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Militants' truck bomb kills 115 in Baghdad

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide truck bomb in downtown Baghdad killed 115 people and wounded nearly 200 others who were out shopping and celebrating early Sunday ahead of the holiday marking the end of Ramadan, security and medical officials said.

The attack, claimed by the Islamic State group, was the deadliest in months in the Iraqi capital, and came despite a series of recent gains against the extremists, including the capture of Fallujah, which was believed to have been a source of such attacks.

The bomb went off shortly after midnight in a crowded shopping area in the central Karada district, killing at least 115 people and wounding 187, according to a police official.

The dead included at least 15 children, 10 women and six policemen. At least twelve other people were still missing and feared dead.

Karada is a major commercial area lined with clothing and jewelry stores, restaurants and cafes, and was packed with shoppers ahead of Wednesday's Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of Ramadan. Most of the victims were inside a multistory shopping and amusement mall, where dozens burned to death or suffocated, police said.

It was the deadliest attack in Iraq since July 2015 and among the worst single bombings in more than a decade of war and insurgency.

"It was like an earthquake," said Karim Sami, 35, a street vendor. "I wrapped up my goods and was heading home when I saw a fireball with a

thunderous bombing," the father of three said.

"I was so scared to go back and started to make phone calls to my friends, but none answered." He said that one of his friends was killed, another was wounded and one was still missing.

As with many previous attacks, Islamic State swiftly claimed responsibility for the bombing in a statement posted online, saying it had targeted Shiite Muslims. The Associated Press could not verify the authenticity of the statement, but it was posted on a militant website commonly used by the extremists.

Firefighters and civilians could be seen carrying the dead away, their bodies wrapped in blankets and sheets. Smoke billowed from the shopping center, which was surrounded by

the twisted and burned wreckage of cars and market stalls. A group of women were sitting on the pavement, crying for their loved ones.

Elsewhere in Baghdad, a roadside bomb went off in the mostly Shiite Shaab neighborhood, killing five people and wounding 16, another police officer said. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but it bore the hallmarks of Islamic State militants.

The Sunni extremists frequently target the country's Shiite majority and Shiite-led security forces, viewing them as apostates deserving of death.

Medical officials confirmed the casualty figures from both attacks. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters.

Bangladesh hunts for evidence, masterminds

Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Security officials searched on Sunday for evidence and the possible masterminds of the weekend hostage-taking in an upscale restaurant in Bangladesh's capital. The government has denied the Islamic State group's claim of responsibility for the attack that left 28 dead, including six attackers and 20 of the hostages.

Police released photographs of the bodies of five attackers, along with their first names: Akash, Badhon, Bikash, Don and Ripon. The men belonged to the banned domestic group Jumatul Mujahedeen Bangladesh, or JMB, and their families hadn't heard from them in months, according to police. Asked whether they might also

have had Islamic State group ties, police Inspector General A.K.M. Shahidul Hoque said authorities were investigating that possibility.

Despite the police saying the Islamic State group links were being investigated, the home minister refuted the possibility that the militant group directed the attack from abroad. Bangladesh's government insists the extremist Sunni Muslim group based in Syria and Iraq has no presence in the country, and in the past has suggested that any claims of responsibility for violence waged in the South Asian country are simply opportunistic attempts at grabbing global attention.

"They are all Bangladeshis. They are from rich families. They have good educational background," Bangladeshi

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said of the attackers. One surviving suspect was detained when paramilitary forces ended the 10-hour standoff Saturday morning, and authorities said he was being interrogated.

The siege marked an escalation in the militant violence that has hit Bangladesh with increasing frequency. Most of the attacks in the past several months have involved machete-wielding men singling out individual activists, foreigners and religious minorities.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has blamed her political opponents for trying to create chaos by backing domestic militants.

"Anyone who believes in religion cannot do such an act," Hasina said Saturday. "They do not have any religion. Their

only religion is terrorism."

On Sunday morning, the first of two days of national mourning for the victims, police were blocking all access to streets near the Holey Artisan Bakery where the siege occurred. Investigators from both Bangladesh and Japan visited the restaurant to collect evidence.

