

STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, July 10, 2016

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

China slams US ahead of historic ruling

BY ERIK SLAVIN

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The United States and China have a lot of warships in the western Pacific Ocean right now, but the only war being fought ahead of a landmark international court decision is for public opinion.

The consensus among security experts outside China is that the Chinese will likely lose at least some of the 15 claims brought against them by the Philippines when the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague rules Tuesday on a case years in the making.

However, the Philippines has receded into the background amid displays of sea strength by the Chinese and U.S. navies, coupled with English-language messages from Chinese officials and Beijing-controlled media aimed at the U.S.

New Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has suggested talks with China after the ruling, cooling rhetoric focused on Manila — while increasing the focus on Washington.

“I think hostile forces in the U.S. worked together to make this case,” Yongnian Zheng, director of the East Asian Institute at the National University of Singapore, said in an English-language YouTube series posted by The People’s Daily, the Chinese Communist Party’s official newspaper.

The heart of the case lays in China’s claims to most of the South China Sea, based on what it deems as historical right. Those claims are set against the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, which China has signed and the U.S. abides by but hasn’t ratified.

“The tribunal is likely to rule that Beijing’s claim to ill-defined ‘historic rights’ throughout the South China Sea is illegal,” Greg Poling, director

Some specifics of Philippines’ case

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A landmark ruling on an arbitration case filed by the Philippines that seeks to strike down China’s expansive territorial claims in the South China Sea will be a test for international law and world powers.

Here are a few questions and answers about the case:

What’s the case about? After years of diplomatic negotiations ended nowhere, the Philippines brought its dispute with China to international arbitration in January 2013, despite Beijing’s warnings of a diplomatic and economic backlash.

China wants to negotiate directly with the Philippines and each of the four other claimants in an arrangement that would give it leverage for its sheer size and influence. Beijing has steadfastly opposed bringing the disputes to an international arena, which could provide the U.S. with a chance to intervene.

The Philippines asked a tribunal of five arbitrators to declare as invalid China’s vast claims — known as nine-dash lines for the dashes that demarcate virtually all of the South China Sea as Chinese territory — under the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Seas, or UNCLOS. China and the Philippines are among more than 160 signatories of the 1982 convention, regarded as the constitution that governs and stipulates the rights of countries in using the world’s oceans.

How did it start? Although the disputes have simmered for decades,

they gradually escalated under former Philippine President Benigno Aquino III and culminated in 2012, when China took effective control of the disputed Scarborough Shoal after a tense standoff.

U.S. officials brokered an arrangement for Philippine government vessels and larger Chinese maritime surveillance ships to simultaneously withdraw from the tiny shoal, a deal which Aquino said he followed. Chinese ships never left.

Will the arbitration change anything? Any ruling will be final and legally binding on China and the Philippines. China’s decision to ignore the case and the arbitration tribunal’s lack of enforcement mechanism, however, has blunted the Philippines’ move.

Former Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario, who spearheaded the filing of the complaint against China, said a favorable ruling on any of the 15 issues raised by the Philippines would be a major blow to Beijing and a moral victory that could be harnessed by the Philippines to its advantage.

Why did China refuse to take part in the case? China has argued that the tribunal does not have jurisdiction to handle the Philippine case because it says it involves sovereignty issues which are outside the tribunal’s legal purview. While masking its case as an effort to clarify maritime rights under the U.N. convention, the Philippines is actually trying to undermine China’s “indisputable sovereignty,” according to Chinese officials.

of the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative, wrote for The Cipher Brief on Thursday.

China’s claims to most of the water and its rocks, reefs and small islands conflict with claims from the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei. Low-level clashes between China and its neighbors, which include jet fighter sorties over disputed

islands in the East China Sea with Japan, have many in the region concerned about escalating conflict.

China’s sea claims also create conflict with the U.S., which maintains freedom of navigation for its ships and aircraft under international norms. About \$5 trillion in shipborne trade flows through the sea annually, including \$1.2 trillion in

U.S. trade.

China has renounced the Permanent Court of Arbitration’s authority to rule on the case ever since the Philippines brought it to the court. The U.S. and the court have countered that any decision is binding under international law.

“Just deliver the ruling, it’s no big deal — just a piece of trash,” said Dai Bingguo, a former China state councilor, said Tuesday, according to the South China Morning Post.

