

STARS AND STRIPES®

Saturday, July 2, 2016

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

20 dead as Bangladesh eatery siege ends

Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Bangladeshi forces stormed an upscale Dhaka restaurant to end a hostage-taking by heavily armed militants early Saturday, killing six of the attackers and rescuing 13 captives, including foreigners.

The military said 20 hostages were killed during the 10-hour standoff, and a survivor's father said the attackers spared people who could recite verses from the Quran.

Italian foreign minister Paolo Gentiloni said nine Italians were killed, and India's government confirmed an Indian woman was killed. The overall death toll included two police

officers who were killed at the start of the attack.

The hostage-taking marked a sharp escalation of the militant violence that has hit the traditionally moderate Muslim-majority nation with increasing frequency in recent months. Previous attacks involved machete-wielding men singling out individual activists, foreigners and religious minorities.

About 35 people were taken hostage Friday night when gunmen stormed the popular Holey Artisan Bakery in Dhaka's Gulshan area, a diplomatic zone, during the Ramadan holy month.

Paramilitary troops who mounted the rescue operations

in the morning killed six attackers and recovered explosive devices and sharp weapons from the scene, Brig. Gen. Nayeem Ashfaq Chowdhury said. He did not identify the hostages.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina condemned the attack, claimed by the Islamic State group, and she said security officials arrested one of the militants.

"Because of the effort of the joint force, the terrorists could not flee," Hasina said in a nationally televised speech, vowing to fight militant attacks in the country and urged people to come forward.

"Anyone who believes in religion cannot do such act," Ha-

sina said. "They do not have any religion, their only religion is terrorism."

In Rome, Gentiloni said the bodies of nine Italians have been identified among the dead.

There was another, unidentified body in the military morgue of Bangladesh, but its nationality had not been determined, Gentiloni told reporters Saturday. Italian news reports had said about 10 Italians were inside the restaurant when it was attacked by militants on Friday night.

Japan's government said a Japanese hostage was rescued with a gunshot wound but seven others are unaccounted for.

Surgeons in Afghanistan work to keep skills sharp

BY CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — The doctors at Craig Joint Theater Hospital here are seeing far fewer combat trauma patients because of the drawdown of coalition troops and improvements in Afghan medical care.

As a consequence, surgeons are keeping their skills sharp by providing more extensive care than some of their patients typically would get at a war zone hospital or even some stateside facilities.

In one such case, involving every one of the surgeons at some point, they've performed at least 20 operations to save the leg of a young Afghan girl wounded and orphaned in a firefight between the Taliban and government forces. If the leg had been amputated, the usual course of treatment, the girl would have faced a difficult future as a single woman without a dowry.

"We have all given blood, sweat and tears to this girl in hopes that she will have a future, a bright, happy future," said Lt. Col. Chance Henderson, the hospital's orthopedic surgeon.

Because the girl's family has ties to the

Taliban, it is too dangerous to identify her.

Henderson said Craig Joint Theater Hospital is like an Asian version of the Mayo Clinic, with capabilities that are rare even in some U.S. communities. Afghanistan is "the best place in the world to get shot," he said, because the medical professionals here are ready and waiting to go to work.

The hospital now has 100 fewer personnel on staff than it did in 2012, when the U.S. began drawing down troops, a decrease of about 40 percent, said Air Force Lt. Col. Jamie Rand, the trauma chief.

Its capabilities, however, are much the same, she said, though the hospital is far less busy than during her 2010 deployment, around the height of the U.S. presence in Afghanistan. At that time, there were 10 times as many troops as the current 9,800. Now, civilian contractors — who have taken on some of the duties formerly performed by U.S. servicemembers — outnumber troops nearly three to one. The hospital treats them, too, in certain cases. The facility, however, no longer provides humanitarian care for local civilians not wounded in combat, Rand said.

U.S. casualties in Afghanistan between June 1, 2015, and May 31 this year — 19

killed and 77 wounded, according to a recent Pentagon report — were less than one-half of 1 percent of the 15-year total.

Rand said that the slower pace at the hospital is not just due to the withdrawal of most coalition forces; it's also a result of the better care the Afghans get from their own medical facilities.

