgap measure that would restrict funding to fiscal year 2017 levels — would limit execution on the engineering, manufacturing and development phase for the B-21.

Lawmakers have until Friday at midnight to pass a temporary funding bill to prevent a government shutdown.

"This will have the effect of postponing delivery of a key critical strategic capability for the joint war-fighter," Donovan said.

The fiscal year 2017 budget for the B-21 was \$1.3 billion, compared with the \$2 billion budget request for fiscal year 2018.

Donovan declined to specify what the fiscal year 2019 budget request could be, saying, "You can expect that it is going to increase as we build up this program and get toward initial production."

Northrop Grumman Corp. won the bomber contract in 2015 and is building the new bomber at the company's aircraft plant in Palmdale, where the B-1 and the B-2 were built. Activity there is ramping up, and Northrop Grumman plans to have 5,200 employees at the site by late 2019.

Navy enacting changes in wake of deadly crashes

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Two top Navy officials told lawmakers on Thursday that a plan is underway to ensure safer conditions for sailors following a series of deadly accidents at sea last year.

The comments, which were made before a joint hearing of two House Armed Services Committee subpanels, come in the wake of two extensive Navy reviews of deadly warship crashes and mishaps last summer.

In all, the Navy lost 20 sailors in major incidents in the Pacific in 2017. Of those deaths, 17 were killed in crashes last summer involving the USS Fitzgerald and the USS John S. McCain

"I am here today as the responsible one and accountable for our most valuable resources," Navy Secretary Richard Spencer testified. "To fulfill these responsibilities, I am directing change across the fleet and the Marine Corps to correct the issues identified in our analysis of those intolerable events."

On June 17, the Fitzgerald crashed into a civilian merchant ship about 60 miles southwest of Yokosuka, Japan, killing seven sailors. The destroyer arrived in Pascagoula, Miss., on Friday, where it will undergo repairs.

On Aug. 21, the McCain collided with an oil tanker near Singapore, leaving 10 sailors dead.

"Looking back, 2017 was a year of both triumph and tragedy for our Navy," said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson, who also testified at Thursday's hearing.

The fallout from the sailors' deaths has continued this week. On Tuesday, the Navy said that several officers involved in the Fitzgerald and McCain crashes would face charges of negligent homicide, dereliction of duty and hazarding a vessel.

Lawmakers said Thursday that concerns remain.

"While I agree with the Navy that officers should be held accountable, I am equally convinced that we need to reform the system that drove these officers to avoid additional incidents and to reduce future 'normalization of deviation instances,'" said Rep. Robert Wittman, R-Va., chairman of the Armed Services subcommittee on seapower and projection forces. "I think the Navy has taken a good first step at addressing these systemic areas, but there are a multitude of other issues that need to be reviewed, to include organization reform, manning deficiencies, material readiness and serious training reform."

DOD: Military-civilian disconnect could harm force

BY DIANNA CAHN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Americans are less connected to the military than ever before, and Defense Department leaders — facing what could amount to a recruitment crisis in coming years — have started to take note.

"From our internal data, we have seen that the civilian-military divide is expanding," said Amber Smith, deputy assistant to the secretary of defense for outreach. "That ultimately is a threat to the viability and sustainability of the all-volunteer force."

In the decades since the U.S. ended the draft following the Vietnam War, the all-volunteer U.S. force has grown into a professional military fed in large part by families whose sons and daughters follow their parents into service.

But even as the U.S. nears completion of its second decade of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, with threats of new conflicts emerging on the horizon, the number of young adults with parents who served has dropped precipitously in the past two decades, from more than 40 percent in 1995 to 15 percent today, Smith said.

The rest of the population, meanwhile, is learning about its military from Hollywood and news stories, leading to what Smith called misperceptions of what military service is about.

Most American adults don't realize that the military conducts humanitarian missions and that it teaches leadership and responsibility, Smith said Thursday at a panel discussion hosted by Blue Star Families and the Bipartisan Policy Center in Washington.

Rather, most people see the military as isolating and disruptive of family life, she said. They perceive military service as "trigger pullers" and front-line combat that often leads to physical, psychological or emotional injury and difficulty transitioning back into society.

Those perceptions are often corrected by family members who served, who pass more accurate understanding to a new generation. But with that pool shrinking, the Pentagon is thinking up fresh ways to change the narrative — including a yearlong public relations campaign it will launch next month under the hashtag #KnowMyMil aimed at utilizing the media, Hollywood, sports franchises and military outreach to help ordinary Americans get to know the military, Smith said.

