

US military orders limits in S. Korea amid virus surge

By **DAVID CHOI**
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — The U.S. military in South Korea reimposed a mandatory mask policy and restricted travel to Seoul as the nation recorded another record-breaking number of coronavirus cases Friday.

The U.S. Forces Korea directive, which lasts through July 23, came as the South Korean government announced 1,316 new patients Friday, bringing the country's number of known infections to 165,344.

"To protect our communities and our mission, we are implementing an immediate, aggressive approach to prevent the virus' spread any further," USFK commander Gen. Paul LaCamera said in a statement.

Seoul reported 583 cases Wednesday, the highest number of daily transmissions there since the pandemic began. There were 503 new patients on Friday.

Travel to Areas I and II, which includes the Seoul metropolitan area, is limited to mission-essential and official duties for USFK personnel until the directive expires. The command also reimposed a requirement that everyone wear masks while indoors on military installations, regardless of whether they are fully vaccinated.

Those who have been vaccinated will be allowed to remove their masks while "actively" exercising in on-post gyms, as long as they observe social distancing measures, according to the USFK statement.

Bars and clubs across the peninsula remain off-limits to anyone associated with USFK. Military police stepped up their patrols near a popular beach in Busan recently to ensure service members complied with local and USFK regulations against drinking and large groups.

USFK announced Wednesday and Friday that 25 people, six of them new arrivals to the peninsula, had tested positive for COVID-19 between June 10 and July 3.

The surge of new cases prompted Seoul officials to extend their mitigation efforts by deploying inspectors to businesses consid-

ered to be a high risk for transmissibility and shortening public transportation schedules in the evenings.

More than 100 police officers and 200 public employees will be cracking down on safety violations and nighttime drinking at the Han River bordering Seoul for the next 17 days, the Seoul government announced Friday.

Seoul had also mandated an indoor and outdoor mask policy, regardless of a person's vaccination status. Violators are subject to a fine of about \$87 for individuals and up to \$261 for a building's manager.

Surge stops Olympic torch relay

Those taking part in the final segment of the Olympic torch relay, which was supposed to kick off Friday in Tokyo, aren't allowed to run on public roads due to an increasing number of COVID-19 cases, according to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government website.

Instead, the flame is being moved around the city in a series of nonpublic ceremonies before it arrives to a relatively empty stadium on July 23 in central Tokyo.

Olympic organizers announced late Thursday that most events will take place without spectators after Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga declared a fourth state of emergency for Tokyo and some surrounding prefectures that will last throughout the games.

Japan had reported 2,153 new coronavirus infections as of 5:30 p.m. Friday, 822 of which were from Tokyo, according to public broadcaster NHK.

The country had administered 57.4 million vaccination doses as of Thursday, according to the Prime Minister's Office. It said 16.8 percent of Japan's population is fully vaccinated, and 28 percent have received one dose.

The U.S. military in Japan had reported two new patients as of 6 p.m. Friday. One is from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni near Hiroshima and the other is at Naval Air Facility Atsugi, 27 miles southwest of Tokyo.

Report finds legal training lacking for commanders

By **NANCY MONTGOMERY**
Stars and Stripes

Legal training provided to commanders may be inadequate, a government watchdog agency found in a report released as Congress determines whether to remove commanders from prosecutorial decision-making in cases involving suspected sexual assault.

The Government Accountability Office, after analyzing legal training and holding discussions with commanders and legal support staff, found that "perspectives varied on the general preparedness of commanders to address legal issues."

"In addition, GAO found that the timing, amount, and mix of legal training provided to commanders may not be meeting their needs," said the report released Thursday.

Legal training is generally reserved for mid-level commanders, but "commanders from all four services indicated that they would have benefited from dedicated legal training earlier in their careers," the report said.

However, commanders of similar grades and responsibilities may not receive similar levels of legal training.

For example, the 101st Airborne Division's company commander course spent 90 minutes on legal issues and U.S. Army Europe spent 2.5 hours, the GAO found. But at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., nine hours were devoted to legal issues.

"Some commanders and legal support staff expressed the view that commanders would benefit from additional legal training," the report said.

Other commanders said they thought more training would be detrimental because it might lead commanders into thinking they were experts, and not to rely on staff judge advocates for advice.

Vet honored for rescuing driver before explosion

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Air Force veteran and civilian employee Randy Wilson pulled a driver from a burning truck before it blew up, an act of courage the service has recognized with a valor medal, the military said last week.

Wilson and his wife were traveling on the Ohio Turnpike outside Sandusky one August morning three years ago, when a semi-truck ahead of them crashed into another one parked on the right shoulder, sending a debris field into the roadway and toppling one of the trucks.

"It seemed like we were in a 3D movie with tires and gas tanks rolling down the highway toward our vehicle," Wilson said in a statement. "I came to a stop on the far left shoulder. My wife immediately got out her rosary and started praying for all involved. I got out and started running to the semi that had flipped over several times and was on fire."

Wilson, the chief of plans and programs for the security forces squadron at New York's Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station,

was the first and only one on the scene for 10 to 15 minutes, the 914th Air Refueling Wing said in a statement last week.

