

## General: Afghanistan security deteriorating

By KATHY GANNON  
*Associated Press*

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S.'s top general in Afghanistan on Tuesday gave a sobering assessment of the country's deteriorating security situation as America winds down its so-called "forever war."

Gen. Austin S. Miller said the rapid loss of districts around the country to the Taliban — several with significant strategic value — is worrisome. He also cautioned that the militias deployed to help the beleaguered national security forces could lead the country into civil war.

Miller told a small group of reporters in the Afghan capital that for now he has the weapons and the capability to aid Afghanistan's National Defense and Security Forces.

"What I don't want to do is speculate what that (support) looks like in the future," he said.

Washington signed a peace deal with the Taliban in February 2020. It laid out the promise of a U.S. withdrawal and commitments by the Taliban to ensure Afghanistan does not harbor terrorists that can at-

tack the United States. The details of those commitments have never been made public.

The Taliban have accused Washington of breaking the agreement, which called for all troops to be out by May 1, the date the final withdrawal began. U.S. officials have said the Taliban have made some progress, but it's not clear whether the insurgent group has kept its end of the deal.

The insurgent group issued orders against allowing foreign fighters among their ranks, but evidence continues to surface that non-Afghans are on the battlefield.

Still, Miller was insistent that only a political solution will bring peace to the war-tortured nation.

"It is a political settlement that brings peace to Afghanistan. And it's not just the last 20 years. It's really the last 42 years," he said.

Miller was referring to not only the U.S. war but that of Russia's 10-year occupation that ended in 1989. That conflict was followed by a brutal civil war fought by some of the same Afghan leaders deploying mili-

tias against the Taliban. The civil war gave rise to the Taliban who took power in 1996.

American officials have said the entire pullout of U.S. troops will most likely be completely finished by July 4. But Miller refused to give any date or time frame, referring only to the Sept. 11 timeline given by President Joe Biden in April.

Meanwhile, the Taliban have been overrunning districts in rapid succession, many of them in the north of the country, which is dominated by Afghanistan's minorities.

The Taliban have issued statements saying hundreds of Afghan security forces have surrendered, most of them going to their homes after being recorded on video receiving transportation money from the Taliban.

Miller said there are multiple reasons for the collapse of these districts, including troop fatigue and surrender, psychological defeat and military defeat. But he said the escalating violence puts the country at risk of falling into a deadly civil war.

Miller refused to say where the U.S. and its NATO allies were in the withdrawal process.

## US forces in Syria come under fire after airstrike

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — U.S. forces in eastern Syria were attacked by multiple rockets Monday and responded with artillery fire, a day after President Joe Biden ordered airstrikes on facilities used by Iran-backed militia groups, according to a U.S. military spokesman.

"U.S. forces in Syria, while under multiple rocket attack[s], acted in self-defense and conducted counter-battery artillery fire at rocket-launching positions," said Army Col. Wayne Marotto, a spokesman for Operation Inherent Resolve, the U.S.-led anti-Islamic State mission in Iraq and Syria.

No U.S. injuries were reported and officials are assessing damages from the attack, which happened at about 7:44 p.m. local time, he said.

Nearly 1,000 U.S. troops remain in Syria to prevent a resurgence of ISIS as the country's civil war continues, The Associated Press has reported.

The American troops are stationed at several small encampments in eastern Syria alongside U.S.-backed anti-ISIS fighters known as Syrian Democratic Forces. However, the Biden administration is reviewing that number as part of its ongoing global military posture review.

Marotto did not say who is

suspected of launching the attack on the U.S. forces.

But the attack followed U.S. airstrikes Sunday that chief Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said targeted facilities near the Iraq-Syria border that were used by Iran-backed militia groups to conduct drone attacks on U.S. personnel and facilities in Iraq.

"Specifically, the U.S. strikes targeted operational and weapons storage facilities at two locations in Syria and one location in Iraq," Kirby said Sunday. "Several Iran-backed militia groups, including Kata'ib Hezbollah and Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada, used these facilities."

Four militiamen were killed

in one of the U.S. airstrikes that hit a weapons storage facility inside Syrian territory, The Associated Press reported, citing two unnamed Iraqi militia officials.

Kirby said the U.S. airstrikes demonstrated Biden will act to protect U.S. personnel and American troops are in Iraq at the request of the Iraqi government "for the sole purpose of assisting the Iraqi Security Forces in their efforts to defeat the [Islamic State]."

"Given the ongoing series of attacks by Iran-backed groups targeting U.S. interests in Iraq, the president directed further military action to disrupt and deter such attacks," Kirby said.

# Navy, partners proceed with Black Sea drills

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. forces will help clear a sunken Soviet vessel from a Ukrainian pier and conduct drills during an international exercise in the Black Sea, where Navy officials say they are sending a message that the strategic waterway can't be dominated by Russia.

"We are demonstrating to the world that the Black Sea is an international sea," Capt. Kyle Gantt, deputy commander of Task Force 65 based in Rota, Spain, said Tuesday. "It is open and available for the free transport of commerce, shipping, for all nations. It is not owned by any one nation."

