

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Taliban rejects cease-fire extension

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide bomber struck in Afghanistan's eastern city of Jalalabad on Sunday, killing at least 19 people in the second attack in as many days targeting Taliban fighters, security forces and civilians celebrating a holiday cease-fire. The Taliban later rejected an extension of the cease-fire.

Najibullah Kamawal, director of the provincial health department, said another 60 people were wounded in the attack, which struck a crowd of people as they left the governor's compound.

Saturday's attack, which also took place in Jalalabad, killed at least 36 people and wounded 65, according to Kamawal.

No one has claimed the attacks, but they appear to be the work of Islamic State, which is not included in the cease-fire and has clashed with the Taliban in the past. The local ISIS affiliate has a strong presence in the province.

The bomber on Saturday targeted a gathering of Taliban fighters who were celebrating a three-day truce coinciding with the Eid al-Fitr holiday.

After the attack, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani announced a nine-day extension of the cease-fire.

'All Mujahidin (Taliban) should continue their operations against foreign invaders and their puppets.'

Zabihullah Mujahid
Taliban spokesman

The chairman of the High Peace Council, a government body charged with negotiating an end to the nearly 17-year war, called on the Taliban to accept the extended cease-fire and join the peace process.

"We hope that the extension of the cease-fire will be announced by the leadership of the Taliban," Mohammad Karim Khalili told a press conference in the capital, Kabul. He said without elaborating that there had been an "exchange of views" between the government and the Taliban over the past week.

But on Sunday the Taliban announced that their cease-fire had ended and they have no intention of extending it.

"The cease-fire was announced by the Taliban for just the three days of the Eid holidays which have come to an end this Sunday evening," said Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid in a statement. "All Mujahidin (Taliban) should continue their operations against foreign invaders and their puppets."

The Taliban's statement added that their cease-fire was instituted so their fighters could celebrate the holiday peacefully — not in response to the government's cease-fire announcement.

The Taliban have steadily expanded their presence in recent years, seizing a number of districts across the country and carrying out near-daily attacks on Afghan security forces. But over the past two days, Taliban fighters could be seen celebrating the truce alongside Afghan troops and other people in a number of locations.

Taliban leaders have at different times expressed interest in holding peace talks to end the conflict. But they have refused to meet with the U.S.-backed government, saying they will negotiate only with the United States directly. They have also demanded the withdrawal of all foreign forces.

Army develops algorithm for coffee consumption

BY MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

Have you ever had a cup or two of coffee and wondered whether you need more?

Not enough and you might as well go back to sleep? Too much and you risk the dreaded jitters?

The U.S. Army has answers. Caffeine's effectiveness depends on several factors besides a person's innate sensitivity, according to an Army-supported study released last week, which proposes an algorithm to determine when and how much caffeine to consume

in order to maximize benefits and minimize negative effects.

That algorithm will be available via a smartphone application that will enable the user to "predict current and future alertness and cognitive performance based on a series of psychomotor vigilance task tests and the individual's sleep and caffeine intake data," according to the study, published in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Sleep Research*.

The ideal caffeine intake varies, depending on the user's physiology, but researchers have determined that the time

when a person drinks coffee plays just as much of a role as the amount.

"We found that by using our algorithm, which determines when and how much caffeine a subject should consume, we can improve alertness by up to 64 percent while consuming the same total amount of caffeine," said Jaques Reifman, a senior research scientist at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, which sponsored the study.

"Alternatively, a subject can reduce caffeine consumption by up to 65 percent and still achieve equivalent improve-

ments in alertness."

The Army is set to use the new formula to maximize performance during training. The 2B-Alert Web app is already accessible to help users determine the effects of different sleep routines at <https://2b-alert-web.bhsai.org>, though the caffeine-optimization tool is still being developed.

Eventually, soldiers will be able to do the necessary calculations via the 2B-Alert Personalized Alertness and Cognitive Performance smartphone app, which was developed by the USAMRMC.

Afghan truce brings respite from fighting

By J.P. LAWRENCE

Stars and Stripes

PUL-E-ALAM, Afghanistan — On the second day of unprecedented mutual cease-fires, Afghan soldiers convoyed to a village that for months was deemed too dangerous to visit — the stronghold of the Taliban in Logar province.

Only the brief and unexpected peace between Afghan government troops and Taliban fighters could allow soldiers from the 203rd Corps' 4th Brigade to journey west to meet with Taliban leaders at their headquarters in rural Tang-e-Wardak, said Brig. Gen. Abdul Raziq Safi, the unit's commander.

The Afghan soldiers' mission

to meet Taliban leaders was inspired by the Taliban coming to meet them in Pul-e-Alam, Safi said. Before the mission, Safi met with the Logar provincial governor to discuss ways to ensure peace beyond the three days of the Taliban cease-fire and whether to release Taliban prisoners.

"The Taliban came to our center, so we decided to go to their center," Safi said. "If we show them trust and confidence, then they will show us trust and confidence."

About noon Saturday, the convoy rumbled through downtown Pul-e-Alam, where the good spirits of the first night of the cease-fires continued. Men with both the Afghan and

Taliban flags climbed on top of military vehicles for impromptu parades.

