

Trump says ceasefire with Iran is over

BY LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. and Iran traded fire overnight after multiple tankers were targeted in the Strait of Hormuz, setting off another round of hostilities and prompting accusations of ceasefire violations.

President Donald Trump, speaking alongside NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte on Wednesday, said that to him, the latest attacks mean the ceasefire is over.

In a statement posted to X, U.S. Central Command said its forces launched the early Wednesday strikes “to impose heavy costs for targeting and attacking commercial shipping crewed by innocent civilians in an international waterway.”

“Iran’s demonstrated aggression was unwarranted, dangerous, and a clear violation of the ceasefire,” CENTCOM said.

CENTCOM said in a follow-up statement that the U.S. struck more than 80 targets, including “Iranian air defense systems, command and control networks, coastal radar sites, anti-ship missile capabilities, and more than 60 Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps small boats in and near the strait.”

Early Wednesday, reports from Kuwait and Bahrain indicated Iran had launched attacks against targets in those countries.

The Kuwaiti army said in a post on X that its forces were “confronting hostile missile and drone attacks.” Bahrain’s interior ministry sounded alarms and urged residents to take cover.

U.S. Central Command did not immediately respond to questions about whether the strikes had damaged U.S. facilities or hurt personnel.

The United States operates

the headquarters for U.S. Naval Forces Central Command at Naval Support Activity Bahrain and maintains a presence at Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait.

The U.S. Navy issued multiple incoming missile warnings to service members in Bahrain on Wednesday morning, directing them to shelter in place, according to messages seen by Stars and Stripes.

The latest escalation was set off Tuesday after the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Center, a British monitoring organization, reported three tankers were struck by projectiles in the Strait of Hormuz.

Two vessels suffered some damage, but no one was injured, and both continued on their way, the center said. The third tanker traveling off the coast of Oman caught fire.

The head of the International

Maritime Organization on Wednesday condemned the attacks on tankers, and urged shipowners to avoid exposing seafarers to danger by transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

Doing so would intensify the strain on the nearly 6,000 people stranded on vessels and unable to depart the Persian Gulf safely, Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez said in a statement.

Shortly after news of the tanker attacks, the U.S. Treasury reinstated the sanctions it had temporarily lifted against Iranian oil sales as part of negotiations following last month’s memorandum of understanding.

Iran’s parliamentary speaker, in a post to X, accused the U.S. of violating the MOU.

“The era of bullying and extortion is over. It leads nowhere. We don’t fold,” Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said.

Trump: US will license Ukraine to produce Patriots

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

President Donald Trump said Wednesday that the United States would license Ukraine to produce Patriot air defense missiles, praising the country’s wartime leader at a summit where he reserved his toughest words for NATO allies.

Trump, speaking alongside President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the end of the two-day meeting in Turkey, said he had “a very good” relationship with the Ukrainian leader.

If a deal allowing Ukraine to manufacture its own anti-missile weapons is finalized, it would mark a major milestone

for the country and could represent a breakthrough in countering Russian missile barrages.

“This way, you can’t complain that we’re not giving them enough,” Trump told Zelenskyy. “Let’s say, ‘Make them yourself.’”

Trump said he had not yet informed Raytheon, the missile’s manufacturer, of his plan. “But that’ll work out all right,” he added.

For Zelenskyy, the Patriot announcement capped a dramatic turnaround from the public acrimony that characterized his earlier encounters with Trump. The development also coincides with Ukraine’s push to move be-

yond dependence on Western arms deliveries by producing more advanced weapons.

Trump said he regarded Ukraine as a country “with great potential.”

“If this kind of brainpower can go toward rebuilding the country instead of fighting a war, I think that country’s going to do fantastically well,” he said.

In a separate bilateral meeting, Trump also had praise for Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa. When asked if he planned to remove Syria from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, Trump said: “Why wouldn’t I? He’s done a great job.”

During the two-day summit, Trump reserved his toughest words for NATO members.

On Wednesday, he opened the meeting with criticism of Spain, which refused to allow bases and airspace in the country to be used during the Iran conflict. Spain also has balked at Trump’s demand that allies move toward spending 5% of gross domestic product on defense.

“Spain is a terrible partner in NATO. They don’t participate. They don’t pay. I don’t want anything to do with Spain,” Trump said, adding that he intended to cut off all trade with the country.

Top officer of helo squadron lost at sea

BY GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

The commanding officer of a helicopter squadron assigned to the carrier USS George H.W. Bush was the crew member lost at sea and now presumed dead following a July 1 emergency landing in the Arabian Sea.

Cmdr. Gabriel Edwards, commanding officer of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 5, was the missing crew member, the Navy reported late Tuesday.

"Commander Gabe Edwards was the epitome of selfless leadership, who dedicated himself to service and sacrifice for the last 20 years," said Capt. Matthew Lewis, commander of Carrier Air Wing 7. "Our deepest gratitude and sympathy go out to his family, who should know that Gabe led his squadron, the HSC-5 'Nightdippers,' with integrity and forti-

tude, building a cohesive organization that will continue to embody the exceptional standards he set while in command and throughout his naval career."

Edwards, of Oakland, Ore., was in the Sikorsky MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter that ditched with four crew members.