The United States and Uk-

raine this week kicked off Sea Breeze 21, which involves 32 countries, 5,000 troops, 32 ships, 40 aircraft, and 18 special operations and dive teams.

The drill is the largest since the exercise series was launched with Ukraine 27 years ago. It also comes less than one week after a tense encounter between a British warship and the Russian military in the Black Sea, in which Moscow claimed it fired warning shots at HMS Defender as it sailed near the shore of Crimea.

Russia said its actions forced the British destroyer to leave the area, but the United Kingdom disputed that claim, saying the vessel never altered course.

The tensions have put a spotlight on U.S. operations in the Black Sea and on Sea Breeze, which was planned well before the latest incident. While Moscow has called on the U.S. to cancel this year's iteration of Sea Breeze, the Navy is moving forward.

Gantt declined to describe what kind of maneuvers they have seen so far from the Russians, citing intelligence concerns. It is expected, however, that the Russian military will pay close attention, he said.

"We see that Russia routinely observes our operations, and it is their right to do so," Gantt said. But all nations must abide by the laws of the sea, including Russia, he added.

The Black Sea is bordered by

six nations — Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Russia, Georgia and Ukraine. The first three are members of NATO, and Ukraine and Georgia are seeking to join the Western military pact.

Sea Breeze, which runs until July 10, involves forces rehearsing a range of tactics, with operations taking place on land, at sea and in the air.

The drill also will involve making improvements at a Ukrainian naval pier in Odessa, where U.S. and Ukrainian divers will clear away the old Soviet vessel that sunk years ago from neglect. The wreckage, which will be cut into pieces and hauled away, has created a blockage in the area, Navy officials said.

## Top DOD cyber official probed over disclosures

*Bloomberg*

The Pentagon official who has been overseeing its new cybersecurity initiative for defense contractors has been placed on leave in connection with a suspected unauthorized disclosure of classified information from a military intelligence agency, according to an official document.

Katie Arrington, chief information security officer for the Pentagon's acquisition and sustainment office, was informed May 11 that "her security clearance for access to classified information is being suspended" as "a result of a reported Unauthorized Disclosure of Classified Information and subsequent removal of access by the National Security Agency," according to a memo made available to Bloomberg News.

The National Security Agency, which is part of the Defense Department, gathers some of the nation's most sensitive signals and eavesdropping intelligence from foreign adversaries, mostly via satellite.

"If this preliminary decision becomes final, you will not be eligible for access to classified information" or "assignments to duties that have been designated national security sensitive," the memo from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment said.

The memo to Arrington provided no details about the possible disclosure of information. Pentagon acquisition spokesperson Jessica Maxwell said the department can't comment on any questions about Arrington's status.

## USFK limits base wine sales to prevent 'black marketing'

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — The U.S. military has enacted restrictions to wine purchases from commissaries in South Korea to discourage black market sales in the country.

The policy update, which took effect Monday, limits the monthly purchase of wine to 15 units of 750mL, the standard size for a bottle of wine, for U.S. Forces Korea sponsors. Wine was previously excluded from purchase limits at the commissary, unlike beer and hard liquor.

The policy update was established "to deter black marketing," according to a memorandum signed by Maj. Gen. Brad Sullivan, Camp Humphreys' chief of staff.

Military retirees in South Korea were previously

caught abusing their commissary privileges, including one person who bought meat for his off-post restaurant and another individual spending over \$100,000 in a few months. Each of the retirees received a 10-year ban from entering U.S. bases in South Korea.

Commissary shoppers must scan their military identification card when entering the building and when making their purchase, or present a ration card if they do not possess a military ID. Some controlled items, such as alcohol, are tracked and flagged by USFK when purchased in excess.

There will be some exceptions to the policy update, the memorandum said, including special events hosted by unit commanders and for dependents over age 21.

# Fla. collapse search carefully continues

Associated Press

SURFSIDE, Fla. — The slow work of sifting through the remnants of a collapsed Florida condo building stretched into a sixth day Tuesday, as families desperate for progress endured a wrenching wait for answers.

“We have people waiting and waiting and waiting for news,” Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava told reporters. “We have them coping with the news that they might not have their loved ones come out alive and still hope against hope that they will. They’re learning that some of their loved ones will come out as body parts. This is the kind of information that is just excruciating for everyone.”

The work has been deliberate and treacherous. Thunderstorms rolled through the area Tuesday morning, and debris fell onto

the search area overnight from the shattered edge of the part of the building that still stands. That forced rescuers to mark a “don’t go beyond here” line and focus their efforts on parts of the debris pile that are farther from the structure, Surfside Mayor Charles Burkett told Miami television station WSVN.

Also Tuesday, the White House announced that President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden would travel to Surfside on Thursday.

Just two additional bodies were found Monday, raising the count of confirmed dead to 11. That leaves 150 people still unaccounted for in the community just outside Miami.