The 20 hostages who were killed included nine Italians, seven Japanese, three Bangladeshis and one Indian teenager. Two police officers were killed by the attackers, and 13 people were rescued when commandos stormed the restaurant Saturday morning. Another 25 officers and one civilian were wounded, and some of the rescued hostages had injuries. The hospitals treating them would not give fresh information on their conditions Sunday.

USAFE: No plans to base F-22s in Europe

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Despite continuing tensions with Russia, the top U.S. Air Force general here says there are no plans to base

the F-22 Raptor — America's most sophisticated warplane — in Europe.

Gen. Frank Gorenc, outgoing commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa, also predicted that the military would have to pay greater at-

tention in the future to instability in Africa and to Islamic radicalism there.

"The Mediterranean Sea doesn't separate Africa's problems from Europe's problems anymore," he said.

Gorenc, 58, has commanded

USAFE-AFRAFICA and Allied Air Command — the air component of NATO — since August 2013. He is due to retire next month, and President Barack Obama has nominated Lt. Gen. Tod D. Wolters as his replacement.

Uniform patient survey to measure GIs' views on care

Stars and Stripes

Medical beneficiaries across the services will soon all be filling out the same survey to note how satisfied they were with their care, according to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany.

The Joint Outpatient Experience Survey is replacing separate outpatient surveys formerly used by the services, allowing for a standardized customer service questionnaire to better evaluate patient satisfaction across all three military branches, Landstuhl said in a

news release.

The rollout of the new survey began in April, replacing the Navy Patient Satisfaction Survey, according to the Defense Health Agency, and will be implemented at military medical facilities worldwide.

The new survey also will avoid duplication. In areas such as the Kaiserslautern Military Community in Germany, where a patient can be seen by Air Force and Army doctors for the same problem, the patient would receive only one survey, according to Stacy Sanning-Rzepka at LRMC.

The surveys will continue to be a funding source for military medical facilities, Sanning-Rzepka, said. Surveys that showed patient satisfaction netted LRMC cash from the Army — up to \$500 for a perfect survey. That resulted in an extra \$1.7 million for LRMC and its beneficiaries since March 2015, she said. If all the surveys had been returned, that amount could have exceeded \$4.4 million. The program is designed to provide incentives for military hospitals to meet a variety of standards and to reward those that do.

With the new joint survey, the Defense Health Agency will be the funding source rewarding facilities whose surveys show patient satisfaction, rather than the individual services, Sanning-Rzepka said.

The surveys have also proved to be a useful tool in improving health care, LRMC officials said, such as providing Wi-Fi in waiting rooms, new equipment to reduce waiting times for mammography testing and an a la carte dining options for patients.

Japan: Jets scrambled often in response to China

BY ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Chinese military activity near islands covered under the U.S.-Japan defense treaty resulted in a record number of Japanese fighter aircraft responses in recent months, Japan Defense Ministry officials say.

The Japan Air Self-Defense Force scrambled jets against Chinese aircraft about 200 times from April through June, compared with 114 incidents during the same period last year, defense officials told broadcaster NHK during a news conference Thursday.

Adm. Katsutoshi Kawano, chief of staff for Japan's forces, said most of the incidents came near the Senkaku Islands, which have been administered by Japan since the U.S. returned

them, along with Okinawa, in 1972.

In recent years, China has asserted what it calls an "indisputable" claim to the uninhabited islands, which it argues should have been returned along with Taiwan following World War II.

The U.S. takes no position on any future sovereignty settlement. However, during a 2014 visit to Japan, President Barack Obama said the security alliance calling on the U.S. to defend Japan when under attack "covers all territories under Japan's administration, including the Senkaku Islands."

While some of the scrambles occurred after Chinese military aircraft flew within Japan's airspace, such operations tend to happen most often as a precaution against a potential border breach.

Kawano added that Chinese

aircraft and ships near the Senkakus appear to be escalating their operations, according to NHK.

Japanese responses to Chinese actions have risen annually since 2008, but jumped exponentially after Japan agreed to nationalize the once-privately held islands in September 2012.

In the first quarter of 2012, Japan had responded to only 15 potential incursions.

In late 2013, China declared an Air Defense Identification Zone over the Senkakus that overlaps with Japan's identification zone. Both nations' aircraft are coming into contact more closely and frequently as a result, according to a report released Thursday by the International Crisis Group, an independent, nongovernmental group.