As he ran up, he saw that the driver of the other semi and a third truck seemed to be OK, Wilson said. When he reached the overturned rig, which was on its side, that driver was going in and out of consciousness and asking for help.

"At first, I tried to pull him out by lifting him under his armpits, but he was stuck by his seat belt and belt loop," said Wilson, who had over 36 years of security forces experience. "I asked God to give me one more minute."

He eventually got the driver out and to a safe distance "within minutes of the truck exploding," he said.

Earlier this year, wing commander Col. Carl Magnusson presented Wilson with the Air Force Civilian Award for Valor for his actions rescuing the trapped driver. The medal recognizes acts of heroism "with voluntary risk of personal safety in the face of danger, either on or off the job," a regulation states.

Former head of US Army in Europe dies

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Retired Gen. Montgomery Meigs, a combat veteran who commanded the Army in Europe for four years and hailed from a storied line of military officers, died Tuesday in Texas. He was 76.

Meigs led U.S. Army Europe from 1998 to 2002, overseeing about 60,000 soldiers on the Continent. He also commanded NATO's peacekeeping force in Bosnia, when thousands of U.S. soldiers fanned out across the Balkans.

As the USAREUR boss in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Meigs was in charge as garrisons across Europe went from having relatively relaxed post-Cold War security conditions to becoming the highly secured compounds of today.

An obituary from an Austin, Texas, funeral home did not mention the cause of Meigs' death.

Meigs was an Annapolis, Md., native and a 1967 graduate of West Point. His father, a lieutenant colonel, was killed during World War II in France, months before he was born.

Meigs also was a third great-nephew of the Civil War general Montgomery Meigs, who was a quartermaster general for the Union and was instrumental in the establishment of Arlington National Cemetery. He is also credited as "engineer of the Capitol" in Washington.

Decades before assuming command in Europe, Meigs began his Army career with cavalry units in Germany and Vietnam.

He later came back to West Point as an instructor and earned his doctorate in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1982, said the Association of the United States Army, where Meigs was a life member. He also led the Germany-based 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division into Operation Desert Storm in Iraq.

Four years after his Army retirement, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld asked Meigs to lead the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, as roadside bombs became regularly employed against U.S. troops in Iraq.

USS Reagan celebrates former first lady with favorite cookies

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Sailors aboard the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan recently took a moment from their routines to celebrate a special anniversary with a sweet treat.

In honor of the 100th birthday of former first lady Nancy Reagan, wife of the Reagan's namesake, sailors prepared chocolate chip cookies on July 6 with a recipe provided by the Reagan Foundation's Roland Mesnier, former White House executive pastry chef.

"As our ship's sponsor, it is important that we keep the legacy of Nancy Reagan alive," Lt. Cmdr. Dawn Stankus, spokeswoman for the carrier, told

Stars and Stripes in an email on Tuesday. "She was a true force in so many aspects of her life — as an actress, wife, mother, first lady and more."

The recipe was Reagan's favorite cookie during her time as first lady, according to Stankus. Reagan survived her husband and died March 6, 2016, at age 94.

To honor her memory, the ship's culinary specialists used the recipe to prepare hundreds of cookies that were served on the carrier's mess decks.

The Reagan's sailors enjoyed the cookies in the Arabian Sea, where the ship has been assisting with the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan.

Branson reaches space aboard own ship

Associated Press

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, N.M. — Swashbuckling entrepreneur Richard Branson hurtled into space aboard his own winged rocket ship Sunday in his boldest adventure yet, beating out fellow billionaire Jeff Bezos.

The nearly 71-year-old Branson and five crewmates from his Virgin Galactic space-tourism company reached an altitude of about 53 miles over the New Mexico desert — enough to experience three to four minutes of weightlessness and see the curvature of the Earth — and then

safely glided to a runway landing.

“The whole thing, it was just magical,” a jubilant Branson said after the trip home aboard the sleek, white space plane, named Unity.

The brief, up-and-down flight — the rocket ship’s portion took only about 15 minutes, or about as long as Alan Shepard’s first U.S. spaceflight in 1961 — was intended as a confidence-boosting plug for Virgin Galactic, which plans to start taking paying customers on joyrides next year.

Branson became the first per-

son to blast off in his own spaceship, beating Bezos by nine days. He also became only the second septuagenarian to go into space. (Astronaut John Glenn flew on the shuttle at age 77 in 1998.)

With about 500 people watching, including Branson’s family, a twin-fuselage aircraft with Unity attached underneath took off in the first stage of the flight. Unity then detached from the mother ship at an altitude of about 8½ miles and fired its engine, reaching more than Mach 3, or three times the speed of sound, as it pierced the edge of space.

Spectators cheered, jumped into the air and embraced as the rocket plane touched down. He pumped his fists as he stepped out onto the runway and ran toward his family, bear-hugging his wife and children and scooping up his three grandchildren in his arms.