TV crew tries to sneak fake bomb by TSA

The Washington Post

A film crew tried to pass a phony improvised explosive device through a security checkpoint Thursday at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey — and capture the moment on camera, according to the Transportation Security Administration.

TSA spokeswoman Lisa Farbstein said in a statement Friday that nine people had been arrested after some of them tried to sneak “an item in a carry-on bag that had all of the makings of an improvised explosive device.”

Others in the group “covertly” filmed it, she said.

“The group did not make it past the checkpoint because TSA officers detected the item, which was concealed in a roller bag,” Farbstein said in the state-

ment. “The preliminary investigation has determined that the group wanted to ascertain if they could get the item through the security checkpoint while filming themselves doing so,” she added. “They failed” and were arrested on numerous charges.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey could not immediately be reached for comment on the incident.

Farbstein posted a photo of the device Friday on Twitter, showing what appeared to be a motor connected to a hose surrounded by tubing. She said it “had all of the makings of an IED.” She told *The Washington Post* it was composed of “electronics, wires and PVC pipes.”

TSA said the film crewmembers, who were not publicly identified, claimed to work for a TV

network. It’s not known which TV network the group may work for or which TV show they may have been filming the encounter for. An unnamed person told NJ.com that the crewmembers were from a Dutch production company called Endemol Shine Group, which is responsible for “The Biggest Loser,” “Deal or No Deal,” “Fear Factor” and “MasterChef.”

A spokesman for Endemol Shine North America could not immediately be reached for comment but said in a statement to NJ.com: “We are looking into the details of what happened as a matter of priority and are in contact with relevant authorities on the ground. While this process is ongoing, we are unable to comment further, but in the meantime, we sincerely apologize for any dis-

ruption caused.”

An unnamed law enforcement official told NJ.com that the group will likely be charged by the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office. The prosecutor’s office did not immediately comment on possible criminal charges.

TSA said they also could face civil penalties of more than \$13,000 for each security violation.

“This type of stunt is reckless, dangerous, uninformed and totally insensitive to the reality of the terror threat we face. It is the equivalent to yelling ‘Fire!’ in a crowded theater or using a toy gun to rob a bank and then claiming that it was just a toy, just to see what happens,” Tom Carter, TSA’s federal security director for New Jersey, said Friday in a statement.

Good dog or bad dog? Delta wants more info

Associated Press

DALLAS — Delta Air Lines said that for safety reasons it will require owners of service and support animals to provide more information before their animal can fly in the passenger cabin, including an assurance that it’s trained to behave itself.

The airline said complaints about animals biting or peeing and pooping have nearly doubled since 2016.

Starting March 1, Delta will require owners to show proof of their animal’s health or vaccinations at least 48 hours before a flight.

Owners of psychiatric service animals and so-called emotional-support animals will need to sign a statement vouching that their animal can behave. But owners will be on the honor system — they won’t have to show, for example, that their dog graduated from obedience school.

The new requirements don’t apply to pets that stay in under-seat kennels during flights.

Delta’s policy change arrives with the number of animals in the cabin increasing.

John Laughter, the airline’s senior vice president of safety and security, said there are insufficient rules in place to screen animals for health and behavior issues. He said Delta sought a balance “that supports those customers with a legitimate need for these animals” while maintaining safety.

Delta’s new rules are aimed at two categories: service animals, which receive specific training to help blind or disabled passengers; and so-called emotional-support animals, which require no training at all. Both fly for free and are not required to be caged during the flight.

The emotional-support group has been growing rapidly, and it is the target of most of the new Delta procedures. Last June, a 70-pound dog flying as a support animal bit another passenger several times in the face on a Delta plane in Atlanta. The victim was hospitalized.

Agency details protections for doctors ahead of march

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—With abortion opponents marching in the streets of the capital, President Donald Trump’s administration on Friday announced actions in line with long-standing demands from social and religious conservatives.

The Department of Health and Human Services spelled out plans to protect medical providers who refuse to perform procedures such as abortions because of moral or religious scruples. HHS also pulled back an Obama-era policy that posed a legal roadblock to conservative states trying to cut Medicaid funds for Planned Parenthood.

The announcements coincided with the annual March for Life on Washington by abortion opponents, with Trump addressing marchers via video link Friday. Vice President Mike Pence gave a preview Thursday night when he told the marchers, “In one short year, President Donald Trump has made a difference for life.”

HHS said it is proposing a new regulation that details how existing federal conscience protections will be enforced in real-world situations. That follows an announcement Thursday of a new division in the HHS Office for Civil Rights devoted to protecting the conscience rights of clinicians.

The new rule is “meant to ensure full compliance with laws that have been underenforced,” said Roger Severino, a conservative lawyer who heads the rights office under Trump. “These provisions are standard stuff when it comes to civil rights enforcement.”