Guam sees elevated force protection level

Guam military bases elevated their force protection conditions Friday "to raise awareness and vigilance" during the Fourth of July holiday weekend, a Naval Forces Marianas statement said.

The elevated condition, in a five-tiered system that describes the amount of measures needed for threats against military facilities, is not in response to a specific threat, the statement said.

"Random force protection condition changes and exercises are necessary to ensure that the military effectively executes its force protection mission," the statement said. "Members of the military and their families are encouraged to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to local law enforcement authorities."

From staff reports

Phelps rallies for final US win

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Michael Phelps wasn't about to lose his last race in the United States.

With his gangly arms cutting through the water, Phelps dazzled the home fans one last time.

Phelps made it three-for-three at the U.S. Olympic swimming trials, rallying on the return lap to win the 100-meter butterfly Saturday night.

In what was billed as the farewell race in his home country, Phelps competed in lane seven after a sluggish swim in the semifinals. As usual, it took him a lap to really get going, making the turn in fourth place.

But Phelps powered to the front, as he's done so many times.

Even with a long glide to the wall, he finished in 51.00 seconds.

When Phelps saw the "1" beside his name, he pounded the water and pointed toward his family — including 7-week-old son Boomer — up in the stands. He'll now get a chance to win his fourth straight gold in the 100 fly at Rio.

Katie Ledecky and Maya DiRado also won their third individual events on the next-to-last night of the trials, while Nathan Adrian made up for the disappointment of four years ago by winning the 50 freestyle.

For Ledecky, it's been the dominating performance everyone expected, this one a nearly 10-second victory in the 800 freestyle.

For DiRado, it's been a huge surprise,

the first-time Olympian setting herself up to make quite a splash before she retires at age 23.

A late bloomer who already lined up a job as a business analyst in Atlanta, she followed her victories in the 200 and 400 individual medley by knocking off defending Olympic champion Missy Franklin in the 200 backstroke.

Franklin finished second to at least ensure she'll get a chance to go for another gold in Rio.

Phelps, of course, is also planning to retire — for the second time — as soon as his fifth Olympics are over. At age 31, he cruised through Omaha with victories in both butterfly races as well as the 200 individual medley.

Assuming he is on all three men's relays in Rio, a virtual lock, he'll get a chance to add six more medals to his already massive collection of 18 golds and 22 medals overall.

The second Olympic spot in the 100 fly went to Tom Shields, who touched in 51.20 to barely beat out Seth Stubblefield (51.24).

Ledecky also posted Omaha wins in the 200 and 400 free, which means she'll have three individual events and a relay at the Olympics. The only thing that didn't go her way: a seventh-place finish in the 100 free, an event she only recently started focusing on in hopes of landing a second relay race.

DiRado was nearly a body length ahead of Franklin in the 200 back with a winning time of 2:06.90.

"This is a dream," DiRado said.

Franklin, a big disappointment at the trials but still set to swim three events in Rio, finished in 2:07.89 to hold off Lisa Bratton for the second berth.

"I got a spot and that's all that I needed to do," Franklin said. "There's so much room for improvement."

Franklin claimed her second individual event in Rio, having also taken the runner-up spot in the 200 freestyle. She'll also swim the 4x200 free relay, a far cry from her grueling seven-event program at London four years ago.

Adrian surprisingly failed to qualify in the 50 free at the 2012 trials, though he did go on to capture Olympic gold in the 100 free at London.

This time, Adrian swept the sprint events. In a furious dash from one end of the pool to the other, he touched ahead of Anthony Ervin in 21.51 seconds. Ervin claimed the second spot for Rio — one-hundredth of a second behind the winner.

Two-time Olympian Cullen Jones won't be heading to Rio. The silver medalist at London finished third at 21.75, missing a spot on the U.S. team.

At age 32, it might've been Jones' last realistic shot at the Olympics. He was the final man to climb out of the pool, soaking up the moment for as long as possible.

Then again, age hasn't been a hindrance to Ervin.

The 35-year-old is the oldest swimmer at the trials, but he's heading to the Olympics for the third time.

Hawks' Horford heads to Celtics

Associated Press

Al Horford ended the waiting game with a simple tweet: "Celtic Pride," it said, followed by 18 shamrocks.