"What is very impressive is how much the Afghan medical community has advanced," she said. "Their ability to care for their people is better."

Six years ago, they had few places to go besides Bagram's hospital. Today, they spend little time under her care, if any.

She recently treated an Afghan soldier with a gunshot wound to the belly, then released him into the Afghan health care system.

Still, Rand said, Craig's medical capabilities are invaluable here, and the surgeons need to be "where the fight is."

What they struggle with now is the increase in boredom and anxiety.

"There's a need to keep busy," said Maj. Phillip Parry, the team's neurosurgeon.

Victory for first lady's campaign for military

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A White House campaign to help military families has hit a new milestone: All 50 states have eased the requirements for military spouses whose careers require a professional license.

Michelle Obama said just three states accepted licenses from other states when she and Vice President Joe Biden's wife, Jill, launched a broader initiative in 2011 to help military families.

Military spouses seek new employment every one to three years, on average, and more often than civilians, based on

when their enlisted husbands or wives are deployed to new posts in a new state, the White House said Saturday in a fact sheet.

About one-third of military spouses have careers that require a professional license, such as nursing or teaching. Each move often required these spouses to spend time and money getting relicensed in their new home state for jobs for which they already qualified.

Michelle Obama and Jill Biden asked the nation's governors in 2011 to act to streamline state licensing requirements for the military

community. Nearly half of the states had addressed the issue by 2012, the first lady told the *Military Times* newspaper in an interview released Saturday. The administration then issued a report to help officials in the remaining states, she said.

Despite the new milestone, Obama said states can do even more on the issue, including having employers come up with creative solutions to offering temporary or expedited licenses to spouses.

The first lady and Jill Biden marked this year's fifth anniversary of their Joining Forces initiative by announcing that

more than 1.2 million veterans and military spouses had been hired.

"Our military is an all-volunteer force, and we need to show our young people that serving in the military allows you to have a great career, both in and out of uniform," Obama told the newspaper.

"So we need even more employers to step up and hire our veterans, and we need companies to provide more flexible work environments so that military spouses who are moving every few years can keep moving up the career ladder," she said.

DOD: Two militants killed in Mosul strike

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The Pentagon says two senior Islamic State group commanders were killed in a U.S. airstrike in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on June 25.

In a statement late Thursday, the Pentagon said the strike killed the group's deputy war

minister, Basim Muhammad Ahmad Sultan al-Bajari, and a military commander named Hatim Talib al-Hamduni.

The announcement comes less than a week after Iraqi ground forces backed by coalition airstrikes retook the city of Fallujah from the Islamic State group.

The fall of Fallujah means

that Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, is the militants' only remaining urban stronghold in Iraq.

The Islamic State group has suffered a string of territorial losses in Iraq, but it continues to carry out large-scale attacks in the capital, Baghdad, and other territory far from the front lines.

Taliban leader calls on US to exit Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan — The new leader of the Taliban on Saturday called on the United States to end its "occupation" of Afghanistan and warned of more bloodshed if it failed to do so.

"Our message to the American invaders and her allies is this: The Afghan Muslim people neither fear your force nor your stratagem," Haibatullah Akhundzada said in his first statement since being appointed leader of the militant group in May. "They consider martyrdom in confrontation with you as a cherished goal of their life."

Akhundzada assumed command of the militant group in May after the death of former leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour, who was killed during a U.S. drone strike in Pakistan.

"You are facing ... not a group or faction but a nation," Akhundzada continued. "You are not going to be a winner [if Allah willing]. So it is rationale if you come with a reasonable policy for (a) solution ... instead of the use of force."

From staff reports

Traffic fatalities spike in '15; economy cited

The Washington Post

In an age when cars are getting safer, traffic fatalities were up sharply in 2015, adding a disturbing data point in the nation's long-term trend toward less deadly roads.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said Friday that an estimated 35,200 people were killed on the road last year, up 7.7 percent from 32,675 in 2014.

An early analysis of the data showed spikes in deaths of bicyclists, pedestrians and motorcyclists, which were up 13 percent, 10 percent and 9 percent, respectively. Crashes involving young drivers were up

10 percent; those involving roll-overs in passenger cars were up 5 percent; and those involving large trucks were up 4 percent, according to the NHTSA estimates.

