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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Official: Pakistan Taliban chief killed

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A U.S. drone strike in north-eastern Kunar province killed Pakistan Taliban chief Mullah Fazlullah, the insurgent leader who ordered the assassination of Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, an Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman said Friday.

In a telephone interview, Mohammad Radmanish said Fazlullah and two other insurgents were killed early Thursday morning, just hours before Afghanistan's Taliban began a three-day cease fire to mark the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr.

The three-day holiday follows the end of Islam's holy month of Ramadan, during which devout adherents fast from sunrise to sunset.

According to a statement attributed to U.S. Forces-Afghanistan spokesman Lt. Col. Martin O'Donnell, the U.S. carried out a "counterterrorism strike" Thursday in the border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan targeting "a senior leader of a designated terrorist organization."

The statement did not say whether the strike had killed anyone and did not identify Fazlullah as the target. However, the statement did note that the drone attack did not violate a cease-fire announcement made June 7 by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. The Taliban's promise of a temporary truce came on Monday.

Radmanish said the drone attack took place in Marawara district, near the border.

Pakistan's military refused to comment on the report of

Fazlullah's death, saying any information would have to come from Washington. Yet Fazlullah's death would be welcome news in Pakistan, where the government repeatedly has complained that Fazlullah and his Tehrik-e-Taliban had found safe havens across the border in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, Kabul and Washington both complain that Pakistan for years has allowed Afghanistan's Taliban free movement as well as medical treatment for battlefield wounds.

Still, the recent cease-fire announcement by Afghanistan's Taliban is being at least partially credited to Pakistan, which some observers say has been pressing the leadership to accept Ghani's recent peace overtures.

In his Eid greeting this week, Afghan Taliban chief Haibatul-

lah Akhunzada repeated the Taliban demand for direct talks with the United States before opening negotiations with the Afghan government. Until now, Washington has refused.

It was Yousafzai's open call for girls' education and criticism of the Taliban that infuriated Fazlullah. She was just 14 when she survived the assassination attempt in 2012. Her return to her hometown earlier this year seemed a particular triumph, as it was also to open a school funded by a charity she established to promote girls' education globally.

A ruthless leader, Fazlullah ordered the bombing and beheadings of dozens of opponents when his band of insurgents controlled Pakistan's picturesque Swat Valley from 2007 until a massive military operation routed them in 2009.

Judge sends Trump's ex-campaign chairman to jail

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort is going to jail.

On Friday, Manafort was ordered into custody after a federal judge revoked his house arrest, citing newly filed obstruction-of-justice charges. The move by U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson made Manafort the first Trump campaign official to be jailed as part of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation.

Already under intense pressure to cooperate with prosecutors in hopes of securing leniency, Manafort now loses the relative freedom he enjoyed while he prepared for two criminal trials in which he faces the possibility of spend-

ing the rest of his life in prison.

In issuing her ruling, Jackson said she had "struggled" with the decision but couldn't "turn a blind eye" to his conduct.

"You have abused the trust placed in you six months ago," she said.

A federal grand jury indicted Manafort and a longtime associate, Konstantin Kilimnik, last week on charges of obstruction of justice and conspiracy to obstruct justice, adding to the multiple felony counts he already faced. The charges do not relate to his work on the Trump campaign nor involve allegations of Russian election interference.

Manafort, 69, and Kilimnik are accused of attempting to tamper with witnesses in the case by trying to get them to lie about the nature of their Ukrai-

nian political work. Prosecutors say Manafort and Kilimnik tried to get the two witnesses to say that lobbying work carried out by clandestinely paid former politicians only occurred in Europe and not the U.S., a contention the two witnesses said they knew to be false.

The distinction matters because unregistered foreign lobbying in the U.S. is a crime, while lobbying solely in Europe would be outside the special counsel's jurisdiction.

Manafort's attorneys have accused prosecutors of conjuring a "sinister plot" out of "innocuous" contacts. They filed a memo written by one of the witnesses for Manafort that his attorneys say shows the work of the group, known as the Hapsburg group, was European-focused.

In response, prosecutors filed

additional documents showing extensive lobbying contacts by the group in the U.S. that they said showed "the falsity of his representation."

One of the documents was a 2013 memo from Manafort to former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich. It described how Manafort had designed a program that used the Hapsburg members to lobby U.S. lawmakers and to influence American public opinion, including meetings on Capitol Hill.

Manafort also pleaded not guilty to the latest indictment on Friday. Kilimnik, who prosecutors say is living in Russia, did not appear in court. Mueller's team has said Kilimnik has ties to Russian intelligence agencies, a claim he has previously denied.

Merkel confirms Germany to miss NATO GDP target

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Chancellor Angela Merkel said Friday that her country will fail to meet a key NATO defense spending deadline, putting Berlin again at odds with Washington one month ahead of a major alliance summit, at which NATO's unity could be challenged.

President Donald Trump, who repeatedly has blasted Germany for failing to elevate defense spending to 2 percent of its gross domestic product, will arrive at a July summit in Brussels with expenditures at the top of his agenda.

Merkel, speaking at a news conference with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg in Berlin, said she anticipated Germany reaching 1.5 percent of GDP by 2025. The problem: NATO members in 2014 agreed levels should be at 2 percent of GDP by 2024.

