

Navy ends search for helo crew member

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy says it has suspended the active search for a sailor missing since Wednesday, when a MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter went down in the Arabian Sea.

The search concluded Sunday following 102 hours of extensive and coordinated rescue efforts over 14,000 square miles, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet said in a post on X.

“The Sailor’s name is being withheld until at least 24 hours after next-of-kin notification is complete in accordance with Navy policy,” the post added.

Three of the helicopter’s four crew members were recovered

and were last reported in stable condition aboard the USS George H.W. Bush, the carrier to which the Sea Hawk was assigned.

The cause of the incident is under investigation, but there was no indication the emergency was caused by hostile action, the U.S. Navy said on Wednesday. Sunday’s update did not provide any further details about the cause of the crash.

The statement said the U.S. Navy and Air Force conducted the search using helicopters, fixed wing aircraft, and several guided-missile destroyers.

Carrier Air Wing 7 operates from the USS George H.W. Bush aircraft carrier. The

squadrons include the “Night-dippers” of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 5 from Naval Station Norfolk, Va. The squadron flies the MH-60S variant. The Navy says the helicopter usually operates with three to four crew members.

The MH-60S is primarily used for search, transport and support roles. The MH-60R used by another squadron on George H.W. Bush is an anti-submarine hunter and carries advanced sonar and buoys.

The “S” or “Sierra” variant involved in Wednesday’s incident has large sliding doors on both sides, making operations easier.

Slightly less than half of the

Navy’s battle force ships currently deployed and operating at sea worldwide are in the Middle East, according to USNI News data. That figure excludes ships on local operations.

Additionally, about 50,000 U.S. service members are operating in the Middle East, CENTCOM said Monday.

George H.W. Bush deployed March 31 from Naval Station Norfolk and sailed around the Cape of Good Hope on the southern tip of Africa to begin operating in the CENTCOM area of responsibility in the Arabian Sea since April 23.

Stars and Stripes reporter Gary Warner contributed to this report.

Navy achieves its recruiting goal ahead of schedule

BY MATTHEW ADAMS

Stars and Stripes

The Navy surpassed its annual recruiting goal of signing 45,000 new recruits three months ahead of schedule, the service announced Thursday.

“Today’s Navy is stronger because tens of thousands of Americans chose to answer the call to serve,” Rear Adm. Jim Waters, commander of Navy Recruiting Command, said in a statement. “Reaching this milestone is not simply

about achieving a recruiting objective — it’s about delivering the talented sailors our Fleet needs to maintain readiness in an increasingly complex security environment.”

The fiscal year ends Sept. 30.

In June 2025, the Navy met its 2025 recruiting goal three months early, with 40,600 future sailors enlisted.

By the close of the fiscal year, it had brought that final number to 44,096 — a figure

the Navy hasn’t seen since the early 2000s, Waters said at the time.

The Navy missed its recruiting goal in 2023, as did the Army and Air Force, and took steps to reimagine how it brings in new sailors.

Changes included modernizing marketing campaigns, streamlining administrative processes, tripling its medical waiver review staff, expanding age eligibility and opening a preparatory course to im-

prove test scores before entry.

“Our recruiters never lost sight of what matters most — people,” Waters said. “Behind every accession is a recruiter who set the foundation for success and a future sailor preparing to stand the watch, support the Fleet and contribute to our nation’s security.”

The Air Force and Space Force each reached their recruiting goals in April. The Army achieved its recruiting goal in May.

Leader of medical unit at Va. base relieved by Air Force

Stars and Stripes

The Air Force on Tuesday relieved the top commander of the 633rd Medical Group at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia.

Col. Tracy Allen was re-

lieved of command “after careful consideration” due to a loss of confidence in her ability to lead, the Air Force said in a statement Thursday.

The term “loss of confidence” is frequently used by

the military when specific reasons are not disclosed for the removal of a commander.

Col. Michael Blowers, deputy command surgeon at Air Combat Command, has assumed responsibility of the

unit until a new commander is selected, the Air Force said.

The 633rd Medical Group is an ambulatory surgical center that provides primary and specialty care services.

Navy delays families' return to Bahrain

BY LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy does not intend to return military or civilian families to Bahrain before the start of the Department of Defense school system's fall semester, dependents learned in a message from Navy officials on Friday. Officials attributed the delay to ongoing uncertainty in the Middle East.

Thousands of families fled Bahrain in early March after the start of Operation Epic Fury, the U.S.-led military campaign against Iran. The small island nation in the Persian Gulf hosts the forward headquarters of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and typically is home to some 8,300 service members, dependents and civilians.

Since evacuating, families

have been sheltering in temporary safe havens in the U.S. and overseas. Many had hoped to return to the island by the mid-August start of the new school year, but the continuing U.S.-Iran tensions have postponed those plans.

"Due to the ongoing uncertainty in the Middle East and to ensure the safety and security of our families, the Navy does not intend to return military families or affiliated civilian families to Naval Support Activity Bahrain prior to the start of the fall semester," read the message, seen by Stars and Stripes.

