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US to suspend war games with Seoul

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SINGAPORE — The United States will freeze war games with South Korea during nuclear negotiations with the North, President Donald Trump said Tuesday, handing the communist state something it has been demanding for decades.

The stunning announcement reverses decades of U.S. military posture in the region, with joint exercises at the heart of readiness against North Korea's artillery and more than 1 million soldiers poised across the border.

Critics said the decision to halt the drills was a major concession to the North that gained nothing in return. The drills infuriate Pyongyang, which considers them a rehearsal for an invasion.

"We will be stopping the war games, unless and until we see that the future negotiation is not going along as well as it should," Trump said during a press conference after his historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

He called them "expensive" and "provocative," using terms usually employed by the North Koreans in criticizing the drills.

American commanders are usually cautious in discussing the drills, insisting that they are defensive in nature and necessary due to the need to "be ready to fight tonight."

Trump emphasized the cost, noting that the United States flies in supersonic bombers from Guam and deploys other strategic assets to participate.

Kim, meanwhile, reaffirmed his commitment to work toward the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula, something he already had agreed to during his previous summit with the South.

Lawmakers push for say on US-North Korea deal

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Several lawmakers expressed alarm Tuesday with President Donald Trump's plans to halt military exercises with U.S. ally South Korea following his historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, with some of them arguing any deal has to be ratified by Congress.

Among them, Sen. David Perdue, R-Ga., a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he was caught off guard since Trump had said military cooperation would not necessarily be part of a first meeting with Kim.

"I'm very troubled today. This concession today, I was surprised, frankly," Perdue said during a breakfast meeting with reporters.

"But I don't think it's as big a deal as it might appear this morning, just because we have so many other things in the region. However, the coordination with the South Korean military is absolutely critical."

The drills infuriate Pyongyang, which considers them a rehearsal for an invasion of the North.

"It's clear that Kim Jong Un walked away from Singapore with exactly what he wanted — the pomp, circumstance and prestige of a meeting with the president of the United States — while making no specific commitments in return," said Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va. "Whether this will result in a verifiable agreement to dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons program, America and the world will wait to find out."

Trump said the North Korean leader also had agreed to destroy a missile site.

"We're ready to write a new chapter between our nations," he said.

Trump didn't offer details about halting the exercises, which were already disrupted once this year when spring-time drills were delayed for several weeks to make way for the North's participation in the Winter Olympics.

A U.S. Forces Korea spokeswoman said the command had received no updated guidance on the issue, including about the upcoming exercise known as

Ulchi Freedom Guardian that is due to begin in August.

Washington and Seoul conduct two major sets of exercises each year — Foal Eagle and Key Resolve in the spring and Ulchi Freedom Guardian in the fall. The drills are a flashpoint for tensions because they infuriate the North, which often issues angry denunciations and threats in response.

Experts noted the summit outcome fell far short of the U.S. administration's goal of the complete, verified and irreversible denuclearization of the North.

"The language on denucle-

arization was stunningly weak, even given low expectations," said Adam Mount, a senior defense analyst at the Federation of American Scientists.

"Trump's offer to end U.S.-South Korean joint exercises is a massive concession," he added. "It runs a considerable risk of damaging the alliance and will likely invite more assertive North Korean requests in the future."

Mount said it's not clear whether Kim requested the freeze or whether Trump offered it unilaterally.

The announcement took South Korean officials by surprise. President Moon Jae-in's office said it needed to analyze the exact meaning of Trump's comments.

The United States has canceled the exercises in past years as part of negotiations with the North that eventually collapsed.

Kelly Magsamen, a national security specialist with the Center for American Progress, said in a commentary Tuesday's agreement contained no specific commitments by North Korea. She stressed the need to protect America and its allies, address the nuclear threat from North Korea and protect long-term U.S. interests in Asia.

"In this regard, we are deeply concerned about the signal Trump sent by calling our joint alliance defensive exercises 'provocative,'" she added. "This continues Trump's disturbing pattern of undermining our democratic alliances while praising our adversaries."

Trump said he has no plans to reduce the U.S. military troop presence as part of security assurances for the North, but he left open the possibility that he will do so in the future. He said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo would meet with a senior North Korean official next week to continue discussions.

Proposal calls for \$709 billion in defense-related spending

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A proposal for the next massive defense policy plan would authorize \$709 billion to fund a long list of initiatives from pay raises to troop increases to new ships, planes, submarines and missiles, according to an analysis by the Congressional Budget Office.

The House-passed version of the next National Defense Authorization Act would raise defense-related funding from 2018 by 2 percent, or \$15.6 billion, according to the agency, which issues cost and budget analysis of proposed legislation on behalf of Congress. The measure passed the House floor last month in a 351-66 vote.

“The key focus of this bill is restoring readiness to ensure that when our men and women in uniform go out on mission, they have the best equipment, the best training and the best support our nation can provide,” Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas,

the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said after the House passed the NDAA on May 24. “This bill also takes crucial steps toward rebuilding our military and reforming the Pentagon.”