"Some argue that it is too slow — our progress," Merkel said.

Stoltenberg credited Germany for recent increases but called on Berlin to do more. "It is the biggest economy in Europe, and what it does matters," he said.

Lack of defense spending by some NATO members has dominated Trump's views on the alliance, which he says benefits Europe more than America when it comes to security guarantees.

In July, the alliance is expected to make decisions to improve the readiness of its forces and to enhance counterterrorism efforts. But the meeting also comes at a time of tension between the U.S. and its closest allies. After a recent G-7 meeting in Canada, Trump called Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau "dishonest" and refused to sign a communique on the outcome of the meetings.

Trump: Biased FBI plotted against his 2016 election

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump disputed findings by the Justice Department on Friday that former FBI Director James Comey's handling of the Hillary Clinton email probe was not politically motivated, declaring that the FBI was biased "at the top level" and "plotting against my election."

The department's inspector general report, while critical of the FBI and Comey personally, did not find evidence that political bias tainted the investigation of Clinton's email practices in the months and days leading up to Trump's election.

But on Friday, after tweeting that he did a "great service" to the nation by firing Comey, Trump marched out to the White House North Lawn to talk with "Fox & Friends" for more than half an hour, claiming the report "totally" exonerated him, then pointing to accomplishments he said he's achieved and complaining about not getting proper credit.

Then he turned to other reporters and went over the same list for another 20 minutes.

On the inspector general's report that found no political bias in the FBI's final conclusions, he said, "The end result was wrong. There was total bias."

"Comey was the ring leader of this whole, you know, den of thieves. It was

a den of thieves," he said.

Trump's comments followed the IG's 500-page report that said Comey was "insubordinate" in his handling of the Clinton investigation because he broke agency protocol. The report also rebuked FBI officials for exchanging anti-Trump text messages during the 2016 campaign.

But it said, "We found no evidence that the conclusions by the prosecutors were affected by bias or other improper considerations; rather, we determined that they were based on the prosecutors' assessment of the facts, the law and past department practice."

Trump's supporters have argued that the findings are proof of political bias at the FBI's highest levels that then tainted the Russia investigation, first led by the FBI and now by special counsel Robert Mueller. Mueller's probe includes a look into whether Trump himself tried to obstruct justice by firing Comey.

Trump said Friday, as he has before, that the Mueller probe, too, "has been totally discredited."

"The IG Report is a total disaster for Comey, his minions and sadly, the FBI," Trump tweeted. "Comey will now officially go down as the worst leader, by far, in the history of the FBI. I did a great service to the people in firing him. Good Instincts."

Separations spur rift between GOP officials, White House

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional Republicans have distanced themselves from the Trump administration's policy of separating children from their parents at the southern border, even as the White House cited the Bible in defending its "zero-tolerance" approach to illegal border crossings.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said "it is very biblical to enforce the law." Attorney General Jeff Sessions earlier had cited the Bible in his defense of the border policy, which has resulted in the separation of hundreds of children from their parents.

The comments came as House Speaker Paul Ryan and other Republicans said they were not comfortable with family separations, which spiked dramatically after the Justice Department adopted a policy in April of referring all illegal border-crossers for prosecution. "We don't want kids to be separated from their parents," Ryan said Thursday.

Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., tweeted Thursday that he told a constituent that, "I am asking the White House to keep families together as much as we can."

In an unusually tense series of exchanges in the White House briefing room, Sanders blamed Democrats for the policy

separating children from parents and wrongly insisted the administration had made no changes increasing the tactics' use.

"The separation of illegal alien families is the product of the same legal loopholes that Democrats refuse to close, and these laws are the same that have been on the books for over a decade, and the president is simply enforcing them," she said.

Ryan and other GOP lawmakers said they are seeking to resolve the problem in a compromise immigration bill. A draft of that bill, released Thursday, would keep children with their families while they are in Department of Homeland Security custody.

Leaders: Fighting intensifies near Yemen's Hodeida airport

Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Battlefield commanders say fighting intensified on Friday outside the airport of the vital Yemeni city of Hodeida, pitting thousands of pro-government Yemeni fighters backed by a Saudi-led coalition of mostly Emirati forces and Iranian-backed Houthi rebels.

Ahmed al-Kawkabani, a Yemeni who leads a force known as the Tohama Brigade, told the Associated Press that his forces are currently positioned in Dawar al-Hodeida, Arabic for "Hodeida roundabout." Another Yemeni commander, Abu Zarah al-Mahrami, was quoted by Dubai-based Al-Arabiya TV network as saying that pro-government forces are "within meters" of the airport.

The assault began Wednesday to seize Hodeida's vital Red Sea port, known as the "mouth of Yemen" because it's the entry point of most of the country's imports and UN humanitarian aid.

The Saudi-led coalition accuses the Houthis of using the port to smuggle weapons and missiles from Iran. The rebels have been raining ballistic missiles down on Saudi cities from across the border. The port is also a lucrative source of revenue for the Houthis, who control most of Yemen's north since 2014.

Emirati Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash said that the battle over Hodeida

is essential to break a stalemate in the war, which otherwise could drag on for years.

Seizing the port "means that the Houthis will no longer be able to impose their will at the barrel of a gun," he said in a post on Twitter. "If they keep Hodeida and its revenues and its strategic location, the war will last a long time and (add to) the suffering of the Yemeni people."

