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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Afghan offensive on Islamic State begins

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Following a massive attack in Kabul, the Afghan military has launched a major offensive against the Islamic State group in the country's far eastern region near the border with Pakistan, Afghan and U.S. officials said on Tuesday.

The offensive began over the weekend in Nangarhar province, where the Islamic State group has had a presence for the past year, said Dawlat Waziri, spokesman for the Defense Ministry.

The offensive, part of the government's Operation Shafaq — or Dawn in Pashto — started hours after an Islamic State suicide bomber killed at least 80 people who were taking part in a peaceful demonstration in Kabul on Saturday.

It was the deadliest attack to hit the Afghan capital since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

President Ashraf Ghani gave the orders for the offensive, which Waziri said will consist of

airstrikes and ground attacks, including those by special forces. Clean-up operations aimed at ensuring that Islamic State loyalists do not return to the area would follow, he added.

The offensive marks a new chapter in Afghanistan's war against insurgents. Until now they have been a largely defensive force, and have struggled to take the lead on the battlefield since the withdrawal in 2014 of most international combat forces.

The head of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, Gen. John Nicholson, has pledged to transform the Afghan military into an offensive force so they can take the fight to the insurgents, and reclaim battlefield initiative.

While the main fight is against the Taliban — who have been battling to overthrow the Kabul government for 15 years — this counterterrorism operation against the Islamic State group will enable Nicholson to implement an aggressive new strategy, working closely with

the Afghan military and using more airstrikes against the enemy, analysts say.

President Barack Obama recently expanded the conditions for U.S. troops in Afghanistan to support Afghan offensive operations. Nicholson can make the strategic shift from using airpower only to defend U.S. and NATO positions, to striking in support of Afghan offensives.

Obama's directives, issued in June, enable the U.S. military to work alongside Afghan forces in the field on offensive missions against insurgents, though still in a noncombat role. Since 2014, their role was confined to battles in which the Taliban directly threatened U.S. and NATO forces. They also allow U.S. involvement when Afghan forces face "strategic defeat," as they did in the northern provincial capital of Kunduz, which briefly fell to the Taliban last September and was threatened again in April.

The U.S. military spokesman in Kabul, Brig. Gen. Charles H. Cleveland, said American forc-

es have been involved in the current operation in the east and are conducting "multiple counterterrorism strikes." He said that since Jan. 1 this year, U.S. forces have conducted "more than 450 kinetic strikes" both under the new authorities and for force protection.

Haqiqullah Walizada, spokesman for the fourth regiment of the Afghan army's 201 Corps, said 260 Islamic State gunmen had been killed in the Kot and Achin districts since the offensive began. Another 122 had been wounded, he said. The numbers could not be independently verified. No casualty figures for government troops were provided.

The formal start of the U.S.-backed offensive in Nangarhar appears to be an extension of months of attacks on Islamic State positions in the region. Afghan authorities have claimed huge numbers of Islamic State loyalists killed in these operations, though without details or verification.

Attackers slit priest's throat during mass

Associated Press

SAINTE-ETIENNE-DU-ROUVRAY, France — Two attackers slit the throat of an 85-year-old priest celebrating Mass in a French church, killing him and gravely injuring one of the few worshippers present before being shot to death by police. A nun who escaped said she saw the attackers video themselves and "give a sermon in Arabic" around the altar.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the first attack in a church in the West. Police rescued three

other people inside the church — including a second nun — in the small northwestern town of Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, said Interior Ministry spokesman Pierre-Henry Brandet.

A regional Muslim leader said one of the two attackers — both killed outside the church — was known to police. A police official said he had tried to go to Syria.

It was the first known attack claimed by the Islamic State group inside a church in the West. A church outside Paris was targeted last year, but the attack never was carried out.

A statement published by the

Islamic State-affiliated Amaq news agency said the attack was carried out by "two soldiers of the Islamic State" who acted in response to calls to target nations in the U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

The statement echoed claims in other recent attacks in France and neighboring Germany. It repeated its threat to Western "crusaders."