Three other crew members were rescued following the ditching of the Sea Hawk. It was assigned to "The Nightdippers" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 5 from Naval Station Norfolk, Va.

The Navy said it searched over 14,000 square miles for 102 hours before attempts to rescue the sailor were suspended on Sunday. U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force aircraft took part, along with USS George H.W. Bush and guided-missile destroyers.

"We are profoundly grateful to

every sailor, aviator and airman who devoted countless hours, extraordinary skill and unwavering determination in the effort to bring Gabe home," Edwards' wife, Rebecca Edwards, said in a statement. They have two children. "Gabe has dedicated his life to serving his country with honor, courage and commitment. He led with humility, integrity and compassion, always putting his people before himself. To those who served alongside him, he was a respected leader and mentor. To our family, he is the love of my life, an extraordinary father to his children and the foundation of our home. His greatest joy was always his family."

The cause of the incident is under investigation, but there was no indication the emergency was caused by hostile action, the Navy said last week.

Edwards, who assumed command of the squadron in July 2025, accumulated more than 2,000 flight hours in the SH-60F, HH-60H and MH-60S helicopter.

Acting Secretary of the Navy Hung Cao said in a post on X that Edwards would posthumously be promoted to the rank of captain.

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.

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.

Navy unveils reserve aviator bonuses that may reach \$280K

BY MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

The Navy has announced a slew of bonuses that offer reserve aviators the chance to earn as much as \$280,000 over a seven-year period.

The incentives are part of the Navy's annual Training and Administration of the Reserve Aviation Department Head Retention program announced in late June.

The bonuses will be paid in three, five or seven annual installments, according to the Navy Administrative Message. The lowest bonus is \$15,000 per year and the highest is \$40,000.

Eligible roles among the 16 jobs include helicopter sea combat pilots, airborne command-and-control naval flight officers and electronic attack squadron pilots.

The bonuses are part of a wid-

er effort in the military to keep experienced pilots in the ranks rather than lose them to the private sector.

United Airlines launched a recruiting pipeline program in 2024 that seeks to hire ex-military pilots.

The Air Force in April announced eligible and active-duty airmen can apply for the fiscal year 2026 aviation bonus offering higher compensation for shorter contract lengths, particularly in the fighter, bomber and U-2 communities. The shortest contracts go for three years while the longest are 12 years. The rates go up to \$50,000 per year, depending on the applicant's field and experience.

All contracts must be received by the Training and Administration of the Reserve Distribution and Augmentation by Aug. 26, the Navy said.

Landslide seen at Sasebo Naval Base after rainfall

BY KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

Several days of heavy rainfall may have caused a landslide at Sasebo Naval Base in southern Japan earlier this week, a base spokesman said Wednesday.

The landslide occurred at 1 p.m. Monday at Sasebo's Akasaki Fuel Depot, spokesman Aki Nichols said.

"The cause is not confirmed at this time, but it is suspected to be due to recent heavy rainfall in the area," he wrote.

No injuries due to the landslide were reported, Nichols said.

He declined to comment on the impact of the landslide on the installation's facilities or operations, citing operational security.

A photograph posted Monday on the Nagasaki Broadcasting Co. website purported to show the

landslide and a section of a buckled yellow fence where it came to rest at the naval base.

Sasebo is 19 miles south of Nagasaki on the northwestern tip of Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's four main islands.

The installation includes a main base, three off-base housing areas, three fuel facilities, two ordnance facilities and a temporary staging site for air-cushion landing craft.

The area around Sasebo has been hit by rainfall since late June.

The base is homeport for the Tripoli Amphibious Ready Group, a combined Navy-Marine Corps force comprised of the amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli, the amphibious transport dock USS San Diego, the amphibious transport USS New Orleans and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Contractor repairs an issue for Marines

CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps is facing “significant” challenges keeping some of its most important weapons in working order, because Marines too often must rely on contractors for equipment upkeep, the service’s second-ranking general recently wrote to a Senate panel.

Gen. Bradford Gering, the Marine Corps assistant commandant, described for the Armed Services Committee cases involving several high-profile military systems — including parts for communications terminals and for armored vehicles — that Marines sometimes wait months for contractors to fix, when Marines could complete the repair in days or even hours for a fraction of the price if they controlled the data.

“Sustaining Marines in contested environments is as critical as sensing the enemy or

maintaining command and control,” Gering wrote in responses to questions from Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., a member of the Armed Services Committee, that were viewed by CQ Roll Call.

Warren, in an emailed statement, said Gering’s input underscores the need for changes in how the Defense Department and its contractors maintain military systems.

Warren had submitted the questions to Gering after a March hearing of the committee’s Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee. The general’s replies arrived late last month.

Warren and Sen. Tim Sheehy, R-Mont., have championed a so-called right-to-repair provision in the fiscal 2027 NDAA that would give the military services more control over the data they need to maintain their systems more rapidly than they do

today and at lower cost.

Their provision would expand the military’s access to repair materials, hold accountable companies that falsely assert restrictions and permit the military to contract with companies other than the original system manufacturers to perform repairs in wartime and contingency operations.

A similar provision by Reps. Maggie Goodlander, D-N.H., and Pat Harrigan, R-N.C., is part of the House’s fiscal 2027 NDAA.