Hodeida, home of nearly 700,000 people, is some 90 miles southwest of Sanaa, Yemen's capital, which is under Houthi control.

The Saudi-led coalition has imposed an air, sea, and land embargo on Yemen since March 2015, aiming to dislodge the Houthis from cities they control, paralyzing trade and access to the country. The coalition air campaign and Houthi bombardment have left more than 10,000 people dead and 2 million displaced, and devastated the country's already fragile infrastructure including the health sector, which has helped spawn a cholera epidemic.

The coalition's blockade and fighting have disrupted other supply lines, causing an economic crisis that makes food too expensive for many to afford.

International aid agencies and the United Nations have warned the assault could shut down the vital aid route for some 70 percent of Yemen's food, as well as the bulk of humanitarian aid and fuel supplies.

US urges Cuba to probe health 'attacks'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. on Thursday renewed calls for the Cuban government to determine the source of health "attacks" on U.S. diplomats in Cuba that have affected some two dozen people. Cuba again denied any involvement or knowledge of any such attacks.

At a senior-level meeting with Cuban officials in Washington, the State Department said it had again raised the issue, which has prompted a significant reduction in staffing at the U.S. Embassy in Havana. It reiterated "the urgent need to identify the source of the attacks on U.S. diplomats and to ensure they cease."

"We also reiterated that until it is sufficiently safe to fully staff our embassy, we will not be able to provide regular visa services in Havana," the department said in a statement.

Cuba has denied any knowledge of the source or cause of the incidents that have sickened at least 24 diplomats since late 2016, leaving some with brain damage.

Two other diplomats suffering similar symptoms in Cuba were sent to medical specialists at the University of Pennsylvania for evaluation, U.S. officials disclosed last week. Cuba says it has been informed of only one other American who has been evacuated and that it was informed May 29 that the incident had occurred two days earlier.

Carlos Fernandez de Cossio, the top Cuban official at the talks on Thursday, told The Associated Press that his delegation had objected to the U.S. description of what had happened to the Americans as "attacks." He noted that neither American nor Cuban experts had been able to determine what caused the symptoms. He renewed concerns that the Trump administration is using the incidents as an excuse to roll back U.S.-Cuba rapprochement started under the Obama administration.

UN report: Debris from missiles that hit Saudis came from Iran

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations has determined that debris from five ballistic missiles launched from Yemen into Saudi Arabia since July 2017 contained components manufactured in Iran and shared key design features with an Iranian missile, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a new report.

But the U.N. chief said in the report to the Security Council obtained Thursday by The Associated Press that the United Nations has been unable to determine whether the missile parts and technology were transferred from Iran after Jan. 16, 2016, when U.N. restrictions came into force.

Guterres said the U.N. is also "confident" that some arms seized by Bahrain and recovered by the United Arab Emirates from an unmanned vessel laden with explosives were manufactured in Iran. But he said it found "no indications" of whether the items were transferred from Iran after U.N. restrictions took effect.

The secretary-general was reporting on implementation of a 2015 Security Council resolution that endorsed the Iran nuclear deal. The resolution includes restrictions that took effect on Jan. 16, 2016, on transfers to or from Iran of nuclear and ballistic missile material as well as arms.

Guterres stressed that the International Atomic Energy Agency has reported to the council 11 times that Iran is implementing its nuclear-related commitments. He expressed deep regret that the U.S. announced its withdrawal from the agreement, which he called "a major achievement in nuclear non-proliferation, which has contributed to regional and international peace and security."

In other key findings, the secretary-general said the U.N. is looking into reports from two unnamed countries that Iran received "dual-use items, materials, equipment, goods and technology" in violation of U.N. restrictions.

6 injured in Fla. roller coaster derailment

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Two passengers fell 34 feet to the ground when a roller coaster derailed, and authorities had to pull eight others to safety high above the Daytona Beach Boardwalk.

“The front car, which was holding four passengers, completely came off the tracks,” said Daytona Beach Fire spokeswoman Sasha Staton, adding that two of them suffered traumatic injuries when they fell from the Sand Blaster ride Thursday night.

“The other two were still in the car, dangling. They had to be rescued from firefighters on the ground,” she said.

Firefighters also used ladders to rescue six other passengers in two cars that were still on the track.

“They had to use the tower ladder to get to them and then bring them on board and guide them safely back down,” Staton said.

Six of the 10 passengers were taken to the hospital. Staton said she did not know the extent of their injuries.

The accident is under investigation.

2 tornadoes touch down in Pa.

Associated Press

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. — National Weather Service officials confirmed Thursday that two tornadoes touched down late Wednesday in northeast Pennsylvania, causing severe damage to a major commercial district and destroying homes.

The National Weather Service in Binghamton, N.Y., sent teams Thursday to two counties in Pennsylvania to determine if tornadoes were part of a severe weather system that also destroyed box stores, smashed cars and left at least six people injured.

Photos and videos of the aftermath show a shopping center in Wilkes-Barre, about 110 miles north of Philadelphia, with roofs torn off, cars overturned and storefronts shattered. Similar photos surfaced Thursday morning from Granville, Franklin and Leroy townships, about 90 miles further north of Wilkes-Barre, showing collapsed structures and shattered windows.