Dai’s remarks came during a discussion in Washington sponsored by the Carnegie Endowment and China’s Chongyang Institute.

“We Chinese would not be intimidated by the U.S. actions, not even if the U.S. sent all the 10 aircraft carriers to the South China Sea,” Dai said.

Dai was referring to rare dual aircraft carrier operations by the USS Ronald Reagan and the USS John C. Stennis in the Western Pacific in June. China responded in kind last week. It set up a “no-sail zone” for its own sea exercises, which will last through Monday.

Countries typically post advisories for aircraft and ships to avoid exercises for safety reasons, but no provision within the Law of the Sea allows countries to forbid transit outright during an exercise.

Pacific Fleet officials said last week that Navy ships remain active in the region on routine patrols.

Regardless of the outcome of the ruling, there is no mechanism in place to enforce it. However, a rebuke of China could come with a diplomatic cost in the region.

“In this case, it directly undercuts Beijing’s narrative that it is a peaceful rising power that deserves a larger hand in shepherding the international system,” Poling wrote.

US Marines train regularly with S. Korea

BY KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

POHANG, South Korea — Long-distance relationships don't always work. But the U.S. and Korean marines think they have found a winning formula.

The 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Okinawa, Japan, deploys a steady stream of units to South Korea for joint training exercises with their Korean counterparts.

The most recent was a nearly monthlong Korean Marine Exchange Program, which in-

volved about 900 marines from each side and culminated with a live-fire drill. It was the first program designed to develop bilateral air and ground command-and-control capabilities.

Artillery and mortar fire rocked an area in the lush, green mountains surrounding the Suseong range outside the southeastern industrial port city of Pohang. Then a line of four tanks, each bearing a U.S. or Republic of Korea flag, advanced on the targets followed by South Korean amphibious assault vehicles and a mine-

clearing truck.

The plan was to use helicopters, amphibious assault vehicles, tanks and other weaponry to seize the enemy's core facilities. But fear of heavy rains grounded the aircraft, so the marines improvised and sent trucks onto the field to simulate that part of the operation. The downpour began shortly after the mock attack was finished.

Maj. Matthew Deffenbaugh, of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines, declared the exercise a success. He said the Koreans had practiced with Cobras and

Hueys in previous days.

"This is the first time that at the regimental level the ROK Marine Corps has done anything like that ... control the air component and the ground component at the same time," he said. "We were there solely as a safety backstop. And we did not have to insert ourselves at all."

The exercise programs are the primary way the U.S. Marines maintain readiness on the divided peninsula, where the threat from North Korea is ever-present.

Army officer suspected of exposing himself

BY MICHAEL S. DARNELL

Stars and Stripes

A U.S. Army captain suspected of exposing himself last month to two teenage girls was arrested in Amberg, Germany, on Wednesday.

During the June 28 incident, the 30-year-old man exposed himself in an "exhibitionist manner" to the girls, the German news site Onetz reported, citing police.

A spokesman for Regional Health Command Europe on Friday confirmed that the man belongs to the Bavaria Medical

Department Activity.

"But he is not a health care provider and is not involved in patient care at a military treatment facility," said the spokesman, Shane Sharp.

Sharp confirmed the German report but could not provide the officer's name, as the investigation into the incident is ongoing.

Amberg police were able to identify the man because the victims' detailed description of him matched that of a soldier suspected of being involved in a similar incident in October 2015 near a school.

When police saw the man

in a jogging suit in Amberg on Wednesday, they attempted to question him, but he fled, Onetz reported. He was apprehended near his apartment in the Amberg city center.

The soldier has been released to U.S. custody and has not been charged, said Lt. Col. Brian Carlin, spokesman for the U.S. Army's Joint Multinational Training Command in nearby Grafenwoehr. German police believe that the soldier may have approached other youths or children in a similar manner. They are asking potential victims to call +49 (0) 9621-890-320.

Chinese navy conducts drills

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

Chinese navy ships have conducted combat drills near its most southern province of Hainan and the Paracel islands in the South China Sea, China's Ministry of Defense said Saturday.

The drills Friday came on the heels of the announcement last week that the United States will deploy a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense missile defense system in South Korea.

China's Foreign Ministry said it "firmly opposes" that deployment.