The House plan would direct funding for pay raises of 2.6 percent, a boost to active-duty personnel by more than 15,000, an extension of certain bonuses and allowances, consideration of new improvements to the military health care system and purchases of new equipment and weapons.

The Senate was slated to begin more debate on its version of the defense bill Monday evening. Last month, the Senate Armed Services Committee passed its version of the defense bill, which so far mostly follows the House version.

Both versions of the legislation have been named for Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, who left Washington in December in his ongoing battle with brain cancer.

Members of the committee have “heard about the pressing needs of the men and women who serve in harm’s way: Greater readiness. Enhanced weapons capabilities in the air and on the seas. Simpler processes for acquisition. More support for military families,” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said last week in early debate of the measure. “This NDAA will help equip our troops with the latest training and the best technology to confront those challenges and keep us safe.”

The House plan authorizes policy and spending for the Defense Department, but separate legislation actually funds the measures. The House Appropriations Committee is slated to consider its defense funding measure Wednesday.

Of the overall \$709 billion that would be authorized, about \$639 billion would be considered part of the base budget, while another \$69 billion would be directed for the overseas contingency fund.

F-15 flight training to resume on Okinawa

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Air Force plans to resume F-15 flight training Wednesday, two days after an F-15C Eagle crashed into waters south of the island prefecture in southern Japan.

A stand-down period was announced Monday in the aftermath of the crash, which occurred about 6:36 a.m. local time during a routine training mission out of Kadena Air Base.

The pilot successfully ejected prior to impact and was rescued by the Japan Air Self-Defense Force. The pilot’s condition — announced as “serious” Monday evening — was upgraded to “fair” Tuesday, according to a post on Kadena’s official Twitter account.

Air Force officials said they decided to resume the training after all F-15 aircraft at Kadena had been inspected and an initial investigation into the cause of the crash had been completed, though they did not say what that investigation revealed.

“Senior, experienced pilots and maintainers have reviewed the initial facts and circumstances of the mishap and are confident that the incident does not indicate a problem with the overall safety of Kadena’s F-15 fleet,” the officials said in a statement issued Tuesday evening.

Japanese officials could not be reached for comment after hours.

Kadena’s 18th Wing said Monday that a more comprehensive investigation would also take place, and a board of officers would examine the “facts and circumstances that led up to the accident.” In the meantime, they vowed to review “operational, maintenance and safety procedures” with unit personnel.

Some PCSing civilians get tax relief

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

New guidance on the taxation of moving expenses may come as a relief to some federal workers, but many — including retirees and new hires — are still stuck footing a significant tax bill.

A General Services Administration bulletin submitted last month at the request of Sens. Tim Kaine and Mark Warner — both Virginia Democrats — clarified how employers should withhold taxes on moving expenses under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which in part redefined civilian employer-paid and reimbursed moving

expenses as taxable income.

The GSA bulletin says agencies can now reimburse “substantially all” moving-related tax expenses for civilians who go from one federal job to another through Withholding Tax Allowance and Relocation Income Tax Allowance payments. Those applicable who have already had wages taxed will be reimbursed. However, permanent-change-of-station expenses for new hires and those leaving federal jobs are not eligible for those allowances.

Kaine’s office said the GSA reported that 14,353 relocations were authorized for this fiscal year. However, that number doesn’t include the thousands of

workers moving to start or leave civilian federal jobs.

“Kaine said in an email to Stars and Stripes that “it’s clear more work needs to be done to fully fix this issue.”

The GSA bulletin lists the following PCS expenses and reimbursements as taxable income under the new law: lodging; mileage for personal vehicles; airline tickets; household goods and unaccompanied baggage; temporary and extended storage of household goods; mobile home shipments; and transporting personal vehicles.

Other taxable reimbursements include house-hunting trips and temporary quarters subsistence expenses.

Afghan: Militant numbers underestimated

BY J.P. LAWRENCE

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A top Afghan general said Monday that more than 77,000 Taliban and other militants are now fighting against the government — more than double earlier U.S. and Afghan estimates despite a large increase in U.S. airstrikes over the past year.

“It is proven that 77,500 enemies, of whom 5,000 are foreign fighters and 3,000 are Daesh militants, are carrying out activities against our country’s peace and stability,” Gen. Laal Jan Zaheer, commander of the Kabul Military Training Center, told Tolo News. Daesh is an Arabic acronym for Islamic State.

It was not immediately clear how Zaheer arrived at that figure, which provided a rare public assessment of enemy numbers.

Zaheer’s assessment — which others quickly disputed — underscores just how difficult it is to pin down whether the U.S. and its allies are eliminating their enemies on a significant scale.

NATO Resolute Support said in January that its estimates of the Taliban’s strength are limited to “informal assessments and conjecture, as there is no formal tracking or census mechanism.”

A report by the lead inspector general for the U.S. mission in Afghanistan said NATO estimated that 25,000 to 35,000 full- and part-time Taliban fighters were in the country as of September

last year, which is up from about 20,000 following the U.S. force drawdown in 2014.

The general’s estimate came on the eve of a weeklong cease-fire declared by the Afghan government on Taliban fighters in the days surrounding the holy days of Eid. The Taliban have declared their own three-day cease-fire.