The investigators’ report from Wilkes-Barre said the tornado damage was consistent with an EF-2-strength tornado, meaning the average wind speed reached between 111 and 135 mph.

Tornadoes are categorized from EF-0, which are weaker, with wind speeds between 65 mph and 85 mph, to EF-5, which are considered violent, with wind speeds of more than 200 mph.

The report said winds likely hit 130 mph as the tornado traveled about half a mile after first touching down near the Wyoming Valley Mall. Investigators said “structures were sheared off near their foundation” when describing the damage.

The preliminary report from Franklin Township in Bradford County said damage there was also consistent with an EF-2 tornado. More details about the path, the width and damage were expected soon.

In Wilkes-Barre, city and county officials had

closed roads around the damaged shopping centers because of downed power lines and damage to a propane cylinder that was still leaking as of midmorning Thursday.

Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency volunteer Garrett Hittle said crews were working to stabilize the propane cylinder Thursday afternoon. Hittle said there were reports of six storm-related injuries that were not life-threatening and did not require anyone to be admitted to a hospital.

Gov. Tom Wolf toured the damage with reporters and first responders and briefly spoke about how fast storms like the one Wednesday night move.

He said he was working with county and state officials to determine if the storm would qualify for federal disaster aid.

Joy Frie, 18, told The (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.) Citizens’ Voice that staff and patrons huddled in the kitchen of the bar where she works until they could escape to another business.

“The doors were busting open. Almost everyone’s cars in the parking lot were destroyed,” she said.

In Bradford County, damage was reported in three neighboring townships, but emergency personnel said there were no reports of injuries.

Jeff Scarboro, the director of public safety and emergency management for the county, said there were about 10 homes with varying reports of damage, some of which appeared to be destroyed.

“There were initial reports of entrapments, with building collapses and debris, but local fire departments helped with removal from those properties,” Scarboro said.

Scarboro said some of the rescues included at least one person in a wheelchair who needed help because of debris, and older couples who were trapped in storm cellars by debris.

Wis. woman charged with helping militants plan attacks

BY PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

A Wisconsin woman has been accused of trying to teach people how to make explosives and poisons in order to carry out terrorist attacks on U.S. soil in the name of Islamic State.

Waheba Issa Dais, 45, was arrested Wednesday by the FBI in Cudahy, a suburb of Milwaukee, and charged with providing “material or resources to a foreign terrorist organization,” according to a Justice Depart-

ment statement.

Dais hacked multiple social media accounts to promote ISIS’ agenda, the Justice Department said.

In one of her pro-ISIS accounts, she gave detailed instructions on how to make ricin to a presumed supporter of the group and suggested the person use the deadly toxin at a government building or reservoir, the Justice Department said.

Dais identified street festivals and other summer celebrations as possible targets, according to the statement.

Dais had “a virtual library of instruction on how to make bombs, biological weapons, poisons and suicide vests to assist self-proclaimed ISIS members and supporters in their attack planning,” the Justice Department said.

Authorities suspect Dais’ activities began in January, The Associated Press reported.

Dais, a Jerusalem native, arrived in the U.S. in 1992 with her American husband, whom she has since divorced. She is now a lawful permanent resident and has two children,

according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Dais is the first person to be federally charged in nearly six months for supporting the terrorist group, the BBC reported. She faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

In December, the Pentagon said roughly 7,000 U.S. troops were deployed to Iraq and Syria to fight ISIS as part of Operation Inherent Resolve.

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Officer replaces ill man's stolen groceries

TX HOUSTON — An off-duty Houston police officer has paid to replace groceries stolen from an ill man after he collapsed in a parking lot just after buying the items.

Officer Kirsten Koryciak, in a police Facebook posting, said Wednesday she has relatives with diabetes and she cares about the community.

The man is diabetic, had a medical episode and collapsed Tuesday outside a Walmart. Koryciak was working store security when she noticed the man, who earlier had bought groceries, walk back inside with a bandaged arm.

She asked what happened and the still-groggy man said he had a diabetic episode and collapsed. He said emergency personnel were summoned, and while he was being treated, someone stole about \$20 to \$30 worth of his groceries.

Voluntary evacuations lifted after feces fire

NV CARSON CITY — Voluntary evacuations have been lifted during a 500-acre wildfire on the edge of Carson City that is now estimated to be 30 percent contained.

Forest Service officials said area residents and motorists should continue to avoid Voltaire Canyon Road as more than 220 firefighters continue to access the area on the southwest edge of town.

Carson City Sheriff Ken Furlong said the fire started in Voltaire Canyon at about 7:30 p.m. Tuesday after a group of campers attempted to burn their fecal waste in the hills. Within an hour, the fire had burned through several acres of the

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest on the Sierra's eastern front bordering Lake Tahoe.

Two people originally were detained, But Furlong said it appears to have been an accident and he doesn't anticipate any charges will be filed.

Banner falls from plane, smashes car window

NJ TRENTON — An airplane-towed banner broke loose and came down near New Jersey's statehouse, fluttering to the ground and shattering the rear windshield of a parked car.

The banner fell under clear skies Thursday as the plane flew over the state's capital before hitting a black Kia sedan. It carried an advertisement for expanding prekindergarten and said "50,000 NJ Kids Are Waiting."