A spokesperson for the Navy confirmed the message, adding that the service "remains committed to personnel and family safety throughout this period of transition and will provide addi-

tional updates as the operational environment evolves."

The Department of Defense Education Activity did not immediately comment on the email.

Families were advised to consider enrolling their students in alternate Defense Department schools or in local school districts pending a "future decision on return of families once conditions allow."

U.S. Central Command head Adm. Brad Cooper said in May that he'd like to see families back in Bahrain as soon as possible but did not provide a timeline or conditions for their return.

For families awaiting clarity, the guidance follows weeks of uncertainty. In June, the Department of Defense Education

Activity initially said its Bahrain schools would remain closed in August before later saying no final decision had been made.

NSA Bahrain has sustained significant damage from Iranian drone and missile fire over the last four months, and it is unclear when operations will return to normal.

The U.S. and Iran continue to negotiate the terms of a final deal after signing an initial memorandum of understanding to end the war last month.

The parties met separately with mediators in Doha last week, where "positive progress" was made, according to Qatari officials.

The talks followed a recent exchange of fire that threatened to undermine the fragile ceasefire agreement signed in June.

In Poland, Freedom Fest highlights growing US ties

BY SHATYRA COX
Stars and Stripes

POZNAN, Poland — Thousands of Americans and Poles gathered Friday in western Poland to celebrate America's 250th birthday, highlighting the growing relationship between the two countries even as questions remain about the size and shape of the U.S. military presence here.

Hosted by U.S. Army Garrison Poland, Freedom Fest at Poznan Airport featured live music, military displays and fireworks, drawing about 6,500 attendees. Organizers said the event reflects the growing relationship between U.S. troops stationed in Poland and the local communities that host them.

"Part of having a home is a place to grow, thrive, train, fight, but also celebrate. That's what

we're doing today," said Marcus Fichtl, a spokesman for U.S. Army Garrison Poland.

Poland has hosted about 10,000 U.S. troops in recent years, mostly on rotational deployments. Polish officials want to expand that force to as many as 15,000 troops and establish a more permanent garrison presence with the infrastructure to support U.S. military families.

The celebration was the first Freedom Fest held in Poznan after two years in Powidz, where the event began as a community celebration between U.S. soldiers and local residents. This year's move comes as U.S. Army Garrison Poland continues to expand its presence in Poznan, which serves as the headquarters for the garrison and Camp Kosciuszko.

Guam, Marianas brace as super typhoon nears

BY JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

Guam and the Northern Marianas, including military installations across the region, braced Sunday for the arrival of Super Typhoon Bavi, the second substantial storm to cross the region since April.

The Guam Joint Information Center warned of tropical storm force winds of 58-73 mph or more within the day and typhoon-force winds of 60-80 mph, with possible gusts up to 100 mph at Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan, according to a Sunday bulletin on the Guam.gov website. It said the worst conditions are expected Monday between 8 a.m. and noon.

Bavi on Sunday evening was 160 miles east of Guam and moving west-northwestward at

13 mph with maximum sustained winds of 165 mph, according to the bulletin.

"As currently forecast, Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan will experience some degree of typhoon force winds; with potentially catastrophic, super typhoon force winds (greater than 150 mph) over Rota, if Bavi makes a direct passage over the island on Monday," the bulletin states.

The National Weather Service on Sunday described Bavi as a "very dangerous, category 4" equivalent super typhoon.

Guam was in Condition of Readiness 1 at noon local time, which means destructive winds of 58 mph or greater are anticipated within 12 hours, according to the Guam governor's official Facebook page.

July 4 250th anniversary celebrations a blast

Bloomberg News

President Donald Trump put himself centerstage for U.S. Independence Day celebrations on Saturday with a speech and a show that celebrated the nation's 250th anniversary and highlighted his own political priorities.

Trump spoke after 11 p.m. at the National Mall after thunderstorms earlier in the evening prompted the area to be cleared out of visitors and delayed the start of his remarks. He sought to sound an optimistic note about America's future.

"At 250 years old, we may be the oldest constitutional republic on Earth, but our country is just getting started, because the best is yet to come," he said.

Trump has made no secret of

his joy at presiding over the July 4 festivities, portraying the timing as a side benefit of winning a second term starting in 2025.

Celebrations were held across the U.S. to mark the 250-year milestone, which commemorates the 1776 adoption of the Declaration of Independence that separated the American colonies from Great Britain. Americans traditionally celebrate July 4 with fireworks, picnics and red, white and blue memorabilia.

Trump visited South Dakota on Friday, where he used a speech at the Mount Rushmore monument to warn of the threat of communism after recent primary wins by Democratic Socialist candidates.

He brought up the same

theme on Saturday, declaring communism a "loser," while also pushing for passage of a measure to restrict mail-in voting and require the use of voter identification for elections. The president, who complained about not being treated fairly by the justice system, also invited veterans to the stage.