"All the people are really happy because the Taliban and Afghan government forces are together," said Shahdaidulla, 16, a local villager who like many Afghans goes only by a first name.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani ordered an indefinite extension of a government cease-fire with the Taliban late Saturday. That followed an announcement last week of an eight-day cessation of offensive operations against the Taliban at the end of the Muslim holy month and Eid holiday. U.S. and other foreign forces said they would honor the temporary

truce, part of a gambit to induce the Taliban to lay down their weapons and enter peace talks.

The Taliban said they would observe an unprecedented three-day cease-fire during the Eid holiday, which began Friday. The truce did not extend to foreign fighters, the Taliban said.

On Saturday, a deadly blast killed at least 36 people and wounded 65 others in a stadium in Nangarhar province. A local ISIS affiliate claimed responsibility for the attack. Another attack hit a celebrating crowd in Jalalabad on Sunday, killing at least 19.

In the wake of the second blast, the Taliban said it would not extend the cease-fire.

Nike stops fashion collection after Naval Academy objects to its logo

The Washington Post

Nike apologized Friday and stopped a fashion collection after the U.S. Naval Academy objected to a logo, saying the similarities between the logo and the academy's historical seal are "undeniable" and a trademark infringement.

The logo, from a collaboration between Nike and Undefeated, a Los Angeles sportswear line, prompted a backlash on social media and a complaint from the academy.

"The Naval Academy crest represents honor, integrity and leadership and is emblematic of our students and more than 80,000 alumni who serve and have served our country, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice in its defense," a spokeswoman said in a statement issued Friday.

"It is difficult to understand why anyone would modify and use our symbol without permission for marketing and profit motives," the statement said.

Nike responded with a written statement Friday evening.

"We recently were made aware of our logo being included into a design that has been previously used by one of our long-standing partners," the company said. "We have always respected the US Navy and its Academy and have been a longtime supporter of the military."

"We do not feel it is appropriate to move forward with the collection. We apologize to anyone who was offended."

The Undefeated brand could not be reached for comment Friday.

The similarity between the crest and the logo, which Undefeated tweeted last week, was noted by the Capital Gazette newspaper in Annapolis, Md., and by some on social media.

On Facebook, many responded angrily to the logo, pasting images of the Naval Academy's coat of arms and writing comments such as, "Just plain wrong" and "ripoff."

Some asked how the company could expect to get away with it, vowed not to buy any of their products and vented their dislike of Nike.

Friday afternoon, the tweets and Facebook posts by Undefeated containing the logo had been deleted.

The Nike x Undefeated line, which was scheduled to launch Sunday, included a logo flanked by two columns, with a hand grasping a trophy on the top and flags unfurling around the edges with words including, "RESPECT ALL," "FEAR NONE" and "LOS ANGELES." At the center was the Undefeated logo, and on the trophy is the Nike swoosh.

The Naval Academy crest, adopted in 1899, has a logo that is flanked by two columns, with a hand grasping a trident on the top and flags unfurling around the edges with words including "NAVAL" and "ACADEMY" and a motto in Latin that means "From knowledge, sea power."

Sailor makes history as he takes oath of re-enlistment

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A sailor serving aboard the USS Chancellorsville has become the first Filipino-American to re-enlist in the Philippine Sea, according to the Navy.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Trevor Scudder, an operations specialist assigned to the Yokosuka-based guided-missile cruiser, took the oath on June 10 while afloat in the sea in his search-and-rescue gear.

The Chancellorsville had been participating in Malabar 2018 — a nine-day training exercise on land and at sea with India and Japan that was scheduled to wrap up on Saturday — along with fellow cruiser USS Antietam, the guided-missile destroyer USS Benfold and the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan.

The Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force both sent three ships.

Republicans risk backlash over immigration

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The push toward immigration votes in the House is intensifying the divide among Republicans on one of the party's most animating issues and fueling concerns that a voter backlash could cost the GOP control of the House in November.

To many conservatives, the compromise immigration proposal released last week by House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., is little more than "amnesty."

One tea party group described the Republican plan as "the final betrayal." Fox Business host Lou Dobbs, who is close to President Donald Trump, tweeted Friday

that Ryan is "trying to open our borders even more and give illegal immigrants the biggest amnesty in American history."

Passage of the bill could alienate conservatives and depress turnout at a time when enthusiasm among Democrats is high. Yet scuttling the bill could turn off independent voters, an especially important bloc for House Republicans competing in dozens of districts that Democrat Hillary Clinton won in the 2016 presidential election.

"The hard-core Trump voter has a different point of view than the ever-important independent voter, and there doesn't seem to be a middle ground," said Republican pollster Frank Luntz.

The draft legislation, resulting from intense negotiations between moderates and conservatives, includes a path to citizenship for an estimated 1.8 million young immigrants in the country illegally. The plan includes \$25 billion for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and other security measures sought by the White House.

"While the bill contains some positive provisions, including full funding for the border wall and closing loopholes in current law that sustain illegal border surges, it is still a mass amnesty," said RJ Hauman, of the conservative Federation for American Immigration Reform.

Trump will meet with House

Republicans this week to discuss the issue just days after his comments during an impromptu Fox News interview on the White House driveway nearly derailed the planned House vote, according to a House GOP official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump had said in the interview that he wouldn't sign what was described as the "moderate" immigration bill, even though the version written by House leadership is based on his own priorities.