It wasn't immediately known what caused the banner to fall. No injuries were reported.

Politician accused of peeping ends run

ND BISMARCK — A North Dakota politician accused in a peeping incident at a college campus has formally dropped out of the race for secretary of state.

Will Gardner notified Secretary of State Al Jaeger by a letter Wednesday that he will decline the GOP's nomination.

Gardner said he would withdraw last month after it came to light that he pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct in 2006 after being accused of peeping through windows at a North Dakota State University women's dormitory.

Gardner had beaten Jaeger for the party endorsement in April.

Gardner's name still appeared on Tuesday's primary

ballot, and he received more than 54,000 votes.

Jaeger said he'll run as an independent in the November general election.

Man attempting to shoot raccoon hits self

CO COLORADO SPRINGS — Police said a Colorado man attempting to shoot a raccoon on a utility pole shot himself in the lower leg instead.

The shooting was reported just after midnight Tuesday on the southeastern side of Colorado Springs.

Colorado Springs police said the man, 67, was taken to a local hospital with injuries that were not life-threatening.

Police said the man told them he was using a handgun to shoot at the raccoon. Besides the leg wound, police said the man likely faced a citation for prohibited use of a weapon.

Abandoned baby moose befriends dog, Leo

ME WALLAGRASS — A dog and a young moose have forged an unlikely friendship in Maine.

WMTW-TV reported Wallagrass resident Shannon Lugdon and her dog, Leo, spotted the week-old moose alone on Sunday. Wardens told Lugdon not to make contact with the young moose because its mother was probably eating close by.

Lugdon said the next morning, she let Leo out for a bathroom break. She said the dog and the abandoned moose quickly became friends. She said the moose followed her and Leo around all day, "begging for attention," and she named it Maggie.

Wardens and a biologist picked up the 27-pound moose and took it to the Maine Wildlife

Park in Gray, about 300 miles south of where it was found.

Police say man crashed brother's Ferrari

MA WEYMOUTH — Police in Massachusetts said a man with a revoked license got behind the wheel of his brother's Ferrari and crashed it into two parked cars.

The Boston Globe reported that police responding to a call at about 9 p.m. Tuesday in Weymouth found a red 1995 Ferrari pinned underneath a parked SUV. Police said John Distasio, 50, told officers he had lost control of the vehicle as he changed gears.

No one was in the parked vehicles at the time of the crash. Distasio was issued multiple citations.

Police: Man ran over brother in family row

DE BRIDGEVILLE — Police in Delaware said a 21-year-old man struck his teen brother with a car during a family dispute.

The News Journal cited a release from Delaware State Police that says Jaquan A. James' 18-year-old brother and their mother got into an argument Monday, during which the mother retrieved a bat and a machete, thinking the teen had a gun. Police said the teen began to walk away from the home when James backed out of the driveway, hitting his brother.

The teen was airlifted to a hospital in critical condition.

James was charged with felony assault and possession of a deadly weapon during the commission of a felony.

From wire reports

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Shinnecock gives players fits on first day of Open

Associated Press

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. — The U.S. Open lived up to its reputation in the return to Shinnecock Hills.

So did Dustin Johnson.

Fresh off a six-shot victory last week, Johnson managed all aspects of his game Thursday on a classic U.S. Open course that required nothing less. He wasn't perfect, but he was under par — barely — and shared the lead at 1-under 69 in an opening round of strong wind, high anxiety and scores that made this feel like a U.S. Open again.

"You had to focus on every single shot you hit — putts, everything. It was just difficult all day," Johnson said. "Every day out here is going to be difficult."

It was plenty tough for Tiger Woods, who started with a triple bogey and added a pair of double bogeys on the back nine for a 78.

Phil Mickelson, Rory McIlroy and Jordan Spieth — the only three active players with three legs of the career Grand Slam — made only six birdies among them. They were a combined 25-over par, with Mickelson the low man in the group at 77.

Johnson, Ian Poulter, Scott Piercy and Russell Henley were the only players under par. That's a sharp contrast from last year at Erin Hills, where 44 players broke par in the opening round to set a U.S. Open record.

Jason Dufner nearly joined them. He settled for a 70 with no complaints.

"I think it's in fifth place," he said. "So beat about 151 guys."

Most everyone else felt beat up on a course where wind that gusted to 25 mph made the fairways shrink and the rough look even taller. McIlroy needed a dozen people to help him find a tee shot in the rough. He found the next shot on his own because he advanced it only 6 feet. Mickelson asked an official if there was a rule that allowed a player to see the ball as he was trying to hit it.

"People talk about the fairways are 'more generous' for an Open," Charles Howell III said after a 71. "When the wind starts blowing this way, they're not generous."

Woods ran into problems on the short grass — it took him three shots to reach the putting surface behind the first green on his way to a triple bogey, and he four-putted on No. 13 for the first of successive double bogeys.

"It was pretty evident nobody was making any birdies in the morning — lots and lots of bogeys and 'others,'" Woods said.

"My game plan was not to make any 'others,' and I made three of them."

Piercy, the last man in the 156-man field as an alternate from qualifying, was so disgusted with his game in his final practice round that he walked off the course. He dropped only two shots, both on par 3s, and was the first to post a 69. Poulter also played in the morning, while Johnson and Henley played in the afternoon as the wind reached its full strength.