Trump's speech, which ended shortly before midnight, was followed by a massive fireworks display. Erratic weather had reduced the crowd size on the National Mall. Organizers canceled a parade in Washington on Saturday because of the high temperatures.

Thousands of attendees walked for blocks in 100-degree heat earlier in the day to find an open entrance to the grassy

space.

"They've made it so hard. We waited in line forever just to have to be told we had to get out of line and go somewhere else, I'm so bummed out," said Heather Sprague, 50, of Cushing, Maine, decked out in a Trump-themed cowboy hat. "Nothing is going by the plan."

Others said they relished a rare sign of American unity.

"This day hopefully means unity across America, no matter who you are, what size, shape, religion, color, I really think that this is a day to celebrate what it is to be an American," said Rachel Gershon Rourke, a teacher from upstate New York who came to see her niece march with her school's band at the canceled parade.

Swift, Kelce married at Madison Square Garden

Los Angeles Times

NEW YORK — Manhattan was sweltering at 100 degrees and preparing to mark 250 years since the United States declared independence from Great Britain.

But on Friday, the city seemed transfixed by what might be the closest the country gets to a royal wedding: the nuptials of pop superstar Taylor Swift and Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce.

The two were married Friday night but the party is expected to continue into the morning.

Her publicist confirmed the marriage to several new organizations.

Madison Square Garden and its surrounding streets — 31st and 33rd streets toward 6th and 8th avenues — were blocked off as guests arrived for the event. Fans craned their necks for any views they could get from the street.

The world-famous arena was reportedly set to transform into

a "massive castle," surrounded by a garden fit for pop culture's royal couple, both 36. While the complete event details and guest list have been kept a secret, The Associated Press reportedly obtained a city permit showing Friday's wedding event was set to start at 5 p.m. Eastern time and could last until 4 a.m.

Secrecy surrounding the event is so tight that the reported venue has been cordoned off with privacy tents, tarps and barricades.

But neither those measures nor Friday's sizzling temperatures stopped fans from gathering in hopes of sneaking a peak at their longtime idol and sending Swift their well wishes.

Swift and Kelce announced their engagement in August after two years of dating, to much fanfare. "Your English teacher and your gym teacher are getting married," Swift wrote in the caption of her Instagram post.

Trump disclosure shows 21,000 trades in 2025

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump made more than 21,000 securities trades in his first year back in office, often in intense bursts tied to market events he created.

The total dollar value of the trades was somewhere between \$600 million and \$1.86 billion, according to his financial disclosure for 2025, which lists values in broad ranges.

Many of the transactions involve large companies that have business with the federal government.

Trump averaged 85 trades per market day, an analysis of the report shows. Just 10 days accounted for about a quarter of all trades executed in 2025. Many of those came during heightened volatility on Wall Street after Trump had already announced policy changes.

There was also dissonance across Trump's eight separate trading accounts: In more than 200 cases, he bought a stock in

one account the same day he was selling it in another.

The chaotic rhythm and large volume of trading add to an emerging picture of Trump's finances, which critics and watchdog groups have scrutinized for hints that he may be improperly profiting from the presidency.

In the same report, he disclosed earning at least \$1.4 billion from crypto and memecoin-related businesses in 2025.

The president on Wednesday downplayed the amount of money he made, saying he was already wealthy when elected, and he deflected questions from reporters about whether he was inappropriately profiting off the presidency.

"Purposely, I never speak to any of the people that run the money, but they're at big institutions, and they invest in whatever they invest," Trump said at Joint Base Andrews, Md. "You know why I'm profiting? Because the stock market's going up."

Millions gather in Iran for Khamenei funeral

Bloomberg News

Iran began a mass funeral for late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday, in a weeklong ceremony that's expected to draw millions of mourners and serve as a show of strength for the Islamic Republic.

The body of Khamenei — who was killed in a U.S. and Israeli attack on the first day of the war in late February — will lie in state at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla mosque complex for public visits over the weekend, according to the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency.

That will be followed by processions in the capital Tehran, the seminary city of Qom, and Najaf and Karbala in neighboring Iraq

— holy cities in Shiite Islam that are home to major shrines. Khamenei will be buried in his home city of Mashhad on Thursday.

Tehran municipality said more than 2.2 million people had attended as of 3 p.m. local time on Saturday, according to the semi-official Tasnim news agency, with as many as 20 million expected in total. Khamenei's son, Mojtaba, was named as successor, but was injured in the attack that killed his father and is yet to be seen in public. It's unclear whether he will make an appearance at the funeral.

Large crowds gathered early in the morning in Tehran. Live coverage broadcast by Iranian state television showed the coffins of

Khamenei and four family members resting inside glass boxes on a raised platform, each draped in the national flag. Khamenei's coffin stood elevated above the others, topped with his signature black turban. By noon local time, footage showed mourners chanting for revenge and pledging allegiance to Mojtaba Khamenei. In remarks carried by Iranian media on Saturday, Hadi Khamenei, the former supreme leader's brother, said Iran should seek revenge parallel to holding talks with the U.S. about a permanent end to the war.