White House officials later said the president had misspoken and didn't realize he was being asked about the compromise bill.

Lack of praise for deal with North Korea irritates Trump

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said his deal with North Korea's Kim Jong Un will save tens of millions of people from a potential nuclear war. Now he just has to get everyone else on board.

Frustrated with lukewarm backing from congressional Republicans, criticism from Democratic opponents and skepticism from allies and the media, Trump made a stop on the North Lawn of the White House to promote his agreement with Kim and challenge the blowback that it's vague and lacking in clear objectives.

The surprise appearance Friday on "Fox & Friends," followed by a combative round of questions with reporters, came days after Trump returned from the Singapore summit expecting a hero's welcome and tweeting that the world now could "sleep well."

Trump, who prides himself as a master deal-maker, feels the agreement represents a major step toward solving an intractable foreign policy problem. He has been grumbling that not everyone agrees.

Trump's frustrations are all

the more notable now during the honeymoon phase of the deal, when goodwill has yet to be tempered by reality. The U.S. goal of complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization, even in the most optimistic case, probably will take years — and that's assuming North Korea won't violate the accord, as it has every previous nuclear agreement.

The president is facing questions about his public embrace of Kim and the North Korean's autocratic leadership style, including what Trump said was a joke about the obedience of the autocratic Kim's advisers. Trump said he was doing what is necessary for peace.

"I don't want to see a nuclear weapon destroy you and your family," Trump told reporters. He added: "If you're fair, when I came in, people thought we were probably going to war with North Korea. ... If we did, millions of people would have been killed."

The joint statement signed last week by Trump and Kim promises they will work toward a denuclearized Korean Peninsula, but includes no details on how or when weapons might be eliminated or even reduced.

Hacking among issues not discussed at summit

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Among the subjects President Donald Trump apparently didn't discuss with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore — the regime's human rights abuses, its exports of missile technology and its mistreatment of U.S. prisoners — there's one more: its long record of dangerous cyberattacks against sensitive targets in the U.S. and allied nations.

Experts warn that the country's hacking skills have become increasingly sophisticated and dangerous in recent years. North Korean exploits have included the damaging 2017 WannaCry ransomware attacks, intrusions into banks in more than a dozen countries to heist millions of dollars over the last few years, and continually brazen cyberattacks on South Korean computer networks.

The historic Singapore meeting focused on "denuclearization" of the Korean peninsula, although it didn't yield a detailed agreement for accomplishing that goal.

In the run-up to the June 12 meeting, the Department of Homeland Security warned of

an ongoing threat by North Korean government hackers, who have attacked critical infrastructure and media, aerospace and financial companies since at least 2009, infecting networks in at least 17 countries and the United States. Days after the summit, the DHS sent a fresh notice describing malware variants used by North Korea.

But there is no indication that the two leaders discussed cybersecurity, worrying experts who warn that North Korea's cyberwarfare capabilities pose an immediate threat to U.S. interests that warrants high-level attention.

Few know the impact of a North Korean cyberattack like former Sony Pictures CEO Michael Lynton. More than three years ago, the American movie studio owned by Sony suffered a crippling hack prior to its release of "The Interview," a film centered on a screwball satire of Kim.

The unprecedented corporate cyberattack cost Sony more than \$100 million — destroying more than 70 percent of the computers at the then-7,000-person studio, Lynton told The Associated Press.

1 dead in NJ festival shooting

Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — An all-night arts and music festival turned deadly Sunday morning when gunfire erupted in a crowd, sending people stampeding and leaving one suspected shooter dead and 22 people injured, authorities said.

Seventeen people were treated for gunshot wounds, said Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo Onofri. Four of those, including a 13-year-old boy, remained in critical condition late Sunday morning.

Two suspects opened fire around 2:45 a.m. during the Art All Night Trenton festival that showcases local art, music, food and films. One of the suspects, a 33-year-old man, was killed, authorities said. Onofri said he believes police killed him. Another suspect is in custody. Onofri said a “neighborhood

beef” is behind the shooting inside the historic Roebling Wire Works Building.

On Sunday, there was crime scene tape surrounding the site of the old warehouse that now shares a parking lot with a supermarket, bank and laundry facility.

Police are also investigating an attempted carjacking that occurred in an alley close to the crime scene. Onofri said police are working to determine if it’s connected to the shooting.

Gennie Darisme was at the festival when the shooting occurred, getting ready to leave around 2:45 a.m. when she heard shots and saw people running.

“There were people trampling other people, cars hitting other cars,” she said.

Theresa Brown said she’s been volunteering at Art All

Night for 12 years and has never seen or heard of violence like this. She said she was leaving her volunteer shift around 2 a.m. and heard “pop, pop, pop.”

“I thought it was a car backfiring,” she said.

She returned to the scene around 7 a.m. and saw the police.

Art All Night Trenton began Saturday afternoon and was scheduled to conclude Sunday afternoon. The remainder of the festival was canceled.

“We’re very shocked,” festival organizers posted on social media Sunday. “We’re deeply saddened. Our hearts ache and our eyes are blurry but our dedication and resolve to building a better Trenton through community, creativity and inspiration will never fade. Not tonight. Not ever.”

