

## Court backs Trump on nationwide orders

### Ruling says individual judges cannot block efforts to ban birthright citizenship

*The Washington Post*

The Supreme Court on Friday backed President Donald Trump's request to scale back nationwide orders that have for months blocked the administration's ban on automatic citizenship for the U.S.-born babies of undocumented immigrants and foreign visitors, a signature piece of Trump's efforts to restrict immigration.

The court's three liberal justices dissented from the ruling, which sends the cases back to the lower courts to determine the practical implications of the majority's decision.

The justices were not directly addressing the constitutionality of the president's birthright citizenship order, which opponents say conflicts with the 14th Amendment, past court rulings and the nation's history.

Instead, the Trump administration had asked the justices to scale back orders imposed by three lower-court judges that blocked his policy from taking

effect nationwide while its legality is tested in court.

The ruling was one of six expected Friday, the final day of the Supreme Court term.

Presidents in both parties, members of Congress and several Supreme Court justices have long decried such nationwide injunctions for giving outsized power to individual judges to halt a president's agenda. The broad orders temporarily block a policy or regulation while litigation is underway if a judge believes the action may be unconstitutional or that implementing it would cause immediate harm.

In the background of the debate over nationwide injunctions is the underlying question of whether Trump can legally deny automatic citizenship to babies born in the United States when neither parent is a citizen or a permanent legal resident.

The ban is just one of the Trump administration's initiatives to dramatically restrict illegal and legal immigration.

Trump has barred the entry of travelers to the United States from more than a dozen countries and has taken steps to fast-track deportations of alleged gang members from Venezuela, suspend refugee admissions and remove legal protections for more than 530,000 migrants.

On his first day back in the White House, Trump signed an executive order to end automatic citizenship for the U.S.-born children of undocumented immigrants and foreign visitors. Twenty-two states and immigrant advocacy groups sued, saying the order conflicts with the Constitution and past court rulings.

The 14th Amendment, adopted after the Civil War, established citizenship for freed Black Americans as well as "all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof." The citizenship clause reversed the Supreme Court's infamous decision in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*,

which had denied citizenship to Black Americans.

Trump and his allies say they can ban birthright citizenship because unauthorized immigrants are in the country without permanent legal status and, therefore, are not "subject to the jurisdiction" of the U.S. government.

But most legal scholars, as well as the Democrat-led states and immigrant rights groups challenging the policy, say Trump's argument would require a reinterpretation of the 14th Amendment — and conflicts with settled Supreme Court precedent that protects citizenship for most everyone born on U.S. soil, except for the children of foreign diplomats.

The Supreme Court upheld the guarantee of birthright citizenship in 1898, when it ruled that Wong Kim Ark, a child born in San Francisco, was a citizen even if his immigrant parents were "subjects of the Emperor of China."

## Iran's top diplomat says talks with US 'complicated'

*Associated Press*

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iran's top diplomat said the possibility of new negotiations with the United States on his country's nuclear program has been "complicated" by the American attack on three of the sites, which he conceded caused "serious damage."

The U.S. was one of the parties to the 2015 nuclear deal in which Iran agreed to limits on its uranium enrichment program in exchange for sanctions relief and other benefits.

That deal unraveled after President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out unilaterally during his first term. Trump has suggested he is interested in new talks with Iran and said the two sides would meet next week.

In an interview on Iranian state television broadcast late Thursday, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi left open the possibility that his country would again enter talks on its nuclear program, but suggested it would not be anytime soon.

"No agreement has been

made for resuming the negotiations," he said. "No time has been set, no promise has been made, and we haven't even talked about restarting the talks."

The American decision to intervene militarily "made it more complicated and more difficult" for talks on Iran's nuclear program, Araghchi said.

In Friday prayers, many imams stressed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's message from the day before that the war had been a victory

for Iran.

There has been speculation that Iran moved much of its highly-enriched uranium before the strikes, something that it told the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, that it planned to do.