Authorities meet frequently with families to explain what they’re doing and to answer questions. They have discussed how DNA

matches are made to help identify the dead, how next-of-kin will be contacted and explained in “extreme detail” how they are searching the mound, Cava said.

With that knowledge, she said, families are coming to their own conclusions.

“Some are feeling more hopeful, some less hopeful, because we do not have definitive answers. We give them the facts. We take them to the site,” she said. “They have seen the operation. They understand now how it works, and they are preparing themselves for news, one way or the other.”

Rescuers are using bucket brigades and heavy machinery as they work atop a precarious mound of pulverized concrete, twisted steel and the remnants of dozens of households. The efforts include firefighters, sniffer dogs and search experts using radar and sonar devices.

## Large drop in migrant kids at US emergency shelter

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The number of migrant children housed at the Biden administration’s largest emergency shelter for those who crossed the U.S.-Mexico border alone has dropped by more than 40% since mid-June, a top U.S. official said Monday, touting progress at the facility that has been criticized by child welfare advocates.

Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra told reporters that 790 boys were housed at Fort Bliss Army base in El Paso, Texas, and the last girl left Monday. All the girls were reunited either with rela-

tives in the United States or a sponsor such as a family friend or sent to licensed facilities, which have a higher standard of care, according to the agency responsible for caring for migrant children.

In mid-June, the administration reported about 2,000 boys and girls were at the Fort Bliss facility amid child welfare advocates’ concerns about inadequate conditions. A high of 4,800 children were housed there in May.

Becerra said his agency was evaluating whether it can close some of the emergency shelters that the government opened in the

spring as record numbers of unaccompanied children crossed the border. He declined to say whether Fort Bliss would be among them.

“Because we’ve been successful in managing the flow, we are prepared to begin the demobilization of several of our emergency intake sites,” Becerra said.

He made his second visit to Fort Bliss since it opened in March and said more services and staffing have been added, including case managers who have helped get children released to relatives in the U.S. or placed in licensed facilities more quickly.

## High court says no right to hearing for some immigrants

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that the government can indefinitely detain certain immigrants who say they will face persecution or torture if they are deported to their native countries.

Over the dissent of three liberal justices, the court held 6-3 that the immigrants are not entitled to a hearing about whether they should be released while the government evaluates their claims.

Justice Samuel Alito wrote for the court that “those aliens are not entitled to a bond hearing.”

The case involves people who had been previously deported and, when detained af-

ter re-entering the United States illegally, claimed that they would be persecuted or tortured if sent back. One man is a citizen of El Salvador who said he was immediately threatened by a gang after being deported from the U.S.

An immigration officer determined that the immigrants had a “reasonable fear” for their safety if returned to their countries, setting in motion an evaluation process that can take months or years.

The issue for the court was whether the government could hold the immigrants without having an immigration judge weigh in. The immigrants and the Trump administration, which briefed and argued the case

before Joe Biden became president in January, pointed to different provisions of immigration law to make their respective cases.

Alito, in his opinion for the court, wrote that the administration’s argument that the relevant provision does not provide for a bond hearing was more persuasive. In dissent, Justice Stephen Breyer saw it differently.

“But why would Congress want to deny a bond hearing to individuals who reasonably fear persecution or torture, and who, as a result, face proceedings that may last for many months or years ...? I can find no satisfactory answer to this question,” Breyer wrote.

# Rolling blackouts in scary-hot Wash., Ore.

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — The unprecedented Northwest U.S. heat wave that slammed Seattle and Portland, Ore., moved inland Tuesday — prompting a electrical utility in Spokane, Wash., to warn that people will face more rolling blackouts amid heavy power demand.

The intense weather that gave Seattle and Portland consecutive days of record high temperatures far exceeding 100 degrees Fahrenheit was expected to ease in those cities. But inland Spokane was likely to surpass Monday's high temperature — a record-tying 105 F.

About 8,200 utility customers in parts of Spokane lost power on Monday, and Avista Utilities warned that there will be more rolling blackouts Tuesday in the

city of about 220,000 people with the high temperature predicted at 110 degrees, which would be an all-time record.

Avista had planned for much higher than normal demand but hit its limit quicker than anticipated because of the intense heat, said Heather Rosentrater, the company's senior vice president for energy delivery.

Temperatures in other eastern Washington and Oregon communities could reach about 115 degrees on Tuesday, a day after Seattle and Portland shattered all-time heat records.

Seattle hit 108 degrees by Monday evening — well above Sunday's all-time high of 104 F. Portland reached 116 F after hitting records of 108 F on Saturday and 112 F on Sunday.

The temperatures have been

unheard of in a region better known for rain, and where June has historically been referred to as "Juneuary" for its cool drizzle. Seattle's average high temperature in June is around 70 F, and fewer than half of the city's residents have air conditioning, according to U.S. Census data.

The heat forced schools and businesses on Monday to close to protect workers and guests, including some places like outdoor pools and ice cream shops where people seek relief from the heat. COVID-19 testing sites and mobile vaccination units were out of service as well.