Under the regulation, hospitals, universities, clinics and other entities that receive funding from HHS programs like Medicare and Medicaid will have to certify that they comply with some 25 federal laws protecting conscience and religious rights. Most of these laws address medical procedures such as abortion, sterilization and assisted suicide. Violations could result in loss of federal funding.

Troops punished over contact with foreigners

The Washington Post

The Army and the Air Force have punished U.S. servicemembers who were sent home from Vice President Mike Pence's trip to Panama last year after bringing foreign women into a secure area without registering them, but will not court-martial them, U.S. military officials said.

The Army elected to issue general officer memorandums of reprimand to the three soldiers involved, said Adrienne Combs, an Army spokeswoman. The reprimands will not have an immediate impact on the soldiers' careers, but can affect their chances of promotion, re-enlistment or retirement, she said.

The Air Force also administratively punished at least one airman who was involved, said Ann Stefanek, a service spokeswoman. She declined to provide specifics about the nature of the punishment, citing the

airman's right to privacy.

The services' handling the issue administratively effectively limits public information about the cases, including the servicemembers' names and additional specifics about what happened. The decision appears to bring to a close an embarrassing incident for the White House Communications Agency, a military unit that provides secure communications equipment for the president, the vice president, the Secret Service and other officials while they are traveling outside Washington.

The U.S. troops, all noncommissioned officers, were sent home before Pence arrived in Panama and were stripped of their White House assignments pending the results of an investigation.

Combs said the Army is still investigating a second incident that took place

in Vietnam as U.S. troops prepared for President Donald Trump's arrival there in November. In that case, three noncommissioned officers in the Army broke curfew in an incident involving foreign women, said officials familiar with the situation.

The White House Communications Agency is part of the larger White House Military Office, and has the duty of preventing surveillance of presidential communications and ensuring that White House officials can be reached securely at all times while traveling. The communications agency has about 1,200 staff members drawn from all branches of the military, with many in four-year assignments.

Servicemembers with high-level security clearances are expected to report contacts with foreign individuals to ensure that their interactions do not compromise national security.

Turkey won't turn back from Syria ground assault

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey's defense minister said Friday there is no turning back from his country's decision to launch a ground assault on a Syrian Kurdish-controlled enclave in northwest Syria, saying the offensive had "de facto" started with the sporadic Turkish military shelling of the area.

Nurettin Canikli told Turkey's A Haber television in an interview that the Syrian Kurdish fighters in the enclave of Afrin and other Kurdish-controlled territories pose a "real" and ever increasing threat to Turkey.

"This operation will take place; the terror organization will be cleansed," Canikli said in reference to the Syrian Kurdish group, the People's Protection Units, or YPG, which Turkey says is an extension of an outlawed Kurdish rebel group that it's fighting inside its own borders.

Turkey wants to remove the threat of the YPG group and thwart the establishment of a Kurdish corridor along its border. It has been deploying troops and tanks to the border in past weeks.

The U.S. however, has developed close ties with the YPG over the shared fight against Islamic State.

Canikli said Turkey was determined to carry out an offensive in Afrin, and would not be turning back from its decision. He said the operation had "de facto" begun, in reference to Turkish artillery attacks that have been taking place against suspected YPG targets.

He would not say when the operation would take place, saying authorities were working out the best timing for the assault. They were also working to minimize possible losses for Turkish troops, he said, without providing details. Canikli said the operation would be conducted by Turkish-backed Syrian opposition fighters with Turkish troop support.

Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency reported that Russian military police stationed in Afrin had begun leaving the region ahead of the possible Turkish operation, but the report could not be independently verified. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and a YPG spokesman denied that Russian troops were leaving the area.

Border wall models thwart US commandos during tests

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Recent assaults by tactical teams on prototypes of President Donald Trump's proposed wall with Mexico indicate their imposing heights should stop border crossers, a U.S. official with direct knowledge of the rigorous assessment told The Associated Press.

Military special operations troops based in Florida and U.S. Customs and Border Protection special units spent three weeks trying to breach and scale the eight models in San Diego, using jackhammers, saws, torches and other tools and climbing devices, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

A Customs and Border Protection report on the tests identifies strengths and flaws of each design but does not pick an overall winner or rank them, though it does point to see-through steel barriers topped by concrete as the best overall design, the official said.

The report recommends combining elements of each, depending on the terrain. The official likened it to a Lego design, pulling pieces from different prototypes.