“That was an amazing accomplishment,” former Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield, a one-time commander of the International Space Station, said from the sidelines. “I’m just so delighted at what this open door is going to lead to now. It’s a great moment.”

Heat wave blankets West as fires rage

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Firefighters struggled to contain an exploding Northern California wildfire under blazing temperatures as another heat wave blanketed the West, prompting an excessive heat warning for inland and desert areas.

Death Valley in southeastern California’s Mojave Desert reached 128 degrees Fahrenheit on Saturday, according to the National Weather Service’s reading at Furnace Creek. The shockingly high temperature was actually lower than the previous day, when the location reached 130 F.

If confirmed as accurate, the 130-degree reading would be the hottest high recorded there since July 1913, when Furnace Creek desert hit 134 F, considered the highest measured temperature on Earth.

About 300 miles northwest of the sizzling desert, the largest wildfire of the year in California was raging along the border with Nevada. The Beckwourth Complex Fire — a combination of two lightning-

caused fires burning 45 miles north of Lake Tahoe — showed no sign of slowing its rush northeast from the Sierra Nevada forest region after doubling in size between Friday and Saturday.

Late Saturday, flames jumped Interstate 395 and was threatening properties in Nevada’s Washoe County. “Take immediate steps to protect large animals and livestock,” the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District tweeted.

The blaze, which was only 8% contained, increased dramatically to 86 square miles as firefighters sweltered in 100-degree temperatures.

It was one of several threatening homes across Western states that were expected to see triple-digit heat through the weekend as a high-pressure zone blankets the region.

Pushed by strong winds, a wildfire in southern Oregon doubled in size to 120 square miles Saturday as it raced through heavy timber in the Fremont-Winema National Forest near the Klamath County town of Sprague River.

Collapse search recovers thoughts of past tragedies

Associated Press

SURFSIDE, Fla. — The mangled concrete and twisted rebar from the collapsed high-rise near Miami triggered flashbacks for retired Oklahoma City Fire Chief Greg Marrs, who spent weeks with his crew digging through the rubble of the Alfred P. Murrah federal building in 1995.

From afar, Marrs empathized with the Florida teams searching the debris that was once the 12-story Champlain Tower South condominium complex. The scenes in Surfside brought back memories of the urgent search for survivors after the Oklahoma City bombing, followed by the heartbreak of pulling out nothing but bodies, he said.

It was the same for other rescuers who responded to past tragedies. They say the crews in Surfside will carry on with the same commitment and care, even though authorities this past week officially gave up on finding any survivors.

Joseph Pfeifer, former counterterrorism and emergency preparedness chief for the New York Fire Department, was one

of the first commanders on the scene after the World Trade Center towers came down in 2001. He said the Florida crews will preserve any human remains and separate any building pieces that provide clues to the cause of the collapse.

“They are literally going to peel off every layer. They will clean the site right to the very last piece,” said Pfeifer, who teaches crisis leadership at Harvard and Columbia universities and has a 9/11 memoir, “Ordinary Heroes,” set for publication Sept. 7.

When Marrs first saw photos of the Florida collapse, he said, the images were reminiscent of the destruction at the federal building after a truck filled with explosives was detonated outside. The blast killed 168 people.

The confirmed death toll from the tragedy in South Florida is 90, the mayor said Sunday, with another 31 people listed as missing. Authorities concluded that there was “no chance of life” in the remaining rubble, but the pressure has not waned for the crews to find victims so families can lay their loved ones to rest.

South Africa ramps up vaccine drive

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — Some in wheelchairs, others on canes, hundreds of South Africans waited recently on the ramps of an open-air Johannesburg parking garage to get their COVID-19 vaccine shots. Despite the masks, social distancing and blustery weather of the Southern Hemisphere winter, a celebratory atmosphere took hold.

“What a relief!” said Vincent Damon, a 63-year-old electrical technician, after getting his second dose. “In the last four days, I’ve lost four friends. All of them under 60. This pandemic has gotten worse. It’s frightening.”

New infections in South Africa rose to record levels in recent days, part of a rapid rise across the continent, and experts say the

surge here hasn’t yet peaked. To fight the new wave, South Africa reimposed several restrictions, including shutting restaurants and bars and limiting alcohol sales — and its vaccination drive is finding its feet after several stumbles.

But even as the campaign gathers pace, experts say it’s too late to reduce the deadly impact of the current spike. Instead, South Africa is now rushing to vaccinate enough of its 60 million people to blunt the impact of the next inevitable surge.

“Our vaccination campaign is gathering momentum, but obviously it’s too late to do much in terms of reducing the impact of this current resurgence we’re experiencing, which by all accounts is going to completely dwarf what

we experienced either in the first or second waves in South Africa,” said Shabir Madhi, dean of health sciences and professor of vaccinology at the University of Witwatersrand.

South Africa accounts for more than 35% of the 5.8 million cases recorded by Africa’s 54 countries, although it is home to just over 4% of the continent’s population. The seven-day rolling average of daily deaths in the country more than doubled over the past two weeks to more than 360 fatalities per day on July 9.