Acknowledging the complexity of the situation, he added, "This was an entirely unprecedented event globally, and it remains un-

clear how we should deal with the perpetrators."

Foreign delegates from countries including China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Turkey and Iraq, as well as from Middle East militias allied to Iran, joined a smaller ceremony on Friday.

Of the Gulf Arab countries, many of which were attacked by Iran during the initial phase of the conflict, Qatar, Oman and Saudi Arabia sent representatives.

The funeral was initially planned for March, amid the height of the fighting with the U.S. and Israel, but was postponed due to expectations of large crowds. Some attacks have continued despite a preliminary deal to end the war last month.

Putin, Trump talk for 85 minutes ahead of NATO summit

Bloomberg News

Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump discussed Ukraine and the upcoming NATO summit in Turkey in a phone call Saturday.

Putin congratulated Trump on the 250th anniversary of U.S. independence in the call that lasted 85 minutes, Kremlin foreign pol-

icy aide Yuri Ushakov said in an audio message to reporters.

"The presidents naturally touched on the topic of a Ukrainian settlement, including in light of Trump's upcoming participation in the NATO summit in Turkey on July 7-8," Ushakov said. "The American president reaffirmed his readiness to facilitate a

swift end to hostilities and the search for solutions to overcome the crisis."

Ushakov said U.S. envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner would continue efforts at mediating a settlement and were ready to travel to Moscow when convenient.

Trump will join fellow NATO

leaders in Turkey for a summit that starts on Tuesday. He has pushed other alliance members to take on more of the financial burden in defending Europe, while also ordering the Pentagon to cut troop levels on the Continent and slashing the military assets Washington would potentially provide in a crisis.

Commander: Europe has replaced most US asset cuts

Bloomberg News

European NATO allies have mostly replaced the assets that the U.S. has cut from its rescue plans in case of a war in Europe, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe Sir John Stringer said in an interview with Bloomberg Television.

Stringer made the assurance ahead of the alliance's summit in Ankara, Turkey, this week, at which allies will try to smooth over recent announcements by the U.S. signaling that it is pivoting away from the Continent.

"European allies have definitely stepped up in terms of backfilling the adjustment in the U.S. forces in Europe," Stringer

said, adding this was a demonstration of "a stronger Europe and a stronger NATO."

The U.S. recently announced massive cuts to the forces it would send to Europe in case of war or crisis, prompting NATO's military command to ask European countries to make the forces they hadn't yet committed to the alliance known.

Stringer, a former Royal Air Force fighter pilot, said that in the categories in which Europe couldn't provide equivalent forces, they'd be looking to match the effect with different assets.

Burden-sharing and burden-shifting "is now being done in a

sensible, proportionate way, absolutely driven by military logic," he said, emphasizing the preparedness of European allies for the shift in U.S. priorities and commitments.

The need to rebalance has been a factor for years and Europeans have stepped up, he said.

President Donald Trump's rhetoric toward NATO since his return to the White House has unnerved allies and prompted a rethink of defense spending in Europe.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth shocked allies at NATO headquarters in June by announcing a six-month review of the U.S. forces in Europe, a sig-

nal that more cuts may be ahead.

"In the air and maritime domain, Europeans can and have stepped up" and even gone beyond 100%, said Col. Martin L. O'Donnell, spokesperson at NATO's military command. In certain cases, European allies have the same kit or better equipment than the U.S. inventory, he added, citing the example of a type of F-16 fighter jet to be received by Bulgaria.

Stringer was appointed as NATO's second in command of operations in Europe this year as the alliance grapples with the war in Ukraine on its borders and an increasingly isolationist U.S.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Skid Row's post office closes over safety worries

CA LOS ANGELES — Skid Row's only post office has closed after what officials said were repeated break-ins and damage to employee property.

Homeless residents, many of whom don't have a car or are disabled, now have to travel outside Skid Row to get stamps or mail a package. The closure has prompted anger and frustration in a community that is used to being ignored.

Estela Lopez, executive director of the L.A. Downtown Industrial District Business Improvement District, said the city seems to have given up on fighting crime.

The Seventh Street post office near the center of Skid Row was on a list of locations being reviewed for "efficiency and financial feasibility," Natashi Garvins, U.S. Postal Service strategic communications specialist for the Los Angeles area, said in an email. The post office, which was on the list because of "criminal and unsafe activities," closed in January.

CAIR sues state after 'terror' group designation

FL MIAMI — The Muslim civil rights organization Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR, is suing Florida after the state designated the group as a terrorist organization.

Gov. Ron DeSantis on Wednesday announced that his administration was putting CAIR and several other organizations on the list.

He did so under the authority of a law his office drafted and

that he signed in April that gives the state a power typically reserved for the federal government: the ability to designate groups as domestic or foreign terrorist organizations.

Groups labeled as terrorist organizations won't be able to access public funding. Any college student who supports the organizations will be immediately expelled.

Free speech advocates have decried the bill, saying it's a way to silence the speech of people who have advocated for Palestine.