Carlos Diaz, a spokesman for

Customs and Border Protection, said the agency is in "the testing phase" and that results are being evaluated. He said combining elements of prototypes instead of picking a winner is consistent with previous statements. He noted the agency said in its bidding guidelines that a minimum height of 18 feet would be a key characteristic. He said he did not have additional details on test results.

Contractors were awarded between \$300,000 and \$500,000 for each prototype. Prototypes were built last fall to guide future construction of one of Trump's signature campaign pledges.

Ronald Vitiello, the agency's acting deputy commissioner, said after visiting the prototypes in October that he was struck most by the 30-foot heights, which are significantly higher than existing barriers. Taller barriers are undoubtedly more effective, but whether the cost is justified will be up for debate.

The highly trained testers scaled 16 to 20 feet unassisted but needed help after that, said the official who described the assaults on the wall prototypes to the AP. Testers also expressed safety concerns about getting down from 30 feet.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Jaywalking charge for pedestrian hit by truck

NJ HACKENSACK — A man in a New Jersey city who was hit by a truck while crossing the street has been issued a summons for jaywalking.

The 57-year-old man was hit by a pickup truck Tuesday evening in Hackensack. The Record reported that police said he was not in a crosswalk when he was hit.

The man was taken to a local medical center.

Police said the pedestrian was issued a summons for jaywalking, and the driver, a New Milford man, was not charged with any offense.

According to police, the driver was not injured.

Employee charged in \$1.2M wine theft

NY NEW YORK — A former domestic employee of Goldman Sachs President David Solomon has been arrested in Los Angeles on charges he stole over \$1 million of rare wine from his boss, authorities said Wednesday.

Charges against Nicolas DeMeyer, arrested Tuesday night, were in a federal indictment unsealed in Manhattan. The indictment contained a single count: interstate transportation of stolen property.

According to the indictment, DeMeyer stole hundreds of bottles of wine worth over \$1.2 million from 2014 to late 2016.

The indictment said DeMeyer's job duties included receiving wine shipments at Solomon's Manhattan apartment and transporting them to Solomon's wine cellar in East Hampton, N.Y.

DeMeyer used the alias "Mark Miller" to sell wine he stole to a North Carolina-based wine dealer he located on the

internet, the indictment said.

The stolen wine included bottles from the French estate Domaine de la Romanee-Conti, considered among the best, most expensive and rarest wines in the world, according to the indictment.

Woman allegedly has boy, 6, steal package

FL DELTONA — A woman is accused of sending a small child to steal a package from the front porch of a Florida home.

Volusia County Sheriff's spokesman Andrew Gant told the Daytona Beach News-Journal that home surveillance video captured the image of the 6-year-old boy getting out of a car, running to the home's front door and taking the package Monday afternoon.

The homeowner told investigators the package contained a \$30 battery for a garage door opener.

Santana Lindsey, 20, was arrested Wednesday. She's charged with principal to burglary of a dwelling, contributing to the delinquency of a minor and child neglect.

Jail records show she's being held on a \$5,500 bond. Records don't list an attorney for her.

The relationship between Lindsey and the boy wasn't explained.

5th-grader mistakes marijuana for candy

NM ALBUQUERQUE — Officials at an Albuquerque charter school said a fifth-grader mistook her parents' medicinal marijuana for candy and passed it out to other students.

KRQE-TV in Albuquerque reported the Albuquerque School of Excellence student handed out the pot edibles last week before teachers noticed

her acting strangely.

Kristy Del Curto, dean of elementary students, said the student also complained she couldn't see. Del Curto said three students ate one gummy, and the student who passed out the candy ate three or four pieces.

Pot gummies can be two to 100 times more potent than traditional marijuana.

According to Del Curto, school officials called 911, and paramedics monitored all the students to make sure they were not having dangerous reactions.

Umbrella causes lockdown at hospital

WA KIRKLAND — An umbrella sparked a scare at a Seattle-area hospital after it was mistaken for a rifle.

KOMO reported an employee of Evergreen Medical Center in Kirkland noticed a visitor Wednesday morning carrying a backpack that had a long-handled item sticking from the top of it.

Evergreen Health spokeswoman Kay Taylor said surveillance video was reviewed but it wasn't clear what the object was. As a precaution the facility was locked down, and the hospital sent out the surveillance photo.

The man in the photo recognized himself and contacted hospital security to let them know it was an umbrella with a handle that's shaped like a sword. Police confirmed it was not a weapon, and the lockdown was lifted.

Buses carrying tech employees targeted

CA REDWOOD CITY — Northern California authorities said six shuttle buses transporting Apple and

Google employees had windows broken with unknown objects while traveling on a highway south of San Francisco.