The Seattle Parks Department closed one indoor community pool after the air inside became too hot — leaving Stanlie James, who relocated from Arizona three weeks ago, to search for

somewhere else to cool off. She doesn't have AC at her condo, she said.

"Part of the reason I moved here was not only to be near my daughter, but also to come in the summer to have relief from Arizona heat," James said. "And I seem to have brought it with me. So I'm not real thrilled."

In Portland, light rail and street car service was suspended on Monday as power cables melted and electricity demand spiked.

Heat-related expansion caused road pavement to buckle or pop loose in many areas, including a Seattle highway. Workers in tanker trucks hosed down drawbridges with water twice daily prevent the steel from expanding in the heat and interfering with their opening and closing mechanisms.

## House to vote on launching probe of Jan. 6 Capitol riot

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A new committee to investigate the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol would have 13 members and the power to subpoena witnesses, according to legislation released by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The House is expected to vote on the bill this week.

The effort comes after Senate Republicans blocked the formation of an independent, bipartisan commission to probe the attack, in which hundreds of former President Donald Trump's supporters violently broke into the Capitol and interrupted the certification of President Joe Biden's victory.

The new, partisan House panel would have eight members appointed by Pelosi and five appointed "after consultation with" Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy. A Pelosi aide said the speaker is considering including a Republican among her appointments, which would bring the likely partisan split to 7-6. The

aide was granted anonymity to discuss her thinking.

Pelosi said in a statement Monday that Jan. 6 was "one of the darkest days in our nation's history" and that the committee will seek the truth about it.

"The Select Committee will investigate and report upon the facts and causes of the attack and report recommendations for preventing any future assault," she said.

Many Republicans were concerned about such a partisan probe, since majority Democrats are likely to investigate Trump's role in the siege and the right wing groups that were present for it. Almost three dozen House Republicans voted to create an independent panel, which would have had an even partisan split among members. Seven Republicans in the Senate supported moving forward on that bill, but that was short of the 10 Senate Republicans who would be necessary to pass it.

## Biden: Infrastructure bill 'signals ... we can function'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden will look to sell voters on the economic benefits of the \$973 billion infrastructure package while in Wisconsin on Tuesday, hoping to boost the bipartisan agreement that is held together in large part by the promise of millions of new jobs.

Biden planned to travel to La Crosse, which has a population of 52,000, and tour its public transit center, followed by a speech about the infrastructure package announced last week.

The president presented his message to Democratic donors on Monday that the agreement was a way for the United States to assert the principles of democracy and the economic might that can come from dramatic investments in the country's economic future.

"This infrastructure bill signals to the world that we can function, we can deliver," Biden said. "We can do significant things, show that America is back."

White House officials issued an internal memo that highlights how the largest investment in transportation, water systems and services in nearly a century would boost growth. The memo emphasizes an analysis suggesting that 90% of the jobs generated by the spending could go to workers without college degrees, a key shift as a majority of net job gains before the pandemic went to college graduates.

Potential economic gains were a shared incentive for the group of Democratic and Republican senators who agreed to the deal Thursday. But the process briefly fell into disarray late last week as Biden suggested the deal would be held up until he also received a separate package for infrastructure, jobs and education that would be determined solely by Democrats through the budget reconciliation process. Biden said Saturday that this was not a veto threat, and the package appeared back on track by Sunday.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Park tries to set record for longest plastic slide

**WV** DAVIS — A West Virginia resort is offering one heck of a long plastic water slide.

Canaan Valley Resort will be the host site where 100 people in attendance will be given the opportunity to ride the 2,021-foot slip-and-slide. The ride is being built by Natural Light Beer.

Resort General Manager Sam England said in a news release that the hope is the slide breaks the mark in the Guinness World Records of 2,007 feet set by a group in Jordan in 2015.

### 5 rescued after plane lands in bay near airport

**MD** OCEAN CITY — Five people were rescued from the water after an airplane plunged into a bay near an airport on Maryland's Eastern Shore, a fire official said.

None of the five people aboard the "commuter-style" plane was injured after it either crashed or made an emergency landing in Assawoman Bay near an Ocean City airport, according to Ocean City Fire Department spokesman Ryan Whittington.

Civilians in nearby boats pulled the people from the water before emergency personnel arrived, Whittington said.

### Great white shark bites swimmer's leg at beach

**CA** PACIFICA — A great white shark bit a man in the leg as he swam off a Northern California beach, authorities said.

The 35-year-old man's injury was not life-threatening and he

was able to swim to shore at Grey Whale Cove State Beach, about 18 miles south of San Francisco, where he received medical aid, San Mateo County Sheriff's Lt. Eamonn Allen said.

The man said he believed he was bitten by a 6- to 8-foot-long great white shark, Allen said.

State park officials prohibited water activities off the beach, as well as off nearby Montara State Beach, for 48 hours afterward, said California State Parks spokesman Gabe McKenna.

### Lawsuit over 'eye-sore' Flintstones home settled

**CA** HILLSBOROUGH — Fred Flintstone fought the law — and he won.

Technically, the owner of the fanciful Flintstones house in a posh San Francisco suburb settled a lawsuit with the town of Hillsborough. But the agreement will allow Fred and his friends to remain.