A nun who was in the church said the priest was forced to the ground before his throat was slit. The nun, identified as Sister Danielle, told BFM television:

"They forced him to his knees. He wanted to defend himself. And that's when the tragedy happened."

She said the attackers recorded themselves.

"They did a sort of sermon around the altar, in Arabic. It's a horror," she said.

Dominique Lebrun, the archbishop of Rouen, confirmed the death of the Rev. Jacques Hamel. The priest "was always ready to help," said Rouen diocese official Philippe Mahut. He said Hamel had been at the church for the past decade.

Hostility, history at Dems' convention

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A glass ceiling is shattering at the Democratic National Convention as Hillary Clinton ascends to the presidential nomination with Tuesday's roll call of the states, making her the first woman to lead a major party into a White House race.

Clinton's campaign hoped to use the achievement to bolster the candidate's popularity — mindful that while many voters are happy to be nominating a woman, they're not wild about this particular female candidate. Former President Bill Clinton and other speakers will offer prime-time testimonials to her career highlights and advocacy, hoping to soften her image and resistance to her bid.

But as history is being made, hostility is being heard too. Bernie Sanders' primary challenge has unleashed vitriol toward the party establishment that Sanders himself has been unable to rein in. His supporters, many new to party politics, spent much of Monday protesting his treatment by top officials, even booing Clinton's name.

The division left what was once expected to be a tightly orchestrated convention, run with all the professionalism and experience that were lacking at Republicans' often-chaotic coronation of Donald Trump last week, showing rough edges in the early going.

On Tuesday, Sanders, who has endorsed Clinton, tried to keep the conflict from consuming another day and marring a history-making moment. This is an "unbelievably

critical moment" for Democrats, he told Wisconsin delegates in the latest of a string of pleas for unity.

First lady Michelle Obama delivered the same message Monday night in a heartfelt endorsement of the candidate who engaged her husband in a fierce struggle for the nomination in 2008. "I trust Hillary to lead this country," she said in a speech that provided a parent's-eye view of the White House and its power.

Liberal favorite Elizabeth Warren, senator from Massachusetts, and Sanders himself also did their part to bring along the Sanders fan base. While asserting "our revolution continues," Sanders argued that on issues of poverty, immigration, environmental protection and more, Clinton's election counts.

US, Russia agree on pact to avoid incidents at sea

WASHINGTON — The United States and Russia agreed to uphold a Cold War-era pact to prevent incidents at sea and in the air after recent aggressive maneuvers by Russian planes on U.S. ships and aircraft, the Navy's top officer said Tuesday.

In June, the U.S. and Russia validated their "Incidents at Sea" agreement during a meeting in Naples, Italy, said Adm. John Richardson, the Navy's chief of operations.

In the last year, the U.S. has reported several aggressive encounters with Russia's navy and its aircraft, including two in the Mediterranean Sea in the last month.

US, China to resume port visits?

WASHINGTON — Port visits by U.S. warships to China are likely to restart following a visit in Beijing last week, Adm. John Richardson said Tuesday.

"I think there was some progress made — talking about the importance of the port calls, making sure they happen," said Richardson, the Navy's chief of operations.

In April, the USS John C. Stennis and four other warships in the aircraft carrier's strike group were denied entry into Hong Kong. The denial followed months of increased tensions between the two countries in the South China Sea where China has built-up man-made islands and the U.S. has challenged their territorial claim by cruising ships close to those islands.

During the visit, the two sides discussed the South China Sea claims, but also areas of cooperation.

From staff reports

Mentally disabled people targeted by stabber in Japan who kills 19

Associated Press

SAGAMIHARA, Japan — A young Japanese man went on a stabbing rampage Tuesday at a facility for the mentally disabled where he had been fired, officials said, killing 19 people months after he gave a letter to Parliament outlining the bloody plan and saying all disabled people should be put to death.

When he was done, Kanagawa prefectural authorities said, Satoshi Uematsu, 26, had left dead or injured nearly a third of the almost 150 patients at the facility in a matter of 40 minutes in the early Tuesday attack. It is Japan's deadliest mass killing in decades. The fire department said 25 were wounded, 20 of them seriously.