California Highway Patrol Officer Art Montiel said Thursday that four Apple charter buses and one Google bus were attacked Tuesday during the morning and evening commutes along a 16-mile stretch of Highway 280, which connects San Francisco to Silicon Valley.

He said another Apple bus had a window smashed last week.

Montiel said no one was injured, but it appears the unmarked buses are being targeted. He said the objects were rocks or pellet guns.

Protesters in San Francisco have previously targeted shuttle buses carrying tech workers to and from Silicon Valley, saying technology workers are driving up rents.

Pornography could be declared a health risk

FL TALLAHASSEE — A resolution moving through the Florida House of Representatives would declare pornography a health risk.

The House Health & Human Services Committee overwhelmingly approved the resolution Thursday. It states the need for education, research and policy changes to protect Floridians from pornography.

Republican Rep. Ross Spano is sponsoring the resolution. He told the committee that pornography is readily available to children through smartphones and exposure to explicit material is harming them.

Spano is a candidate for attorney general. After the meeting, he said he isn't sure what policy changes the state should make but said acknowledging the problem is a first step.

From wire reports

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Australian Open

Nadal advances despite grueling heat

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — The heat wasn't a factor for Rafael Nadal this time against Damir Dzumhur, despite the searing temperature causing trouble for players earlier Friday at the Australian Open.

Nadal reached the fourth round in Australia for the 11th time with the 6-1, 6-3, 6-1 win, and leveled his career head-to-head record with Dzumhur.

His fellow French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko followed Nadal's match on Margaret Court Arena but didn't make it through to the second week, losing 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 to No. 32-seeded Anett Kontaveit.

The seventh-seeded Ostapenko's loss left only two major winners in the women's draw — and only one of them can reach the fourth round. Five-time major winner Maria Sharapova and former Australian and U.S. Open champion Angelique Kerber are playing each other Saturday.

Nadal had lost his only previous meeting against Dzumhur, when he had to retire because of heat-related issues in the third set at Miami in 2016.

It was also a change of scenery for Nadal, who was playing on the No. 2 venue at Melbourne Park while local hope Nick

Kyrgios beat Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in a night match on the main court.

Actor Will Smith had a prime position in the crowd to see Kyrgios win for the first time on Rod Laver Arena, taking the last five points in the tiebreaker for a 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (5) victory.

Kyrgios, aiming to be the first home-grown winner of the Australian men's title in 42 years, will next play third-ranked Grigor Dimitrov.

Nadal's fourth-round match is against No. 24 Diego Schwartzman, who beat Aleksandr Dolgoplov 6-7 (1), 6-2, 6-3, 6-3.

The youngest player in the tournament and the oldest player in the men's draw went out earlier on Day 5.

Fourth-seeded Elina Svitolina ended 15-year-old Marta Kostyuk's run with a 6-2, 6-2 victory.

"She's a great fighter," Svitolina, one of five women in contention for the No. 1 ranking, said of her fellow Ukrainian. "We're going to hear a lot more about her."

Andreas Seppi withstood 52 aces from 38-year-old Ivo Karlovic for a 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-7 (3), 6-7 (5), 9-7 win in 3 hours and 51 minutes in the afternoon.

Players were bothered and spectators clamored for shade and mist-spraying fans in searing heat earlier Friday, and organizers were on the verge of enforcing the tournament's extreme heat policy before temperatures dropped significantly after peaking at 104 F around 2 p.m. local time.

Alize Cornet, who had her blood pressure checked during a medical timeout in her 7-5, 6-4 third-round loss to Elise Mertens, was among those calling for a review of the limits that determine when play should be suspended.

"I started to feel dizzy. ... I was feeling super, super hot. I kind of felt that I could faint at any moment," she said. "Playing in this condition is of course very dangerous for the health of the player."

She got some support from Nadal, who said the conditions were "very, very tough" but the Australian Open wasn't the only tournament affected by high summer temperatures and at least it wasn't humid.

"Sometimes is too much and can become little bit dangerous for health," he said. "It's not nice to see players suffering that much on court."

Brady's health hot topic heading into weekend

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Tom Brady hasn't missed many starts during his 18-year NFL career, and no one sounds too worried that he'll be sidelined for Sunday's AFC championship game.

Nonetheless, after Brady sat out the Patriots' practice on Thursday — and did not speak to reporters as scheduled — there was plenty of speculation about the 40-year-old quarterback's health.

Brady sat out with a right-hand injury after being limited by the same issue a day earlier as New England prepares for its matchup with Jacksonville.

Brady wore a glove on the injured hand during the stretching portion of practice that was open to reporters. He usually wears a glove only on his non-throwing hand. He was listed

as a non-participant on the injury report, and his news conference was postponed until Friday.