Ex-nursing supervisor pleads guilty in fraud case

Associated Press

DALLAS — A former hospice nursing supervisor in North Texas pleaded guilty to her role in a \$60 million health care fraud scheme that prosecutors allege involved overdosing patients for profit.

Jessica Love pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit health care fraud as part of an agreement filed June 11.

Love worked as a registered nurse case manager and regional director for Frisco-based Novus Health Services, which shut down several years ago amid the federal investigation.

Court documents show Love participated in the overmedication of two patients who died from the high dosages. She’s facing up to 10 years in prison.

Love is expected to testify against Novus’ owner, Bradley Harris, and others charged in the FBI investigation. Court documents outline a scheme to admit as many patients into hospice care as possible and provide around-the-clock care, which Medicare would pay at a higher rate than it would for routine care.

Hospice owners lose money if they have to provide patients with “continuous care” for too long.

Love said Harris, an accountant with no medical training, gave orders about patient care, including drug dosage amounts and when they should die.

Love is the second person to plead guilty in the case. Former Novus operations director Melanie Murphey pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit health care fraud last month.

The federal trial for the other defendants is scheduled for January. Love’s sentencing date hasn’t been set.

Calif. officials: Drinking coffee not risky

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — California officials, having concluded coffee drinking is not a risky pastime, are proposing a regulation that will essentially tell consumers of America’s favorite beverage they can drink up without fear.

The unprecedented action Friday by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to propose a regulation to clear coffee of the stigma that it could pose a toxic risk followed a review of more than 1,000 studies published last week by the World Health Organization that found inadequate evidence that coffee causes cancer.

The state agency implements a law passed by voters in 1986 that requires warnings of chemicals known to cause cancer and birth defects.

One of those chemicals is acrylamide, which is found in many things and is a byproduct of coffee roasting and brewing present in every cup of joe.

If the regulation is adopted, it would be a huge win for the

coffee industry, which faces potentially massive civil penalties after recently losing an 8-year-old lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court that could require scary warnings on all coffee packaging sold in California.

Judge Elihu Berle found that Starbucks and other coffee roasters and retailers had failed to show that benefits from drinking coffee outweighed any cancer risks.

He had previously ruled the companies hadn’t shown the threat from the chemical was insignificant.

The state’s action rejects that ruling.

“The proposed regulation would state that drinking coffee does not pose a significant cancer risk, despite the presence of chemicals created during the roasting and brewing process that are listed under Proposition 65 as known carcinogens,” the agency said in a statement.

“The proposed regulation is based on extensive scientific evidence that drinking coffee has not been shown to increase the risk of cancer and may re-

duce the risk of some types of cancer.”

Attorney Raphael Metzger, who won the court case on behalf of The Council for Education and Research on Toxics, said he was shocked the agency would move to nullify the court decision and undermine its own report more than a decade ago that drinking even small amounts of coffee resulted in a significant cancer risk.

“The takeaway is that the state is proposing a rule contrary to its own scientific conclusion. That’s unprecedented and bad,” Metzger said. “The whole thing stinks to high hell.”

The National Coffee Association had no comment on the proposed change. In the past, the organization has said coffee has health benefits and that the lawsuit made a mockery of the state law intended to protect people from toxins.

Scientific evidence on coffee has gone back and forth over many years, but concerns have eased recently about possible dangers, with some studies finding health benefits.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Coast Guard mulling LED for lighthouse

NC BUXTON — The Coast Guard is considering changing the bulb on the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse to the latest technology.

Coast Guard electrician James Harper told the Virginian-Pilot of Norfolk, Va., that an LED light would cut repair costs, travel time and man hours.

The beacon atop the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is many years old and needs constant repair. It already has gone dark twice this year and needed repairs.

Harper said an LED light would not rotate or have moving parts, and would be easier to maintain and use 90 percent less electricity.

Coyote snatches pet dog from backyard

MA SHREWSBURY — A Shrewsbury family said it is devastated after a coyote snatched its pet dog from the backyard of their home.

Tracy Walnista told The Boston Globe she had just let Katie, the family's 11-year-old white Maltese, out Tuesday night when the coyote came out of nowhere. Walnista said she screamed, trying to frighten the coyote away, but was horrified to see the animal pick up the 5-pound dog in its jaws and disappear.

Katie hasn't been seen since, and Walnista said the family assumes the worst.

Human finger found in snapping turtle's body

LA SLIDELL — A Louisiana sheriff's office is investigating the discovery of a human finger inside the body of an alligator snapping turtle.

The St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office said in a news release that a man called deputies after finding the finger inside a large turtle he was cleaning and processing for consumption.

Investigators used a dog to search the area where the turtle had been caught in a river.

The sheriff's office said a crime lab and coroner's office haven't been able to get a fingerprint.

Man arrested after horse tramples boy

CA COLUSA — The rider of a horse that trampled a young boy during a county parade in Northern California was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence.

Colusa police said Armando Martinez Ruiz was thrown from the horse Friday during the Colusa Fair Parade. The horse then injured an 8-year-old boy; police said he is recovering.

Residents can take ride in old airplane

IL BLOOMINGTON — Residents in the Bloomington area are getting the chance to ride in a 90-year-old airplane.