In a yabba dabba dispute that pitted property rights against government rules that played out in international media, retired publishing mogul Florence Fang defended her colorful, bulbous-shaped house and its elaborate homage to "The Flintstones" family, featuring Stone Age sculptures inspired by the 1960s cartoon, along with aliens and other oddities.

The town, however, called the towering dinosaurs and life-size sculptures "a highly visible eye-sore" and sued Fang, alleging she violated local codes when she put dinosaur sculptures in the backyard and made other landscaping changes that caused local officials to declare it a public nuisance.

According to records, the set-

tlement stipulates that the town will review and approve a survey of the landscaping improvements. In turn, Fang will apply for building permits. The town will also pay Fang \$125,000, and she will drop the lawsuit — which was dismissed in state court on April 27.

### Lawyer suspended for his posts on Facebook

**SC** COLUMBIA — South Carolina's highest court suspended the law license of an attorney for six months for Facebook posts the justices said used foul language and could incite racial conflict.

The state Supreme Court also ordered lawyer David Paul Traywick to take a diversity class and have an anger management assessment with a licensed therapist before he gets his license back.

One post mentioned in the state Supreme Court opinion came days after a police officer killed George Floyd by kneeling on his neck in Minnesota.

Traywick posted: "Here's how much that (expletive) life actually mattered: Stock futures up. Markets moved higher Monday and Tuesday. (Expletive) you. Unfriend me," according to the opinion.

### State ban of polystyrene foam takes effect July 1

**ME** AUGUSTA — Maine environmental officials said the state's ban on polystyrene foam disposable food containers will take effect on July 1.

The ban had been scheduled to go into effect on Jan. 1, but was delayed because of disruption in packaging supplies due

to the coronavirus pandemic, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection said. The new rules apply to restaurants, stores and numerous other eating establishments.

Maine DEP said the rules also apply to public and private schools, workplace cafes, hospital cafeterias and other locations. The agency said businesses that use the polystyrene foam should acquire alternatives for use in the future.

### Man kills alligator he trapped, puts in freezer

**MD** LUSBY — A man killed an alligator he trapped on a beach in southern Maryland and is storing the dead reptile in his freezer.

William Adams said he was kayaking near Lusby in Calvert County recently when he saw an alligator close to his boat, WJLA-TV reported.

He set up trap lines with hooks to catch the alligator. Along with his 13-year-old son and their friend, Adams found the nearly 8-foot-long animal. He shot it with a crossbow.

"People were saying how I shouldn't have done it because it's tame," Adams told the station. "A tame alligator? In a foreign habitat without its usual food source, I'd hate to see it go after someone's pet, or even a child on the beach. There are kids running around all the time near there."

Adams took the alligator home and said he "had some for dinner last night."

— From wire reports

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# Lightning strike quickly, win Game 1

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Nothing Nikita Kucherov accomplishes on the ice seems to surprise the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Three days after returning from an injury to help the defending champions get back to hockey's grandest stage, the playoff scoring leader had two goals and an assist Monday night to pace a 5-1 victory over the Montreal Canadiens in Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Final.

"He's playing like a beast right now," Lightning captain Steven Stamkos said.

Kucherov boosted his post-season-leading point total to 30 (seven goals, 23 assists) in 18 games after missing the entire regular season while recovering from hip surgery. His latest exploits come on the heels of a gritty Game 7 performance in the semifinals against the New York Islanders.

"It was tough mentally not being able to play, but it's all in the past," said Kucherov, who missed most of Game 6 against the Islanders after taking a

cross-check to the lower back. "I'm really enjoying the moment. Happy to be with the boys. Just excited to play in the Final."

Kucherov put the Lightning up 3-1 early in the third period with a fluky goal that Canadiens defenseman Ben Chiarot tried to bat down with his hand before it wound up in the net. Kucherov scored again at 11:25 of the third, then assisted on Stamkos' power-play goal that made it 5-1 with just over a minute to go.

Montreal had not given up a power-play goal in an NHL playoff-record 13 consecutive games.

It was a solid start for the Lightning, who had never won the opener of a Stanley Cup Final before Monday night.

Nevertheless, it was just one game.

"We keep preaching to the guys you're not going to win a series in one night. It's not how it goes," Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper said. "There's curveballs and sliders, fastballs and they're all thrown at you at dif-

ferent times. But if you just keep consistent with your game, we trust that good things will happen."

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Tampa.

"I think we had chances when the game was tighter," Canadiens defenseman Jeff Petry said. "If we bury those chances, it's a different game. They got the third, fourth goal and we started trying to force things and push things."

Vasilevskiy, a favorite to win the Vezina Trophy for the second time in three years, lost a bid for a fifth shutout this post-season when Chiarot scored his first career playoff goal for Montreal late in the second period.

The Russian goaltender blanked the New York Islanders twice in the semifinals, including 1-0 in Game 7. Chiarot ended Vasilevskiy's streak of not yielding a goal at 97 minutes, 40 seconds.