Its troubles reflect a broader trend. Neighboring Zimbabwe went back into lockdown on July 6, and Congo, Rwanda, Senegal and Zambia are among the 16 African countries battling the new surge of infections sweeping

across the continent.

“Africa has just marked the continent’s most dire pandemic week ever. But the worst is yet to come as the fast-moving third wave continues to gain speed and new ground,” said Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, the World Health Organization’s regional director for Africa.

“The end to this precipitous rise is still weeks away. Cases are doubling now every 18 days, compared with every 21 days only a week ago,” she added Thursday.

Although South African President Cyril Ramaphosa was quick to respond to COVID-19 and put the country into one of the world’s strictest lockdowns in March last year, his officials were slow to place firm orders for vaccines, say critics.

Cases surge, oxygen dwindles in Myanmar

Associated Press

BANGKOK — Soe Win stood in line at a plant to buy oxygen for his grandmother, who is struggling with COVID-19 symptoms.

“I have been waiting since 5 in the morning until 12 noon, but I’m still in line. Oxygen is scarcer than money,” said the resident of Myanmar’s biggest city, Yangon.

Consumed by a bitter and violent political struggle since the military seized power in February, Myanmar has been slow to wake up to a devastating surge in cases since mid-May. It has left many of the sick like Soe Win’s grandmother to suffer at home if they

cannot find a bed at an army hospital, or prefer not to trust their care to the widely disliked government.

Under Aung San Suu Kyi, the civilian leader ousted by the military, Myanmar had weathered its second coronavirus surge beginning in August last year by severely restricting travel, sealing off Yangon, and curbing election campaigning in virus hot spots where lockdowns were imposed.

Suu Kyi appeared frequently on television with stern but empathetic entreaties to the public on how to deal with the situation. Vaccine supplies were secured from India and China. Her ouster came less than a

week after the first jabs were given to health workers.

Suu Kyi’s removal by the military sparked widespread protests, and medical workers spearheaded a popular civil disobedience movement that called on professionals and civil servants not to cooperate with the military-installed government.

Military hospitals continued operating but were shunned by many, while doctors and nurses who boycotted the state system ran makeshift clinics, for which they faced arrest. The pace of vaccinations slowed to a crawl, threatening an explosion in infections.

Thousands commemorate 1995 massacre in Bosnia

Associated Press

SREBRENICA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Nineteen newly identified victims were honored and buried Sunday in Bosnia as thousands gathered to commemorate the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, Europe’s only acknowledged genocide since World War II.

The slaughter of more than 8,000 Muslim Bosniaks, most of them men and boys, by Bosnian Serb forces was commemorated in speeches, prayers and song, followed by the

reburial of victims whose remains were found in mass graves and recently identified through DNA analysis.

The Srebrenica killings were the bloody crescendo of the 1992-95 war in Bosnia, which came after the break-up of Yugoslavia unleashed nationalistic passions and territorial ambitions that set Bosnian Serbs against the country’s two other main ethnic factions — Croats and Bosniaks.

The massacre has been declared a geno-

cide by international and national courts, but Serb leaders in Bosnia and neighboring Serbia continue to downplay or even deny it despite the irrefutable evidence of what happened.

Twenty-six years after they were brutally murdered, 16 men, two teenage boys and a woman were laid to rest at a memorial cemetery at the entrance to Srebrenica, joining more than 6,600 other massacre victims already reburied there.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Rancher pinned by ATV survives on beer, water

WY GILLETTE — A Wyoming rancher pinned by an all-terrain vehicle survived on beer and bottled water for two days.

Frank Reynolds, 53, was trying to round up a cow and calf on a neighbor's pasture outside Gillette when the vehicle tipped over on him, Reynolds told the Gillette News-Record.

Family members thought Reynolds had gone camping or was with buddies, said Quentin Reynolds, the Campbell County undersheriff and Frank's brother.

He was able to ration a couple bottles of water and Keystone Light beers from a cooler, Sheriff Scott Matheny said.

Authorities seize over \$1 billion in marijuana

CA LOS ANGELES — Authorities said Wednesday that they seized \$1 billion worth of illegal marijuana in the largest eradication effort in Los Angeles County history.

Sheriff Alex Villanueva said a recent 10-day operation seized 373,000 marijuana plants and 33,480 pounds of harvested pot with an estimated street value of nearly \$1.2 billion.

The Mojave Desert area is where authorities last month launched a massive raid on what they said were illegal marijuana farms believed to be connected to drug cartels.

That operation led to 23 arrests and the seizure of millions of dollars' worth of pot in what was described as the largest such operation in the sheriff's department history.

Gator attack suspected in death of woman

FL VALRICO — An alligator apparently attacked a woman whose body was found in a retention pond near Tampa, sheriff's officials said.

The family of the 29-year-old woman told WFLA-TV that she was known to swim in the pond.

Sheriff's officials said the woman suffered injuries "consistent with an alligator attack," but the medical examiner's office would determine the official cause of death.

Deputies called the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and trappers to the scene to try to catch the gator, the release said.