Henley was the only player to reach 3 under at any point, and he promptly gave that back with a double bogey on No. 10.

Even those at 71 felt as though they put in a hard day's work, a group that included Justin Rose and Henrik Stenson.

"It's a different kind of enjoyment, right?" Rose said. "I enjoy the battle. I enjoy the fight. I enjoy the grind, really."

Johnson holed medium-length putts for birdies, a few nervy, short putts for par and picked up a bonus when his shot from a front bunker on the par-4 eighth rattled and rolled into the cup. He also got a break on the fifth hole. The only way he found his ball in the rough was that former PGA champion and Sky Sports reporter Rich Beem stepped on it. He still made bogey, but it beat having to go back to the tee to play his third shot.

It didn't take long to figure out what kind of test this was going to be, with the 15 flags atop the grandstand next to the 18th green already flapping as the first group teed off, and they were crackling by the afternoon.

Spieth missed a 4-foot par putt on No. 10 to start his round, and then tried to get that shot back by playing a bunker shot at the flag on the par-3 11th. It trickled over the green and down the slope, and Spieth didn't get back on the green until he played three more shots. He salvaged a triple bogey and shot 78.

McIlroy was 10 over after 11 holes.

From the middle of the first fairway, Woods went long over the green. He chipped once and it rolled back down the hill. Another try, same result. Finally, he rapped his putter up the hill and by the hole and missed the putt. He held it together until a four-putt on No. 13, the last three of those putts from 6 feet.

"Shoot something in the 60s tomorrow, and I'll be just fine," Woods said. "I just think today was the toughest day we'll have all week. But then again, I think they're going to let these greens firm out a little bit. They'll start to pick up a little bit of speed, and it will be a good U.S. Open again."

That already appears to be the case.

Brazil attack built around 'Fab Four'

Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Brazil will be experimenting with a new version of the "magic quartet" in Russia.

More than a decade after the five-time world champions arrived for the World Cup in Germany with its prolific foursome of Ronaldinho, Kaka, Ronaldo and Adriano, Brazil is set to use a "Fab Four" of Neymar, Willian, Philippe Coutinho and Gabriel Jesus to try to win its first title since 2002.

It will be the first time Brazil brings a prominent attacking foursome like the one that attracted all the headlines 12 years ago.

Brazil coach Tite still hasn't announced his starting lineup for the opener against Switzerland in Rostov-on-Don on Sunday, but all signs show that he will stick to the quartet that helped the team ease past Austria in its final warm-up match last week.

It was the first time the four players started together under Tite, and the lineup earned nothing but praise after the convincing 3-0 win.

"This formation is a very strong one," Tite said. "It gives us a lot of creativity and aggressiveness."

Tite had said the performance against Austria would likely determine whether he would keep the foursome for the World Cup opener. Neymar, Gabriel Jesus and Coutinho each scored for Brazil in Vienna.

Tite used the Fab Four formation in parts of the team's practice sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The quartet is considered Brazil's ideal lineup but it hadn't played much together until now for various reasons, including Neymar's absence since February because of a foot injury.

The concept of the Brazilian magic quartet first gained prominence at the 2005 Confederations Cup, which Brazil won. It clinched the title with a 4-1 win over Argentina in the final, when Adriano scored twice and Kaka and Ronaldinho added a goal each. Then-coach Carlos Alberto Parreira used Robinho in the attack instead of Ronaldo, who didn't play because of personal reasons.

Ronaldo was fully available by the time the World Cup arrived, and Brazil was heavily favored to win the title in Germany with the quartet back together. But after cruising past the group stage and easily eliminating Ghana in the round of 16, Brazil's much-hyped foursome lost to France 1-0 in the quarterfinals.

Gabriel Jesus was quick to dismiss any comparisons between the two quartets.

"We can't erase history," he said. "I want to be part of Brazil's history, but that doesn't mean that whatever happened in the past won't be significant anymore."

Own-goal costs Morocco in extra time

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — An own-goal in the fifth minute of injury time gifted Iran a 1-0 victory over Morocco on Friday at the World Cup.

Only on the field as a 77th-minute substitute, Morocco striker Aziz Bouhaddouz dived to reach a curling cross from the left but headed the ball past his own goalkeeper.

While Bouhaddouz buried his face in the turf and was consoled by some teammates, there was an explosion of joy among the Iran squad as coaching staff and substitutes sprinted onto the field and jumped for joy.

It was Iran's second win in 13 matches at the World Cup, and

Asia's first since the 2010 tournament in South Africa.

With Spain and Portugal the other teams in Group B, the match in St. Petersburg was regarded as a must-win game for the two outsiders.

It was always likely to be a low-scoring match, considering the teams' defensive records in qualifying. Morocco didn't concede in six matches in African qualifying, while Iran kept nine straight clean sheets before letting in two goals in its final qualifier — by which time Carlos Queiroz's team was already guaranteed a place at a second straight World Cup.

After an open first half when both teams created chances, the action became almost as dull as the droning noise from

the air horns that swarmed the St. Petersburg Stadium. It revived memories of the vuvuzelas that were the soundtrack of the World Cup in South Africa.