Zaheer’s numbers are much higher than the estimates of the Afghan military — 30,000 to 40,000 fighters, according to Mohammad Radmanish, acting spokesman for the Defense Ministry. He said Zaheer’s figures were his own opinion.

The estimate of 77,500 suggests that the Taliban is controlling and contesting more

territory and that it’s comfortable deploying more forces, said Chris Mason, a professor at the U.S. Army War College who has researched Taliban and Afghan security forces numbers.

About 14,000 U.S. troops are deployed to Afghanistan, an increase of about 3,000 over the levels that held for much of 2017. Most of the Americans deployed support NATO’s Resolute Support training and assistance mission, alongside 7,500 international forces, largely away from the battlefield.

Under a separate counterterrorism mission, a special operations task force of about 2,000 troops trains the elite government forces and accompanies tactical-level units.

31 families to move after ceiling collapse at Vogelweh residence

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Air Force housing officials are preparing to move 31 families from two Vogelweh multistory housing complexes as quickly as possible after an apartment ceiling collapse that brought down a fan and lighting fixtures.

Twenty-one Army families and 10 Air Force families living in Buildings 1015 and 1019 will be relocated, officials said Monday at a town hall meeting at the Kazabra Club on Vogelweh. They’ll have the choice of moving to a similar apartment on Vogelweh or off base, at government expense.

“There’s no imminent danger,” Lt. Col. George Nichols, the 86th Civil Engineer squadron commander, told six families at the meeting. But “we recognize a ceiling has collapsed and we need to do something about it.”

Nichols did not have any estimates of the cost of repairs.

No one was hurt in the June 5 incident in Building 1015. But civil engineering officials believe the plastic fasteners used to anchor the drywall ceiling to the concrete floor above it may

be the reason it didn’t hold.

“It’s the wrong type of fastener, apparently,” Nichols said.

Civil engineer experts found following the collapse that plastic anchors were used to attach the ceiling drywall throughout Building 1015 and in Building 1019.

It’s believed the plastic anchors have been in place since 2001, when the two buildings were renovated by the same contractor, officials said.

Buildings 1015 and 1019 were the only ones known to be renovated at the time by the same contractor, he said. In Building 1016, by contrast, metal ceiling anchors are in place. The contractor has since gone bankrupt and is no longer doing work on base facilities in the Kaiserslautern Military Community, Nichols said.

Families will be moved over the next week or so to temporary housing on Vogelweh, where vacant units will be outfitted with loaner furniture from the government. They’ll have about five days to move personal belongings to the new units, though that time frame could be extended on a case-by-case basis. They can choose to remain in those apartments or move off base.

Pentagon skips memo to mark pride month

The Washington Post

Senior leaders at the Pentagon are distancing themselves from the Defense Department’s annual LGBT Pride Month celebrations, declining to formally acknowledge the observance for the first time since the practice became routine after President Barack Obama repealed the military’s ban on homosexuals serving openly.

The absence this year of an official Pentagon memo marking LGBT Pride Month has raised questions among servicemembers and Defense Department civilian employees who remain troubled by President Donald Trump’s surprise proclamation last July that he would ban transgender individuals from serving in the military. Typically, the memo is distributed as LGBT Pride Month begins each June, effectively endorsing the observance and encouraging personnel to hold local events. The memo has put LGBT Pride Month on par with other special observances and heritage months.

“It opens the door for LGBT servicemembers, civilians and their allies on military bases to

hold events recognizing Pride Month without having to ask for special permission or an exception,” said a former senior Obama administration official, who spoke anonymously because of the official’s dealings with the Pentagon. “It makes it known that there’s an authorization, that there’s support.”

Even without an official observance memo, the LGBT employee group at the Defense Department held an event Monday at the Pentagon. Unlike in past years, though, no high-level Defense Department leaders made public remarks — another first since such events began in 2012, the year after the policy known as “don’t ask, don’t tell” was repealed. Instead, Rep. Anthony Brown, D-Md., headlined Monday’s gathering.

Air Force Maj. Carla Gleason, a spokeswoman for the Pentagon, declined to discuss why no observance memo has been issued this year, saying only: “The Department of Defense supports diversity of all kinds across our military and we encourage everyone to celebrate the diversity of our total force team.”

US office to seek citizenship cheats

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The U.S. government agency that oversees immigration applications is launching an office that will focus on identifying Americans who are suspected of cheating to get their citizenship and seek to strip them of it.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director L. Francis Cissna told The Associated Press in an interview that his agency is hiring several dozen lawyers and immigration officers to review cases of immigrants who were ordered deported and are suspected of using fake identities to later get green cards and citizenship through naturalization.

Cissna said the cases would be referred to the Department of Justice, whose attorneys could then seek to remove the immigrants' citizenship in civil court proceedings. In some cases, government attorneys could bring criminal charges related to fraud.

Until now, the agency has pursued cases as they arose but not through a coordinated effort, Cissna said. He said he hopes the agency's new office in Los Angeles will be running by next year but added that investigating and referring cases for prosecution will likely take longer.