The local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association brought a 1928 Ford Tri-Motor to the Central Illinois Regional Airport, The Pantagraph reported. The plane was a sightseeing vehicle for Transcontinental Air Transport.

The plane is on lease to the national EAA from Liberty Aviation Museum in Port Clinton, Ohio.

The craft can hold up to 10 passengers, who each get a window seat. Rides last about 10 minutes and fly above downtown Bloomington, the Illinois State University campus

and Heartland Community College.

Police: Hot sauce led to stabbing incident

NH PORTSMOUTH — Two men were arrested in connection with a stabbing that allegedly began with a hot sauce squirting incident in a New Hampshire restaurant.

The Portsmouth Herald reported police said the fight began when Nicholas Abraham, 27, squirted Ethan Fishbaugh with hot sauce and chased him out of the eatery May 29.

Police allege Fishbaugh stabbed Abraham in the abdomen and concealed the knife.

Abraham required emergency surgery. Fishbaugh was treated for a head injury.

Police said Fishbaugh, 27, was charged with four counts of second-degree assault, falsifying physical evidence and four misdemeanor counts of simple assault. Abraham was charged with several misdemeanors.

2 workers ill after eating pot-laced candy

VT SHELBURNE — A Vermont police department said two inn employees who ate marijuana-laced chocolate edibles resembling malted milk balls that were left behind by guests have gotten sick.

Shelburne Police were called to the Inn at Shelburne Farms Wednesday after receiving a report an employee had become ill and was lying in the parking lot.

Police determined two employees became ill after eating the chocolate marijuana edibles. The two were taken to the University of Vermont Medical Center; their conditions weren't known. Police said no charges will be filed against the guests.

Recreational use of mari-

juana will become legal in Vermont on July 1.

Sisters give birth near the same time, again

GA COLUMBUS — Two sisters. Two new babies around the same time — again.

Piedmont Columbus Regional said in a statement that sisters Mara Meighan and Jennifer Solis went into labor on the same day last week and gave birth nearly at the same time at the hospital's midtown campus in west Georgia. The hospital also said the sisters had their first children around the same time nine years ago.

Meighan gave birth to a girl named Ana Grace, while Solis had a boy named Marco. Ana Grace weighed in at 8 pounds, 3 ounces, and Marco was 7 pounds, 15 ounces.

Town works to save statue of famous seal

ME ROCKPORT — A Maine town is raising money to save the statue of a beloved harbor seal that brought the community together.

The Bangor Daily News reported Rockport's 1978 statue of Andre the Seal is undergoing \$14,000 in repairs. Two local organizations have raised most of the money, but \$2,000 is still needed.

Residents recall fond memories of the orphaned seal pup that was rescued in 1961 by local tree surgeon Harry Goodridge. He cared for the seal until Andre was old enough to be released into the ocean.

Andre went on to spend his winters in southern New England and his summers in Rockport for the next 25 years. The friendly seal was the subject of the 1994 film "Andre" and the book "A Seal Called Andre."

From wire reports

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Third round gets out of hand

Early tee times give a boost

Associated Press

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. — Dustin Johnson at least gets one more round to try to redeem himself in the U.S. Open. So does the USGA.

The best players in the world were no match for a Shinnecock Hills course that even the USGA conceded got out of hand Saturday. Putts were rolling some 50 feet by the hole and over the green. No one from the final 22 groups could match par. Phil Mickelson intentionally broke a rule on the 13th when he trotted to his ball rolling by the cup and swatted it with his putter as the ball was still moving.

“It was a very tough test, but probably too tough this afternoon,” said Mike Davis, the USGA’s chief executive. “We must slow the courses down tonight, and we will.”

It was too late for one of the wildest Saturday shake-ups at the U.S. Open.

Daniel Berger and Tony Finau, who started the third round 11 shots out of the lead, each shot 4-under 66 before Johnson hit his first shot. Johnson faced greens that made him feel as though he were putting on glass, and it was like that to the very end.

Johnson, who started with a four-shot lead, barely nudged his 17-foot birdie attempt on the 18th hole and watched it roll — and roll — 8 feet by the cup. He missed the par putt coming back and signed for a 77 to fall into a four-way tie for the lead.

“I didn’t feel like I played badly at all,” Johnson said. “Seven over usually is a terrible score, but with the greens the way they got this afternoon, I mean they were very, very difficult. I had seven or eight putts that easily could have gone in the hole that didn’t. And that’s the difference between shooting 7 over and even par.”

At least he still has a chance, and he had plenty more company at the top than at the start of the day.

Johnson joined Berger, Finau and defending champion Brooks Koepka (72) at 3-over 213, the highest 54-hole score to lead the U.S. Open since the

fabled “Massacre at Winged Foot” in 1974.

It was the first time since Oakmont in 2007 that no one was under par going into the final day. With wind that was stronger than expected, and a few pin positions that turned the U.S. Open into carnival golf, it was easy to see why.

Davis told Golf Channel he would have liked a mulligan, the same word he used nearly a month ago when discussing the 2004 U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills when the seventh green wouldn’t hold shots and had to be lightly sprayed with water between groups.

That didn’t go over well with Ian Poulter after a 76.

“Is that an apology?” he tweeted. “You don’t get mulligan’s in business at this level. how can this team keep doing this without consequences.”