The Senate plans to start debating its NDAA as soon as next week, starting with consideration of procedural motions. The Senate Armed Services Committee approved the measure last month.

The House would also like to move onto its own NDAA as soon as next week, but Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., has been unable to overcome internal

GOP fissures to secure adoption of a rule governing floor debate.

Civilian and uniformed leaders from Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on down have supported shifting control over data rights from industry to the government to increase competition, reduce prices and ensure troops can fix their equipment on the battlefield.

The department has begun to make some changes along those lines but many lawmakers believe a statutory change is required.

The issue is shaping up to be one of the big defense fights looming in the coming months, as lawmakers hope the NDAA can be enacted for the 66th consecutive year.

Gering’s responses stand out for detailing the concrete impacts on particular weapons that are central to Marine Corps war plans.

Some ports reopen as islands recover from typhoon

BY ALEX WILSON

Stars and Stripes

Recovery efforts on Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands continued Wednesday in the wake of Super Typhoon Bavi, which rumbled through the U.S. territories earlier this week on its way toward Taiwan.

Saipan’s port fully reopened and Guam’s port opened for cargo, paving the way for further recovery efforts across the Northern Marianas, according to a spokeswoman for U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam.

Cargo started moving again through the Port of Guam at 1 p.m. Wednesday, but Apra Harbor remained closed to traffic due to a displaced buoy and ongoing assessments, the port said in a 12 p.m. news release.

“We are moving as fast as safety allows, one assessment at a time, because getting it right is

what prevents longer delays down the road,” Sector Guam spokeswoman Lt. Sara Muir said Wednesday.

Joint Region Marianas, which oversees Department of Defense installations in the region, said initial assessments found “no reports of significant damage to critical infrastructure or injuries to personnel” at Andersen Air Force Base, Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, Naval Base Guam and other sites.

Follow-on assessments continue across the region, spokeswoman Navy Lt. Cmdr. Kristina Wiedemann said Wednesday.

The Mayors Council of Guam canceled the island’s Liberation Day Parade on July 21, Guam’s annual celebration marking the end of three years of Japanese occupation during World War II, Kuam News reported Wednesday.

The Category 5-equivalent ty-

phoon passed directly over 33-square mile Rota on Monday morning, putting its two harbors and airport out of commission and damaging or destroying most of the island’s homes.

Bavi on Wednesday was a Category-4 equivalent storm on track for Taiwan and Ishigaki, about 300 miles southwest of Okinawa in Japan’s Nansei Islands, according to a Wednesday afternoon update from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center.

The storm is forecast to pass about 300 miles southwest of Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, just past midnight Friday as a Category 3-equivalent typhoon.

Significant relief cannot reach the 2,000 residents of Bavi until larger ports reopen due to logistics in the island chain, according to the Coast Guard.

Cargo vessels and other ships typically stop at Guam or Saipan en route to the smaller is-

lands, so those ports must reopen first, Muir told Stars and Stripes Wednesday.

Reopening the primary ports also frees up vessels and personnel for relief efforts elsewhere, Muir added.

Guam, the United States’ westernmost territory, fared better than Rota but the storm significantly damaged the islands’ utilities and public infrastructure.

More than two-thirds of the island was without power Wednesday morning, according to a 10 a.m. Facebook post from the Guam Power Authority. Of the island’s 120 water wells, 74 were online, the Guam Waterworks Authority said in a 3 p.m. update by the island’s Joint Information Center.

Spokespeople for Rota’s government could not be reached for comment as of Wednesday afternoon.

Platner's collapse adds pressure for Dems

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The campaign of U.S. Senate nominee Graham Platner was buckling in Maine after he was accused of rape, injecting uncertainty into a contest that is central to determining which party wins Senate control in November's midterms.

The New York Daily News reported Wednesday that Platner was huddling with aides about pulling the plug on his campaign.

"This could and should end today," a Platner aide told CNN. "We'll see if it does."

The situation set off swift debate about how state Democrats would choose Platner's replacement if he were to withdraw and

which Maine figures might be best positioned to play off the progressive messaging he used to win over voters.

With Maine viewed by Democrats as a key seat to win in their long-shot bid for a Senate majority, the decision would be high stakes, analysts said.

In the meantime, with uncertainty clouding the race, the shake-up could put additional pressure on the party to win Senate races in states seen as more difficult to flip.

Platner has denied the rape allegation, which came in a Politico report Monday from a woman who said Platner forced her to have sex with him when

he was intoxicated.

Platner said Monday that he would "reflect" on his candidacy but has not withdrawn.

"The calculation that almost everyone on the Democratic side is making is that with Platner in it, it is an unwinnable race," said John Cluverius, director of survey research for the Center for Public Opinion at UMass Lowell, "and without Platner in it, they have a much better chance."

An oyster farmer and Marine veteran, Platner had entered the race to challenge Republican Sen. Susan Collins as an outsider and was seen as riding an anti-establishment wave of support.

His candidacy highlighted the split within his party between progressives and establishment Democrats and represented a matchup between an older incumbent and a younger outsider candidate.

By Tuesday afternoon, Platner's financial backing was disintegrating and prominent Democrats — as well as Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., a key endorser of Platner's — had withdrawn their support.