With scant official information about the nature of Brady's injury, it fell to backup quarterback Brian Hoyer to address the situation. More than 50 reporters swarmed his locker as he walked through the locker room, and after stepping into the training room, Hoyer returned to find the assembled group.

"You guys waiting for Phil?" Hoyer asked wryly, referring to receiver Phillip Dorsett's adjacent locker.

For the next six minutes he was asked a half-dozen questions about Brady, a quarterback he has now backed up twice. Hoyer said he didn't see Brady get hurt and wouldn't elaborate on how much he's

been able to do in practice the last two days.

"I'm always preparing to play, because the truth of reality is you never know when your name's gonna be called," he said.

Jaguars coach Doug Marrone expects his defense to line up against Brady, not Hoyer, on Sunday.

"I'm sure he can throw left-handed if he has a problem with his right hand, you know, and throw it just as well," Marrone said Thursday.

Brady has never missed a playoff start during his 18-year career. He hasn't missed any start because of an injury since he sat out the final 15 games of the 2008 season after tearing ligaments in his left knee during New England's season opener.

Brady missed the first four

games of 2016 while serving his "Deflategate" suspension. He also popped up on the injury report late that season, but he didn't miss a game and capped the season with his MVP performance in the Patriots' comeback win over Atlanta in the Super Bowl.

Devin McCourty chuckled when he was asked about the frenzy created this week by Brady's injury.

"When you're a good-looking guy, a good quarterback, people want to know about you. I understand," McCourty said. "My people want to know about him, too. I get text messages and phone calls. When I first got here it was, 'Did you meet Tom? Are you and Tom friends?' I'm happy now. Eight years in, I consider us friends. So I'm kind of a big deal back home."

Top 25 roundup

Saint Mary's upsets rival No. 13 Gonzaga

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Home losses are rare for Gonzaga, even against archrival Saint Mary's. The Gaels relied on experience and their characteristically efficient offense to pull the upset on Thursday night.

Jock Landale had 26 points and 12 rebounds, and the Gaels beat the 13th-ranked Bulldogs 74-71 to take sole possession of first place in the West Coast Conference.

"You have to have experienced guys and big guys to win here, and our guys handled the atmosphere," Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett said. "It was a heck of a win for us."

Saint Mary's shot 56.6 percent, slightly above its season average, and won its 13th consecutive game. The Gaels had lost 12 of their previous 14 against Gonzaga.

"It's a huge win," said Tanner Krebs, who had 10 points and six rebounds for Saint Mary's (18-2, 7-0 WCC). "It looks good on our résumé and puts us on top of the conference."

Calvin Hermanson added 16 points for the Gaels, while Jordan Ford also scored 10. Landale made 12 of 15 shots.

"We did a better job of staying in front of

them in the second half and kept them out of the paint," Landale said. "We just tried to stick to what we know. It was a battle the entire game."

Rui Hachimura came off the bench to score 23 points, 15 in the first half, for Gonzaga (16-4, 6-1 WCC), which shot poorly in the second half. Johnathan Williams added 13 points.

Gonzaga is 188-18 at McCarthey Athletic Center since it opened in 2004.

"That was two heavyweights going back and forth," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. "Both teams were having a hard time stopping the other's offense."

Gonzaga and Saint Mary's have won the past nine WCC tournament titles, with Gonzaga claiming seven. The Gaels were the preseason pick by league coaches to win the conference this season.

"We had a couple of empty possessions in the second half and they didn't," Few said. "We uncharacteristically took a couple of tough ones that we shouldn't have."

"Hey, we get another shot at them," Few added.

Gonzaga had been climbing the polls in recent weeks and squandered a chance to move into the Top 10 as several teams above them have already lost this week. Saint Mary's had already been receiving

votes in the poll and is likely to move into The Associated Press Top 25.

No. 2 Virginia 64, Georgia Tech 48: De'Andre Hunter scored 17 points and No. 2 Virginia won its ninth straight game, 64-48 over Georgia Tech on Thursday night.

It was another defensive masterpiece by the Cavaliers (17-1, 6-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), who limited Georgia Tech to 40.5 percent shooting and forced 18 turnovers.

Virginia snapped a four-game winning streak for the Yellow Jackets (10-8, 3-2).

Nebraska 72, No. 23 Michigan 52: James Palmer Jr. scored 19 points, Isaiah Roby had a career-high 14 and the host Cornhuskers got their first win over the Wolverines since joining the Big Ten.