The drills came just ahead of the Permanent Court of Arbitration's expected ruling Tuesday on a case filed by the Philippines over disputed territory in the South China Sea. China has said it will not abide by the court's findings.

Ships from China's northern, eastern and southern fleets took part in the drills, which the state-run news agency Xinhua called an "annual routine military exercise that covered all sorts of combat platforms, including the air arm, submarine, surface vessel and coastal defense force."

Air Force, Marines debut F-35 at British air show

BY WILLIAM HOWARD

Stars and Stripes

RAF FAIRFORD, England — Gen. Frank Gorenc, commander of U.S. Air Forces Europe, showcased the service's F-35 Lightning II during the Royal International Air Tattoo on Friday.

Two of the three Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II variants debuted at the annual air show — the Air Force's conventional take-off and landing F-35A and the Marine Corps short take-off

and vertical landing F-35B.

This was the first time the F-35B had arrived in Britain, which plans to use the aircraft on its new Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers currently under construction. The British air force and navy plan to operate 138 F-35Bs.

The F-35B was slated to make its first appearance in Britain in 2014, but an engine fire in the U.S. grounded the entire fleet at the time.

Gorenc lauded the F-35's capabilities, comparing them fa-

vorably with the combat-proven, twin-engine F-22 Raptor.

"These aircraft have the capability to contribute to almost every mission," he told an audience of allied military, press and industry representatives assembled for RIAT, the world's largest purely military air show.

"All of the lessons learned with the F-22 are imbedded as improvements and innovations in the F-35," he said.

Gorenc said the F-35 made data-sharing more accessible for pilots in the cockpit.

Murray nabs Wimbledon title

Associated Press

LONDON — After Britain famously endured a 77-year wait between Wimbledon men's champions, Andy Murray has given the host country a pair of titles in quick succession.

Murray dulled booming serves with quick-reflex returns, played impressively mistake-free tennis while coming up with daring passing shots and beat Milos Raonic 6-4, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (2) on Sunday for his second trophy at the All England Club since 2013 and third Grand Slam championship overall.

When he sat in his sideline chair after it was over, Murray wiped away tears with a tournament towel.

"Last time, I was so relieved. I felt ... just so much stress and pressure and didn't really get the chance to enjoy it as much," Murray said. "So I'll make sure I enjoy this one tonight, for sure."

The second-seeded Murray was playing in his 11th major final, but the first against someone other than Novak Djokovic or Roger Federer.

He didn't need to face either of those rivals this fortnight: The sixth-seeded Raonic eliminated Federer in five sets in the semifinals Friday, and also defeated the player who stunned Djokovic in the third round, Sam Querrey.

Those wins helped Raonic become the first man representing Canada to reach a major final.

He did it, primarily, with speedy and intimidating serves, averaging 25½ aces. But on a breezy afternoon, at a Centre Court filled with nearly 15,000 partisan fans, Murray shut down that integral part of Raonic's game.

"This one's going to sting," said Raonic, who recently brought John McEnroe aboard as a coaching consultant.

It's been a rough few weeks for Britain, what with its vote to leave the European Union, the resulting drop of the pound's value, and the subsequent resignation of Prime Minister David Cameron, who was seated in the front row of the Royal Box on Sunday, several seats over from Prince William and his wife, Kate.

Murray was even asked by a reporter during Wimbledon how it felt being Britain's "last hope," a question he dismissed by wryly replying, "It's not that bad, is it?"

During the on-court trophy presentation Sunday, Murray clutched his golden reward and joked: "Playing in a Wimbledon final's tough, but I certainly wouldn't like to be a prime minister.

It's an impossible job."

Murray, a 29-year-old from Scotland, long dealt with the expectations that accompanied being the locals' best chance to find a champion to succeed Fred Perry, who won the tournament in 1936. But Murray has thrived, with a counter-punching, defensive game and sublime returns of serve.

In a testament to Murray's ability as a returner — a combination of timing and dexterity — it took Raonic 36 minutes and five service games to record his first ace. Over and over, Murray managed to get the ball back, even one that came in at 147 mph. Raonic was limited to eight aces, only one more than Murray.

And while Murray only broke Raonic once, to lead 4-3 in the opening set, that was all it took, because the tiebreakers were surprisingly one-way traffic. Raonic came in having won a tour-leading 20 tiebreakers this season, dropping only six.