Colby may be official state cheese under bill

WI MADISON — In cheese-obsessed Wisconsin, which proudly touts itself as America's Dairyland, the dairy cow is the official domestic animal, milk is the official state beverage and cheese is the official dairy product.

But believe it or not, in a state that produces more cheese than any other at 3.4 billion pounds each year, there is no official state cheese.

A bipartisan bill would change that. The measure makes colby, which was created in Wisconsin more than 100 years ago, the official cheese.

Girl, 6, snatched off bike; found quickly

KY LOUISVILLE — A 6-year-old Kentucky girl who was snatched from her

bicycle by a stranger was found quickly, returned to her family and a suspect was charged with kidnapping thanks to the quick actions of neighbors and police, authorities said.

Those who witnessed the girl being taken from her Louisville neighborhood swiftly called 911 with a detailed description of the vehicle and a partial license plate number, police spokesperson Beth Ruoff told news outlets.

Police found a car matching the description within 30 minutes and arrested Robby Wildt, 40, who was charged with kidnapping a minor. He has pleaded not guilty.

Rescuers ask residents to leave young seals alone

ME BATH — A marine mammal rescue group in Maine is asking beachgoers to leave young seals alone after documenting numerous recent interactions between people and the animals.

Marine Mammals of Maine is a nonprofit group that responds to distressed sea mammals, such as seals and dolphins, as well as sea turtles. The group said one seal was subjected to repeated harassment over several days in June.

Marine Mammals of Maine said harbor seal pups are still small at this time of the year, but they are also fully independent. Many beachgoers think the animals are in trouble when they are in fact behaving normally.

Man arrested for rifle at hotel released, proposes

IL CHICAGO — An Iowa man who was in custody in Chicago after police found

a rifle with a laser sight in a hotel room that overlooks a Lake Michigan beach during the July Fourth weekend made bond and then proposed to his girlfriend upon his release.

Authorities said a member of the cleaning staff at the W Hotel told police they observed the rifle, a handgun and ammunition in the room held by Keegan Casteel, 32. The weapons were found on a 12th floor window sill. The window had a view of Ohio Street Beach and Navy Pier, a major tourist attraction.

Casteel of Ankeny, Iowa, faces two counts of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon.

Casteel was released and proposed to his girlfriend outside the 18th District headquarters, according to WLS-TV. She appeared to accept.

Invasive moths that cause rash hatch early

ME WINTHROP — A species of invasive moth that can cause an itchy rash in humans hatched early this year in Maine.

Forestry officials in Maine said they expect this to be the worst year in history for brown-tail moth encounters in the state. Populations of the moth have been in an outbreak phase for six years, and recent dry conditions have helped.

Tom Schmeelk, an entomologist with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, told the Kennebec Journal that the moth hatch was more than two weeks earlier than normal.

The caterpillars of the moths have toxic hairs that can cause a painful rash.

— From wire reports

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Poirier takes out McGregor with TKO

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Conor McGregor sat and seethed with his back on the cage, a temporary cast around his left shin and foot. The biggest star in mixed martial arts was convinced he had just been robbed of revenge on Dustin Poirier by a broken leg.

"I was boxing the bleedin' head off him, kicking the bleedin' leg off him," McGregor shouted. "This is not over! If we have to take this outside for him, we'll take it outside."

McGregor's animosity toward Poirier hasn't cooled, but this fight trilogy ended — for now, at least — with another victory for his more mild-mannered enemy.

Poirier beat McGregor for the second time in six months when McGregor was unable to continue after the first round at UFC 264 on Saturday night.

McGregor (22-6) fell to the canvas and never got up after a punch by Poirier (28-6), who will get the UFC's next lightweight title shot. McGregor's leg and ankle buckled when he stepped back from the blow, and Poirier finished the round raining blows down on the former two-division UFC champion.

"Just the thing had separated, and I bleedin' landed on the wonky leg like Anderson Silva that one time, something similar to that," McGregor said, referring to longtime middleweight champ Silva's infamously gruesome broken leg against Chris Weidman. "It's a mad business."

UFC President Dana White said he was told McGregor broke his shin near the ankle. McGregor will have surgery Sunday morning.

Poirier said he thought McGregor's leg broke when he checked one of McGregor's

kicks earlier in the fight. McGregor disagreed, saying there was "not one check."

"You never want to get a win that way, but what happened was the result of checking a kick," Poirier said. "I'm more than sure of it. He got what he had coming to him. Karma is a mirror."

McGregor dropped to 1-3 in the cage since 2016, when he abdicated his UFC title reins and accepted a wildly lucrative boxing match with Floyd Mayweather. McGregor has been unable to recapture his fearsome MMA form over the past half-decade — and despite his protestations, there was little in the first round at UFC 264 to suggest McGregor was back in elite form.

Poirier was largely in control of the opening round, parrying McGregor's kicks and landing several strikes before getting control over McGregor on the ground. After McGregor got up from a long stretch of punches and elbows, Poirier knocked him down one last time — and McGregor's ankle bent gruesomely as he fell.

"It (stinks), because I was going to beat the guy if his leg held up," Poirier said. "I need to digest it all, because right now, it kind of feels weird. It's not a good feeling."