"The positive is we didn't play our best game. We know we can get better," said Canadiens interim coach Luke Ri-

chardson, who's running the team in the absence of Dominique Ducharme, who tested positive for the coronavirus.

Chiarot hit the post early in the second period with his team trailing 1-0. He finally got Montreal on the scoreboard with a shot that deflected off Lightning defenseman Mikhail Sergachev before appearing to hit two more players before eventually getting past Vasilevskiy at 17:40 of the period.

The Lightning are in the Stanley Cup Final for the third time since 2015. The Canadiens have won an NHL-record 24 championships, though none since 1993 — Tampa Bay's first season in the league and the last time Montreal played in hockey's biggest showcase.

## Better fate

The Lightning won Game 1 of a Stanley Cup Final for the first time in four tries. They lost their previous three to Calgary in 2004, Chicago in 2015 and Dallas in 2020. A year ago, they rebounded to win the championship in six games over the Stars.

# Venus nets 90th Wimbledon victory in 90th major

Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Venus Williams accumulated 10 aces Tuesday by smacking serves at up to 114 mph — not quite like the old days, but not too shabby, either.

She drove forehands to corners. She made her way to the net for crisp volleys. And when it was all over, the 41-year-old American celebrated her first Wimbledon match win since 2018 by raising her arms and yelling "Come on!" before reprising her familiar smile-and-twirl wave at No. 3 Court.

A five-time singles champion at the All England Club who is making her 23rd appearance there, Williams began her record-extending 90th Grand Slam tournament with her 90th career victory at Wimbledon, beating Mihaela Buzarnescu of Romania 7-5, 4-6, 6-3.

Williams is a former No. 1-ranked player

who came into this week ranked 111th and having lost in the first or second round at the past eight majors.

"You can't win them all. Life is about how you handle challenges. Each point is a challenge on the court. No one gives you anything," said Williams, who was diagnosed a decade ago with Sjogren's syndrome, an autoimmune disease that can cause fatigue and joint pain. "I like to think I handle my challenges well."

The schedule on Day 2 of the tournament, like on Day 1, was jumbled by showers. At least 18 matches were postponed until Wednesday and a dozen were suspended in progress shortly after Williams finished off a victory that lasted more than 2 ½ hours.

Her sister Serena, a seven-time Wimbledon champ, played later Tuesday on Center Court, which has a retractable roof. Her match was scheduled to follow eight-time

winner Roger Federer, who survived a tough test at Wimbledon with an asterisk.

Adrian Mannarino, playing on his 33rd birthday, won the second and third sets before retiring with a leg injury before the fifth set.

Women's winners included 2018 champion Angelique Kerber, No. 1 seed Ash Barty, No. 8 Karolina Pliskova, No. 15 Maria Sakkari, and two-time Slam finalist Vera Zvonareva.

In men's action, 20-year-old American Sebastian Korda — whose father, Petr, won the 1998 Australian Open and whose sisters, No. 1-ranked Nelly and Jessica, are on the LPGA Tour — made a successful Wimbledon debut, eliminating No. 15 Alex de Minaur 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (5).

No. 4 Alexander Zverev, No. 9 Diego Schwartzman and No. 26 Fabio Fognini also advanced.

# Clippers dominate Suns, avoid elimination

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Paul George had just wrapped up his brilliant night, scoring 41 points to keep the Los Angeles Clippers' season alive. He shared some hugs and fist bumps with teammates and assistant coaches before he finally got to head coach Tyrone Lue.

There were some words of encouragement. They were also apparently too hot for TV.

"I can't share that," George said with a grin, recalling the conversation. "Bleep this and bleep that."

George set his playoff career high in scoring, Reggie Jackson added 23 and the feisty Clippers staved off elimination by beating the Phoenix Suns 116-102 on Monday night in Game 5 of the Western Conference finals.

Los Angeles has been counted out multiple times in this postseason. That continues to be a mistake.

"The group of guys we've got, I love those guys. They compete

every single night no matter who is on the floor," Lue said. "The work's not done, but we came into a hostile environment and got a gritty win.

"We've got to do it again two more times."

The series moves back to LA with the Suns holding a 3-2 advantage. Game 6 is Wednesday.

The short-handed Clippers were playing without two-time NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard and center Ivica Zubac, who missed his first game of the season with an MCL sprain in his right knee. They've already fought through two grueling series wins in these playoffs, coming back from 2-0 deficits to beat both the Dallas Mavericks and Utah Jazz.

Now they're trying to claw back against Phoenix. Game 5 was a good start.

George was fantastic after a tough shooting night in Game 4, pouring in 20 points in the third quarter. He finished 15-for-20 from the field, including 3-for-6

from three-point range and added 13 rebounds and six assists.

"If they were going to finish this series, they were going to have to work for it," George said. "That's just the mentality we had. We weren't going to back down. We weren't going to throw in the towel. The fact of the matter is they've got to beat us."