The number might not have been a coincidence.

A franchise with 17 NBA championships may have gotten closer to contending for an 18th on Saturday, when Horford decided to accept a four-year, \$113 million offer to join the Boston Celtics. Horford made the announcement on Twitter, and the terms of the detail were confirmed to The Associated Press by a person with direct knowledge of the negotiations.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no deals can be finalized until at least July 7 under league rules.

Horford wasted no time in changing his Twitter bio, which now says he is "Boston Celtics star Forward/Center Al Horford." And the reactions came in swiftly as well, after one of the biggest prizes in this year's free-agent sweepstakes decided to leave Atlanta.

"Let's get it," Celtics guard Isaiah Thomas wrote.

The Celtics won 48 games last season, finishing in a four-way tie for the third-best record in the Eastern Conference. They have a strong young core already, a highly regarded coach in Brad Stevens, and had the money to land a huge free agent.

Horford's announcement came on the same day that the Celtics met with Kevin Durant in New York, even bringing New England Patriots star quarterback Tom Brady along for that meeting to help sell the virtues of playing in New England.

No such fanfare was needed for Horford — just an average salary of about \$28 million a year for the next four years.

Horford also met with the Washington Wizards as well as the Hawks, the team that drafted him and the team he's now leaving. Horford spent his first nine NBA seasons in Atlanta, but the Hawks agreed to terms with Dwight Howard and Kent Bazemore on big-money deals, leaving them little room for their centerpiece.

Atlanta could have made a trade or two to create enough room to keep him as well, but by Saturday Horford was already starting to look elsewhere.

The four-time All-Star averaged 15.2 points and 7.3 rebounds last season. He gives the Celtics a formidable presence on both ends of the floor as they try to vault into the top tier of the East.

After Durant, Horford may have been the most impactful unrestricted free agent who was considered even somewhat available. LeBron James certainly would top that list, but he told media in Cleveland at the team's celebration parade that he planned to remain with the Cavaliers after leading them to the championship.

US sprinters agree: Bolt will be in Rio

Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — It's a sport built on speed, and at U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials on Saturday, sprinters wasted no time drawing conclusions about Usain Bolt's summertime itinerary.

The consensus: He'll be in Rio.

For the second straight day, the Jamaican sprinter's hamstring was Topic No. 1 in the track world. If Bolt is seriously hurt, the entire Olympics will take on a new perspective, whether it's Bolt at less-than-full strength or — still unthinkable at this point — absent altogether.

Not that anyone going through preliminary rounds in Eugene was worried about that.

"Crazy stuff always happens in an Olympic year," said Bolt's main challenger, Justin Gatlin, who cruised through his 100-meter preliminary in a time of 10.03 seconds. "Like anyone else, you have to see what's going to happen. But c'mon. We're going to see his face in Rio one way or another."

Gatlin, Tyson Gay, Mike Rodgers and Trayvon Bromell all advanced easily through the first round of the 100.

Meanwhile, a continent away in Kingston, few clues emerged the day after Bolt, the 29-year-old world-record holder, pulled out of his national championships, posting a picture of himself on Twitter with electrical-stimulation pads stuck to

his hamstring and the message: "Starting the recovery process right away."

Per Jamaica's rules, Bolt can earn his spot in the 100 and 200 if he can show he's fit enough; that judgment call has to be made by July 18, when Olympic rosters are due.

"I feel like it's a cop-out. He should run like anybody else," said Rodgers, the 2009 U.S. champion at 100 meters. "But at the end of the day, he's Bolt. He's the Olympic champ, he's the world champ. Until someone beats him, puts him in his place, he's going to do what he wants to do."

Indeed, there was more eye-rolling than genuine concern among the U.S. sprinters, who feel like they've seen this before.

In 2012, Bolt ran at Jamaica's nationals, but finished second to Yohan Blake in both the 100 and 200, not far removed from a minor car crash and dealing with some leg issues. Bolt was injured in the lead-up to world championships last year, but nonetheless edged Gatlin in the 100 and blew by him in the 200.

Now, this.

"It's a tradition," said Gay, who once was Bolt's main challenger.

Gatlin said years ago, he might have heard about an injury to Bolt "and thought I hit the lottery." What did the injury do to his thought process this time?