Murray also took 50 of 65 points he served across the first two sets, not only never facing so much as a break point in that span but only once being taken to deuce.

Finally, at 2-all in the third, Raonic got to 15-40 for his first — and, it turned out, only — break points, thanks to a forehand return winner off an 82 mph second serve. But Murray stood tall, taking the next four points to hold, then wheeled toward his box, pumping his right fist and yelling.

According to the official statistics, Murray made only 12 unforced errors, including two in the second set. While that's a subjective accounting, anyone watching and listening could plainly tell that he was striking the ball cleanly and confidently, a crisp thwack resonating as racket strings hit ball, much more often than not putting shots right where intended.

"Really good stuff," Murray said.

He had lost his most recent three Grand Slam finals, all to Djokovic, including at the Australian Open in January and French Open last month, as well as the Australian Open in 2015. He avoided becoming the first man in history to be the runner-up at a season's first three majors.

Those three recent setbacks came without Ivan Lendl by his side, though. They worked together when Murray won his first two Slam trophies, including at the 2012 U.S. Open, then split up, before reuniting last month.

Once again, the partnership paid off.

"This is obviously the most important tournament for me, every year," Murray said. "I'm proud to have my hands on the trophy again."

'Old guys' win trials, Rio-bound

Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — A few more kids are on their way to Brazil after Saturday's racing at the U.S. Track and Field Trials.

In this case, they are 41-year-old Bernard Lagat's son and daughter, Miika and Gianna.

The American record-holder flipped the script on youth-filled trials Saturday, running his final lap of the 5,000 meters in 52 seconds to charge from sixth to first and earn his fifth, and most surprising, trip to the Olympics.

Lagat, who won in 13 minutes, 35.50 seconds, will have his wife, Gladys, and kids in tow on the way to Rio.

Joining them there will be Justin Gatlin, 34, who won the 200-meter final to advance to his third Olympics. He held off LaShawn Merritt and two high schoolers, Michael Norman and Noah Lyles, who stood as the latest examples of the growing youth movement in American track.

Already, there are three 20-and-under track-and-field athletes heading to Rio — Vashti Cunningham, Keturah Orji and Trayvon Bromell — with 16-year-old Sydney McLaughlin trying for a 400-hurdles spot Sunday.

But some of these old guys can run, too. And Lagat was determined to show he's not near finished.

"They were saying I'm done and cannot make the team," he said. "That didn't sound right to me."

That talk picked up last year, when the Kenyan-born runner missed his first worlds or Olympics team since he became an American citizen in 2005 — a failure he said "crushed him," in large part because his kids were pushing hard for him to make the trip. Turns out, Lagat has plenty of gas in the tank.

Nobody overlooks Gatlin, the world silver medalist at 100 and 200 meters, though he certainly wasn't center stage to start the 200-meter final — stuck on the outside lane thanks to finishing behind Noran in the previous day's semifinals.

Unable to see the competition as he worked the curve, it turned the race into what he called "a glorified time trial."

It turned into quite a showdown along the stretch, with Gatlin finishing in 19.75 seconds and edging Merritt — the 400-meter specialist who's pretty good at 200, too — by a mere .04 seconds.

Like Merritt, Allyson Felix remains in the mix for the 200-400 double; she made it easily through her semifinal round. Like Merritt, Felix turned 30 in the past year. And like Merritt, she is an expert at pacing herself through the rounds in multiple races.

"Experience means a lot," Merritt said. "It's being comfortable once you get out there. Being able to use the nerves as positive energy. And knowing you've been there before and know how to handle it, it gives you a chip on your shoulder."

Lagat certainly had one.

Along with another incentive. "My daughter said, 'I want you to win,'" Lagat said, "so I can go see gymnastics."

Star-studded card delivers at UFC 200

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Brock Lesnar returned from a 4½-year UFC absence with a unanimous-decision victory over Mark Hunt, and Amanda Nunes took the bantamweight title from Miesha Tate with a stunning first-round stoppage at UFC 200 on Saturday night.

Jose Aldo also won a competitive decision over Frankie Edgar to claim the interim featherweight title on the UFC's star-studded landmark show.

Daniel Cormier dominated a decision over Anderson Silva, who took the fight on two days' notice after Jon Jones was dropped from the main event for failing a drug test.