DOJ sues state over assault weapons ban

VA RICHMOND — The Department of Justice filed a lawsuit against Virginia and Virginia State Police saying that the state law banning the purchase and sale of some firearms is unconstitutional.

The law as signed by Gov. Abigail Spanberger includes semi-automatic center-fire rifles or pistols with a magazine capacity of more than 15 rounds in its definition.

"The Constitution is not a suggestion, and the Second Amendment is not a second-class right," said Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche in a news release.

The law prohibiting the sale of some firearms classified as assault weapons went into effect Wednesday.

"On April 10, I promised Governor Spanberger that we would sue Virginia if she signed this unconstitutional weapons ban into law. I keep my promises," said Assistant Attorney General Harmeet Dhillon of the Justice Department's Civil

Rights Division in a news release.

Teachers to face charges for sex with students

MA BOSTON — Massachusetts teachers who have sex with 16- and 17-year-old students could face criminal charges after the Legislature closed the "age of consent loophole" in the state budget.

This child protection measure in the state budget comes as local school districts face lawsuits for educator sexual misconduct with students.

Across the state, there are numerous civil cases involving those in positions of authority in schools. Employees in power are accused of grooming teens and having sex with them once they turn 16, the age of consent.

The educators haven't faced face criminal consequences for such conduct. But now, the provision in the state budget that passed the Legislature creates criminal protections for teens against adults who hold positions of authority over them.

Sudden spike seen in illness caused by parasite

MI LANSING — The state of Michigan is working to identify the cause of a "sudden and large" increase in an infection that causes gastrointestinal issues.

State health officials have identified 174 cases of cyclosporiasis across southern Michigan since June 22. Typically, the state averages about 50 such cases a year.

The cases have chiefly been found in Monroe, Washtenaw, Wayne, Livingston, Shiawassee, Lenawee and Jackson counties,

according to Lynn Sutfin, a spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

The source or sources of the infection, caused by the parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis*, are not yet known, Sutfin said. The parasite, according to the department, is usually found in developing countries and spread by water or food contaminated by feces.

First recorded Tesla Semi crash kills two people

NV DAYTON — An electric Tesla Semi truck crashed into two vehicles in Dayton, Nev., killing two people and raising questions about the truck's safety features.

The Lyon County Sheriff's Office responded to a major collision around 7 a.m. on June 29 at the intersection of Highway 50 and Traditions Parkway about 40 miles east of Reno, the office said. The office confirmed a semi-truck was involved in the accident, and footage of the scene shows it was a Tesla Semi.

It is the first known crash involving a Tesla Semi, an electric Class 8 truck that Tesla is building in Nevada and plans to ramp up production of. The trucks do not have the Full Self-Driving mode available in Tesla cars, but Tesla's website says they come standard "with active safety features that pair with advanced motor and brake controls to deliver traction and stability in all conditions."

According to the Lyon County Sheriff's Office, preliminary statements obtained at the scene suggest the truck driver may have fallen asleep behind the wheel.

— From wire reports

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and Military News

Balogun cleared to face off with Belgium

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Folarin Balogun's one-game ban was suspended by FIFA on Sunday, allowing the forward to play in the United States' World Cup round of 16 game against Belgium on Monday.

Balogun, who leads the Americans with three goals, received a red card for stepping on the foot of Tarik Muharemovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in a 2-0 round of 32 win on Wednesday.

"The implementation of the match suspension is suspended for a probationary period of one year," FIFA announced Sunday. "If Folarin Balogun commits another infringement of a similar nature and gravity during the probationary period, the suspension

shall be revoked and the sanction enforced without prejudice to any additional sanction imposed for the new infringement."

Balogun's red card and suspension for the round of 16 match had been one of the most controversial and consequential decisions of the World Cup, only now to be surely matched by the ruling that allows him to play.

Balogun's three goals included one to give the U.S. the lead against Bosnia. He has matched Landon Donovan in 2010 for the second-most goals by an American in a World Cup, behind only Bert Patenaude's four in the initial tournament in 1930.

In a post on social media, President Donald Trump

praised the decision from FIFA.

"Thank you to FIFA for doing what was right, and reversing a great injustice! President DONALD J. TRUMP," he wrote.

The host U.S. is seeking to reach the quarterfinals for the first time since 2002. The Americans lost in the round of 16 to Ghana in 2010, Belgium in 2014 and the Netherlands in 2022. They failed to advance from the group stage in 2006 and didn't qualify for the 2018 tournament.

The U.S. Soccer Federation said it will not make Balogun available for comment Sunday, but Balogun posted on social media a picture of himself in front of U.S. fans and overlaid with music of Mi-

chael Jackson's pop single "Bad."

On Friday, Balogun said he thought a yellow card instead of red, "would have been fair. It's something that's happened, so we have to move forward and I have to accept it."

FIFA's announcement to reinstate Balogun said the decision relied on Article 27 the rules of the disciplinary committee.