Federal officials pointed to economic factors as a contributor.

"As the economy has improved and gas prices have fallen, more Americans are driving more miles," NHTSA Administrator Mark Rosekind said in a statement. But he added that "94 percent of crashes can be tied back to a human choice or error," so changing behaviors and promoting crash-prevention technology are crucial.

Another factor helping to push the death numbers higher is an increase in speed limits in recent years, according to a recent report by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

The institute said that in 2013 alone, higher speed limits resulted in 1,900 additional deaths, canceling out the lives saved by air bags that year.

Responding to questions Thursday at the National Press Club, Christopher A. Hart, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, had a one-word answer when asked how to deal with the increase in traffic fatalities.

"Automation," Hart said.

Phelps edges Lochte in 200 IM

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Matching each other stroke for stroke, Michael Phelps and Ryan Lochte surged to the wall in almost perfect sync.

Phelps got there first, just ahead of the guy who's pushed him hard for more than a decade.

It was like so many races they've had before.

There's one more to go in Rio.

In the latest epic of their longtime rivalry — and billed as the last showdown in their home country — Phelps edged Lochte in the 200-meter individual medley at the U.S. Olympic swimming trials Friday night.

"Ryan and I always have a great race with one another," said Phelps, who plans to retire again after his fifth Olympics. "When we race each other, we bring each other to a different level."

Phelps led from start to finish, but Lochte was right with him all the way. In fact, he seemed to pull even midway through the final lap, but the most decorated athlete in Olympic history managed to get to the wall in 1 minute, 55.91 seconds.

Lochte was next at 1:56.22 and had no complaints about the consolation prize: his only individual race at the Olympics.

"I knew going into this race it was definitely going to be a dogfight to the end," Lochte said. "It's been a long journey, but the journey's not over. We still have another month to get ready and show the world that the U.S. is number one."

Lochte, an 11-time medalist, injured his groin on the very first day of the meet, struggled in his next few races and was down to his final chance to get a swim of his own at the Summer Games.

Now, that's out of the way, which means Phelps and Lochte will get another crack at each other in South America.

As a three-time defending gold medalist

in the 200 IM, Phelps will be the favorite.

But he knows Lochte won't be far behind, especially with a month to get over the groin issue.

"I don't know of another person in this world who brings out the best in me like he does," said Phelps, who has 18 golds and 22 medals overall. "Neither one of us likes to lose."

Phelps and Lochte actually had their first encounter on the way to the deck. Lochte, walking out right behind Phelps, stepped on the back of his sneaker.

"I gave him a flat tire by accident," Lochte said. "He's like, 'What are you doing, trying to mess me up?' I was like, 'No, no, no.'"

All was forgiven when it was over, Phelps and Lochte holding up their arms together on the deck while the sellout crowd roared.

It was the end for another defending Olympic champion.

Tyler Clary finished third in the 200 backstroke and called it a career, having missed out on a chance to defend the gold he won in London. He finished behind California Aquatics teammates Ryan Murphy and Jacob Pebley, who earned the two spots for Rio.

Murphy grabbed the lead on the second lap and pulled away to win easily in 1:53.95, completing a sweep of the backstroke events.

Pebley held on for the second spot, touching in 1:54.77 to earn his first trip to the Olympics.

Clary was next at 1:55.33. He clung to a lane rope while Murphy and Pebley celebrated, before swimming over to congratulate them both.

"That's it," Clary said. "I couldn't be happier to be sending Team USA off with two backstrokers that I have a lot of respect for, and I know they are going to represent Team USA well in Rio."

There was another sweep in the women's breaststroke, where Lilly King added

a 200 victory to her earlier triumph in the 100. The 19-year-old from Indiana won in 2:24.08, while Molly Hannis claimed the second Rio spot at 2:24.39, giving the U.S. team yet another Olympic rookie.

Then again, it wasn't totally a night for the upstarts.

Anthony Ervin and Nathan Adrian were the top two qualifiers in the semifinals of the 50 freestyle. The 35-year-old Ervin led the way in 21.55, while Adrian was second quickest in 21.60. Both men are already on the team, with Ervin still seeking an individual event to go with his relay duty and Adrian set to defend his 100 free title from the London Games.