Mickelson brought plenty of attention to the 13th hole, where anything that ran by the cup was headed off the green. Worst yet might have been No. 15, where Scott Piercy had a 30-foot birdie putt that finished rolling 75 feet away off the green. Koepka hit an approach to near the hole, and it moved a few inches to the right, and then a few more feet, and soon it was in a bunker.

“You were seeing shots that were well played and not rewarded,” Davis said.

Berger and Finau, who made the cut with one shot to spare, will play in the final group.

Right behind them will be the last two U.S. Open champions. Koepka made only two birdies in his hard-earned round of 72, leaving him poised to become the first player since Curtis Strange in 1989 to win back-to-back in the U.S. Open.

Only three players broke par, all before the final groups teed off.

“If they’d have shot 4 under this afternoon, it would probably have been the best round of golf anybody’s ever seen,” Koepka said.

Two other major champions — Justin Rose and Henrik Stenson — were right behind, and both had a share of the lead at one point. Both had three

straight bogeys. Rose wound up with a 73 and was one shot behind at 214. Stenson had a 74 and was another shot back.

The return to Shinnecock Hills was supposed to make the U.S. Open feel like a traditional test that felt more like survival.

“Be careful what you wish for,” Rose said. “We’ve all been asking for a real U.S. Open again. So I guess we got one for sure this week.”

And typical of an old-styled U.S. Open, there were plenty of complaints.

“I’m going to find Mike Davis,” Pat Perez said after signing for a 77. “It’s the U.S. Open. It’s supposed to be hard. When is enough enough? It’s not about hard. There’s no other tournament where you see the guys putt off the greens.”

Mickelson celebrated his 48th birthday by matching his worst score in his 27th U.S. Open with an 81, and he provided the snapshot of a day that was entertaining for reasons the USGA didn’t imagine.

He went from behind the 13th green all the way off the front. His next shot was 18 feet above the hole. His bogey putt slid by, and after a few putts, Mickelson trotted after it and then stuck out his putter and hit the ball back toward the cup to keep it from running off the green. That’s a two-shot penalty, giving him a 10.

“It’s just a moment of madness,” said Andrew “Beef” Johnston, who played with Mickelson and couldn’t stifle a laugh.

Mickelson apologized if anyone was offended by his act, even after saying he knew the rules for hitting a ball in motion and was happy to take a two-shot penalty instead of playing a crude version of tennis with his ball going back-and-forth, back-and-forth across the green.

The scoring average was 75.33, the highest for a third round in the U.S. Open since Pebble Beach in 2000.

Kiradech Aphibarnrat had the only other round under par. He made the cut on the number, was the seventh player to tee off and shot 2-under 68.

Associated Press

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. — Daniel Berger managed to hit a sweet spot that was even smaller than the target area on one of Shinnecock Hills’ glassy greens: He played well enough to make the cut at the U.S. Open, but not so well that he teed off among the leaders after the course turned treacherous late in the day.

Just one stroke ahead of the cut line after 36 holes, Berger parlayed an early tee time into a 4-under 66 on Saturday to improve to 3 over for the tournament — still seven strokes behind second-round leader Dustin Johnson as he began his round.

Tony Finau teed off 44 minutes later, at 10:57 a.m., and also shot 66 to finish at 3 over.

Then they waited for more than four hours while the course brought the rest of the field back to them.

“I think to get out there early and play a good round really was to my benefit,” said Berger, who was in a four-way tie with Finau, Brooks Koepka (72) and Johnson (77). “If someone shoots 4 under this afternoon, it’s more like 8 under.”

No one came close.

There were five rounds at or under par the whole day, and none of them teed off after 11:08 a.m. The first 11 groups had a scoring average of 73.6; the last 11 groups — the top 22 golfers through the first 36 holes — averaged 77.

“The guys that were playing at 3 o’clock are playing a different course than the guys that played at 11,” said Russell Knox, who teed off at 1:09 p.m. and shot 75. “I don’t think it crossed the line, but it was as hard of golf as we can play.”

Rickie Fowler started the day tied for ninth and shot 84. He left the course wishing he had played more poorly in the first two rounds and avoided the worst the course had to offer.

Mexico stuns Germany in Cup opener

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Germany became the third defending champion in the last 16 years to lose its opening match at the World Cup, falling to Mexico 1-0 Sunday.

Hirving Lozano scored the lone goal in the 35th minute, picking up Javier Hernandez's pass inside the penalty area and beating Mesut Ozil before shooting past Manuel Neuer from 10 yards.

"I don't know if it's the biggest victory in (Mexico's) history, but one of the biggest for sure," Lozano said. "It's great to start on the right foot when you are playing the world champions."

France in 2002 and Spain in 2014 were the other defending champions to lose their opening matches. Neither of those teams advanced from the group stage.

After Lozano's goal, Mexico goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa pulled off a spectacular save to keep the score even, palming Toni Kroos' shot onto the crossbar.

The Germans are bidding to become the first team to retain the World Cup title since Brazil in 1962. They hadn't lost an opening game since the then-West Germany succumbed 2-1 to Algeria in 1982.

Mexico supporters outnumbered Germany fans at the Luzhniki Stadium and made almost all of the noise, roaring their team forward.