"We finally have a process in place to get to the bottom of all these bad cases and start denaturalizing people who should not have been naturalized in the first place," Cissna said. "What we're looking at, when you boil it all down, is potentially a few thousand cases."

He declined to say how much the effort would cost but said it would be covered by the agency's existing budget, which is funded by immigration application fees.

The push comes as the Trump administration has been cracking down on illegal immigration and taking steps to reduce legal immigration to the U.S.

Immigrants who become U.S. citizens can vote, serve on juries and obtain security clearance. Denaturalization — the process of removing that citizenship — is very rare.

The U.S. government began looking at potentially fraudulent naturalization cases a decade ago when a border officer detected about 200 people had used different identities to get green cards and citizenship after they were previously issued deportation orders.

Sessions: Domestic violence and gangs no basis for asylum

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Immigration judges generally cannot consider domestic and gang violence as grounds for asylum, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Monday in a ruling that could affect large numbers of Central Americans who have increasingly turned to the United States for protection.

"Generally, claims by aliens pertaining to domestic violence or gang violence perpetrated by non-government actors will not qualify for asylum," Sessions wrote in a 31-page decision. "The mere fact that a country may have problems effectively policing certain crimes — such as domestic violence or gang violence — or that certain populations are more likely to be victims of crime, cannot itself establish an asylum claim."

The widely expected move overruled a Board of Immigration Appeals decision in 2016 that gave asylum status to a woman from El Salvador who fled her husband. Sessions reopened the case for his review in March as the administration stepped up criticism of asylum practices.

Sessions took aim at one of five categories to qualify for asylum — persecution for membership in a social group — calling it "inherently ambiguous." The other categories are for race, religion, nationality

and political affiliation.

Domestic violence is a "particularly difficult crime to prevent and prosecute, even in the United States," Sessions wrote, but its prevalence in El Salvador doesn't mean that its government was unwilling or unable to protect victims any less so than the United States.

Sessions said the woman obtained restraining orders against her husband and had him arrested at least once.

"No country provides its citizens with complete security from private criminal activity, and perfect protection is not required," he wrote.

Karen Musalo, co-counsel for the Salvadoran woman and a professor at University of California Hastings College of Law, said the decision could undermine claims of women suffering violence throughout the world, including sex trafficking.

"This is not just about domestic violence, or El Salvador, or gangs," she said. "This is the attorney general trying to yank us back to the dark ages of rights for women."

Sessions sent the case back to an immigration judge, whose ruling can be appealed to the Justice Department's Board of Immigration Appeals and then to a federal appeals court, Musalo said. She anticipates other cases in the pipeline may reach the appeals court first.

US rules against school's bullying, harassment policies

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — University of Michigan policies prohibiting harassment and bullying on campus are unconstitutional and cannot be enforced, the Justice Department said Monday in siding with a free speech group that has challenged the school in court.

The Trump administration argued that the school policies trample on students' First Amendment rights because they fail

to define the scope of banned words or actions. The government also challenged the legality of a specialized team of administrators and law enforcement officials that it says is responsible for responding to allegations of bias on campus.

"Instead of protecting free speech, the University imposes a system of arbitrary censorship of, and punishment for, constitutionally protected speech," Justice Department lawyers wrote.

In response, the university said the Jus-

Department had misstated school policy and mischaracterized the duties of its Bias Response Team.

The Michigan case marks the fourth time the Justice Department in the Trump administration has interjected itself into a First Amendment court dispute. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has repeatedly chastised universities for what he says are efforts to restrict free speech and shield students from what may be unpopular or minority opinions on college campuses.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

State to issue licenses that are gender-neutral

ME AUGUSTA — The Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles is going to offer the option of a gender-neutral designation on driver licenses and identification cards.

The agency said the process will involve filling out a form called a “gender designation form.” The BMV says it will issue a sticker for the license or ID card that says, “Gender has been changed to X — Non-binary.”

The agency said a system upgrade will allow it to phase out the sticker by July 2019. The “X” then will be on the card.

Police: Man tried to steal red light camera

RI PROVIDENCE — Providence police said a man who tried to steal a red light camera told officers he had a right to the device because it was paid for by taxpayers’ money.

The Providence Journal reported that officers spotted Andrew Baker, 57, taking apart a red light camera pole along with its wiring when they responded to a call about a suspicious person Sunday afternoon.

Authorities said another man approached officers with a shopping cart that had a red light camera in it. That man told police Baker and another individual had pushed the equipment away from the area before leaving.

Baker was arrested and charged with larceny.

Driver crashes into barrier outside shop

WA AUBURN — A pickup plowed into a concrete barrier in front of

a doughnut shop in Auburn, barely missing two customers as they were entering the store.

Officers responded to the scene at the Donut Star shop Friday morning. KOMO reported the driver was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence.

Surveillance video shows the large, white truck careening into a barrier in front of the store as a man and a woman were entering. Debris from the impact shattered the glass on the front door of the business.

There were no injuries.

2 police trainees arrested after fight

NC GREENVILLE — Two police trainees were arrested after a roadside fight in North Carolina.