Sanders said Tuesday afternoon that he had told Platner to withdraw.

A spokesperson for Platner's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

McConnell's health remains mystery to fellow senators

Lexington Herald-Leader

A fellow U.S. senator said one reason why few are commenting on Sen. Mitch McConnell's condition is because they have very little information about his status.

Democrats have pushed for more transparency about McConnell's health in the weeks since he was hospitalized for unknown reasons, though some GOP politicians and backers have said they've spoken with the 84-year-old lawmaker.

Sen. Mike Lee, a Utah Republican, said details aren't being shared with fellow lawmakers.

"Many of us aren't speaking about Mitch McConnell's condition because we know nothing about his condition," Lee said in a Tuesday post to X.

Lee's post was in response to concerns about why other politicians have not shared more information about McConnell's health.

The longtime senator was hospitalized June 14, and his office confirmed late last week

that he was still there continuing his recovery.

In a July 2 statement, a McConnell spokesperson said "he continues to improve, and is working closely with his staff on Kentucky and Senate matters while the Senate is out of session."

When McConnell was first hospitalized, his office did not give details about his condition at the time, other than to say he was receiving "excellent care."

Almost no other information has been provided.

When asked Monday about growing speculation regarding McConnell's status, a spokesperson for McConnell said they'd keep media updated. Asked again about his health Tuesday, his office said they'd provide updates as he continues to recover.

Last week, EMS radio traffic reported by Punchbowl News and other media outlets revealed McConnell was "unconscious" at his Washington, D.C., home before being taken to the hospital.

Appeals court deals blow to Fla. 'Stop WOKE' law

Miami Herald

A federal court Tuesday blocked part of a controversial Florida law restricting how public university and college professors can teach students.

A majority opinion from a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit upheld a lower court ruling that blocked the law from restricting how professors and instructors can teach about certain topics.

The law targeted promotion of eight concepts related to race, gender and identity. The concepts included the idea that one "race, color, national origin or sex" is superior to another, the idea that someone "bears responsibility, or should be treated worse" because of past acts by people in their identity group, and that a person should be treated worse "to achieve diversity, equity or inclusion," among others.

The opinion is limited to the application of the law as it relates to postsecondary institutions, though the law also ap-

plies more broadly to other educational institutions and businesses.

The law was initially dubbed the "Stop WOKE Act," adopting language often used to deride left-of-center ideas seen as too extreme. It was later named the Individual Freedom Act.

The state argued that it allowed discussion of the targeted concepts, but could restrict promotion of them because professors are paid by the state.

Judge Britt Grant wrote that the law amounted to "improper viewpoint discrimination."

"Florida seeks to strip public university professors — and by extension their students — of the ability to fully engage with ideas that are, for better or for worse, very popular in some academic circles. The State asks us to consider its rules a means of targeting discrimination. But hearing an idea you disagree with is not discrimination; it is an opportunity to come up with a better idea, or maybe even change your mind," Grant wrote.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Waymo car alerts police of misbehaving teens

CA SAN MATEO — Two teens who engaged a Waymo car for an afternoon of carousing were busted after the vehicle delivered them to the San Mateo police.

The 15-year-olds allegedly were drinking alcohol and shooting water beads from a toy gun as they rode in the driverless car Monday, the police's social media post said. Waymo stopped the car in a parking lot and notified the police, who detained the teens. Police photos show five officers, one with a dog, surrounding the car at a shopping center just south of the interchange of El Camino Real and Highway 92.

The police post allowed "there was some ingenuity to this scheme" but said underage drinking and brandishing of even toy guns to strangers are "bad ideas."

Waymo cars have internal cameras, and the images can be monitored by the company's employees. In "more urgent circumstances," the support team "may access live video during a trip," Waymo's support page says.

Storms spur nearly a dozen water rescues

MD BALTIMORE — A Fourth of July weekend marked by sweltering heat and severe storms was especially busy for Baltimore County emergency officials, who made nearly a dozen rescues in area waterways.

Two people tubing on the Big Gunpowder Falls near the Warren Road Bridge in Cockeysville got stuck in the mud

around 8 p.m. Friday, prompting an aerial hoist rescue by a Maryland State Police helicopter.

On Saturday, officials responded to about 10 water rescues in the Back and Middle rivers — including six people pulled from a capsized boat near Hart Miller Island, according to Fran Harker, chief marine engineer for the Bowleys Quarters Volunteer Fire Department Marine Emergency Team 21.

"We're used to summer storms around here, but of this magnitude — I don't think anybody was expecting it," he told The Baltimore Sun. "With a couple hundred boats that were meandering around the waterways, a lot of folks got caught off guard and weren't expecting this."

Slow-moving storms swept across much of Maryland on July 4, knocking out power for more than 19,000 people in Baltimore County.

Eagle parents return to eaglets after fireworks

CA LOS ANGELES — Fireworks can frighten animals and send them scattering, but Jackie and Shadow's eaglets apparently are made of sterner stuff.

Chicks Luna and Sandy were seen safe and sound Sunday morning around 6 a.m. on the popular livestream nest cam aimed at their Big Bear pine tree, snacking on fish in the family aerie.