Security camera footage played on TV news programs showed a man driving up in a black car and carrying several knives to the Tsukui Yamayuri-en facility in Sagami-hara, 30 miles west of Tokyo. The man broke in by shattering a window at 2:10 a.m., according to a prefectural health official, and then set about slashing the patients' throats.

Sagamihara fire department official Kunio Takano said the attacker killed 10 women and nine men. The youngest was 19, the oldest 70.

Kanagawa prefecture welfare division official Tatsuhisa Hirose said many details of the attack weren't clear because those who might know were still being questioned by police.

The suspect calmly turned himself in

about two hours after the attack, police said.

Uematsu had worked at Tsukui Yamayuri-en, which means mountain lily garden, from 2012 until February, when he was let go. He knew the staffing would be down to just a handful in the wee hours of the morning, Japanese media reports said.

The facility employs more than 200 people, including part-timers, with nine of them working the night of the attack, Hirose said. All those killed were patients.

In February, Uematsu tried to hand deliver a letter to Parliament's lower house speaker that demanded that all disabled people be put to death through "a world that allows for mercy killing," Kyodo news agency and TBS TV reported. The Parliament office also confirmed the letter.

Uematsu boasted in the letter that he had the ability to kill 470 disabled people in what he called "a revolution," and outlined an attack on two facilities, after which he said he would turn himself in. He also asked he be judged innocent on grounds of insanity and be given \$5 million in aid and plastic surgery so he could lead a normal life afterward.

"My reasoning is that I may be able to revitalize the world economy and I thought it may be possible to prevent World War III," the letter says.

The letter was delivered before Uematsu's last day of work at the facility, but it was unclear whether the letter played a role in his firing, or even if his superiors had known about it.

Russian doping list growing

Associated Press

MOSCOW — At least 85 athletes from the 387-strong Russian Olympic team announced last week have so far been barred from the Rio Games in connection with the country's doping scandal.

International federations in canoeing and modern pentathlon ruled out seven on Tuesday, including an Olympic gold medalist, following earlier rulings in swimming and rowing. Some appeals are likely.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russian media that Putin had discussed the doping issue with his national security council.

"The topic of the recent International Olympic Committee ruling relating to Russian athletes was raised ahead of Putin's planned meeting tomorrow with the Russian Olympic team," Peskov was quoted as saying.

The vast majority of the Russian athletes who miss out are in track and field, where 67 athletes were ruled out when a ban on the Russian team was upheld at the Court of Arbitration for Sport last week.

More are falling foul of new rules imposed in the wake of the country's doping scandal.

While Russia avoided a blanket ban from the International Olympic Committee, it has lost several medal contenders to new IOC rules imposed Sunday banning Russia from entering athletes who previously doped.

Alexander Dyachenko, an Olympic champion in 2012, was among five canoeists ruled out after being named in a recent report by World Anti-Doping Agency investigator Richard McLaren alleging a

state-sponsored doping cover-up.

McLaren's report last week specifically detailed how Russian state officials allegedly intervened to cover up hundreds of failed drug tests.

Dyachenko won gold in the men's double kayak 200 meters at the 2012 London Games.

"The ICF will continue its strong zero-tolerance stance and remove all athletes that contravene its rules in anyway," said Simon Toulson, the International Canoe Federation's general secretary. "If you step out of line you won't make the start line."

The four other banned canoeists are Alexei Korovashkov — a 2012 bronze medalist in the C2 1,000 meters event — Andrei Kraitor, Elena Anyushina and Nataliya Podolskaya.

The ICF also said that Russia would not be allowed to enter boats in four events in which the excluded athletes would have raced. Therefore, Austria, Germany, Sweden and Iran are in line to receive their places.

Meanwhile, the International Modern Pentathlon Union named the two Russians it had suspended as Maxim Kustov and Ilya Frolov, saying they both featured in the McLaren report. Kustov's place in the men's event passes to a Latvian athlete, while Frolov had only been entered for Rio as a reserve.