Before the late goal, Iran striker Sardar Azmoun wasted the best chance when he played clean through just before half-time. He didn't live up to his nickname, fondly used back home, of the "Iranian Lionel Messi" when he got the ball caught in his feet and saw his weak shot saved.

Hakim Ziyech was billed as Morocco's most dangerous attacker, but the winger floated in and out of the game and embarrassingly missed an attempted shot completely when teed up for an early chance at the edge of the area.

Group dynamics: Iran would likely secure a first-ever place in the knockout stage at a World Cup by beating Spain on Wednesday, though Queiroz is expected to play for a draw in Kazan.

As for the Moroccans, they cannot afford another slip-up against Portugal in Moscow on the same day.

Key to success: Morocco was most dangerous on the wings, through Ziyech on the right and Amine Harit on the left, during its strong start to the game.

Omid Ebrahimi did a crucial job as a marauding shield in Iran's midfield, protecting what was already the strongest international defense in Asia.

Uruguay defenders combine to score winner over Egypt

Associated Press

YEKATERINBURG, Russia — In a team that boasts one of the World Cup's most potent attacks, two defenders combined to give Uruguay a late 1-0 victory over Egypt on Friday.

Uruguay captain Diego Godin and teammate Jose Gimenez, who anchor the back line at Atletico Madrid as well as the national team's traditionally solid defense, did their job in front of their own goalkeeper and then combined for the winning strike in the 89th minute.

Godin, who was making his 117th international appearance, sent a free kick from the right into the area. Gimenez jumped and got his head to the ball, directing it into the net and giving Uruguay its first opening-match victory at the World Cup in 48 years.

"Sometimes the ball will go to the back of the net, sometimes it won't," Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez said. "I'm very proud of the team and the attitude they played with throughout the match."

Uruguay now has three points in Group A, but still trails Russia on goal differential after the

host nation's 5-0 victory over Saudi Arabia on Thursday.

Egypt forward Mohamed Salah was on the bench for his country's first World Cup match since 1990 after injuring his shoulder while playing for Liverpool in last month's Champions League final. Salah was the Premier League's player of the season after scoring a league-leading 32 goals, with 44 in all competitions.

He left the Champions League final in tears on May 26 after he was injured during a collision with Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos.

"He didn't play today because we didn't want to have any risk or danger," Egypt coach Hector Cuper said. "But I think he will be OK for the next match."

Uruguay strikers Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani, the pair of players who make up that potent offense, missed their chances at the Yekaterinburg Arena. Suarez failed to beat Egypt goalkeeper Mohamed El Shennawy in two one-on-one situations and Cavani hit the post from a free kick two minutes from the end.

"We've tried to play in a very orderly fashion," Tabarez said.

"I don't think some of the players played as well as they can."

Egypt, which had zero corner kicks in the match, has yet to win a World Cup game. It managed two draws at the 1990 tournament and lost its only match in 1934.

With its focus on defense, Egypt failed to capitalize on several mistakes from the Uruguay midfield.

"Mo Salah is an important player for us, that is without a doubt," Cuper said. "Perhaps if Mo had been on the pitch today the outcome could have been different, but we'll never know that."

Key to success: Uruguay won but doubts about the team's attacking qualities remain.

Cavani and Suarez didn't receive the support they needed and at times dropped back to midfield as playmakers, not a role for a duo that has combined for 93 international goals.

With its traditional defensive tactics preferred by Cuper, Egypt badly needs Salah and his goals to succeed. Marwan Mohsen as a lone striker is not likely to be enough for the team at this year's tournament.

Group dynamics: Expected

to dominate Group A, Uruguay made its first step toward the next round.

Anything but a win against Saudi Arabia on Wednesday would be a surprise. With a victory, Uruguay could reach the next stage with a game in hand against host Russia on June 25.

To have any hopes of advancing, Egypt needs to avoid a loss against Russia on Tuesday and probably beat Saudi Arabia on June 25 in its final group game.

Curse is over: From 1970 until Friday, Uruguay had lost three games and drawn another three in its opening World Cup games. Tabarez called it "secondary statistics."

Tabarez is leading Uruguay into a fourth World Cup after a first trip in 1990. That was followed by appearances in 2010 and 2014.

Despite the winless streak, a team coached by Tabarez has always made it out of the group stage, including a semifinal appearance in South Africa eight years ago. In 1970, Uruguay also reached the semifinals.

"This is football, in our history of football," Tabarez said. "We've broken the spell."

MLB roundup

Velasquez loses no-no in 7th as Phillies roll

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — When Vince Velasquez is calm and composed, he's tough to beat.

Velasquez took a no-hitter two outs into the seventh inning, Rhys Hoskins and Nick Williams hit solo homers, and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Colorado Rockies 9-3 Thursday.

Trevor Story lined Velasquez's 105th pitch — a curve — to left for an RBI double, ending Velasquez's bid for the fourth no-hitter in the majors this season.

Velasquez (5-7) got a standing ovation as he walked off the mound after the hit. The hard-throwing righty looked nothing like the pitcher who allowed 10 runs against the Brewers last Friday. He dominated the Rockies, giving up one hit and two runs with six strikeouts in 6²/₃ innings.