Mom and Dad did fly off when the nearby Fourth of July holiday show promoted by tourism organization Visit Big Bear began on Saturday night, Big Bear Valley media and website manager Jennifer Voisard told the

Orange County Register on Sunday morning.

But both bald eagles flew back to their nest Sunday morning to care for their eaglets, who had remained around the nest during the show.

Fire in Foothills closes trails, exceeds 300 acres

ID BOISE — Boise firefighters responded Monday afternoon to a growing wildfire that started near a residential street in the Foothills.

Around a dozen Boise Fire Department units were dispatched to what is being called the Claremont Fire near the 1900 block of North Claremont Drive, according to Lauren Melink, a spokesperson for the department. Melink said no structures had been damaged by the grass fire as of Monday at 2 p.m. Hikers were ordered to leave all Boise Foothills trails near the fire, including in the Halls Gulch area, Boise Fire wrote in a statement posted online.

The fire, which was burning north of the Military Reserve and southeast of Halls Gulch Reserve, reached more than 300 acres by 3:30 p.m., according to Boise Fire.

1st West Nile mosquito sample in Yolo County

CA SACRAMENTO — As West Nile virus cases across the country surge to the highest levels in years, officials said Monday that the first Yolo County mosquito sample of the season tested positive for the virus.

The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District said in a news release that the mosquito sample was found Monday in Madison, a small un-

incorporated town in Yolo County, just east of Esparto.

Also on Monday, four mosquito samples and five dead birds tested positive for the virus in Sacramento County, raising the total reported to 24 mosquito samples and 38 dead birds this season. Many of the mosquito samples and dead birds were found in the eastern half of Sacramento and northeast to Arden Arcade and Carmichael, according to the Control District's virus activity map.

Two dead birds have also tested positive for West Nile virus in Yolo County — one in Woodland and one in West Sacramento.

Last week, the Control District reported its first human case of the virus this year in a Sacramento County woman in her 60s.

Publix fruit at center of E. coli outbreak probe

DC WASHINGTON — An E. coli outbreak that's hit Florida and Georgia has been linked by the Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to Publix store brand frozen blueberries that also went to six other states, the agencies announced Monday.

Before Monday's investigation summaries posted online, neither agency had posted anything publicly. Friday's recall of Publix's GreenWise Organic Whole Blueberries by Chilean company Frutas y Hortalizas del Sur S.A., which stated "12 confirmed cases of consumers experiencing stomach illness ... linked with E. coli O145:H28 infections," was the first hint to the public there might be an outbreak.

— From wire reports

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Messi, Argentina stun Egypt in comeback win

Associated Press

ATLANTA — It was another World Cup epic from an Argentina team that simply doesn't know when it's beaten.

Trailing 2-0 against Egypt with 11 minutes of regulation time to play Tuesday, the defending champions rallied for an improbable 3-2 victory and a spot in the quarterfinals.

"We have a phenomenal group, a group that never gives up no matter the difficulties and adversity. We're always together," said Enzo Fernandez, who scored the winning goal in stoppage time.

Argentina will play Switzerland in the next round on Saturday in Kansas City, Mo.

For much of Tuesday's game, it looked like it would be a painful exit for the 39-year-old Lionel Messi in what might be the last of his six World Cups.

Egypt led after goals in each half from Yasser Ibrahim and Mostafa Zico and could have been ahead 3-0 if not for a video review that ruled out another score.

Argentina looked down and

out, its bid to be the first team to win back-to-back World Cup titles since Brazil in 1958 and 1962 all but dead.

Cue a monumental comeback.

"The heart of Argentinians is always something that pushes, that we keep going no matter what, that we give everything until the end. And honestly, with the score 2-0, we looked a bit beaten," Argentina striker Julian Alvarez said. "There was little time left, but we always manage to get something more by fighting until the end."

Cristian Romero started the rally by scoring with a header in the 79th minute. Messi, who was in tears after the final whistle, scored his eighth goal of the tournament and record-extending 21st goal at the World Cup in the 83rd to level the score at 2-2.

Fernandez completed the comeback in injury time.

"Four years have passed since Qatar, and we've come to enjoy another World Cup — and we want to win it again. That's what we're aiming for," Fernandez said.

Argentina is no stranger to heroic matches at the World Cup.

There was the 3-2 win over West Germany in the 1986 final. Then the 3-3 draw and eventual shootout victory against France to reclaim the title four years ago.

Cape Verde pushed Argentina to the brink in the last round before the defending champions eventually won 3-2 in extra time.

Tuesday's match was even more dramatic, with Messi having a first-half penalty saved and another effort hit the post.

Egypt took a surprising lead in the 15th minute when Ibrahim got ahead of Lisandro Martinez to meet Marwan Attia's cross and head the ball into the bottom corner.

Argentina was quickly given the chance to level the match when Haissem Hassan tripped Nicolas Tagliafico in the box moments later. Referee François Letexier pointed to the penalty spot and Messi stepped up with an expectant crowd waiting for him to score.

Egypt goalkeeper Mostafa Shobeir had other ideas, diving to his left to block the shot for Messi's second penalty miss of the tournament after also failing from the spot against Austria in the group stage.

Despite being the all-time leading scorer at World Cups, Messi has now missed four of eight penalty kicks in the tournament.