Don't forget Cullen Jones, a silver medalist in this event four years ago. The 32-year-old was third quickest in 21.93.

Katie Ledecky's bid to add another relay to her Rio program took a big blow when she finished seventh in the 100 freestyle. Abbey Weitzeil (53.28) and Simone Manuel (53.52), a pair of 19-year-olds heading to their first Olympics, earned the individual spots. Olympic veterans Amanda Weir, Lia Neal, Allison Schmitt and Dana Vollmer took the next four spots to put themselves at the head of the 4x100 free relay pool.

Ledecky will likely have to settle for three individual events and one relay at these games. Her sprinting still needs a bit of work.

"I would've loved to have gone faster, but I'll take it," she said.

Phelps has locked up two individual events for Rio, having already qualified in the 200 butterfly. He returned about 30 minutes after his victory over Lochte to post the sixth-fastest time in the semifinals of the 100 fly.

That was good enough to send Phelps to the final Saturday night — his final event of the trials.

Then it's on to Rio, where one more race with Lochte awaits.

Lucic, Okposo ink deals

Associated Press

NHL free agency rarely includes the signing of stars.

Steven Stamkos was expected to be an exception this summer, cashing in on a sweepstakes for his services.

The Tampa Bay Lightning, though, didn't let him to get to the market by re-signing him earlier in the week.

Milan Lucic and Kyle Okposo, two of the NHL's top free agents, can thank Stamkos for staying in the Sunshine State.

The 28-year-old wingers each were signed to \$42 million, seven-year contracts Friday — the opening day of free agency — even though neither is a proven or prolific scorer.

Both have been good, not great, players in the league.

The Edmonton Oilers and Buffalo Sabres are not in a position to be picky.

Coming off a string of losing seasons, the teams had enough salary cap space to make a splash.

Okposo, coming off a 22-goal year with the New York Islanders, moved upstate to join the Sabres, who haven't made the playoffs since 2011 or finished higher than seventh in their division in three years.

"What sold me was first and foremost, I've been saying it all day, is the chance to win the Stanley Cup," he insisted. "I think we have a lot of pieces in place that can help us achieve that goal."

Lucic, who scored just 20 times last season with the Los Angeles Kings, followed the money to play for the lowly Oilers, who have gone a decade without a post-season appearance.

"It's about time this team starts heading in the right direction," he said.

Both Okposo and Lucic come out as the big winners, financially at least, after Day One of free agency.

Tampa Bay general manager Steve Yzerman appeared to make all the right moves this week.

The Lightning prevented other teams from landing Stamkos by keeping him with an eight-year, \$68 million contract on Wednesday. Two days later, they may have made the best series of moves overall in a bid to stay near the top in the Eastern Conference. The Stanley Cup contender signed standout defenseman Victor Hedman to a \$63 million, eight-year extension and goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy to a \$10.5 million, three-year extension.

"With Stammer and Victor, these are the two cornerstones," Yzerman said. "(Stamkos) was the first pick overall (in 2008) and the (Hedman) second pick overall (in 2009). ... A good couple of days for the organization."

It has been a bad decade for the Oilers, who haven't made the playoffs since they lost Game 7 of the 2006 Stanley Cup Finals to the Carolina Hurricanes and had the fewest points in the Western Conference last season for the second time in three years.

Querrey knocks off Djokovic at Wimbledon

Associated Press

LONDON — Novak Djokovic's 30-match Grand Slam winning streak ended stunningly Saturday with a 7-6 (6), 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (5) loss to Sam Querrey in Wimbledon's third round.

Djokovic had won the past four major titles in a row — and was halfway to the first calendar-year Grand Slam for a man since Rod Laver in 1969.

"I believe in positive things in life, and I managed to win four Grand Slams in a row — two different seasons, though. I want to try to focus on that," the No. 1-seeded Djokovic said, "rather than failure."

Djokovic last exited as early as the third round at any major tournament all the way back in 2009, when he departed the French Open at that stage. He made at least the semifinals at Wimbledon every year since 2010.