"Nothing," Gatlin said. "Being a veteran, you can't let that change you."

Other news from the Olympic Trials:

Felix through: Allyson Felix again gritted her way through the 400-meter heats, finishing second to Francena McCorory in a time of 50.31. "It's not an ideal situation for me," Felix said of the injured right ankle that has hampered her preparation for the 200-400 double.

Busy day: World long-jump champion Tianna Bartoletta had a busier day than most. She was also entered in the women's 100 meters, and the events were scheduled simultaneously. She qualified for the Olympics in the long jump and moved easily through the first round of the 100.

Halfway home: World-record holder Ashton Eaton made it safely through the first five events of the decathlon. He has 4,561 points, which is not a record pace, but is an 83-point advantage over second-place Jeremy Taiwo. Olympic silver medalist Trey Hardee ran his 400 meters in 1 minute, 12.49 seconds, more than 36 seconds off the pace, to drop into 17th place.

Huddle up: Molly Huddle ran hard to the line to win the women's 10K by more than 4 seconds over Emily Infeld. Huddle finished in 31:41.62. Last year at world championships, Huddle slowed up and raised her hands to celebrate with about a step left, which allowed Infeld to shoulder past her for the bronze medal.



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Angels score 21 on Red Sox

Associated Press

BOSTON — Angels pitcher Hector Santiago was sitting in the dugout during his team's 11-run seventh inning Saturday night when he showed teammate Daniel Nava something new painted on his left cleat.

"Look at these, bro," he recalled telling Nava, pointing down to a shoe a friend brought him for the game. It had the Rally Monkey — a staple of the club's home games — airbrushed on the side.

Expect Santiago to keep wearing the new spikes.

C.J. Cron went 6-for-6 with two homers and five RBIs, Carlos Perez had five hits and drove in six and Los Angeles walloped the Boston Red Sox 21-2 to end a four-game losing streak.

Albert Pujols hit his 575th career homer — a two-run shot — and had five RBIs for the Angels, who had lost 10 of their last 11 games.

"There's no doubt a game like this is fun," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "It comes at a good time just too hopefully get a little momentum going and hopefully we'll carry it over to tomorrow."

Cron and Perez each homered during the 11-run seventh. They are the first set of teammates with at least five hits and five RBIs in the same game since Gene Moore and Buck Jordan for the Boston Braves in 1936, according to ESPN.

"We were sitting down: me, Nava and (Jhoulys) Chacin," Santiago said. "We were saying 'We're not moving.' That was awesome, man. We needed that. That was awesome to watch."

It's the sixth time the Angels reached 20 runs, the last coming against Kansas City on Aug. 25, 2004. The club record for hits is 24, set at Toronto on Aug. 25, 1979.

The 21 runs matched Los Angeles' combined output from its past six games, and the Angels' 22 hits were the most for the franchise since a 17-8 win over Baltimore on Aug. 16, 2009.

"I think if you play baseball long enough you have games like this," Boston second baseman Dustin Pedroia said. "You have to turn the page and try and win the series tomorrow."

Mookie Betts had a solo homer and three hits for Boston, which won the se-

ries opener after losing four of five.

Red Sox outfielder Ryan LaMarre pitched the ninth, giving up no runs and two hits.

"Honestly, we're embarrassed by tonight's ball game," Red Sox manager John Farrell said. "There's really no other way to put it. We got kicked around the ballpark tonight."

Santiago (5-4) got the win, holding the majors' highest scoring team to one unearned run and four hits over six innings.

Blue Jays 9, Indians 6: Cleveland's franchise-record 14-game winning streak was stopped by a big day for Toronto's sluggers and a contentious replay call.

Initially called out at home during host Toronto's three-run eighth inning, Ezequiel Carrera was ruled safe after a replay review, and the Blue Jays won despite a cycle by Rajai Davis.

Davis became the eighth player in Cleveland history to hit for the cycle. He led off the game with a homer, tripled home a run in the third, doubled and scored in the seventh and singled in the ninth.

Mets 4, Cubs 3: Jake Arrieta lost a regular-season road start for the first time in 14 months when Neil Walker hit a two-run homer and Travis d'Arnaud blooped a two-run single that pushed the host Mets to their third straight win over the Cubs.