Three Russian rowers have also been excluded. Ivan Podshivalov and Anastasia Karabelshchikova were excluded because they previously served doping bans, while Ivan Balandin from Russia's men's eight was implicated in the McLaren report, World Rowing said.

Meanwhile, volleyball player Alexander Markin told local media he had been dropped due to a positive test earlier this year for the banned substance meldonium,

even though he had not been banned. The international volleyball federation did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The head of the Russian Wrestling Federation told the R-Sport agency that two-time world champion Viktor Lebedev was ineligible because he was given a doping ban in 2006.

On Monday, swimming's world governing body FINA ruled out seven Russians including reigning world 100-meter breaststroke champion Yulia Efimova.

Legal challenges are looming. Efimova's agent has said he is preparing an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, and the Russian Canoe Federation's general secretary Irina Sirayeva said that the five banned could follow suit.

"The intention to defend the athletes is there," she told R-Sport.

Triple jumper Ekaterina Koneva — a former world championship silver medalist — told local media she was considering a lawsuit in civil court.

There was good news for Russia as its team of 18 shooters received approval to compete from the sport's international federation. Also, Russia looks set to field a full team of four players in Olympic badminton, the Russian Badminton Federation said Tuesday, citing assurances from the Badminton World Federation.

Previously, archery and equestrian sport's world governing bodies said they had no objection to the Russians entered in their sports.

Lists of Russian athletes approved by international federations must still be approved by CAS arbiters who can reject athletes not tested outside Russia.

The IOC refused to accept testing done by Russian agencies because of evidence that the process was corrupted.

Dygert's in pursuit of a gold

Associated Press

The Olympics were never something to which Chloe Dygert paid much attention, not when there were pick-up basketball games and a million other things on her mind while growing up near Indianapolis.

Not even four years ago, when the London Games captured the world's imagination.

Dygert is a relative newcomer to bike racing. Not all that long ago, she was still focused on hoops and other more mainstream American sports, and the idea that she might someday compete for her country on two wheels amounted to — well, a preposterous proposition.

"Honestly, it was never really something I watched," she said. "I was always playing outside or doing something. I never watched TV. I knew about the Olympics but it never really interested me."

The 19-year-old Dygert is one of the sport's bright young stars, sweeping the junior road race and time trial at last fall's world championships. That showing piqued the interest of USA Cycling, and suddenly she was tapped to join its powerhouse women's pursuit squad for the Rio Games.

After winning the world title in record time, they're now the heavy favorites for Olympic gold. Dygert has spent most of that splitting time between her trade team, Twenty16-Ridebiker, and her Olympic pursuits. But with the Rio Games soon approaching, her attention has shifted entirely to the track.

"She's an absolutely incredible athlete," said Sarah Hammer, a two-time Olympic silver medalist and the elder stateswoman of the five-member pursuit squad. "I have really never seen anyone like her, how talented she is. I don't even think she realizes how talented she is."

Her father and brother introduced Dygert to cycling, but she didn't devote herself to it until injuries began to mount on the basketball court. Her breakthrough came in 2013, when she began to land on the podium in elite events, but it was followed by a major setback: She was persuaded to return to the hardwood in high school and wound up tearing her ACL, derailing her for an entire cycling season.

It was her final foray into hoops. Dygert recovered in time to race a few events late in 2014, and that set her up for a big 2015. She won her two junior world titles in Virginia, then raced a couple of mountain bike events for Marian University, her college squad. Then came the invitation from USA Cycling.

The women's pursuit team had won silver four years ago in London. It wanted gold in Rio.

Cycling officials thought Dygert would be perfect to round out a squad anchored by Hammer that also includes workhorses Kelly Catlin, Jennifer Valente and Ruth Winder. And they were right, too, as they roared to the world record in March in their first major event.

Shooter Rhode battles back from misfortune

Associated Press

Misfortune stacked up like spent shotgun shells in the four years since Kim Rhode won her third Olympic gold medal.