Yet things began looking bleak for Djokovic when the match began Friday and he dropped the first two sets against

Querrey, an American ranked 41st. Djokovic, normally so consistent, so efficient, never quite seemed to be himself, and after the match, asked whether he was 100 percent healthy, the 29-year-old Serb replied: "Not really, but it's not the place and time to talk about it."

Still, after play was halted Friday evening by rain — a recurring theme in this contest and the tournament as a whole — Djokovic came back out Saturday and played much better at the outset.

Djokovic took the third set, then went up a break in the fourth at 5-4 by pounding a forehand winner that brought coach Boris Becker to his feet. But serving to even the match at two sets apiece, Djokovic faltered.

That game included two calls against Djokovic which, according to the BBC broadcast, were incorrect — but he was out of challenges and so couldn't ask for a review. Querrey, 0-for-6 on break points in the set until then, converted No. 7 when Djokovic's poor forehand volley found the

net for 5-all.

After Querrey held for 6-5, Saturday's third rain delay arrived. When they resumed, Djokovic got to a tiebreaker, which he led 3-1. But Querrey hung in there, and a stray forehand by the big favorite sailed wide to end it.

Djokovic wasn't the only former champion to bow out Saturday. Tenth-seeded Czech player Petra Kvitova lost to Ekaterina Makarova of Russia 7-5, 7-6 (5) in the final second-round match of the tournament.

Kvitova won the Wimbledon title in 2011 and '14.

Andy Murray made his way into the fourth round by beating John Millman of Australia 6-3, 7-5, 6-2.

Murray, the 2013 champion at the All England Club, played his match on Centre Court, starting with the roof open but finishing with it closed after a rain delay.

Murray has lost to Djokovic in the finals of both the Australian Open and French Open this year.



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NBA players cash in big in free agency

Associated Press

Mike Conley and All-Stars Andre Drummond and DeMar DeRozan are staying put. So are Hassan Whiteside and Nicolas Batum.

Dwight Howard, Joakim Noah and many more players are on the move — and some are getting paid like they never could have imagined.

Howard and Noah both returned to their hometowns Friday, with the Atlanta Hawks and New York Knicks hoping the former Defensive Players of the Year have plenty left to offer.

Howard agreed to a three-year deal worth \$70.5 million with the Hawks, with the Knicks gave Noah \$72 million over four years.

Kent Bazemore also re-signed with the Hawks for \$70 million over four years, joining players such as Chandler Parsons, Evan Turner, Luol Deng and Timofey Mozgov in cashing in during a new era of NBA free agency.

With revenues rising and the salary cap soaring right along with it, good players were being paid like All-Stars, while All-Stars were getting contracts that used to go only to superstars.

And former players couldn't help but be

a little jealous.

"Um.....it might be time for a comeback.. ..#freeagency," former Miami forward Shane Battier wrote on Twitter.

Conley is in a class of his own — for now — after agreeing to a \$153 million, five-year deal to remain in Memphis, the biggest deal handed out yet.

And the players at the top of the class haven't even started agreeing to deals yet. Kevin Durant and Al Horford probably can't wait to see what they get after watching what lesser players on the market have already received.

For example:

■ Parsons — four years, \$94 million from Memphis.

■ Deng — four years, \$72 million from the Lakers.

■ Turner — four years, \$70 million from Portland.

■ Mozgov — four years, \$64 million from the Lakers.

Their timing was even better than their play, as they became free agents at the ideal moment. With the NBA's national TV contracts worth more than \$2.6 billion annually beginning with next season, the salary cap that's tied to revenues will soar well beyond its previous record to between \$90 million to 95 million.

Some players didn't have to wait long to claim their share of it.

Drummond's five-year maximum contract to stay in Detroit will be worth \$130 million, just a share more than the \$128 million Bradley Beal got to remain in Washington. DeRozan will do a little better in Toronto and Charlotte kept Batum for about \$120 million.

But the Hornets lost a couple of key players from their 48-win team, as Jeremy Lin got a three-year, \$36 million contract from Brooklyn, and the Pacers lured Al Jefferson to Indiana with a three-year, \$30 million contract. The up-and-coming Utah Jazz brought in proven veteran scorer Joe Johnson with a two-year, \$22 million deal.

None of the contracts can be signed until July 7, after next season's salary cap is set and the moratorium is lifted.