Marcus Morris Sr., who played for the Suns earlier in his career, added 22 points on 9-of-16 shooting.

Phoenix trailed by as many as 15 points during the first half but took its first advantage in the third when Chris Paul knocked down a 16-foot jumper for a 62-61 lead. Los Angeles responded with the next 10 points and then started sinking three-pointers. George hit back-to-back threes and Patrick Beverley added one to push LA ahead 82-70, gesturing to the Suns crowd as he jogged back down the court.

It was the common theme of

the night: Every time Phoenix got some momentum, the Clippers were there to squash it in a hurry.

Los Angeles took a 91-78 lead into the fourth. The Suns pulled within 98-94 with 6:58 left but LA responded with a 10-2 run and pulled away for the win.

Devin Booker led Phoenix with 31 points. Paul — who is trying to go to the NBA Finals for the first time in his 16-year career — added 22 points and eight assists. Deandre Ayton had 10 points and 11 rebounds.

"We've got to be better," Paul said. "They came out and they were the aggressors. They looked like us in Game 4. They hit us, they were too comfortable and we've got to be better."

The Clippers played inspired basketball in the first half, jumping out to an 20-5 lead by halfway through the first quarter. Jackson threw down a huge one-handed jam during the run and LA hit nine of its first 11 shots.

## USA Basketball names veteran Olympic roster

Associated Press

Experience mattered to USA Basketball when putting together a roster for the Tokyo Olympics.

The Americans formally revealed their roster Monday, one that will be the third-oldest U.S. men's team in Olympic history for the Tokyo Games. The 12-man list includes five players — Kevin Love, Kevin Durant, Jrue Holiday, Damian Lillard and Draymond Green — already in their 30s.

In addition to those five players, the U.S. also has gotten commitments from Bam Adebayo, Bradley Beal, Devin Booker, Jerami Grant, Zach LaVine, Khristian Middleton and Jayson Tatum to play on the team. All those commitments became known in recent weeks; USA Basketball, which is seeking a fourth consecutive Olympic gold medal, merely made it official Monday with the announcement.

"USA Basketball selects players to represent our country in international competition with the skills, character, experience, and desire to win," said retired Gen. Martin Demp-

sey, the chairman of USA Basketball's Board of Directors. "We build teams that are versatile and resilient in the short, intense competitions we face. We're fortunate that this group of elite athletes has volunteered to represent us in Tokyo this summer."

Love and Durant are the oldest, at 32. Tatum and Adebayo, at 23, are the youngest. The average age — calculated by USA Basketball to be 28.2 at the end of the Tokyo Games if this roster doesn't change — ranks behind only the 1996 team (29.4) and the Dream Team in 1992 (29.0) as the oldest groups that the U.S. has sent to an Olympics.

"USA Basketball is as strong as it's ever been and I'm very happy with that," senior men's national team managing director Jerry Colangelo said. "Having said that, there's work to be done, and that is one more go — the Olympic efforts in Tokyo."

Putting together a roster was challenging for many reasons, Colangelo said. Among them: a compacted NBA season running later into the summer than is ordinarily the case, several potential Olympians dealing with in-

juries, and of course, the ongoing effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

"To be selected to the United States Olympic team is an honor and a blessing," said Beal, who celebrated his 28th birthday on Monday. "Representing my country on the world's biggest stage alongside so many of the league's best players is a privilege that both humbles and inspires me."

Durant is on the Olympic team for the third time, making him the fourth U.S. player to have at least that many selections; Carmelo Anthony was on each of the last four teams, while LeBron James and David Robinson are the other three-time selections.

Durant was part of the gold medal-winning squads in 2012 and 2016. Love was also on the 2012 team, Green was on the 2016 team. The other nine players on the U.S. roster will be appearing in the Olympics for the first time.

"I'm happy for the selected players and looking forward to having the opportunity to work with this wonderful group when practice gets underway on July 6 in Las Vegas," U.S. coach Gregg Popovich said.

# Schwarber mashes 2 more, Nats top Mets

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Kyle Schwarber homered twice, becoming the first player in major league history to hit 15 home runs in a 17-day span, and the Washington Nationals beat the New York Mets 8-4 on Monday night.

Schwarber socked a 1-0 fastball from Jerad Eickhoff an estimated 439 feet into the upper deck in right field in the first inning. It was his sixth leadoff homer this season, and Trea Turner followed with a 435-foot bomb to left to make it 2-0.

Schwarber took Eickhoff (0-1) deep again in the fifth inning, his 24th of the year.

The Nationals have won 12 of 15 to return to .500 and move within three games of the first-place Mets in the NL East.

**Dodgers 3, Giants 2:** Mookie Betts and Max Muncy hit back-to-back home runs to begin the first inning, leading Trevor Bauer and host Los Angeles over San Francisco.

All of the runs at Dodger Stadium came on solo shots. Will Smith also went deep for Los Angeles, which has won four straight.