Lozano, a 22-year-old forward from the Dutch league nicknamed "Chucky," got Mexico going with a deflected shot over the bar in the first minute. That set the tone for Mexico to torment Germany on the counterattack, with Lozano taking full advantage of right back Joshua Kimmich's tendency to go forward.

In his first competitive start since Sept. 16 because of injury, Neuer was kept busy saving a stinging long shot from Hector Herrera in the 10th, then a header shortly after a free kick.

Timo Werner could have scored when he

picked up a ball near the penalty spot, but his shot went straight to Ochoa.

With key players tiring in the second half, Mexico pulled back and substituted both Lozano and Carlos Vela. Germany then dominated but when it broke through the Mexican defense, the shooting was poor.

Seeking defensive reinforcement, Mexico coach Juan Carlos Osorio brought on 39-year-old veteran Rafael Marquez to play in his fifth World Cup.

Keys to success: Kimmich's charging runs far up the field can be a blessing and a curse for Germany.

Lozano reveled in the space left for him on Mexico's left flank and was a constant threat on the counterattack. Kimmich's absence meant Ozil was left trying to stop Lozano for Mexico's opening goal.

Germany registered 25 shots to Mexico's 12, but many were from long range and failed to seriously test Ochoa.

World Cup roundup

Kolarov's goal lifts Serbia over Costa Rica

Associated Press

SAMARA, Russia — With a curling free kick that decided the outcome of the match, Aleksandar Kolarov immediately drew some comparisons to Cristiano Ronaldo.

The Serbia captain's left-footed strike proved to be the difference in a 1-0 victory over Costa Rica on Sunday at the World Cup. It came two days after Ronaldo scored a similar goal to give Portugal a 3-3 draw with Spain.

"It was an amazing goal," Costa Rica defender Bryan Oviedo said of Kolarov's effort. "Maybe two out 10 balls will go in like that."

After Costa Rica midfielder David Guzman was handed a yellow card, Kolarov stepped up and curled his shot over the wall and into the net in the 56th minute. Keylor Navas, the Costa Rica goalkeeper who plays for Real Madrid, stretched but couldn't stop the swerving ball.

It was the third free kick goal so far at the World Cup: Russia midfielder Aleksandr Gol-

ovin had one in stoppage time in the 5-0 tournament opener against Saudi Arabia and Ronaldo capped his hat trick against Spain with the other.

"We knew that set pieces were our forte," said Kolarov, who now plays for Roma after a stint with Manchester City. "We practiced them on the training ground. I practiced set pieces, and this was enough for three points."

The victory gave the Serbians the early advantage in a tough Group E, which also includes five-time champion Brazil and Switzerland.

"It's especially important that we have three points in the bag," Kolarov said. "The match against Switzerland is going to be the most difficult one. Of course we want to win. Let's see what the game brings. There's not much time to celebrate. We will celebrate, but up to a point. Not excessively."

The final moments of the match were marked by a squabble on the sidelines as Nemanja Matic got into a tussle with a

Costa Rican assistant. Players from both teams rushed toward the scrum but it was quickly diffused. Video replay was also used late in the match to determine if Aleksandar Prijovic should be given a red card. He was given a yellow.

The Ticos were the surprise of the last World Cup, reaching the quarterfinals in Brazil before being ousted by the Netherlands on penalties. It was the furthest the small Central American nation had advanced in soccer's premier tournament.

But there was some uncertainty surrounding the team after a pair of friendly losses heading into the World Cup, including a 4-1 rout by Belgium a week ago.

"The Serbians did their homework very well," Costa Rica coach Oscar Ramirez said. "We tried to pressure them. And I think it was a tight match. We should have capitalized on our opportunities the same way they did."

Croatia 2, Nigeria 0: Even

in a more defensive role, Luka Modric can still lead the attack.

The Croatia midfielder scored one goal and set up the other in his team's victory over Nigeria on Saturday at Kaliningrad, Russia.

Modric sent in a corner that was headed by two teammates and then deflected into the net by Nigeria midfielder Oghenekaro Etebo in the 32nd minute.

"We scored at the perfect moment. After that it was easier for us to play our game," Modric said. "After the first goal we started creating chances."

Modric later converted a penalty in the 71st after William Ekong held onto Mario Mandzukic. It was the fifth penalty awarded in four World Cup matches on Saturday.

Croatia, with Modric and Ivan Rakitic controlling the midfield, dominated and rarely allowed Nigeria to get close to goal. It took nearly an hour for the Nigerians to have an effort on target.

Dodgers win second straight over rival Giants

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Enrique Hernandez has helped the Los Angeles Dodgers solve a problem they've had for years — Giants ace Madison Bumgarner.

Hernandez and Matt Kemp each homered for the second consecutive game, Alex Wood got his first victory since May 20 and the Dodgers beat Bumgarner and San Francisco 3-1 on Saturday night.

Hernandez's two-run shot in the fifth inning was his fourth career homer against Bumgarner in 34 at-bats. He also has five doubles against the left-hander.

The utility player usually feasts on Bumgarner's fastballs, but he punished the left-hander for a bevy of breaking pitches Saturday, crushing one into the left field seats for his 10th home run this season.