"The judicial body may decide to fully or partially suspend the implementation of a disciplinary measure. By suspending the implementation of the sanction, the judicial body subjects the person sanctioned to a probationary period of one to four years," the rule states.

Djokovic tops Federer's Wimbledon mark with 106th win

Associated Press

LONDON — Novak Djokovic screamed out his frustrations at times before overcoming a surprisingly tough challenge from 132nd-ranked qualifier Roman Safiullin on Sunday to break one of Roger Federer's Wimbledon records.

Djokovic had to save two set points when trailing 5-2 in the first set and was warned for apparently screaming out an obscenity in Serbian on Centre Court when he was broken early in the third. But the seven-time Wimbledon champion went on to win 7-6 (6), 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 for his 106th match victory at the All England Club.

That puts him one ahead of Federer atop the all-time list for men, although he still trails Martina Navratilova's 120 match wins.

It also puts him into the quarterfinals for the 17th time — one behind Federer's record — and three matches

away from joining his former rival on eight Wimbledon titles. But the Serb acknowledged that he will have to raise his game in order to get there.

"Survive to thrive, that's how I feel," Djokovic said when asked to sum up his first week of the championships. "So hopefully the thriving part is coming."

The 39-year-old Djokovic has never lost a Grand Slam match against a player ranked as low as Safiullin, or to a qualifier, but looked in danger at times on Centre Court.

Djokovic seemed to struggle with the sunny and windy conditions in the first set before rallying from 5-2 to force a tiebreaker, where he converted his third set point. In the third, he got the warning from the umpire after going 2-0 down and then drew boos from the crowd when he hit the ball away in frustration after losing the set.

In his on-court interview, he apologized for what he called "the outbursts, the meltdowns."

"I had a few of those today," he said.

Djokovic, who is renowned for his ability to chase down almost every shot, also acknowledged that he opted to play more at the net than usual after repeatedly being outplayed in long rallies by Safiullin.

"I don't get to feel inferior from the back of court with too many players, to be honest, throughout my career," Djokovic said. "Today it was one of those days where I didn't want to stay in the rally for too long. So I had to mix things up. And it worked."

He quickly seized control in the fourth set by jumping out to a 3-0 lead, and then served out the match at love.

Djokovic will next play the winner between third-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime and

No. 22 Alejandro Davidovich Fokina.

Elsewhere, there will be a new women's champion at Wimbledon for the ninth straight time after Barbora Krejckikova lost to fellow Czech player Karolina Muchova in the fourth round.

Krejckikova, the 2024 winner, was the only former champion left in the women's draw after Iga Swiatek, Elena Rybakina and Serena Williams all went out earlier.

Krejckikova followed suit with a 7-5, 5-7, 6-3 loss on No. 2 Court.

No woman has won multiple Wimbledon titles since Williams won her seventh in 2016.

Muchova will play the winner between top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka and 14th-seeded Naomi Osaka, who played later on Centre Court.

No. 4 Jessica Pegula also advanced by beating fellow American Iva Jovic 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Mbappé, France keep cool to beat Paraguay

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Kylian Mbappé laughed and smiled — and scored, of course — when Paraguay tried to bait him and his French teammates into fouls and provoke fights, as hot heads became a recurring theme during one of the steamiest World Cup games on record.

After the final whistle, Mbappé kept on walking and left Paraguayan goalkeeper Orlando Gill hanging as Gill extended his right hand in a show of sportsmanship.

In response, Gill threw the ball right at the No. 10 on Mbappé's jersey.

Mbappé got the last laugh as he scored his 19th career World Cup goal, and France survived stifling heat to beat Paraguay 1-0 on Saturday, sending Les Bleus into the quarterfinals for the fourth straight time.

"We knew what kind of match it was going to be," Mbappé said in French.

"We can also get our hands dirty, we know how to do it. We know how to play ugly football. Guess they were thinking we were going to show up in tuxedos, but we were ready."

France advanced to play Morocco on Thursday in Foxborough, Mass. France beat Morocco 2-0 in the semifinals of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

With an extreme heat warning in effect throughout the match as temperatures hovered around 100 degrees Fahrenheit, Mbappé finally broke through against a physical, defensive-minded Paraguay side when he converted a penalty kick in the 70th minute.

That was enough for Les Bleus, whose red, white and blue-clad fans looked plenty patriotic on July Fourth in the city

where the United States was founded exactly 250 years earlier.

Mbappé was awarded the penalty when Diego Gomez was called for tripping after a video review.

Mbappé — who frequently trash-talked the Paraguayans in Spanish — is now the only player to score at least three goals in the knockout stage of three World Cups.

Mbappé botched a breakaway attempt in the second half, and Manu Koné had his top-corner shot knocked away by Gill after he was wiped out in the netting by Ousmane Dembélé only moments earlier.

Gill also stopped two strong attempts by Mbappé in second-half stoppage time.

He then lost his cool after the loss to France when he chucked the ball at Mbappé.