Bartolo Colon (7-4) outpitched the NL Cy Young Award winner, who struggled with his control in a 35-pitch first inning, when he went to 3-2 counts on his first four batters.

Dodgers 6, Rockies 1: Scott Kazmir pitched six scoreless innings, Trayce Thompson and Adrian Gonzalez drove in two runs each and Los Angeles got its eighth straight home victory.

Padres 2, Yankees 1: Melvin Upton Jr. homered on the first pitch of the ninth to give host San Diego a walk-off win.

It was the third game-ending homer of the year for Upton, who homered into the second balcony on the Western Metal Supply Co. Building in the left-field corner.

Mariners 12, Orioles 6: Mike Zunino homered twice in his first game of the season, Nelson Cruz and Seth Smith both hit three-run home runs and host Seattle

slugged past Baltimore.

Pirates 4, Athletics 2: David Freese hit a go-ahead single in the top of the 10th inning, and visiting Pittsburgh got its third straight win.

Twins 17, Rangers 5: Max Kepler homered twice and set a Twins rookie record by driving in seven runs.

Eduardo Nunez had four hits for the host Twins, who scored at least three runs in four of the first five innings. Kepler's second home run of the day capped a six-run fifth inning.

Braves 9, Marlins 1: Freddie Freeman homered to help Atlanta hand visiting Marlins ace Jose Fernandez one of the worst starts of his career.

Tigers 3, Rays 2: Justin Verlander pitched seven solid innings, and visiting Detroit earned its fifth consecutive win.

Verlander (8-6) allowed two runs, one earned, and four hits while improving to 5-2 in eight starts at Tropicana Field.

Cardinals 3, Brewers 0: Adam Wainwright pitched seven innings and Kolten Wong had a two-run triple, leading host St. Louis to the win.

The Cardinals turned four double plays, including the fourth, fifth and sixth.

White Sox 7, Astros 6: Chris Sale pitched seven-plus innings to become the majors' first 14-game winner, helping the White Sox to the victory on the road.

Sale (14-2) settled down after a slow start, allowing five runs, four earned, and six hits. David Robertson yielded A.J. Reed's first career homer in the ninth before finishing for his 22nd save.

Royals 6, Phillies 2: Kendrys Morales homered twice and drove in four runs, powering visiting Kansas City to the win.

Morales extended his hitting streak to eight consecutive games with a second-inning homer. He is batting .565 with seven homers and 21 RBIs in his last 13 games.

Diamondbacks 6, Giants 5: Wellington Castillo's three-run homer off Hunter Strickland (3-1) in the eighth inning rallied host Arizona to end a six-game losing streak.

Reds 9, Nationals 4: Tucker Barnhart singled home the tiebreaking run in the 10th inning and visiting Cincinnati piled on to end a five-game skid.

Serena, Tsonga advance

Associated Press

LONDON — Serena Williams earned a decent day's rest on the middle Sunday at Wimbledon as Jo-Wilfried Tsonga had to work overtime — 19-17 in the fifth set — in another marathon involving John Isner.

Williams, the defending women's champion and six-time winner, overwhelmed Annika Beck 6-3, 6-0 in just 51 minutes on Centre Court early Sunday afternoon, advancing to the fourth round with her 300th career Grand Slam match win.

Williams, who compiled a 25-2 edge in winners, wasn't aware of the 300-win milestone until she was asked about it in a post-match interview.

"Was it? Cool. Oh, nice," she said with a laugh. "I had no idea. That's awesome, right? That's good, right? I think that's a lot of matches."

Williams' latest win breaks a tie at 299 wins with Chris Evert. She now ranks second in the Open era behind Martina Navratilova, who went 306-49.

For only the fourth time in Wimbledon's 139-year history, play was scheduled on the middle Sunday, which is the traditional rest day, because of rain delays in the first week that caused a backlog of matches. All 22,000 tickets were snapped up in 27 minutes when they went on sale online on Saturday.

After falling an early break behind at 2-1, Williams won 11 of the last 12 games and 24 of the second set's 28 points.

"I still want to get out to a little bit of a faster start," Williams said. "But I was really focused and calm today."