While Brazil's Nunes shocked Tate in the main event, the hulking Lesnar (6-3) was the greatest curiosity on the card. The pro wrestler earned his first mixed martial arts victory since July 2010, dominating Hunt with wrestling skill and sheer mass.

"I'm older, and when I decided to make this comeback, it was a hard decision," the 39-year-old Lesnar said. "I'm glad I

did. This goes to show for everybody out there, if you don't stick your neck out, you'll never get ahead."

Underdog Nunes' victory was a stunner.

"Everybody knows that I respect Miesha a lot, (but) I'm the new champion," said Nunes, also the first openly gay champion in UFC history. "For years I've been working hard for this moment. I feel amazing."

Nunes (14-4) became the fourth different fighter to hold the UFC's 135-pound belt in the last eight months since Ronda Rousey lost it to Holly Holm.

Holm lost the belt to Tate in March, but Nunes dominated Tate (18-6) from the start, stunning her with multiple big shots.

Tate was bloodied and unsteady by the time Nunes sunk in a rear naked choke and ended it 3:16 into the first round.

The 41-year-old Silva (33-8) stepped up to fight the UFC's light heavyweight champ after Jones was ruled out Wednesday night. Although Silva is 45 months removed from his last victory — and seven weeks removed from gallbladder surgery — he gamely took a shot at Cormier, who

was denied a lucrative, career-defining rematch with the troubled Jones.

Cormier (18-1) had little trouble with one of his heroes, largely keeping Silva pinned to the canvas on his back. Silva goaded Cormier into a few striking exchanges, and he even hurt Cormier slightly in the final minute, but the champ won 30-26 on all three cards.

Aldo put on a masterclass in his return, cutting Edgar in the first round and tormenting him for four more rounds.

Aldo reclaimed one version of the belt he held until his 13-second knockout loss to Conor McGregor in December — and he's also likely to get the lucrative next shot at McGregor whenever the 145-pound champion finally returns to their division following his second bout with Nate Diaz next month.

The Irish star stood amid the floor crowd at cageside when the fight began. Afterward, Aldo put on his belt and immediately made threatening gestures at McGregor, who shouted back at his most bitter rival.

"I have one goal left, and that's to beat this guy," Aldo said.



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Nats' Murphy crushes Mets

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Daniel Murphy is torching major league pitching and no one is burned more than his former New York Mets teammates.

Murphy, who is leading the majors in hitting, homered for the sixth time this year against the Mets, drove in four runs, leading Max Scherzer and the Washington Nationals over New York 6-1 Saturday night.

"Oh my gosh, how many superlatives can you say?" Scherzer said when asked about Murphy. "This guy is just absolutely hitting the cover off the ball. He just understands what he is doing at the plate. He has such a great feel for the strike zone and when he gets his pitch, he hits it, and he is hitting these guys pretty good."

Murphy had a run-scoring single in the third inning, an RBI double in the fifth and launched his 16th home run in the seventh. He is hitting .349 overall — he's batting .438 (21-for-48) with 19 RBIs against the Mets after becoming a free agent in the offseason and signing with Washington.

Murphy refused to discuss his accomplishments against the team that he led to the NL pennant.

His focus was on the Nationals, their season and winning this four-game series, with the Nats leading 2-1. Even being

booed at Citi Field didn't seem to draw a reaction.

"I guess it means you are doing something to help your ballclub win a game, against that team," Murphy said. "That's the way I look at it."

The NL East leaders now have a five-game lead on the Mets. At 53-36, they set a team record for wins before the All-Star break, snapping the mark from 2005, the club's first season in Washington after the move from Montreal.

Nationals manager Dusty Baker did not understand the booing. He added Murphy's hitting reminded him of some of the great players he either played with or managed — Orlando Cepeda, Rico Carty, Barry Bonds, Jeff Kent and Moises Alou.

"He is not missing much," Baker said. "His concentration level is beyond compare right now."

Baker is not surprised that Murphy has hit the Mets.

"Anybody who has gotten traded or came back to play their old team, definitely it means a lot to them," Baker said.

Mets manager Terry Collins said Murphy is taking advantage of mistakes.

"You know, he's pumped up to play against us and show us we made a mistake," Collins said. "That's human nature and it's part of the game. We just got to make better pitches. We're giving him balls to hit. They were good pitches to hit.

We've got to do a better job."