"I tried to shake his hand, but

since he didn't pay me any attention, I lost my temper," Gill said. "But anyway, that was all I did; I calmed down afterward."

For the criticism that hydration breaks have watered down the pace of play at the World Cup, they were never more needed for the players than in the midst of a miserable heat wave.

Sprinklers showered the Kentucky bluegrass field during the breaks and at halftime.

"Given our style of play, it was harder to give high intensity," France coach Didier Deschamps said.

More than in any of the five other World Cup games played before 68,000-plus fans at Lincoln Financial Field, spectators fled for the concourse at halftime, seeking shade and refuge from the sun.

Maybe they were looking for some action of any kind.

Morocco defeats Canada to advance to quarterfinals

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Morocco is heading back to the World Cup quarterfinals and coach Mohamed Ouahbi believes his team has established itself among soccer's elite.

Azzedine Ounahi scored twice to lead Morocco to a 3-0 win over Canada in the Round of 16 Saturday to make the country the first African nation to reach the quarterfinals more than once.

"We are no longer a surprise," Ouahbi said through an interpreter. "Now when people talk about Morocco we're a major contender and it's a great source of pride. I think it's only the beginning and I hope we continue to have runs like this."

And despite already making history in this World Cup, Morocco has much higher goals.

"We want to keep going," Ouahbi said. "We don't want to stop."

It's Morocco's second straight appearance in the final eight after becoming the first African team to reach the semifinals in 2022.

"We are so proud to represent Africa because it's a continent with a lot of talent and Africa deserves to be in the best level in football," goalkeeper Yassine Bounou said.

Neither team was able to break through until Ounahi took a free kick from Achraf Hakimi and made a right-footed shot through traffic from outside the box to the bottom right corner to put Morocco on top 1-0 in the 50th minute.

Ounahi made it 2-0 on a right-footed shot from the middle of the box off a pass from Brahim Díaz in the 82nd minute.

Soufiane Rahimi added a goal in the final minute of stoppage time.

Morocco will meet France, which beat Paraguay later Sat-

urday, on Thursday in Foxborough, Mass.

The loss ends a historic run for World Cup co-host Canada, which won its first-ever knockout round game, beating South Africa 1-0 to reach Saturday's match. The country was playing in the World Cup for just the third time and the run enchanted a nation that is normally far more interested in hockey than the pitch.

Canada coach Jesse Marsch shared his postgame message to the team.

"I told them that I was proud of them and I challenged them to understand that we can play like this all the time against the best teams in the world," he said.

"We can be better on the day. And then the challenge is, can we hold that standard for 90 minutes?"

Marsch lauded how his team performed against a squad of Morocco's caliber and how Can-

ada controlled the match for much of the day.

"The way we pushed, the way we were in the match, the quality we showed, the overall impact in the match, we were better," he said. "We were better than the No. 7 team in the world today."

Ouahbi had a strong response when told of those comments.

"In terms of intensity they were good," he said. "They were good for 98 minutes. Were they better? It's hard to say. It takes some nerve to say that when you lose 3-nil."

Canada had a couple of chances to score late. Jonathan David had a free kick from outside the box in the 78th minute, but his shot sailed over the crossbar.

Just after that, Tajon Buchanan's shot from about 30 yards was stopped with a diving save from Bounou. Bounou, who was born in Canada to Moroccan parents, had three saves.

Gilbert, Arozarena lead Mariners' rout of Jays

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Logan Gilbert gave up one hit and struck out seven in 7½ innings, Randy Arozarena hit a grand slam and the Seattle Mariners beat the Toronto Blue Jays 11-0 on Saturday.

Cal Raleigh and Dominic Canzone also homered for Seattle.

Gilbert (7-5) retired his first 14 batters before Yohendrik Piñango blooped a single to center field with two outs in the fifth inning. Gilbert got the next eight hitters out before being removed at 91 pitches. He did not walk a batter.

He got all the run support he'd need when the Mariners sent nine to the plate against Toronto starter Shane Bieber (0-1) in a five-run second inning.

Bieber retired the first two hitters, but Cole Young doubled and Victor Robles singled him in to give Seattle a 1-0 lead. Colt Emerson followed with a single and J.P. Crawford walked to load the bases before Arozarena's ninth homer of the year.

Orioles 8, Reds 5: Samuel Basallo hit a three-run homer in the first inning and visiting Baltimore roughed up Hunter Greene in his first start of the season for a win over Cincinnati.

Gunnar Henderson extended his hitting streak to 10 games with a single on the first pitch of the game, Pete Alonso walked and Basallo hit his 14th home run of the season.

Greene (0-1), returning after surgery to remove bone chips from his elbow in March, lasted 3½ innings, allowing eight runs, which tied a career-high, on seven hits. He walked four and struck out seven.

Astros 10, Rays 8: Yordan Alvarez hit a two-run homer off Casey Legumina with no outs in the ninth inning to cap a big night and give host Houston a victory over Tampa Bay.

Named to his fourth All-Star team before the game, Alvarez homered twice and drove in six runs. He leads the AL with 29

homers and has four multi-homer games this season.