White confirmed Poirier will get the next shot at new lightweight champ Charles Oliveira. White also said he expects a fourth fight between McGregor and Poirier at some point after McGregor's leg heals.

"The fight didn't get finished," White said. "You can't have a fight finish that way. We'll see how this whole thing plays out. Who knows how long Conor is out? Poirier will do his thing until Conor is ready."

Poirier also said he intends to fight McGregor a fourth time — and it will be per-

sonal. McGregor returned to his verbose, mean-spirited promotional persona for this fight promotion, repeatedly insulting Poirier's wife and vowing to kill Poirier.

"We are going to fight again, whether it's in the octagon or on the sidewalk," Poirier said. "You don't say the stuff he said."

McGregor has lost decisively to Khabib Nurmagomedov and twice to Poirier since 2016 while beating only an over-the-hill Donald Cerrone.

McGregor's star power has shown no significant decline despite the dwindling evidence of his once-transcendent skills. The celebrity-studded Vegas crowd was vocally behind McGregor, who strutted into the octagon with his usual flair.

Gilbert Burns won a unanimous decision over Stephen "Wonderboy" Thompson in the co-main event, with the Brazilian bouncing back from his knockout loss to welterweight champ Kamaru Usman in February.

Earlier on the pay-per-view card, Australian heavyweight Tai Tuivasa celebrated his violent first-round knockout of former NFL player Greg Hardy by climbing onto the octagon fence and doing a shoey — drinking booze from a shoe in proper Aussie celebratory style.

Hardy, who lost his NFL career in 2015 after being convicted of domestic violence, has lost two straight fights after a 7-2 start to his MMA career.

Welterweights Michel Pereira and Niko Price put on the best show on the early undercard, and Pereira highlighted his narrow decision victory with a remarkable standing backflip and a scramble into full mount on a prone Price.

Nigeria stuns Team USA in pre-Olympic exhibition

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — This is not how USA Basketball expected to open its Olympic summer.

Nigeria probably didn't expect it, either.

If there was any expectation of invincibility for the Americans heading into the Tokyo Olympics, it's already gone — after Nigeria beat the U.S. 90-87 on Saturday night, an international shocker pulled off by a roster primarily filled by little-

known NBA players that found a way to beat a group of All-NBA, All-Star and max-contract performers.

"We just wanted to compete," said Nigeria's Gabe Nnamdi, who goes by Gabe Vincent when playing for the Miami Heat. "We know what USA Basketball means around the world and what they've stood for for so long."

The U.S. had lost 11 games before Saturday in major interna-

tional play — Olympics and World Cups, mostly — since NBA players began filling the American rosters with the first Dream Team in 1992. None of those losses came against a team from Africa.

"I thought that the Nigerian team played very physically, did a great job in that regard and knocked down a lot of threes," U.S. coach Gregg Popovich said. "Give them credit."

Nnamdi led Nigeria with 21

points. Caleb Agada scored 17 points, Ike Nwamu added 13 and Nigeria outscored the U.S. 60-30 from three-point range.

Kevin Durant, who had never before played in a loss for USA Basketball in 39 senior international games, had 17 points. Jayson Tatum added 15, Damian Lillard had 14 and Bam Adebayo 11.

"Just goes to show that we have to play better," Tatum said.

Braves star Acuña tears ACL

Associated Press

DENVER — Atlanta's Ronald Acuña Jr., elected to start Tuesday's All-Star Game as the NL's top vote-getter among outfielders, tore the ACL in his right knee Saturday during Atlanta's 5-4 win over the Miami Marlins and will miss the rest of the season.

Acuña landed awkwardly on his right leg after jumping on the warning track in right field to try to catch a drive from Jazz Chisholm Jr. in the fifth inning at Miami. The 23-year-old slammed into the outfield wall and crumbled on the warning track, immediately grabbing his right knee while Chisholm sprinted out an inside-the-park homer.

Acuña tried to walk off but dropped back to the ground in shallow right field. A trainer tended to him while a cart was retrieved, and concerned teammates gathered quietly around him.

Tears welled in the 23-year-old's eyes as he waited. When the cart pulled around to the nearby warning track, he had to be helped over and did not put any weight on his right leg.

"He's in a lot of pain, I can tell you that. It's a

tough break for the team and for him," manager Brian Snitker said after the game.

Acuña needs surgery and was replaced on the All-Star roster by third baseman Manny Machado.

Philadelphia's J.T. Realmuto will take over for injured San Francisco catcher Buster Posey as the NL starter in Tuesday's All-Star Game at Coors Field.

St. Louis catcher Yadier Molina earned his 10th All-Star selection, among 10 replacements announced Saturday by Major League Baseball, then said hours later he would also skip the All-Star Game. He was replaced by Milwaukee catcher Omar Narváez.

Molina was elected on the players' ballot and filled the spot vacated when Posey was put on the injured list Friday, five days after his left thumb was bruised by a foul tip. Narváez will make his first All-Star appearance.