LaMonte Wade Jr. and Brandon Crawford homered for the Giants, who saw their NL West lead over Los Angeles decrease to 2½ games. San Francisco out-

hit the Dodgers 11-5, but left 11 runners on base and was 0 for 13 with runners in scoring position.

**Angels 5, Yankees 3:** Shohei Ohtani pounded his hardest-hit home run of the season, José Suarez pitched 5½ innings of one-run relief after Dylan Bundy threw up on the mound because of heat exhaustion and Los Angeles won at New York.

Ohtani connected for a 117.2 mph drive to right off Michael King (0-4) in a two-run first that also included Jared Walsh's RBI double. The home run was the major league-leading 26th for Ohtani, who is slated to pitch Wednesday night.

Suarez (3-1) entered in the second after Bundy allowed Gio Urshela's tying home run and Miguel Andújar's single. With sweat dripping off the bill of his cap, Bundy stepped back off the mound, bent over and vomited on the 90-degree night.

**Brewers 14, Cubs 4:** Willy Adames and Keston Hiura each hit a three-run homer during a 10-run outburst in the eighth inning that lifted host Milwaukee over Chicago.

The Brewers earned their sixth consecutive victory to extend their NL Central lead over the Cubs to four games.

Avisaíl García homered and drove in three runs for the Brewers. Jace Peterson went 3

for 4 and scored three runs. Hiura had two hits and four RBIs.

**Reds 12, Phillies 4:** Nick Castellano hit a grand slam in the seventh inning and drove in a career-high seven runs as Cincinnati beat visiting Philadelphia.

Cincinnati trailed 4-2 before Castellanos connected for his sixth career grand slam, driving a 1-1 fastball from Neftali Feliz (0-1) deep to center for his 15th homer.

It was Feliz's first big league appearance since 2017. He came on after Bailey Falter pitched four innings of one-run ball in relief of Spencer Howard.

**Indians 13, Tigers 5:** José Ramírez homered and drove in five runs, Austin Hedges had a two-run shot and host Cleveland blasted Detroit.

Ramírez connected for a three-run drive in the fourth inning off rookie Matt Manning (1-2) as the Indians opened a seven-game homestand with season highs in runs and hits (19).

**Red Sox 6, Royals 5:** Hunter Renfroe homered twice, the second a 434-foot solo shot over the Green Monster to break a sixth-inning tie, and host Boston rallied from a four-run deficit to beat Kansas City.

Kiké Hernández led off the

bottom of the first with a home run for the second straight game, Bobby Dalbec also homered and Renfroe had a two-run shot in the fourth as the Red Sox came back after falling behind 5-1.

**Rockies 2, Pirates 0:** Kyle Freeland pitched five scoreless innings before leaving with an apparent leg injury suffered while running the bases, Elías Díaz homered and host Colorado beat Pittsburgh.

Yonathan Daza had an RBI triple and an over-the-shoulder catch of Erik Gonzalez's deep fly ball to the center field warning track.

**Cardinals 7, Diamondbacks 1:** Paul DeJong homered to cap a six-run burst in the seventh inning and host St. Louis beat Arizona.

The Cardinals had lost six of seven before beating the team with baseball's worst record.

**Orioles 9, Astros 7:** Austin Hays hit a tiebreaking two-run homer during Baltimore's five-run ninth inning in a win at Houston.

Cedric Mullins opened the ninth with his third single for the Orioles. Hays then connected for his seventh homer against Brandon Bielak (2-3). Pedro Severino added a two-run double and scored on Ramon Urias' two-out double.

## Big 1st inning sends Vandy past MSU in CWS finals

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Mississippi State had the crowd. Vanderbilt had a big lead and Jack Leiter on the mound, and that was plenty Monday night.

The Commodores rode a seven-run first inning to an 8-2 victory in Game 1 of the College World Series finals to move within a win of a second straight national championship.

Fans in Mississippi State maroon overwhelmingly outnumbered Commodores supporters in the crowd of 24,052, many showing up early for tailgating and ringing cowbells in the parking lots.

Inside TD Ameritrade Park, some of the

MSU faithful taunted the superfan known as the "Vandy Whistler" by chanting "Let's Go State" after each of his series of three quick whistles between pitches.

"I think we had an idea what the stadium environment was going to be like," Leiter said. "Our fans were amazing all night. Of course, the Mississippi State fans, you've got to tip your cap to that fanbase because it's pretty awesome the support they give their team. Our offense came out of the chute really hot, so that quieted them down a little bit."

The Commodores (49-16) scored their seven first-inning runs off Christian MacLe-

od and Chase Patrick after Mississippi State (48-18) had taken a 1-0 lead in the top half on Kamren James' homer into the left-field bleachers.

McLeod struggled for a second straight CWS start and got only two outs. The red-shirt freshman left-hander walked two of the first three batters and hit two in a row to bring in Vandy's first run. CJ Rodriguez's two-run single and Isaiah Thomas' RBI double brought on Patrick. Jayson Gonzalez greeted him with a three-run homer.

McLeod (6-6) lasted only 1½ innings against Virginia last Tuesday in what at the time was his shortest outing of the season.