After Messi hit the post later in the half, Shobeir pulled off another great save to stop Alvarez from close range.

Egypt thought it had doubled its lead in the second half when Mostafa Zico finished off a sweeping attack. But the wild celebrations were cut short when a foul earlier in the move was confirmed on video review and the goal was disallowed.

That second goal for Egypt did come in the 67th from a similar break, and this time Zico's effort counted. It just wasn't enough.

"We looked better compared to the reigning champions. We were better in everything, but the result," Egypt coach Hosam Hassan said.

Vargas lifts Switzerland over Colombia with shootout goal

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — In a match with few fireworks, the Swiss were patient against the Colombians and their enthusiastic fans.

After a scoreless draw, Ruben Vargas converted the decisive penalty kick and Switzerland advanced to the World Cup quarterfinals, beating Colombia 4-3 in a shootout Tuesday.

Switzerland will face defending champion Argentina on Saturday at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo. Argentina defeated Egypt 3-2 earlier in the day.

Switzerland had not reached the World Cup quarterfinals since hosting the tournament in 1954. And the Swiss were short-handed Tuesday without young midfielder Johan Manzambi, who was injured in training Monday.

Vargas, who has two goals in the World Cup, also left Monday's training early but

came on in stoppage time at the end of regulation.

In the shootout, Colombia defender Davinson Sánchez's penalty kick attempt hit the crossbar and Switzerland goalkeeper Gregor Kobel saved an attempt by Cucho Hernández.

Colombia failed to qualify for the last World Cup in 2022. Los Cafeteros made the quarterfinals of the 2014 tournament in Brazil, beating Uruguay in the round of 16 but losing to the host country 2-1.

"The dream was enormous," Colombia midfielder Jhon Arias said. "The country showed us that it believed in us, that it lived every moment with us, and I think that only makes the pain even greater."

The Swiss reached the round of 16 at the past three World Cups but failed to advance with a smaller field of 32 teams.

"We worked very hard, and now we have this opportunity," Switzerland coach Murat

Yakin said. "This is going to be a very interesting matchup from our point of view. We will try to compete against the reigning champions and it's going to be amazing. Switzerland against Argentina in a quarterfinal. I am so excited. I think that I need maybe a couple of hours more or another day to process what just happened, and then tomorrow we will start focusing on Argentina."

The match was tightly contested by two teams with contrasting styles; the Swiss with a more organized and methodical approach and Colombia more attack-oriented and physical. Switzerland had a slight edge in possession.

Manzambi, a 20-year-old midfielder who plays for German club Freiburg, has become one of the tournament's breakout stars with three goals. The Swiss were also without Luca Jaquez and midfielder Michel Aebischer.

Djokovic beats Auger-Aliassime in 5 hours

Associated Press

LONDON — Side to side. Corner to corner. Novak Djokovic kept pushing Felix Auger-Aliassime back and forth along the Centre Court baseline at Wimbledon to retrieve one shot after another.

Finally, on the 22nd shot of a grueling rally deep in a fifth-set super tiebreaker, Auger-Aliassime had a forehand in the middle of the court. Under normal circumstances, it might have been just the shot he was looking for.

Not this time. Not after five hours of battling with the 39-year-old Djokovic.

Auger-Aliassime, a 25-year-old Canadian with one of the top-rated forehands on tour, had nothing left in his tank. He sprayed his forehand wide to give Djokovic a 9-4 lead. Then both players bent over in exhaustion and leaned on their rackets. Djokovic, while he was bent over, still found energy to encourage the crowd to cheer louder, waving his right arm for more noise.

One point later, the longest quarterfinal in Wimbledon history — at 5 hours and 15 minutes —

was finished.

“These,” Djokovic said, “are the kind of moments that I still play tennis for.”

Djokovic, the seven-time Wimbledon champion, prevailed 7-6 (10), 3-6, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (4) on Tuesday to set up a semifinal against defending champion Jannik Sinner.

“I’m still able to battle these young guys that have 15 years less than me,” Djokovic said. “I’m able to beat them at the tightest possible scoreline. ... In a sense, it is really a nice surprise. But at the same time, I always have the highest expectations for myself.”

Djokovic continues to break records as he chases a 25th Grand Slam title. He’s reached a record-setting eighth consecutive Wimbledon final four — moving him one ahead of Roger Federer for most consecutive men’s singles semifinal appearances at the grass-court tournament.

“We know, because we’ve seen him so much, but it’s so impressive that he does it time and time again,” Auger-Aliassime said.

The match ended just before the All England Club’s 11 p.m.

curfew took effect.

To celebrate, Djokovic raised his arms high and wide and took in the applause as he walked to the net to shake hands with Auger-Aliassime. Then Djokovic performed a little elbows-to-knees dance. He often mentions that his daughter, who was watching in the players’ box, tries to teach him moves.

Later, Djokovic was asked to compare himself with another 39-year-old still performing at the highest of levels: Lionel Messi of Argentina.

“It would be nice to play 90 minutes like him,” Djokovic said of the soccer great.

Rematch with Sinner

Sinner spent less than half the amount of time on court as Djokovic did when he beat Jan-Lennard Struff 7-5, 7-6 (4), 6-3 much earlier in the day on No. 1 Court.