While Williams played just 15 games in under an hour, Tsonga and Isner needed 44 games and 2 hours, 33 minutes to complete the final two sets of their suspended third-round match. The final set featured 36 games and lasted 2 hours, 8 minutes.

"It's good to be alive," said Tsonga, who saved a match point at 16-15 in the fifth before overcoming the American 6-7 (3), 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2, 19-17.

Isner led two sets to one when play suspended because of darkness on Saturday. The match lasted a total of 4 hours, 24 minutes on Court 2.

That's still modest compared to Isner's win over France's Nicolas Mahut six years ago. He prevailed 70-68 in the final set of the longest match in tennis history, which lasted more than 11 hours over three days in the first round.

Tsonga's next opponent will be countryman and No. 7 Richard Gasquet, who downed Albert Ramos-Vinolas of Spain, 2-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2, 6-3.

Another Frenchman, No. 32 Lucas Pouille, ended the Grand Slam comeback of Juan Martin del Potro, beating the Argentine 6-7 (4), 7-6 (6), 7-5, 6-1. The 22-year-old Pouille had never won a tour-level match on grass until this tournament. Del Potro was making his first appearance at Wimbledon since 2013 after a series of surgeries on his left wrist.

Nick Kyrgios, an Australian seeded No. 15, set up a marquee fourth-round matchup against No. 2 Andy Murray, defeating Feliciano Lopez 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-3, 6-4. Kyrgios, who served out the match after receiving a time delay warning, made it to the quarterfinals as a wild card in 2014.

Williams will next face No. 13 Svetlana Kuznetsova, who came from behind to beat No. 22 Sloane Stephens 6-7 (1), 6-2, 8-6 to reach the fourth round at Wimbledon for the first time since 2008.

Keselowski earns first win at Daytona

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Brad Keselowski had his confidence shaken at Daytona International Speedway more than once.

He was a good plate racer, but never could find his way to Victory Lane at NASCAR's most famous track.

That changed Saturday night with a dominating performance that gave Team Penske its 100th career Sprint Cup Series victory — a win that Roger Penske celebrated in victory lane by participating in the traditional champagne spray.

More important, it gave Keselowski his long-awaited first win at Daytona.

Keselowski led a race-high 115 laps then held off Kyle Busch on a two-lap shootout that sent the race into overtime for one additional lap. It gave him his fifth career Cup win in a restrictor-plate race, but all the others had come at Talladega. He won on the Alabama track most recently in May.

"I don't care if it's not the 500. It's Daytona. This is huge," he said. "I love this place."

He loved it even when he came up frus-

tratingly short, or not even close at all.

Keselowski said his futility at Daytona was "a kick in the you-know-what," but he and his No. 2 Ford crew kept chipping away at it even after he had a disappointing run in the season-opening Daytona 500.

"I got down on myself here," he said. "We came down here for the 500 and quite honestly we ran like dog crap, but my team worked on it. I didn't give up on them. I believe in my team and my team believes in me and we went to work and we put together a better car, and it really showed with a great effort from the whole team. I'm really proud of everybody."

Penske said he was "proud to be an American" after winning on Fourth of July weekend.

"To win 100 races with the competition we have in this sport is amazing," said Penske. "Sixteen years ago we won our 100th race on the IndyCar side, it took us some time to catch up over here. Pretty important night for us."

The race was marred by a 22-car accident that collected more than half the field and thinned the competition. It really only left Kyle Busch as a legitimate

contender, but a restart for a two-lap shootout that sent it into overtime forced Keselowski to earn the win.

He easily held off Busch, and challenger Kurt Busch was eliminated when he was knocked out of line by Joey Logano as they headed to the checkered flag.

"I don't remember a whole lot. It gets kind of crazy," said Kyle Busch, who crashed his primary car Friday morning and raced in a backup.

Trevor Bayne finished third and was followed by Keselowski teammate Logano and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. as Ford drivers took four of the top five spots.

Keselowski credited a push from his teammate for helping him shake the Busch brothers on the final restart.

"I was able to get Brad a good push to clear and get a Penske car to victory lane, which is really cool," Logano said. "The 2 was the fastest car and he deserved to win the race."

It was a plan to work together and disrupt the Toyota contingent that used teamwork to dominate the Daytona 500. Instead, Kyle Busch was the only Toyota driver to finish inside the top 10.