Nebraska (14-7, 5-3), which needed Palmer's three-pointer to beat last-place Illinois 64-63 on Monday, led 32-21 at the half and never let Michigan get closer than 10 points in the last 17 minutes.

Michigan (16-5, 5-3), which had won nine of its last 10, suffered its most lopsided loss of the season and had a season-low for points.

The Wolverines had come in 8-0 against the Huskers since Nebraska joined the Big Ten in 2011-12, and they had won 10 straight in the series.

NBA roundup

Gordon's 30 points help Rockets to win over T-wolves

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Eric Gordon scored in a variety of ways Thursday night.

One shot stood out from the rest.

Gordon banked in a half-court heave at the end of the third quarter, part of a 30-point performance that helped the Houston Rockets to a 116-98 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

"When I shot it, I thought it was going to go in somehow," Gordon said. "It looked good from that distance, but it was good to get that one to go in. It felt good to knock down a shot like that."

Gordon connected from a step behind the half-court line,

sending Houston to the fourth with an 89-70 lead. After hitting the shot under heavy pressure from Andrew Wiggins, Gordon gave a high-five to Rockets owner Tilman Fertitta, who was sitting courtside near the play.

James Harden returned to the Rockets' lineup after missing seven games with a left hamstring strain. He finished with 10 points on 3-for-15 shooting, and added seven assists, two steals and two blocks in 26 minutes. Houston went 4-3 in his absence.

Chris Paul had 19 points, nine assists and six rebounds for the Rockets, and Clint Capela added 20 points. Houston has won 15 of the past 17 meet-

ings with Minnesota, including a 10-game winning streak at home.

76ers 89, Celtics 80: Joel Embiid celebrated his first NBA All-Star selection with 26 points and matched a career best with 16 rebounds, leading Philadelphia to the road win.

Dario Saric scored 16 for the 76ers, who won for the sixth time in seven games. T.J. McConnell had 15 points — all in the second half.

The Celtics played without All-Star guard Kyrie Irving, who rested a sore left shoulder. Al Horford and Marcus Morris each scored 14 points.

Cavaliers 104, Magic 103: Isaiah Thomas made two free throws with 11 seconds left and

host Cleveland came up with a defensive stop in the frantic final seconds after blowing a 23-point lead.

Thomas had 21 points and LeBron James finished with 16, helping the Cavs stop a four-game slide.

The Magic have dropped 17 of 19. Payton scored 19 and Gordon had 17.

Trail Blazers 100, Pacers 86: Damian Lillard scored 26 points, Jusuf Nurkic had 19 points and a season-high 17 rebounds, and host Portland won its fifth straight at home.

CJ McCollum added 16 points and Shabazz Napier had 13 for Portland, which beat Indiana for the ninth consecutive time on its home floor.

LeBron, Curry voted All-Star team captains

NEW YORK — Team LeBron against Team Stephen is the NBA's new All-Star matchup.

LeBron James and Stephen Curry will go head-to-head again, this time as captains who pick teams for the revamped NBA All-Star Game.

James and Curry received the most votes from fans in their conferences Thursday night and will draft from a pool of the rest of the NBA's best for the Feb. 18 game in Los Angeles.

James will pick first as the player who received the most fan votes. He will make his 14th All-Star Game start, one behind Kobe Bryant for the most in league history.

The league does not plan to televise the draft.

Players reject MLB rules proposal

NEW YORK — The players' association rejected Major League Baseball's proposal for 20-second pitch clocks and limits on mound visits, a move that dares management to unilaterally impose the changes designed to speed pace of games.

Management has the right to implement the rules changes it proposed last year. Under baseball's labor contract, management can change on-field rules on its own with one season of advance notice.

No decision is expected before the next owners' meetings, scheduled for Jan. 30 to Feb. 1 in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Major mistake costs Vonn a victory

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy — Sofia Goggia of Italy won a World Cup downhill on home snow Friday after Lindsey Vonn made a major mistake.

Vonn was faster than Goggia midway down the Olympia delle Tofane course but had trouble landing a jump and slammed on the brakes to clear the next gate.

Goggia finished 0.47 seconds ahead of Vonn in second.

Overall World Cup leader Mikaela Shiffrin finished third, 0.84 behind, in her first attempt at the Cortina downhill.

From The Associated Press

NHL roundup

Golden Knights pound Lightning

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Marc-Andre Fleury made 28 saves, David Perron had a goal and an assist, and the Vegas Golden Knights beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 4-1 Thursday night in a matchup of conference leaders.

James Neal, Nate Schmidt and William Karlsson also scored for the Golden Knights, who swept the two-game season series with the NHL-leading Lightning.