A brutally difficult pregnancy. A debilitating recovery, one that's still ongoing. Emergency gall bladder surgery. A five-day hospital stay for mosquito-borne illness. Her husband's own health issues. Her father's broken leg. The deaths of six friends.

Bitterness was readily available. All Rhode had to do was let it in.

Perspective prevented that door from swinging open.

For all that's been thrown at her, Rhode still has a healthy son, has herself on the slow road to recovery and will be joined by her family as she attempts to make history at the Rio Olympics next month.

"You just have to be thankful for what you have and know that there are people out there that have it worse, that are going through tougher times and just look at the positives in it," said Rhode. "I feel very, very thankful of where I'm at."

Rhode, 37, is one of the greatest athletes not just in Olympic shooting, but any sport.

She won double-trap gold at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics as a 17-year-old senior from El Monte (Calif.) Arroyo High School. Bronze followed at Sydney in 2000, another gold in Athens four years later. Rhode took silver in skeet at the 2008 Beijing Games and gold again, this time in skeet, at London in 2012.

Rhode is the first American athlete in an individual sport to earn a medal in five straight Olympics. She is the only woman to win three Olympic golds in shooting.

At Rio, she will be the first American to qualify for Olympics on five different continents and has a chance to join Italian luger Armin Zoeggeler as the only athlete to earn a medal in six straight Olympics. She also has 14 national championships and 28 World Cup medals, most all-time.

But Rhode's road hasn't always been easy.

Heading into the 2012 London Games, Rhode had two major setbacks: A breast

cancer scare and the theft of her \$15,000 shotgun, "Old Faithful," which she had used in her first four Olympics.

Oh, and her dog ate her plane ticket less than a week before Opening Ceremonies. Her husband lost his passport.

No matter. Rhode has an innate ability to shut out distractions and had a singular focus in London.

Using her new gun despite the return of her old one — authorities found it while searching the home of a parolee — she tied a world record by hitting 99 of 100 skeet targets in qualifying and cruised to her third Olympic gold. She also finished ninth in trap and became the first shotgun shooter to compete in all three disciplines at the Olympics.

Adding a degree or two of difficulty, Rhode was pregnant in London and didn't know it.

Rhode and her husband, Mike Harryman, were thrilled to learn they were expecting, but joy became tinged with pain as the pregnancy progressed.

Rhode is still recovering.



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Cubs trade for Chapman

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Before the Chicago Cubs completed a trade for Aroldis Chapman, owner Tom Ricketts and president of baseball operations Theo Epstein decided they had to hear from the closer himself about a domestic violence allegation in the offseason.

So Ricketts and Epstein asked Major League Baseball for a window to speak with the left-hander, and they got him on the phone Monday. When the conversation was over, the blockbuster deal was on.

Chasing their first World Series title since 1908, the Cubs addressed one of their few weaknesses by sending a pricey package of four players to the New York Yankees for Chapman, one of the most dominant relievers in the game, but one who also comes with some risk for a franchise riding a positive wave.

"This is a game-changer. Aroldis

Chapman is a game-changing-type pitcher in the postseason," Epstein said. "As you sit around and game plan how you're going to win a big game or how you're going to win a postseason game, it makes it look a lot easier when you see him there on your lineup card."

Chapman was expected to join the Cubs for Tuesday night's game at the cross-town White Sox.

For the Yankees, it was a rare July trade that saw the best player in the deal leaving New York. But Chapman is eligible for free agency after this season, New York also has All-Stars Andrew Miller and Dellin Betances in the bullpen, and its haul included top shortstop prospect Gleyber Torres, versatile pitcher Adam Warren and minor league outfielders Billy McKinney and Rashad Crawford.

"This was an easy call, and this was the right call," general manager Brian Cashman said. "Easy because we traded from an area of strength and we are excit-

ed about the players that we've received for someone that obviously was only under control for two more months."

The 28-year-old Chapman went 3-0 with a 2.01 ERA and 20 saves in 31 games for New York. He threw a 105.1 mph fastball to Baltimore's J.J. Hardy last week, matching the fastest since Major League Baseball began tracking speeds in 2008.