Sinner beat Djokovic in straight sets in last year’s Wimbledon semifinals, and Djokovic outlasted the Italian over five sets in the last four of this year’s Australian Open.

“I wish it was finals, so I don’t

need to worry about how the body will feel tomorrow,” Djokovic said.

Djokovic does get two days off before Friday’s semifinals.

Medical timeout

Late in the first set, Djokovic dealt with what appeared to be a lower-leg issue. He took a medical timeout and a trainer tested the stability of his left ankle and calf before massaging his calf muscle.

Djokovic had earlier leaned over to stretch his leg by pulling back the tip of his sneaker. He also stretched while standing at the back wall.

There was more stretching the rest of the way, too — especially late in the fifth set.

Roof closure

Djokovic objected to the decision to close the Centre Court roof at 7:40 p.m. after Auger-Aliassime won the second set to level at a set apiece.

Djokovic told Wimbledon tournament referee Denise Parnell that they could squeeze in another set before the natural light faded.

Kostyuk advances with win over Paolini; Fery tops Cobolli

Associated Press

LONDON — Marta Kostyuk made a big impression in her Centre Court debut by beating Jasmine Paolini 6-3, 6-2 to reach her first Wimbledon semifinals Wednesday.

The 24-year-old Ukrainian also reached the last four at the French Open, losing to Russian teenager Mirra Andrejeva, the eventual champion in Paris.

Kostyuk raised her hands and dropped to her knees after Paolini scuffed a shot on her second match point. After shaking hands with the Italian, Kostyuk did a pirouette on court.

The 12th-seeded Kostyuk had a sneak peak at Centre Court on Tuesday so that she wasn’t overwhelmed for the match.

“I was flabbergasted by this entrance and everything inside,” she said in an on-court interview. “I was like, ‘wow,’ I need one day to recover from what I saw. ... I was on this court as (a) spectator once nine years ago watching Roger (Federer).”

Kostyuk will be back on Centre Court on Thursday to face Linda Noskova for a spot in Saturday’s final. Noskova beat Elise Mertens 6-3, 7-5 on No. 1 Court.

It’s the first career Grand Slam semifinal for the 21-year-old Noskova, who improved to 10-1 on grass this season.

“I was as a little bit nervous before the match,” said Noskova, who beat Jessica Pegula in the Berlin Open final in the buildup to Wimbledon. “Usually when its

really, really important for me and I’m putting a little bit of pressure on myself, that’s when I play the best.”

The other women’s semifinal features Coco Gauff against Karolina Muchova, who like Noskova is from the Czech Republic. They’re up first on Centre Court on Thursday.

Paolini, the 2024 Wimbledon runner-up, made 26 unforced errors and hit just eight winners.

Fery rolls on

Arthur Fery grew up five minutes from the All England Club and now the 114th-ranked player is a semifinalist at the grass-court Grand Slam.

The 23-year-old British player, who needed a wild-card invitation

to enter the tournament, beat ninth-seeded Flavio Cobolli 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-0 on Centre Court in front of roaring home fans and a Royal Box contingent that included Britain’s Queen Camilla on Wednesday.

Fery earned a standing ovation after winning the first set. The deafening roar that followed Fery taking the tiebreaker to seal the second set was heard inside Wimbledon’s other main stadium — No. 1 Court, where Alexander Zverev was in the process of beating Taylor Fritz in straight sets.

Fery sealed his historic victory with an ace and fell onto his back to soak in the applause. Moments later, Zverev wrapped up his 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 win to set up a semifinal against Fery on Friday.

O'Hearn sets Pirates record with 10 RBIs

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Pirates first baseman Ryan O'Hearn set a club record Tuesday night by driving in 10 runs on three homers in a 12-4 victory over the Atlanta Braves.

O'Hearn hit a grand slam off Atlanta starter Hurston Waldrep in the first, added a three-run shot off Waldrep in the third and took Braves reliever Connor Thomas deep with another three-run shot in the sixth.

O'Hearn's big night broke the franchise record of nine RBIs set by Johnny Rizzo against St. Louis on May 30, 1939. The 10 RBIs by O'Hearn — who signed a multi-year free agent deal to join Pittsburgh in the offseason — also marked the most in the majors by a player this year.

"Got some good pitches to hit and after the third one I was like, 'Oh man, no kidding? I guess today's supposed to be my day,'" O'Hearn said.

O'Hearn made it easy for Pirates ace Paul Skenes (7-8) to get his first win in nearly two months. Skenes allowed two runs on eight hits in six innings with a walk and four strikeouts.

Brewers 4-10, Cardinals 3-2: Joey Ortiz homered, Robert Gasser (2-3) pitched a career-high 7½ innings and Milwaukee swept a doubleheader at St. Louis.

Luis Lara, in his major league debut, got his first hit and RBI with a two-run single that gave the Brewers a 3-0 lead in the fifth. Milwaukee broke it open with seven runs against Cardinals reliever Jared Shuster in the seventh.

Jacob Misiorowski (10-4) struck out 11 in seven innings during the first game, which was a makeup from May 5.

Christian Yelich had three hits and two RBIs. Yelich tied the game 2-2 in the third with an RBI single, then had the go-ahead RBI double in the seventh.