Missing out on the money was O.J. Mayo, the former No. 3 overall pick who finished last season in Milwaukee and was a free agent. But he was dismissed and disqualified from the NBA on Friday for violating the terms of the league's anti-drug program, the first player to receive that punishment in a decade. He will be eligible to apply for reinstatement in two years.

His old team was busy, as the Bucks agreed to terms with free agent shooter Mirza Teletovic on a three-year deal worth \$30 million, and also agreed to terms on a four-year, \$38.4 million offer sheet with restricted free agent Matthew Dellavedova. The Cleveland Cavaliers have the option to match that deal.

Durant had his first discussions with another team, meeting with the Golden State Warriors. He met with his Oklahoma City Thunder on Thursday, before free agency opened, as the former NBA MVP decides whether to remain with the franchise that selected him with the No. 2 pick in 2007.

The other MVP available is LeBron James, who opted to become a free agent. But he said last week he intends to return to Cleveland to defend the city's first championship in 52 years.

The Cavaliers' biggest decision could be what to do with free agent forward J.R. Smith, whose three-point shooting — and defense — helped Cleveland rally to beat Golden State in the finals. Smith fits in well with Cleveland because he follows James' lead and he's embraced a stopper's role given to him by coach Tyronn Lue.

Indians get past Blue Jays in 19th inning, extend streak

Associated Press

TORONTO — A franchise-best 14th straight win sure didn't come easy for the Cleveland Indians as they scraped a 2-1 win in a wild game at Toronto on Friday.

Carlos Santana homered in the 19th inning off infielder Darwin Barney as the Indians won a game in which the Blue Jays had to ask two infielders to pitch after exhausting their bullpen. Toronto also suffered three ejections.

"I guess if you're going to set a record, you might as well do it the hard way," Indians pitcher Trevor Bauer said.

Cleveland won 13 straight in 1942 and again in 1951.

It's the longest winning streak since Atlanta won 14 straight in 2013, and the longest by an AL team since Oakland won 20 in a row in 2002.

Santana doubled and scored in the third as the surging Indians survived a marathon game and disappointed a sellout crowd that came for a Canada Day matinee that lasted 6 hours and 13 minutes, featured 19 pitchers and saw 34 left on base.

The 19 innings matched the longest game in Blue Jays history, against Detroit in August 2014.

Having used seven of their eight relievers, the Indians turned to Bauer, Saturday's scheduled starter, in the 15th. Bauer (7-2) worked five innings for the win.

Only closer Cody Allen, who was unavailable after working the previous three games, did not pitch for Cleveland.

After seven Blue Jays relievers combined to pitch 10 1/3 scoreless innings, Toronto turned to infielder Ryan Goins in the 18th, and replaced him with second baseman Barney in the 19th. The infielders became the ninth and 10th position players to pitch for Toronto.

Toronto's only run came in the sixth when Justin Smoak snapped an 0-for-18 slump by homering off Cleveland starter Josh Tomlin. It was the eighth of the season for Smoak and the 100th of his career.

The game started dramatically with two Toronto ejections. Major league RBI leader Edwin Encarnacion was ejected for arguing after being called out on strikes to end the first inning. Manager John Gibbons was also ordered out.

Encarnacion made contact with home plate umpire Vic Carapazza's left shoulder after being ejected. Gibbons rushed out to break up the argument and was also tossed. Catcher Russell Martin was ejected by Carapazza after striking out to end the 13th.

Red Sox 5, Angels 4: David Ortiz celebrated two milestones on one hit and host Boston survived two very close calls.

Ortiz's solo homer in the fifth inning Friday night was his 2,000th hit with Boston and 522nd career home run, moving into sole possession of 19th place on baseball's all-time list and breaking a tie he held with a trio of Hall of Famers including Red Sox great Ted Williams.

"The man did it all," Ortiz said of Williams after Boston's 5-4 win over the Los Angeles Angels on Friday night.

Ortiz and Mookie Betts had three hits apiece for the Red Sox, who held on after a taking a 5-0 lead and handed the Angels their fourth straight loss and 10th in 11 games.

Mariners 5, Orioles 2: Kyle Seager and South Korea's Dae-Ho Lee hit two-run homers to give host Seattle a comeback victory.