Greenville Police Department spokeswoman Kristen Hunter said in a news release that two people enrolled in the Basic Law Enforcement Training academy were arrested late Saturday night.

Hunter said Christian Thomas Russell, 38, was charged with assault. Brittany Johanna Barnett, 28, was charged with resisting arrest, public intoxication and being disruptive.

A total of four people were arrested in the fight.

The Pitt County Sheriff’s Office and the North Carolina Highway Patrol are investigating the fight. Russell and Barnett have been suspended without pay.

Police: Road rage situation turns smelly

PA ALLENTOWN — Police said one man defecated onto another man during a road rage episode in Pennsylvania.

Authorities said a New Trip-

oli man got into an argument with another man about 8:45 a.m. Friday and defecated onto the victim. The altercation happened in Heidelberg Township, about 17 miles north of Allentown. The suspect was charged with harassment.

Reward offered after nesting trees are cut

AK KENAI — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering a reward of up to \$2,500 for information on the destruction of three trees that were home to nesting bald eagles on the Kenai Peninsula.

Kenai radio station KSRM reported the trees were cut around Anchor Point. An aerial survey spotted the felled trees.

The trees were within a half-mile of each other and were the only trees cut in the area.

The Fish and Wildlife is offering the reward to identify who cut the trees.

Bounty hunters posing as police arrested

ID CALDWELL — Two bounty hunters were arrested in western Idaho for impersonating police, though a lawyer representing one of the men said they were just doing their jobs.

Caldwell police arrested Kevin Ratigan and David Manery on June 6 for chasing down a man on behalf of Viper Bail Bonds in Nampa.

Police said they were acting as bail enforcement agents dressed in tactical gear, but they didn’t have probable cause to detain the man because there was no warrant out for his arrest.

The man was released from custody unharmed and without being charged with any crime.

Ratigan’s attorney said no laws were violated because the

state has no regulations on how they can recapture people who have skipped out on their bail bonds.

Town’s Gothic jail has role in horror movie

LA DERIDDER — Digital magic will make a century-old Gothic jail in west Louisiana the setting for a Hollywood horror movie filmed across the state in New Orleans.

Beauregard Parish Tourist Commission Director Lori Darbonne told The American Press that the “Gothic Hanging Jail” in DeRidder will set the tone for “Eli,” starring Max Martini.

Paramount Pictures’ Paramount Players division, working with MTV, plans a January release for the movie about a boy being treated for a rare disease at a clinic in a haunted prison.

Restaurant owner faces new charges

MA BROOKLINE — The owner of a Boston-area restaurant already facing child rape charges faces new charges of secretly video recording customers using the bathroom in his establishment.

Tze Chung, owner of Taam China in Brookline, was held on \$7,500 bail Friday after not-guilty pleas to 15 counts of illegal recording were entered on his behalf. He was arrested Thursday.

Court records show the 63-year-old Weston man was already free on \$100,000 bail after pleading not guilty last month to charges including child rape for allegedly sexually assaulting a girl known to him.

From wire reports

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Don't expect tactical surprises at Cup

Associated Press

A spirit of chaos and adventure swept through this season's Champions League, serving up a record number of goals and almost non-stop drama when the top teams collided.

It was club football at its most thrilling. Fans might never have had it so good.

So can the World Cup, supposedly the zenith of the international game, come close to matching it?

History suggests we shouldn't get our hopes up, despite most of the world's best players on show in Russia.

"National teams often lag behind the clubs, and it's understandable why," said Jonathan Wilson, author of "Inverting The Pyramid: The History of Football Tactics." "There's a tendency to keep things pretty simple at international level."

Wilson's prediction for the next few weeks in Russia?

"I think there will be a lot of games featuring teams with eight men behind the ball and just seeing what happens," he said. "It could be pretty unedifying."

This viewpoint stems from the simple notion that international coaches don't get as much time with their players as their club counterparts, and that it's

much easier — especially for the weaker nations — to organize a compact defense than a fluid attack.

There are other factors in play, too. There's no transfer market in international football so it's harder for coaches to mold their ideal team. The best coaches are often found in the club game because of the financial riches on offer. And there's often an in-built conservatism at major tournaments.

Carlos Alberto Parreira, Brazil's World Cup-winning coach from 1994, is now a member of FIFA's technical study group — comprising former players and national-team coaches who will analyze games and produce a report later this year — and he predicted an approach that will see teams "defend with as many players as possible" and play on the counterattack.

"Very compact teams, with lots of players behind the ball, closing down space and playing at pace on the attack," Parreira said.

FIFA, of course, is hoping for a festival of football over the coming weeks, following on from a World Cup in Brazil in 2014 that the governing body's panel of coaching experts said saw teams "play positively and do everything to win a game rather than merely 'not lose.'"

There were 171 goals that tournament at an average of 2.67 per game, tying the record set in France in 1998. In 2002, '06 and '10, the average did not get above 2.52.

In this season's Champions League, however, there were 401 goals at an average of 3.2 per game — rising to 3.6 per game in the knockout stage. It was the highest total since the tournament's rebrand in 1992, with only the 1975-76 European Cup delivering more, as coaches saw attack often as the best form of defense.