Major League Baseball also said Dodgers outfielder Mookie Betts was injured and won't participate, though Betts played nine innings Friday and remained in the lineup Saturday.

Dodgers tie franchise mark with 8 homers

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Justin Turner and Mookie Betts hit grand slams, Albert Pujols and AJ Pollock each homered twice and the Los Angeles Dodgers matched a franchise record by connecting eight times in all, routing the Arizona Diamondbacks 22-1 on Saturday night.

Cody Bellinger and Zach McKinstry also homered as the Dodgers matched a Los Angeles mark for runs, last scoring 22 in 2001 at Colorado. This was their highest-scoring game ever at Dodger Stadium, which opened in 1962.

"That is a sign of a really good club that regardless of the score, we just keep trying to win pitches and not give at-bats away," Los Angeles manager Dave Roberts said. "When you do that, some good things can happen."

The Dodgers won for just the second time in their last six games. They scored in just four different innings, but broke loose in a big way — five runs in the first, four more in the second, seven runs in the seventh and six in the eighth.

Los Angeles led 9-0 after two innings and breezed behind the pitching of Walker Buehler, who was chosen as an All-Star Game replacement Saturday.

Buehler (9-1) went six scoreless innings, allowing three hits and striking out seven.

"I know it was nice to have Walker come out and throw the ball well," Roberts said. "Obviously we took a lot of good at-bats and hit a lot of balls out of the ballpark just up and down the lineup. AJ had a huge night, Justin, everyone."

Turner, added earlier in the day to the All-Star team, hit his first career grand slam in the second inning off starter Caleb Smith (2-6). Smith never recorded an out in the second before departing, giving up nine runs on six hits with three walks while recording just three outs.

Phils snap Boston's home streak at 9

Associated Press

BOSTON — Jean Segura and Alec Bohm homered, and the Philadelphia Phillies snapped Boston's nine-game home winning streak with an 11-2 victory over the Red Sox on Saturday.

Segura opened the game with a drive over the Green Monster, and Bohm made it 3-0 with a two-run shot against Martín Pérez (7-5) in the second. The Phillies then broke it open with eight runs in the eighth, earning their fourth win in six games.

Segura finished with three hits and three RBIs. Rhys Hoskins and Bryce Harper each hit a two-run double, and Bailey Falter (1-0) pitched two hitless innings for his first major league victory.

Xander Bogaerts hit a solo homer for the Red Sox, who lost for just fourth time in 15 games. It was the team's longest win streak at Fenway Park since 2011.

Giants 10, Nationals 4: Brandon Crawford had three hits, including his 18th home run, and San Francisco routed visiting Washington.

Athletics 8, Rangers 4 (11): Jed

Lowrie hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the 11th inning after an earlier home run and Oakland won at Texas.

Pirates 6-2, Mets 2-4: Pete Alonso homered, Jeff McNeil drove in two runs and New York beat visiting Pittsburgh for a doubleheader split.

The Pirates won the opener behind five innings and a tiebreaking homer by Tyler Anderson off Marcus Stroman.

Yankees 1, Astros 0: Gerrit Cole demanded on the mound that manager Aaron Boone let him get the final out, then struck out Yordan Alvarez with a 99 mph fastball on his career-high 129th pitch to cap New York's win at Houston.

Rays 5, Blue Jays 2: Brandon Lowe homered twice and Mike Zunino also connected, helping host Tampa Bay beat Toronto for its sixth straight win.

Twins 9, Tigers 4: At Minneapolis, Jorge Polanco hit a go-ahead three-run homer in the seventh inning and host Minnesota rallied from a four-run deficit to beat Detroit.

White Sox 8, Orioles 3: Brian

Goodwin had four hits, including a solo homer, and drove in three runs as Chicago beat host Baltimore for its fourth straight win.

Indians 14, Royals 6: César Hernández and Óscar Mercado each hit a three-run homer, and host Cleveland beat struggling Kansas City.

Reds 4, Brewers 3: Eugenio Suárez hit a leadoff home run in the ninth inning against All-Star closer Josh Hader and visiting Cincinnati beat Milwaukee in a game that included three ejections.

Cardinals 6, Cubs 0: Paul Goldschmidt, Paul DeJong and Tommy Edman homered in the fifth inning, and St. Louis won at Chicago.

Mariners 2, Angels 0: Chris Flexen pitched three-hit ball for seven innings in another home win, Luis Torrens added an RBI triple and host Seattle beat Los Angeles.

Rockies 3, Padres 0: German Marquez pitched seven dominant innings, limiting San Diego to three hits and leading visiting Colorado to the win.

Djokovic ties mark with 20th slam title

Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Novak Djokovic tied Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal by claiming his 20th Grand Slam title Sunday, coming back to beat Matteo Berrettini 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 in the Wimbledon final.

The No. 1-ranked Djokovic earned a third consecutive championship at the All England Club and sixth overall.

He adds that to nine titles at the Australian Open, three at the U.S. Open and two at the French Open to equal his two rivals for the most majors won by a man in tennis history.