Chapman, who threw the 62 fastest pitches in the majors last season, was traded from Cincinnati to New York last December after a deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers fell through when it was learned Florida police investigated an accusation of domestic violence involving the Cuban pitcher.

Prosecutors declined to file charges, citing conflicting accounts, and Chapman was suspended for the first 29 games of the season, losing \$1,856,557 of his \$11,325,000 salary.

Epstein said the Cubs thoroughly investigated the situation.

Browns' Gordon reinstated

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Josh Gordon's curious and complicated career has taken a new turn.

He's getting yet another chance. The talented but troubled wide receiver has been reinstated on a conditional basis by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, who met face to face with Gordon last week and said he believes the 25-year-old can "make the right choices" going forward.

Gordon has been banned since February 2015 for multiple violations of the league's drug policies. He will be suspended for the first four games of the 2016-17 season, but he's allowed to join the team in its upcoming training camp and can participate in meetings and conditioning work.

The league said once Gordon meets clinical requirements, he can take part in preseason activities, including practices and games. The Browns have their first practice of training camp Friday.

It's a fresh start for Gordon, who emerged as one of the league's rising stars in 2013 before several missteps led to his banishment.

Gordon expressed his gratitude in a message on Twitter.

"I'm blessed and grateful to be granted this opportunity," he wrote. "I can't wait to get back out there and play the game I love in front of the great fans of Cleveland."

"I want to thank the NFLPA, Commissioner Goodell, the Haslam family and Browns organization, my agent Drew Rosenhaus, as well as my mentors for their continuous support along the way."

"I've heard only good things from my teammates about the positive direction the organization is heading and I want to do everything I can to be there to help further that process not only for the team but to better myself as well."

As long as he stays clean, Gordon, who met with Goodell in New York on July 19, is eligible to return to the team on Oct. 3 and play in the Oct. 9 home game against New England. That's also the game in which Patriots quarterback Tom Brady will return following his suspension for Deflategate.

During his four-game suspension, Gordon may participate in team meetings and other activities, but can't practice or play in games.

The Browns said in a statement that Gordon would be with the team for the start of training camp. "At that time, we will discuss directly with Josh the direction of our team, our expectations of our players and a plan to support him on and off the field," the statement said.

Gordon was suspended 10 games in 2014 and the entire 2015 season for substance violations, a pattern that began during his college career at Baylor and Utah. He was denied reinstatement in April after failing a drug test because of samples that also tested positive for marijuana.

In a letter to Gordon, Goodell made it clear the onus is on the former Pro Bowler to stay clean.

"As we discussed at our (July 19) meeting, as Commissioner, I want nothing more than to see you turn your circumstances around and succeed," Goodell said.

First-year coach Hue Jackson has mostly steered clear of discussing Gordon or the player's future during his first months with Cleveland.

During his ban, Gordon has continued to receive support from Browns cornerback Joe Haden, who tweeted, "Welcome back!!" to his friend.

Beltre's second HR rallies Rangers

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Adrian Beltre got the fastball he wanted.

Beltre's second home run of the game was a two-run shot on the first pitch from Ryan Madson with two outs in the ninth inning, and it rallied the Texas Rangers past the Oakland Athletics 7-6 Monday night for their third straight win.

Ian Desmond homered early for the Rangers. They increased their AL West lead for the first time since June 26, to 3½ games over Houston.

Beltre, who finished with four hits, had two singles in his first three at-bats before hitting a solo homer in the seventh against John Axford.

Texas had trailed since Danny Valencia hit a two-run homer for Oakland in the first. All 13 runs in the game were scored with two outs.

White Sox 5, Cubs 4: Tyler Saladino hit a game-ending RBI single, and the host White Sox topped the Cubs.

J.B. Shuck sparked the winning rally with a leadoff single against Mike Montgomery (3-5), who was acquired in a deal with Seattle last Wednesday. Shuck advanced on Dione Navarro's sacrifice and Saladino followed with a bouncer into center field.