Scherzer (10-6) gave up three hits and an unearned run in seven innings. He joined fellow Nationals ace Stephen Strasburg (12-0) in having 10 wins before the All-Star break.

Logan Verrett (3-6) gave up five runs on only four hits in 6²/₃ innings, but he was hurt by walks. His first three all scored, including one to Scherzer.

The Mets staked Verrett to a lead in the first. Jose Reyes drew a leadoff walk, Curtis Granderson followed with a single and both runners advanced on left fielder Jayson Werth's throwing error back to the infield.

Scherzer minimized the damage, giving up a sacrifice fly to Neil Walker and striking out Asdrubal Cabrera and Brandon Nimmo. The hard-throwing righty cruised the rest of the way, fanning nine.

After walking Alejandro De Aza with two outs in the seventh, Baker considered taking out Scherzer. He went to the mound and asked the righty how he felt. The pitcher said he was still strong and wanted to finish the inning.

Baker wanted to see the look in Scherzer's eye to confirm that, so he asked the pitcher which eye he should look at. Scherzer has a blue eye and a brown one.

"He said the expletive brown eye," Baker said with a laugh. The pitcher stayed in and got Travis d'Arnaud on a liner to left.

Keselowski hangs on for Ky. win

Associated Press

SPARTA, Ky. — Brad Keselowski's calm demeanor was never more evident than his cool response to a tense moment.

He radioed crew chief Paul Wolfe that his No. 2 Ford was out of fuel but stayed focused, heeding instructions to milk whatever mileage he could.

Keselowski ended up having enough to become the first three-time winner at Kentucky Speedway on Saturday night, overtaking Kevin Harvick on lap 201 and holding on for the Sprint Cup Series victory.

"We ran out with about two (laps) to go," he said. "Somehow we limped it around and stay ahead of Carl (Edwards) and bring it home. This is something I'm not going to forget.

"It's a pretty helpless feeling being out of gas with guys behind you. But there's nothing you can do about it, and freaking out ain't going to help anything."

Matt Kenseth grabbed the lead with six laps remaining but soon pitted for fuel to hand the top spot back to Keselowski, who had just enough gas in reserve to edge Edwards by .175 seconds in the closest victory margin for the 400-mile race. Keselowski's tank eventually ran dry and he needed a tow truck to get to victory lane.

Ryan Newman was third, followed by Kurt Busch and then Tony Stewart in fifth in his final Kentucky race. The three-time series champion is retiring after this season.

Keselowski led three times for a total of 75 laps on his way to his second straight win and series-best fourth of the season that clinched a spot in the Chase for the championship.

The Penske Racing driver pitted just four times after starting second and made the most of his gas tank down to the last drop, withstanding one last charge from Edwards.

Hamilton races to British victory

Associated Press

SILVERSTONE, England — Defending Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton reeled off his fourth win in five races Sunday to storm to victory in the British Grand Prix.

The 31-year-old Englishman came home 6.9 seconds clear of his German teammate Nico Rosberg. Dutch teenager Max Verstappen was third ahead of his Red Bull teammate Daniel Ricciardo of Australia.

Hamilton's victory completes a hat trick of consecutive home wins at the British Grand Prix for the Mercedes driver, and is his fourth win on home soil and the 47th of his career.

The win cut Rosberg's lead in the world championship to four points, subject to an investigation into the German's comments during a radio dialogue with his pit crew as he tried to resolve a gearbox problem late in the race.

Kimi Raikkonen finished fifth for Ferrari ahead of Sergio Perez and his Force India teammate Nico Hulkenberg, Carlos Sainz of Toro Rosso, Sebastian Vettel in the second Ferrari and Daniil Kvyat in the second Toro Rosso.

Bell hits grand slam for Pirates

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Josh Bell gave his veteran manager goose bumps. He fired up a sellout crowd at PNC Park, too.

Bell's grand slam in his second major-league at bat was one of four homers by the Pittsburgh Pirates in a 12-6 win over the Chicago Cubs on Saturday night.

Bell slugged a 1-1 pitch from Adam Warren (3-2) over the seats perched above the 21-foot wall in right for his second pinch-hit in two games since being recalled from Triple-A on Friday.

"What a fantastic sequence," said the Pirates' Clint Hurdle, who has more than 1,000 managerial wins. "I got goose bumps. I've got them probably a dozen times since I've been a coach or a manager.