Marco van Basten, FIFA's chief technical development officer, told The Associated Press that football has been played more positively since Barcelona's recent glut of trophies using the approach implemented by Johan Cruyff at the club in the 1990s and previously by Dutch coach Rinus Michels — with his "Total Football" — in the mid-1970s.

"As a consequence of the sporting successes Barcelona gained with that playing style, many coaches like their teams to play attacking football," Van Basten said in an email, "and for fans this is definitely more spectacular to watch. I think it is very positive that everyone appreciates this attractive style of play, but in the end results

count as well."

Don't expect tactical surprises in Russia. The club game has left international teams in its wake since the 1960s, before which nations — like Hungary with its 3-2-1-4 in 1954 and Brazil with its 4-2-4 in 1958 — arrived at World Cups deploying innovative formations that dumbfounded opponents.

The most common formations this summer will be 4-2-3-1, which was widely used in 2010 and '14, and the 4-3-3 used by Liverpool and Real Madrid on their runs to the Champions League final. However, the three-man defense has made a comeback of sorts this year, and England, Argentina and Belgium are among those set to adopt it in Russia.

Most coaches will play with one out-and-out striker and want to dominate midfield. Having a pressing game is the vogue — Brazil, under forward-thinking coach Tite, is the latest high-profile nation to do so, joining the likes of Spain, Germany and England — but that requires time to perfect and master, even at club level.

"No team will win the World Cup without pressing," Wilson said. "But I think there will be a far greater tendency to sit deep and try to absorb pressure, because it's easier."

Morocco calls out US for 2026 revenue claims

Associated Press

MOSCOW — In a FIFA election where money could be key, Morocco tried to heap doubt on North American promises of multibillion-dollar 2026 World Cup profits on Monday.

Moroccan jibes at projections from the United States-Canada-Mexico bid came when leaders of the rival campaigns met voters from five of FIFA's six continental groups.

"There is lots of uncertainty," Morocco Football Federation president Fouzi Lekjaa said of the detail in North American pledges of \$14.3 billion revenue for FIFA.

"That doesn't correspond either to historical facts or future extrapolation, it's an exercise that goes beyond that," Lekjaa said in French.

Money will not be the only factor on the minds of up to 206 expected FIFA member federations who can vote on Wednesday in Moscow.

Still, a FIFA-appointed panel assessing the two candidates already noted the "significantly higher" number than Morocco's projected income of \$7.2 billion for football's governing body from a 48-team tournament.

Morocco's counterattack is that \$5 billion pure profit for FIFA would be a World Cup record.

"We do not blush when we propose that," Morocco tourism minister Lamia Boutaleb said in an impassioned speech to 53 African voters in a Moscow hotel conference center.

The Moroccan bid team took to the stage at a Confederation for African Football (CAF) meeting minutes after the North Americans

presented their plan to what shaped as its most hostile audience of the day.

"We have shown the best we have to offer to all the FIFA members," Decio de Maria, the Mexico federation president, said.

Though the American team was met with just polite applause, and no follow-up questions, it still hopes for African votes on Wednesday.

Liberia, Namibia and Zimbabwe pledged support before arriving in Russia, and the North Americans have targeted voters in the southern African group known as COSAFA.

It was perhaps telling that CAF President Ahmad Ahmad stressed the need to "show cohesion within our continent" in a contest where FIFA will publish each member's choice soon after the ballot.

4 more teams earn spots in CWS

Associated Press

Defending national champion Florida, Texas, Texas Tech and Arkansas won their winner-take-all games in the NCAA Tournament best-of-three super regionals on Monday and are headed to the College World Series.

The No. 1 national seed Gators beat Auburn 3-2 in 11 innings in Gainesville, Fla., when Austin Langworthy's deep drive to right field glanced off Steven Williams' glove and went over the fence for a walk-off home run.

Kody Clemens homered for a third straight game and fill-in starter Matteo Bocchi held Tennessee Tech to one run in a career-high five innings as the Longhorns locked up their NCAA record-extending 36th CWS appearance with a 5-2

win in Austin.

Texas Tech's Gabe Holt, Brian Klein and Michael Davis homered, and the Red Raiders beat Duke 6-2 in Lubbock, Texas, for their third trip in five years to the CWS in Omaha, Neb.

Arkansas' Carson Shaddy hit a three-run homer in a five-run first inning, and the Razorbacks reached the CWS for the first time since 2015 with a 14-4 win over South Carolina in Fayetteville, Ark.

CWS openers

Games Saturday:

North Carolina (43-18) vs. Oregon State (49-10-1): Tar Heels are 1-4 all-time vs. the Beavers; all five meetings in 2006-07 CWS finals.

Washington (35-24) vs. Mississippi State (37-27): Bulldogs

are 4-1 vs. Huskies; last meeting in 1998.

Games Sunday:

Texas (42-21) vs. Arkansas (44-19): Longhorns are 54-30 vs. their old Southwest Conference rival but lost two in Fayetteville in March.