Tampa Bay, coming off its bye week, got a goal from Ondrej Palat, and Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 26 shots. Vasilevskiy, an All-Star this season, has allowed 19 goals over his last four games.

Fleury made a number of impressive stops, including a left-circle shot by Steven Stamkos and in-close chance from Nikita Kucherov during the second period. The goalie, who spent most of his career with Pittsburgh, is 19-11-4 against the Lightning.

Neal opened the scoring with a nifty deflection 56 seconds into the first, and Schmidt made it 2-0 with 3:57 left in the period. Deryk Engelland got his 100th NHL assist on Neal's goal.

Bruins 5, Islanders 2: Patrice Bergeron scored three goals to lead his team to another victory, giving visiting Boston at least a point for the 15th consecutive game.

Brad Marchand had a goal and two assists as Boston improved to 11-0-4 since its last regulation loss Dec. 14 against Washington — its best stretch since going 15-0-1 from March 2-30, 2014. Ryan Spooner had a goal and an assist, and Anton Khudobin stopped 22 shots.

Jordan Eberle and John Tavares scored for New York, which has dropped seven of 10 — with each of the losses coming in regulation.

Flyers 3, Maple Leafs 2 (OT): Sean Couturier scored 18 seconds into overtime and host Philadelphia rallied for the win after retiring the No. 88 jersey of Hall of Fame center Eric Lindros. Couturier took a feed from Travis Konecny and beat Frederik Andersen with a wrist shot to give the Flyers their fifth win in six games.

Back on good terms with the organization after an ugly 2001 departure, Lindros received several standing ovations before his number was hoisted to the rafters in a ceremony that delayed the start by an hour.

Avalanche 5, Sharks 3: Nathan MacKinnon scored twice during a 58-second span in the first period, Matt Nieto added a late insurance goal and host Colorado ran its winning streak to eight straight.

Carl Soderberg also scored and Mikko Rantanen had a goal and two assists for the Avs, who have won eight in a row for the first time since the 2005-06 season. It's tied for the third-longest streak in franchise history.

Jonathan Bernier stopped 45 shots to run his

winning streak to a career-best seven games. He is filling in with starter Semyon Varlamov sidelined by a lower-body injury.

Penguins 3, Kings 1: Patric Hornqvist scored two goals and Evgeni Malkin got the tiebreaking goal early in the third period of visiting Pittsburgh's fifth win in six games.

Casey DeSmith stopped 28 shots to earn his first NHL victory in his third career appearance for Pittsburgh. Malkin had a goal and an assist as the Penguins bounced back from a loss in Anaheim one night earlier with a solid effort at Staples Center in the second stop of the back-to-back Stanley Cup champs' three-game California trip.

Adrian Kempe scored and Jonathan Quick made 28 saves for the Kings, who have lost five straight for the first time this season.

Devils 4, Capitals 3 (OT): Taylor Hall scored on a breakaway 34 seconds into overtime, lifting host New Jersey to the victory. Sami Vatanen collected his third assist of the game on the winning goal, a shot over the shoulder of goaltender Braden Holtby.

Drew Stafford, Andy Greene and Miles Wood also scored for the Devils, who have won two straight since a six-game winless streak (0-3-3). Keith Kinkaid had 16 saves and the Devils killed off all five Washington power plays.

Brett Connolly scored twice and Dmitry Orlov had a goal for the Capitals, who lost for only the second time in eight games. Holtby made 28 saves, but gave up three breakaway goals.

Blue Jackets 2, Stars 1 (SO): Artemi Panarin scored in the second round of a shootout, sending host Columbus to the win. Joonas Korpisalo had 35 saves for Columbus, which returned from its five-day break after losing both ends of a back-to-back last week. Jordan Schroeder scored his first goal of the season in the first period.

Predators 3, Coyotes 2 (SO): Craig Smith scored the deciding goal in the shootout to give host Nashville its fourth straight win. Scott Hartnell and Ryan Ellis scored for the Predators, and Pekka Rinne made 27 saves.

Oliver Ekman-Larsson and Brandon Perlini scored for Arizona. The Coyotes have lost five straight.

Blues 4, Senators 1: Vladimir Tarasenko, Alex Pietrangelo and Brayden Schenn scored in the second period, helping host St. Louis to the road win.

Bobby Ryan had the lone goal for the Senators, and Craig Anderson made 33 saves. Ottawa was coming off its bye week and hadn't played in eight days.

Rangers 4, Sabres 3: Pavel Buchnevich scored the go-ahead goal late in the third period, leading host New York to the victory.

Rick Nash scored twice for the second straight game and Henrik Lundqvist made 34 saves for New York, which won its second straight after three consecutive losses.