"He adjusted to me and I hadn't really made many adjustments," Hernandez said. "Today he came at me with the same

gameplan and it took me three at-bats to adjust, but I'm glad that I did."

Bumgarner (0-2) was making just his third start since returning from the disabled list because of a broken finger that occurred during spring training. He threw 112 pitches while giving up three runs on five hits over six innings.

"Each time out I'm getting better and better, that's all I can ask for," Bumgarner said. "It's the first time I went over 100 pitches and my velocity is creeping up and my stretch and grip is coming back."

The Dodgers have won five straight, all at home, and are 11-2 in June and 21-6 since May 17.

The Giants have lost 17 of their last 23 road games and are 3-6 on their 10-game trip to Washington, Miami and Los Angeles.

Kemp hit his 12th home run and has reached base in 15 of his last 18 games against the Giants. Both Hernandez and

Kemp went deep in a 3-2 win Friday over the Giants.

The Dodgers lead the majors with 34 home runs in 13 games in June.

Kenley Jansen pitched the ninth for his 17th save.

The Dodgers clinched their first series victory over the Giants this season and evened the season series 6-6.

Wood stands tall in victory: Wood (2-5) credited a change in mechanics for his improvement Saturday. He was coming off a three-start stretch when he gave up 13 earned runs in 12 innings, going two innings in one start and 4²/₃ in another.

On Saturday, the left-hander gave up one run on four hits over 5²/₃ innings with two walks and two strikeouts. He held the Giants hitless until Mac Williamson singled to lead off the fifth.

"We found something with my posture," Wood said. "I felt really good with the adjustment and saw that translate over."

MLB roundup

Astros thump Royals for 10th consecutive victory

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Houston Astros won their 10th straight game, with Dallas Keuchel getting three-run homers from Max Stassi and Alex Bregman to rout the Kansas City Royals 10-2 on Saturday.

Jose Altuve hit a two-run double in the first inning to send the World Series champions on their way. The Astros had an 11-game win streak last season that ended in Kansas City.

The Royals have lost five in a row and are just 2-12 in June.

Keuchel (4-8) began to emerge from a monthlong funk, allowing two unearned runs and six hits in six innings. The 2015 Cy Young winner had surrendered a combined 17 runs over his last three outings, and had not won since tossing seven scoreless innings against Texas on May 13.

Yankees 4, Rays 1: Luis Severino pitched eight sharp innings and also jumped to steal away a popup from catcher Gary Sanchez as host New York won for the 13th time in 16 games.

Giancarlo Stanton and Sanchez hit back-to-back home runs to help the Yankees send the Rays to their 18th loss in 22 games at Yankee Stadium.

Tigers 7, White Sox 5: At Chicago, Nicholas Castellanos homered twice and Jose Iglesias hit a tiebreaking RBI single to give Detroit its fourth straight win.

Castellanos hit a three-run drive in the third and a two-run shot in the fifth. It was his first multihomer game since Aug. 22 against the Yankees and No. 4 for his career.

Blue Jays 2, Nationals 0: Max Scherzer lost his second straight start for the first time since 2015 when Marco Estrada pitched 6²/₃ shutout innings and Devon Travis homered to lead Toronto past visiting Washington.

Scherzer (10-3) gave up four hits, including the two-run homer by Travis, in six innings. The two-time NL Cy Young Award winner struck out 10, increasing his major league-leading total to 152.

Braves 1, Padres 0: Sean Newcomb pitched six scoreless innings and Charlie Culberson homered to lead host Atlanta.

The NL East-leading Braves improved to 25-7 when their starter pitches at least six innings, and Newcomb has been a big reason for the success.

A winner in eight of his last nine decisions, Newcomb (8-2) allowed two hits, walked one and struck out seven. He retired the last 13 batters he faced.

Mets 5, Diamondbacks 1: Michael Conforto homered and drove in four runs, Steven Matz pitched effectively into the seventh inning and visiting New York ended a four-game skid.

Marlins 5, Orioles 4: J.T. Realmuto homered twice and had four RBIs off Alex

Cobb, and Miami handed host Baltimore its ninth straight loss.

Athletics 6, Angels 4: Stephen Piscotty hit a tiebreaking, two-run single with two outs in the sixth inning and Oakland held on to beat visiting Los Angeles.

Pirates 6, Reds 2: Josh Harrison hit a two-run homer, Colin Moran and Elias Diaz added solo shots and host Pittsburgh pulled away from Cincinnati.

Rangers 5, Rockies 2: Adrian Beltre hit a tiebreaking two-run triple in the eighth inning, and host Texas snapped a seven-game losing streak.

Twins 9, Indians 3: Cleveland pitcher Carlos Carrasco was pulled after he was struck on the right arm by a line drive, and visiting Minnesota got four hits from Eddie Rosario in a win over Cleveland.

Phillies 4, Brewers 1: Rhys Hoskins and Andrew Knapp hit home runs and visiting Philadelphia overcame stranding 15 runners on base.

Mariners 1, Red Sox 0: Wade LeBlanc pitched into the eighth inning and Nelson Cruz had an RBI single to lead host Seattle.

Cubs 6, Cardinals 3: Addison Russell and Jason Heyward homered and Ian Happ had a tiebreaking RBI double in the seventh to help Chicago rally past host St. Louis.