Giants 6, Marlins 3 (16): Pablo Sandoval hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the 16th inning, Andrew McCutchen hit a two-run homer and Mac Williamson also homered for visiting San Francisco, which salvaged the final game of a four-game series and beat host Miami for only the second time in the last 10 meetings.

San Francisco third baseman Evan Longoria broke his left hand when he was hit by a pitch from Dan Straily. There is no timetable for Longoria's return and he will decide in the next few days if he will need surgery. He is hitting .246 with 10 home runs and 34 RBIs.

Yankees 4, Rays 3: Gleyber Torres hit another three-run homer and Domingo German (1-4) struck out a career-high 10 for his first major league win and host New York edged Tampa Bay in the opener of a four-game series.

Aaron Hicks also homered off Blake Snell (8-4) as New York beat the blossoming left-

hander for the second time this season and ended his four-game winning streak.

Red Sox 2, Mariners 1: Xander Bogaerts hit a tie-breaking home run in the sixth inning and visiting Boston won its fourth straight.

David Price (8-4) pitched seven innings of four-hit ball to earn his sixth victory over his past seven appearances. He gave up a run and struck out seven.

Tigers 3, Twins 1: JaCoby Jones' two-run homer capped a three-run seventh inning as host Detroit rallied past Minnesota.

Jones was hitting .135 in his last 10 games, and had struck out in his first two at-bats before hitting Lance Lynn's 3-1 fastball for his fifth home run.

Indians 5, White Sox 2: Francisco Lindor and Jose Ramirez homered, Mike Clevinger (5-2) struck out 11 in seven innings and visiting Cleveland topped Chicago.

Lindor led off the game against Carlos Rodon with his 15th home run.

Astros 7, Athletics 3: Justin Verlander (9-2) pitched five-hit ball over seven innings and visiting Houston beat Oakland for its eighth straight win.

The winning streak is the Astros' longest since they won 11 straight from May 25 to June 5 last season on the way to their first World Series championship.

Braves 4, Padres 2: Anibal Sanchez (3-0) allowed only four hits in seven scoreless innings, Ender Inciarte homered and scored two runs and host Atlanta beat San Diego.

Ozzie Albies added a run-scoring double for the NL East-leading Braves.

Diamondbacks 6, Mets 3: David Peralta hit a pair of solo homers, Matt Koch (5-3) pitched six effective innings in a combined four-hitter and host Arizona handed New York its 10th loss in 11 games.

Briefly

Michigan State trustees call for resignation of interim president

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Two Michigan State University board trustees are calling for interim school president John Engler to resign immediately, joining a chorus of sexual assault victims of disgraced former sports doctor Larry Nassar and top legislators who say the campus community cannot heal until Engler steps down.

"Unfortunately, and with great regret, John Engler's tenure as interim president has continued the bleeding rather than stem it," Brian Mosallam said in a statement released Friday morning. "His misguided actions and comments have failed to re-establish trust and confidence in Michigan State."

His disapproval was echoed by trustee Dianne Byrum a few hours later.

"The despicable and disparaging comments made about survivors by interim president John Engler are completely unacceptable," she said. "I have concluded he is no longer the right person to lead Michigan State University during this difficult period."

Engler sent emails in April to another university official criticizing lawyers who represent Nassar's assault victims and suggesting the first woman to go public with her accusations was probably getting a "kick-back" from her attorney.

Michigan State has since agreed to a \$500 million settlement with hundreds of women and girls who said they were sexually assaulted by Nassar, a former campus sports doctor now serving decades in prison.

"I'm very grateful to see leadership coming from trustee Mosallam," said Rachael Denhollander, the Nassar victim mentioned in the Engler emails. "Leadership isn't going along to get along. Leadership is doing the hard and right things, no matter what."

Engler was unbowed Friday, saying he is looking ahead to a public Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for next Friday.

Former 49ers tackle Fahnhorst dies at 66

SAN FRANCISCO — Keith Fahnhorst, a star tackle for the San Francisco 49ers who won two Super Bowl titles in the 1980s, has died. He was 66.

He died Tuesday, the 49ers said Friday. No cause was given.

Fahnhorst won two Super Bowls in his 14 seasons with the franchise and was an All-Pro in 1984. He started 160 of the 193 games in which he appeared from 1974-87. Only seven more players and one offensive lineman, Len Rohde, appeared in more games for the 49ers.

Fahnhorst retired because of a neck injury that caused him to miss nine games during his last season in 1987. He dealt with neurological problems after his career.

Fahnhorst was a second-round draft choice in 1974 out of Minnesota, where he was a tight end. He twice won the 49ers' Bobb McKittrick Award, which is given annually to the offensive lineman who best represents the courage and sacrifice displayed by the long-time offensive line coach.

In other NFL news:

■ Former NFL tight end Kellen Winslow Jr. was arrested Thursday on charges of rape and other sex crimes on the day he was to appear in court on an unrelated burglary charge.

The San Diego Union-Tribune reported sheriff's deputies arrested Winslow on Thursday at his home in the San Diego suburb of Encinitas.

The 34-year-old Winslow was charged with two counts of rape, two counts of kidnapping with intent to commit rape and single counts of forcible sodomy, oral copulation and indecent exposure. He's free after posting \$50,000 bail.

Winslow was due to appear in court Thursday after being charged with burglary following an incident last month at a mobile home park. He now faces arraignment Friday.