Royals 16, Mets 12: Tyler Tolbert tied a major league rec-

ord with hits in 12 consecutive plate appearances, finishing 5-for-6 and powering Kansas City to a wild, comeback win at New York.

Batting ninth, the right fielder hit a two-run homer in the second inning and singled in the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh. Lane Thomas added four RBIs in going 3 for 4 as the Royals had 19 hits overall.

Rookie A.J. Ewing homered and reached base in all five plate appearances for the Mets, going 4 for 4 with three RBIs and four runs scored. Juan Soto hit his 20th homer, a three-run shot.

Rockies 4, Dodgers 3: Shohei Ohtani hit his 300th career homer, but two errors by Los Angeles in the eighth inning led to three runs by visiting Colorado, which rallied for a victory.

Pitching with a 3-1 lead, reliever Will Klein (3-3) had a potential inning-ending double play ball that turned into a run-scoring error by shortstop Miguel Rojas. Jack Dreyer entered for the Dodgers and retired Jake McCarthy on a sacrifice bunt that tied the game. But the Rockies took the lead on the same play when second baseman Alex Freeland misplayed a throw to third.

Cubs 5, Orioles 2: Matthew Boyd (4-1) pitched six shutout innings with seven strikeouts, Alex Bregman drove in two runs and visiting Chicago beat Baltimore.

Miguel Amaya scored three times for the Cubs, who have won 11 of 14 to remain a half-game ahead of Philadelphia for the top NL wild-card spot.

Tigers 6, Athletics 2: Tarik Skubal (5-4) struck out nine over five innings and Colt Keith hit a two-run homer to lead host Detroit over the Athletics.

Kevin McGonigle, headed to the All-Star Game as a rookie, drew an eight-pitch walk from J.T. Ginn (7-5) leading off the first and Keith hit his next pitch for his seventh homer and a lead

the Tigers never relinquished. Detroit (41-50) has won three straight and six of its last seven games.

Marlins 6, Mariners 5 (10): Jakob Marsee hit a game-ending single off the wall in right field in the 10th inning, and host Miami beat Seattle.

Pinch-hitter Heriberto Hernández led off the eighth for the Marlins with a 422-foot homer to left, his 12th of the season, to tie the game at 5-all. Owen Caissie also hit his 12th for Miami, a solo shot in the second.

Rays 6, Yankees 4: Hunter Feduccia and Yandy Diaz hit consecutive home runs in the fourth inning, Ian Seymour (6-1) struck out 12 in 5½ innings and host Tampa Bay beat New York.

Victor Mesa Jr. also homered, and Richie Palacios had two hits, scored twice and drove in a run for the Rays, who extended their lead in the AL East over the Yankees to four games.

Astros 6, Nationals 3: Jose Altuve homered, Nick Allen drove in a season-high three runs and visiting Houston beat Washington.

Houston trailed 2-1 before a three-run fourth inning against Andrew Alvarez (2-2). After the Astros loaded the bases with one out, Allen slapped a two-run single to left. After Brice Matthews and Allen executed a double steal, Matthews scored on Christian Vázquez's sacrifice fly.

Phillies 4, Reds 1: Zack Wheeler tied a career high with 14 strikeouts, Kyle Schwarber hit his major league-best 31st home run of the season and visiting Philadelphia beat Cincinnati.

Wheeler (9-1) threw 104 pitches over seven innings. He allowed four hits, an earned run and no walks. Jhoan Duran earned his 22nd save of the year, striking out all three batters in the ninth.

Twins 3, Guardians 1: Taj Bradley allowed one run and struck out 10 in seven innings,

Kody Clemens had two hits and an RBI, and host Minnesota beat Cleveland.

Bradley (8-3), who set a career best with 11 strikeouts in his last outing July 1 at Houston, had swing-and-miss stuff all night, throwing a career-high 25 swinging strikes. He allowed three hits and walked none, winning for the third time in his past four starts.

Red Sox 8, White Sox 1: Payton Tolle (5-6) allowed two hits and struck out six in six shutout innings, Andruw Monasterio and Ceddanne Rafaela homered and visiting Boston beat Chicago.

The Red Sox have won four in a row and nine of their past 11 to close within seven games of .500 for the first time since May 23.

Rangers 8, Angels 3: Alejandro Osuna hit a three-run homer during a five-run eighth inning and host Texas pulled away for a win over Los Angeles.

Osuna's first homer of the season followed RBI singles by Ezequiel Duran and Justin Foscue in the six-hit inning off Sam Bachman (1-2). Foscue also hit a pinch-hit home run in the seventh, tying the score 3-3.

Padres 4, Diamondbacks 1: Jake Cronenworth's three-run home run off Zac Gallen capped a four-run first inning and host San Diego beat Arizona for just its second victory in 11 games.

Germán Márquez (4-2) gave up three hits and one unearned run in five innings. Four Padres relievers followed with four hitless innings, with Mason Miller capping the effort with his 23rd save.

Blue Jays 9, Giants 3: Jonathan Clase hit his first home run of the season, Ernie Clement had three hits and visiting Toronto beat San Francisco.

Sean Keys drove in two runs during a five-run third inning to help the Blue Jays end a three-game skid. Clase, Keys and Brandon Valenzuela had two hits each.