Texas Tech (44-18) vs. Florida (47-19): Tech won 3-2 in the 2016 CWS in the teams' only meeting.

Sneaky steal

Florida took a 2-1 lead in the fourth when Blake Reese stole home on a trick play. Auburn left-hander Andrew Mitchell was holding Nick Horvath on first when Horvath suddenly took a few steps toward second base and purposely fell. Mitchell stepped off the rubber and hesitated, then turned to throw home. Reese had already bro-

ken from third and was able to touch the plate with a head-first slide before catcher Brett Wright could get his tag down.

"It's a left-handed move," Florida coach Kevin O'Sullivan said. "Usually it's with two outs and two strikes. Really a gimmicky play. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. I think it's the first time we ran it all year. Speed on both first and third, and it happened to work out for us."

He said it

"We had five hits today and a season-low three yesterday. To be able to do that to this group of young men, I am honestly amazed, to be frank with you."

— Tennessee Tech coach Matt Bragga, on Texas shutting down the nation's No. 1 offense.

Mickelson chasing one major for career Grand Slam

Associated Press

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. — Phil Mickelson is running out of time.

Mickelson doesn't need to be reminded that this is his 27th appearance in the U.S. Open, more than any of the 156 players at Shinnecock Hills. He wouldn't want to be reminded that 65 players — including the last four major champions — were not even born when Mickelson was low amateur in his first U.S. Open in 1990 at Medinah.

"I just can't believe that time has flown by so fast," he said Monday.

The desire hasn't changed, only the emphasis.

Mickelson didn't win a major until he was 33 and in his 12th full year on the PGA Tour. Back then, any major would have sufficed. A year after he won the 2004 Masters, he added a PGA Championship. And then in 2013 at Muirfield, he surprised even himself by capturing the British Open.

One to go for the career Grand Slam, the one that has

vexed him the most.

He has more runner-up finishes in the U.S. Open than the other three majors combined. So when Mickelson was asked if he had unfinished business at Shinnecock Hills, he paused briefly before delivering an obvious answer.

"I can say that a few times in this tournament," he said.

It helps that Mickelson has a strong history at Shinnecock Hills, which he refers to as one of his favorite courses.

He had a one-shot lead with two holes to play in 2004 when Retief Goosen made a 12-foot birdie putt in the group behind him on the par-5 16th, and then Mickelson put his tee shot in the bunker on the par-3 17th, blasted out to 5 feet and took all the air out of the Hamptons when he three-putted for double bogey.

In his first U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills in 1995, he was one shot out of the lead going into the final round, closed with a 74 and finished four shots behind. More than a tough final round was playing the par-5 16th hole

in 6 over for the week.

"If I played that hole even, I could have won," Mickelson said.

This is not a time for Mickelson, who turns 48 on Saturday, to be looking behind.

He doesn't want to look forward, either.

Never mind that Mickelson has played well on the next three U.S. Open courses — Shinnecock Hills, Pebble Beach and Winged Foot. Or that with a victory earlier this year at the Mexico Championship that his confidence level is higher than the four previous years when he didn't win at all.

Mickelson only cares about posting a score in the opening round Thursday that will keep him in the mix, and then repeating the process Friday. It's a message he delivered on four separate occasions during his interviews.

"These three (courses) provide me a great opportunity to finish out this final leg," he said. "Certainly, with the way I've been playing this year and at the consistent level, as well

as at a much higher level than I've played the last few years, it gives me a great opportunity. But the last thing I'm thinking about right now is trying to win. I'm trying to get myself in position for the weekend. Because when you try to go out and win a U.S. Open, you will lose it quick."

Asked if he had ever tried to win a U.S. Open on Thursday, he replied, "Yes, and I was home Friday night."

Mickelson hasn't had a chance since his sixth runner-up finish in 2013 at Merion, where he twice made bogey with a wedge in his hand over the last six holes. This is the longest stretch — three U.S. Opens — that he has failed to even feature on the weekend.

The oldest player to win the U.S. Open was Hale Irwin, who was 45 when he won at Medinah in 1990 — Mickelson's first major.

"That's the marvelous thing about Phil Mickelson. You don't put anything beyond his talents," said David Duval.

Cubs take over NL Central lead

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Anthony Rizzo turned on the power with a long homer down the right-field line in the 11th inning. Jason Heyward delivered a tying single in the eighth against one of the toughest relievers in baseball.

The Chicago Cubs dented the Milwaukee Brewers' normally lights-out bullpen to return to first place in the NL Central.

Rizzo's shot opened the scoring in a five-run 11th, and Heyward drove in three runs during a 7-2 victory that gave the Cubs a half-game lead in the division.

"Today we piled on late. You could see what we're capable of doing," manager Joe Maddon said.

Rizzo hit a fastball down the middle from Matt Albers (3-2) for a towering shot that snapped a 2-all tie. The Cubs scored four more runs in the inning with two outs, including a two-run double by Heyward.

Trailing 2-1 most of the night, the Cubs scored six times in the last four innings against the Brewers' formidable bullpen. They won their seventh straight

over Milwaukee.