"I have to pay a great tribute to Rafa and Roger. They are legends. Legends of our sport. They are the two most important players that I ever faced in my career," said Djokovic, a 34-year-old from Serbia. "They are, I think, the reason that I am where I am today. They've helped me realize what I need to do in order to improve, to get stronger mentally, physically, tactically."

Federer tweeted his congratulations shortly after the match ended, writing, "Wonderful performance, well done!"

Djokovic is now the only man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win the first three major tournaments in a season. He can aim for a calendar-year Grand Slam — something last accomplished by a man when Laver did it 52 years ago — at the U.S. Open, which starts Aug. 30.

"I'm hoping. I'm going to definitely give it a shot," Djokovic told the Centre Court crowd during the trophy presentation. "I'm in a great form and obviously playing well and playing my best tennis at Grand Slams is the highest priority that I have right now at this stage of my career. So let's keep it go-

ing."

This was his 30th major final — among men, only Federer has played more, 31 — and the first for Berrettini, a 25-year-old from Italy who was seeded No. 7.

"Hopefully," Berrettini said, "it's not going to be my last one."

It was a big sporting day in London for Italians: Their national soccer team faced England at Wembley Stadium in the European Championship final at night.

With Marija Cicak officiating, the first female chair umpire for a men's final at a tournament that began in 1877, play began as the sun made a rare appearance during the fortnight, the sky visible in between the clouds.

The opening game featured signs of edginess from both, but especially Djokovic, whose pair of double-faults contributed to the half-dozen combined unforced errors, compared with zero winners for either. He faced a break point but steadied himself and held there and, as was the case with every set, it was Djokovic who took the lead by getting through on Berrettini's speedy serve.

Berrettini came in with a tournament-high 101 aces and that's where his game is built: free points off the serve and quick-strike forehands that earned him the nickname "Hammer."

Those powerful strokes sent line judges contorting to get their head out of harm's way. Djokovic occasionally took cover himself, crouching and raising his racket as if it were a shield to block back serves aimed at his body.

Not many opponents manage to return serves at 137 mph and end up winning the point, but Djokovic did that at least twice.

And the big groundstrokes that the 6-foot-5, barrel-chested Berrettini can drive past most other players kept coming back off Djokovic's racket.

That's what Djokovic does: He just forces foes to work so hard to win every point, let alone a game, a set, a match.

Indeed, this one could have been over much sooner than the four sets and nearly 3½ hours it lasted: Djokovic took leads of 4-1 in the first set, 4-0 in the second and 3-1 in the third. But in the first, especially, he faltered in ways he rarely does, wasting a set point at 5-2 and getting broken when he served for it at 5-3.

In the ensuing tiebreaker, they were tied at 3-all, but Berrettini won three of the next four points with forehands, and closed it out with a 138 mph ace.

He strutted to the changeover and many of the nearly 15,000 spectators rose to celebrate along with him.

Chants of "Ma-tte-o!" rang out early in the third set. Soon, others responded with Djokovic's nickname, "No-le!" Later in the set, Djokovic held his racket to his ear and motioned for more support.

But Djokovic is nothing if not a fighter, and he blunted Berrettini's best efforts and won the fans over, too. When it was over, Djokovic dropped to his back on the turf, arms and legs splayed, showered by fans' cheers.

There were some magical moments, points that contained brilliance by both.

On one, Berrettini somehow came up with a back-to-the-net, between-the-legs lob that Djokovic somehow tracked down to flick a response with his own back to the court, but it ended up in the net.

Osaka returns to spotlight with ESPYS appearance

Associated Press

Naomi Osaka returned to the spotlight for the first time since withdrawing from the French Open in May and skipping Wimbledon, posing on the red carpet at The ESPYS on Saturday night.

The world's highest-paid female athlete faced a slew of photographers in New York, with one being heard urging her, "Nice smile" as cameras clicked furiously. Osaka offered a faint closed-mouth smile in response.

Tom Brady won best men's athlete and his Tampa Bay Buccaneers were named best team. The quarterback, who turns 44 next month, won his seventh Super Bowl title this year in his first season with the Bucs.

Osaka, who has won four Grand Slam titles, pulled out of the French Open before the second round, saying she has "huge waves of anxiety" before speaking to the media and that she has "suffered long bouts of depression." She also sat out Wimble-

don. She'll return for the Tokyo Olympics, representing her native Japan.

She high-fived boyfriend-rapper Cordae from YBN Collective before taking the stage.

"I just really want to not say a long speech because I'm a bit nervous," Osaka said. "This year has been a really, it hasn't even finished, but it's been really tough for a lot of us. For me, I just want to say I really love you guys."

Charlotte Hornets rookie La-

Melo Ball won as best breakthrough athlete. The best game award was Gonzaga's 93-90 win over UCLA in the semifinals of the men's NCAA Tournament. DeVonta Smith, who won the Heisman Trophy at Alabama and now plays for the Philadelphia Eagles, won as best men's college athlete.

UConn freshman basketball sensation Paige Bueckers won as women's college athlete. She urged greater media coverage for Black female athletes.