"Chills went down my spine. ... Seemed like the stadium was pretty excited, too.

Jordy Mercer followed Bell's slam with a home run to make it a five-run fifth for the Pirates, who have won nine of 10 and 12 of their last 15 to move within 6½ games of Chicago in the National League Central.

Andrew McCutchen and Sean Rodriguez homered earlier off suddenly struggling Cubs starter Jon Lester, the National League pitcher of the month for June. Lester has allowed 13 runs in 4¹/₃ innings in July, including five in three innings Saturday.

"Terrible. Unacceptable. Letdown," Lester said, describing his outing. "Offense gives me two runs early and then gives me runs again - and then I give it right back. Obviously a letdown, not only for myself but for the team."

Ben Zobrist had a two-run homer and Anthony Rizzo had four hits for Chicago, which has lost nine of 10 and seen its division lead dwindle to as small as its been since May.

"I feel like we're fortunate to be [up 6½ games] right now, actually," manager Joe Maddon said. "I don't believe it's a negative; I think it's a positive."

Chad Kuhl lasted only 2¹/₃ innings in his third major-league start, surrendering Zobrist's 13th home run among seven hits allowed. But Pittsburgh's bullpen was much better as Arquimedes Caminero (1-2) struck out three in 1²/₃ innings and Jared Hughes earned his third major-league save by pitching three scoreless innings.

Red Sox 4, Rays 1: Rick Porcello pitched seven innings to remain unbeaten in his Fenway Park starts this season as the Red Sox sent the Rays to their fifth straight loss.

On a day when the Red Sox learned they lost closer Craig Kimbrel to a left knee injury for likely three to six weeks, they won for the fifth time in six games.

Giants 4, Diamondbacks 2: Brandon Belt had an RBI triple and Grant Green homered for the first time this season while host San Francisco got a big lift from its bullpen.

Angel Pagan added two hits and Ruben Tejada doubled in a run for the Giants, who have won seven of nine and are a major league-best 56-33.

Tigers 3, Blue Jays 2: Victor Martinez hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning to help Detroit stop host Toronto's seven-game winning streak.

Orioles 3, Angels 2: Jonathan Schoop scored the tying run on a seventh-inning balk and delivered the decisive RBI single in the eighth, leading host Baltimore to the win.

The victory assured the Orioles sole possession of first place in the AL East at the All-Star break, which begins after the conclusion of Sunday's schedule.

Yankees 7, Indians 6 (11): Brian McCann's RBI double with two outs in the 11th inning lifted visiting New York.

Cardinals 8, Brewers 1: Jhonny Peralta, Tommy Pham and Aledmys Diaz homered, powering St. Louis to the road win.

Dodgers 4, Padres 3: Dodgers right-

hander Brandon McCarthy won his second straight start after a 14-month recovery from Tommy John surgery for host Los Angeles.

McCarthy (2-0) gave up three runs in five innings, including a two-run homer by Yangervis Solarte in the first.

Rockies 8, Phillies 3: Tyler Anderson homered and earned his first big league win, leading host Colorado to the victory.

Anderson (1-3) allowed two runs in six innings. He singled for his first big league hit and homered for his second.

White Sox 5, Braves 4: Todd Frazier hit his 25th homer for host Chicago and Jose Quintana outshone Julio Teheran in the majors' first all-Colombian pitching matchup.

Frazier, who will go for his second straight Home Run Derby title Monday, hit a two-run shot in the second and an RBI double in Chicago's three-run third.

Royals 5, Mariners 3: Salvador Perez homered and made a key pickoff throw to help host Kansas City to the win.

Perez hit a solo drive off the foul pole in the seventh inning that gave the Royals a two-run lead.

Athletics 3, Astros 2: Kendall Graveman pitched eight-plus innings for visiting Oakland, and Stephen Vogt had three hits, including a homer.

Vogt hit a solo drive in the second and an RBI single in the third.

Marlins 4, Reds 2: Martin Prado had three hits, including a double that put host Miami ahead to stay.

Prado hiked his average to .323 and capped a rally in the fifth inning with a two-out, two-run double that right fielder Jay Bruce misjudged. J.T. Realmuto had two hits and scored three times.

Twins 8, Rangers 6: Eddie Rosario homered, tied a career record with four hits and scored a career-high four runs as visiting Minnesota beat Texas.