Yankees 2, Astros 1: Austin Romine hit a tiebreaking double in the eighth inning to make a winner of Michael Pineda, and visiting New York's bullpen did just fine without star closer Aroldis Chapman.

Hours after New York traded Chapman to the Chicago Cubs, All-Star reliever Dellin Betances and Andrew Miller closed out Houston to help the fourth-place Yankees (51-48) move three games above .500 for the first time this season.

Blue Jays 4, Padres 2: Aaron Sanchez pitched seven shutout innings to win his 10th consecutive decision, Kevin Pillar had three hits for host Toronto.

Sanchez (11-1) became the first Blue Jays pitcher to win 10 straight since Roy Halladay won 15 decisions in a row in 2003. Halladay and Roger Clemens (1998) hold the club record.

Brewers 7, Diamondbacks 2: Martin Maldonado hit a three-run homer and host Milwaukee went deep four times, spoiling the major league debut of Arizona pitching prospect Braden Shipley.

Shipley (0-1) was selected 15th overall by the Diamondbacks in the 2013 amateur draft. He doubled and scored in the third but was chased by Maldonado's homer in the sixth.

Orioles 3, Rockies 2 (10): Adam Jones scored the winning run in the 10th inning on a low throw to the plate by pitcher Jordan Lyles, and host Baltimore won its fifth straight.

Jones reached on a one-out single off the third-base bag and took third on a single by Jonathan Schoop. Manny Machado followed with a comebacker to Lyles, who fumbled the ball before throwing home. Catcher Nick Hundley caught the ball

near the ground and lost the handle while attempting to tag the sliding Jones.

Tigers 4, Red Sox 2: Jose Iglesias hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning, Justin Verlander pitched six solid innings and Detroit spoiled Drew Pomeranz's second start with host Boston.

Verlander (10-6) allowed one run and five hits and struck out five to pick up the victory. Detroit pulled within 5½ games of idle AL Central-leading Cleveland.

Reds 7, Giants 5: Jay Bruce hit a pair of two-run homers to help Anthony DeSclafani remain unbeaten, and Cincinnati beat host San Francisco.

It was the third multihomer game this season for the Cincinnati slugger and 20th of his career.

Phillies 4, Marlins 0: Jeremy Hellickson dominated host Miami for a second straight start, throwing six innings of one-hit ball.

Tommy Joseph hit a two-out RBI double in the top of the eighth to break a scoreless tie, and David Hernandez (2-3) pitched an inning in relief to earn the victory in a combined two-hitter.

Angels 6, Royals 2: Albert Pujols drove in four runs and Hector Santiago won his fifth consecutive start for visiting Los Angeles.

Pujols leads the majors with 26 RBIs in July, including 16 in his past eight games.

Earnhardt's return could take more time

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Dale Earnhardt Jr. warned Monday that his return to NASCAR could take longer than planned.

NASCAR's most popular driver is scheduled to miss his third consecutive race this Sunday with concussion-like symptoms. On his weekly podcast, he said he will have another evaluation soon to see "what kind of gains we've made and get in front of my doctors ... and let them tell me where they think I'm at and that will help us make the decision on what we're going to do for Watkins Glen."

Jeff Gordon came out of retirement to drive for Earnhardt on Sunday at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and Gordon will race the No. 88 car again this weekend at Pocono. No decision has been made by Hendrick Motorsports about next month's race at Watkins Glen.

Earnhardt said on last week's podcast he was struggling with balance and nausea, and said Monday doctors have given him daily exercises to improve his balance.

"That stuff takes about two hours, two and a half hours," he said. "I've got to do it every day. There's worse things to have

to do. Some of it is tedious. Some of it is pretty tough. Some of the visual stuff is pretty tough.

"You can race with some ailments. You can race with a bad wrist ... there's been some guys that have done some pretty incredible things. I've raced with a broken shoulder blade. There's certain things you can race through, but one of the things you cannot race through is concussion-like symptoms. The balance deal is a critical part of being able to drive a race car."