After Hunter Brown allowed a season-high seven runs over four innings, the Astros bullpen combined to hold the Rays to a run over the final innings, with Josh Hader (3-0) earning the win.

Braves 14, Mets 3: Michael Harris II had three hits, including one of five home runs for host Atlanta, which gave Chris Sale plenty of support in a blowout over New York.

Eli White, Mauricio Dubón, Mike Yastrzemski and Austin Riley also homered for the Braves.

Sale (9-6), who was named an All-Star for the 10th time just before the game, gave up three runs in five innings on seven hits, including two home runs, and he matched a season-low with three strikeouts. Rookie JR Ritchie picked up his first save after throwing three scoreless innings to close the game.

Marlins 7, Athletics 2: Sandy Alcantara (10-4) allowed one run with a season-high eight strikeouts in eight innings to win his seventh consecutive start, leading visiting Miami past the Athletics.

Otto Lopez homered and had three hits and three RBIs for the Marlins to celebrate his first All-Star selection. Joe Mack and Kyle Stowers also connected while Liam Hicks added three hits for Miami.

Pirates 7, Nationals 1: Braxton Ashcraft (9-3) struck out seven to win his fourth consecutive start, and visiting Pittsburgh defeated Washington.

Henry Davis and Brandon Lowe both drove in two runs for the Pirates, who got back to .500 at 45-45 after dropping three of their past four.

Twins 11, Yankees 4: Josh Bell homered in consecutive at-bats and visiting Minnesota hit six homers in a game for the first time in nearly three years to pull away for a victory over slumping New York.

Kody Clemens, Luke Keaschall and Alex Jackson homered in the first two innings off Yankees starter Brendan Beck (0-1) as the Twins raced to a 6-0 lead. Trevor Larnach also homered.

Tigers 3, Rangers 0: Riley Greene hit a two-run homer in the first inning, Jack Flaherty (2-8) pitched three-hit ball over 5½ innings and visiting Detroit beat Texas.

Tyler Holton retired the only batter he faced after relieving Flaherty, before Keider Montero pitched three no-hit innings with one walk for his first career save and to finish off the seventh shutout by the Tigers this season.

White Sox 3, Guardians 1: Colson Montgomery hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning off Tim Herrin (1-4) for the second of his two RBIs, helping visiting Chicago beat Cleveland.

The White Sox reclaimed first place in the AL Central by percentage points over the Guardians, who won the first two games of the series on walk-off hits.

Phillies 6, Royals 1: Jesús Luzardo struck out nine in six innings, J.T. Realmuto, Gabriel Rincones Jr. and Alec Bohm hit home runs, and visiting Philadelphia beat Kansas City.

Luzardo (7-4) outpitched Royals All-Star selection Michael Wacha, dominating their lineup through the first three innings, striking out six — five with his sweeper — while allowing only an infield hit. He allowed a run on four hits overall.

Giants 6, Rockies 4: Robbie Ray (8-6) threw six efficient innings of three-run ball after regrouping from a fall while covering first base, Willy Adames hit a two-run double as part of a four-run opening frame and visiting San Francisco beat Colorado.

Newly-named All Star Luis Arraez had three hits, including an RBI single, while Bryce Eldridge added a solo homer and a run-scoring double.

Cardinals 3, Cubs 0: Rookie

JJ Wetherholt homered and doubled, Kyle Leahy (7-4) threw five crisp innings and visiting St. Louis beat Chicago at foggy Wrigley Field for its third straight victory.

The rare Saturday night contest at the iconic North Side ballpark started an hour late due to rain, then fog billowed in beginning the second inning and got denser. Players seemed to struggle tracking fly balls, but there were no misplays. The game was ultimately delayed by fog for 15 minutes after the sixth inning.

Diamondbacks 4, Brewers 3: Adrian Del Castillo hit a three-run home run in the first inning and host Arizona held on to beat Milwaukee.

Merrill Kelly (6-8) went five innings to win for the first time in seven starts. Kelly allowed eight hits, walked two and struck out six. He gave up two runs in the fifth on Christian Yelich's sixth home run of the season.

Red Sox 8, Angels 1: Willson Contreras and Romy Gonzalez homered to back Sonny Gray (10-1), who allowed one run and four hits while striking out seven in six innings of visiting Boston's win over Los Angeles.

Wilyer Abreu added a two-run double, and relievers Jovani Morán, Greg Weissert and Alec Gamboa combined for three hitless innings for the Red Sox, who have won seven of nine games. The Angels have lost five straight and 11 of 17 since June 17.

Dodgers 3, Padres 0: Yoshinobu Yamamoto struck out 10 in seven innings, Freddie Freeman homered and host Los Angeles beat San Diego, handing the Padres their eighth consecutive loss.

After wiggling out of a first-inning jam when San Diego had runners on first and third, Yamamoto (9-5) settled in to match a season high with the 10 strikeouts while allowing three hits. He had his second win over the Padres in eight days.