Mariners starter Wade LeBlanc (1-0) picked up his first victory since Sept. 23, 2014, when he was with the Los Angeles Angels. LeBlanc, acquired in a trade with Toronto on June 22, played last season in Japan.

Marlins 7, Braves 5 (12): Pitcher Jose Fernandez, making the first pinch-hit appearance of his career, drove in the go-ahead run with a two-run double in the 12th inning to lift visiting Miami over Atlanta.

The dramatic moment overshadowed the meltdown of closer A.J. Ramos, who blew a rare save in the ninth for Miami. Ramos had converted 33 straight saves, one short of the franchise record.

Fernandez, one of baseball's most dynamic starters, began the game with a .222 batting average in 27 at-bats. With the pitcher's spot due up in the 12th and no position players available, Fernandez batted for reliever Nick Wittgren (3-1) and delivered the big hit.

Mets 10, Cubs 2: Brandon Nimmo's three-run homer in the fourth inning was one of five home runs by host New York off Jason Hammel in a game that ended Jacob deGrom's 10-start winless streak.

Giants 6, Diamondbacks 4: Conor Gillaspie fell a home run shy of the cycle and Johnny Cueto settled down after a rocky start to earn his 12th victory for visiting San Francisco.

Trevor Brown doubled in two runs and Grant Green singled in two more for the Giants, who are 5-0 at Chase Field this season. San Francisco's Jarrett Parker added a solo homer off reliever Randall Delgado in the eighth.

Nationals 3, Reds 2 (14): Ben Revere doubled in the winning run with two outs in the 14th inning as host Washington got its sixth straight victory.

Revere's liner off the wall in right-center off Ross Ohlendorf (5-6) scored Danny Espinosa, who was hit by a pitch to start the inning.

Yusmeiro Petit (3-1), the sixth Washington pitcher, worked two innings for the win.

The last-place Reds have lost five straight and nine of 10. They battled for 4 hours, 30 minutes before falling in this one.

Astros 5, White Sox 0: At Houston, Carlos Gomez hit a two-run homer and Mike Fiers combined with three relievers for a shutout.

It was Houston's fourth straight victory and 11th in the last 12 games.

Rangers 3, Twins 2: Ian Desmond homered to lead off the 10th inning as visiting Texas held on for a victory.

Dyson notched his 17th save in 19 attempts. Matt Bush (3-1) pitched two scoreless innings for the win, which lifted the Rangers to a club-record 52-29 mark at the 81-game midpoint of their season.

Dodgers 5, Rockies 0: Bud Norris pitched six strong innings while filling in for Clayton Kershaw in his Los Angeles debut and Adrian Gonzalez drove in two runs.

Acquired from Atlanta on Thursday, Norris (4-7) overpowered Colorado from the start, striking out seven of the first 14 hitters. The right-hander held the Rockies to a single and a double, and finished with eight strikeouts.

Cardinals 7, Brewers 1: Matt Holliday drove in three runs and left-hander Jaime Garcia threw eight solid innings for host St. Louis.

The Cardinals ended a seven-game home losing streak, their longest since Aug. 2-15, 1983. It was their first home win since a 6-3 victory over San Francisco on June 5.

Tigers 10, Rays 2: Rookie right-hander Michael Fulmer gave up two hits in seven shutout innings and Victor Martinez hit three-run homers from both sides of the plate in visiting Detroit's fourth straight win.

Fulmer (8-2) became the first Detroit pitcher since 1913 to give up one run or fewer in eight straight starts. He is 6-1 with a 0.53 ERA in those eight starts.

Pirates 7, Athletics 3: Jody Mercer homered and had an RBI single and visiting Pittsburgh rallied from three runs down to beat stumbling ace Sonny Gray (3-7).

Phillies 4, Royals 3: Jeremy Hellickson threw six sharp innings, Odubel Herrera hit a leadoff homer and host Philadelphia got its fourth straight win.

Padres 7, Yankees 6: Wil Myers hit a two-run home run and 28-year-old rookie Ryan Schimpf hit his first career shot for host San Diego.

Colin Rea (5-3) pitched six strong innings for the Padres, who snapped a three-game losing streak and handed the Yankees their fourth loss in six games.