"It would be nice to get [the offense] rolling, whether it's earlier in the game with runners in scoring position ... take some heat off the bullpen and not have to play extra innings," Maddon said.

Cubs relievers tossed five scoreless innings, with Randy Rosario (3-0) retiring all six batters he faced for the win.

"They do all the little things well. They don't make mistakes," Brewers outfielder Ryan Braun said. "We still have to get better at some of those things I think to consistently play as good of baseball as they do."

After being held to one run by Brewers starter Junior Guerra, the Cubs broke through in the eighth against a bullpen with a league-best 2.53 ERA. The left-handed-hitting Heyward, who had three hits, tied the game at 2 with a run-scoring single to right off lefty reliever Josh Hader.

Left-handed hitters were 2-for-36 against Hader before Heyward's single.

"We just know the guy's got good stuff," Heyward said. "So

if something's there, just keep it simple, take what he gives you."

Albers allowed five runs and three hits, leaving with two outs in the 11th. His ERA ballooned from 1.93 to 3.45.

He said he was expecting Rizzo to swing at the first pitch. But his fastball didn't sail up and in as planned.

"I just didn't quite get it to the spot I wanted to. That's pretty much the story of my outing there — just not executing," Albers said.

Gloving it

Guerra struck out four while allowing five hits and two walks, aided by two double plays and two highlight-reel catches in left by Braun.

He made a diving grab to prevent Rizzo's flare from falling for a hit to lead off the fourth. Two innings later, Braun made a leaping catch at the wall to rob Willson Contreras of a tying homer.

Braun held the glove behind his back after coming down with the ball and swaggered for a few steps toward the infield before shrugging and reveal-

ing the ball in his mitt.

"It was a lot more fun than when they scored all those runs, but I take a lot of pride in my defense," Braun said.

On the mound

The Cubs got an effective outing from starter Jose Quintana, who allowed four hits, two walks and struck out three over six innings. The left-hander gave up solo homers to Erik Kratz and Jonathan Villar.

Trainer's room

Cubs: Maddon said RHP Yu Darvish (right triceps tendinitis) is scheduled to throw a bullpen in Milwaukee on Tuesday, as long as there wasn't "any kind of negativity" while Darvish played catch Monday.

Brewers: Eric Thames was reinstated from the 10-day disabled list after missing six weeks with a torn ligament in his left thumb. While eager to get an at-bat, Thames did not play. "My hands, I've been doing so much grip stuff I can crush anything," he said before the game.

Pair of sacrifice flies lift Red Sox over Orioles in 12th

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Brock Holt and Jackie Bradley Jr. each delivered a sacrifice fly in the 12th inning, and the Boston Red Sox limited the Baltimore Orioles to five hits in a 2-0 victory Monday night.

A pitching duel between Dylan Bundy and Steven Wright was ultimately decided long after both starters departed.

Xander Bogaerts led off the 12th with a single against Mychal Givens (0-3), and the Red Sox went on to load the bases before Holt broke the scoreless deadlock with a fly to center. Bradley followed with a fly ball to score Rafael Devers, who had doubled.

Heath Hembree (3-1) struck out the side in the 11th and

Craig Kimbrel got three outs for his 21st save.

It was the fifth straight loss for the Orioles, who have been shut out seven times this season.

Facing a Boston team that leads the majors in runs and batting average, Bundy gave up three hits over eight innings. He struck out seven, walked two and did not permit a runner to reach third base.

It was his fourth scoreless outing of the season, the second in a row. Last week, the right-hander blanked the Mets on three hits in seven innings.

Wright was going up against an offense that ranked last in the AL in runs and was missing slugger Manny Machado. The knuckleballer allowed four hits over 6 2/3 innings. In the

seventh, after Baltimore used two walks and an infield hit to load the bases with two outs, Joe Kelly entered and struck out Adam Jones with a 97 mph fastball.

Red Sox outfielder Mookie Betts was reinstated from the disabled list before the game and went 1-for-5 in the leadoff spot. Betts, who came in with a major league-leading .359 batting average, missed 14 games with an abdominal strain.

Mariners 5, Angels 3: Nelson Cruz homered twice and surprising Seattle overcame Mike Trout's two home runs in a win over visiting Los Angeles.

Diamondbacks 9, Pirates 5: Host Arizona scored two runs on wild pitches in the eighth inning, Jake Lamb hit a tying, three-run homer in the seventh

to rally past Pittsburgh.

Indians 4, White Sox 0: Carlos Carrasco (8-4) struck out 11 while pitching two-hit ball over seven innings as visiting Cleveland blanked Chicago.

Marlins 7, Giants 5: Madison Bumgarner blew a sixth inning lead and was ejected on the way out of his second start this season and host Miami rallied past San Francisco.

Rays 8, Blue Jays 4: Jake Bauers hit his first career home run to put host Tampa Bay ahead in the fourth inning.

Cardinals 5, Padres 2: Marcell Ozuna and Jose Martinez hit two-run homers, rookie Jack Flaherty (3-2) pitched into the seventh inning, and host St. Louis beat San Diego for the 13th time in 18 meetings.