Even if that turns out to be true, IAEA Director Rafael Grossi told Radio France International that the damage done to the Fordo site, which was built into a mountain, "is very, very, very considerable."

# Russia, Ukraine trade more long-range drone attacks

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian forces launched 363 Shahed and decoy drones as well as eight missiles at Ukraine overnight, the Ukrainian air force said Friday, claiming that air defenses stopped all but four of the drones and downed six cruise missiles.

Russia's Defense Ministry, meanwhile, said that 39 Ukrainian drones were downed in several regions overnight, including 19 over the Rostov region and 13 over the Volgograd region. Both regions lie east of Ukraine.

Long-range drone strikes have been a hallmark of the war, now in its fourth year. The race by both sides to develop increasingly sophisticated and deadlier drones has turned the war into a testing ground for new weaponry.

The Ukrainian air force said that 359 incoming drones were either intercepted or electronically jammed.

The Ukrainian attack forced three Russian airports to briefly suspend flights, officials said. The authorities also briefly closed the Crimean Bridge overnight as drones targeted Crimea.

Neither Russia nor Ukraine reported any major damage or casualties in the attacks.

Russia manufactures Shahed drones based on an original Iranian model, churning out thousands of them at a plant in the Tatarstan region. It has upgraded the Shaheds with its own innovations, including bigger warheads.

They are known as suicide drones because they nose-dive into targets and explode on impact, like a missile. The incessant buzzing of the propeller-driven Shahed drones is unnerving for anyone under its flight path because no one on the ground knows exactly when or where the weapon will hit.

Being outgunned and outnumbered in the war, Ukraine

also has developed its own cutting-edge drone technology, including long-range sea drones, and has trained thousands of drone pilots.

Smaller, short-range drones are used by both sides on the battlefield and in areas close to the roughly 600-mile front line.

Those drones, fitted with on-board cameras that give their operators a real-time view of possible targets, have also struck civilian areas.

The U.N. Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine said in a report published Thursday that short-range drone attacks killed at least 395 civilians and injured 2,635 between the start of the war and last April. Almost 90% of the attacks were by the Russian armed forces, it reported.

The strikes not only spread fear among civilians but also severely disrupt daily life by restricting movement and limiting access to food and medical services, the report said.

## Israeli raids hit southern Lebanon

Associated Press

NABATIEH, Lebanon — Israel's air force carried out intense airstrikes on mountains overlooking a southern Lebanon city Friday in an attack that the Israeli military said targeted underground assets of militant Hezbollah group.

Shortly afterward, another strike hit an apartment building in the nearby city of Nabatieh, killing one woman, wounding 11 and knocking out the building's top floor, according to Lebanon's state news agency.

It was not immediately clear if that strike targeted anyone in the building.

Since the 14-month Israel-Hezbollah war ended with a U.S.-brokered ceasefire in November, Israel has carried out almost daily airstrikes on southern Lebanon. Friday's strikes were more intense than usual.

"We are steadfast no matter how much you bomb us with your fighter jets and drones," Hassan Ghandour, a Shiite cleric from Nabatieh, said at the scene of the strike outside the building.

Lebanon's president and prime minister condemned the Israeli strikes on south Lebanon, saying they violated the ceasefire deal.

The airstrikes on the mountains overlooking Nabatieh came in two waves, and bunker buster bombs were used, Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported. NNA said four people were lightly wounded in the airstrikes outside the city.

The Israeli military said in a statement that its fighter jets struck a site used by Hezbollah to manage its fire and defense array in the area and is part of a significant underground project that was completely taken out of use.

## EU leaders seek boost in Ukraine aid

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — European Union leaders on Thursday called for even greater efforts to help meet Ukraine's pressing military needs, and expressed support for the country's quest to join their ranks, but they made little headway with new sanctions against Russia.

At a summit in Brussels, the leaders said it was important to deliver more "air defense and antidrone systems and large-caliber ammunition, to help Ukraine, as it exercises its inherent right to self-defense, to protect

its citizens and territory against Russia's intensified daily attacks."

They also underlined the need to help support Ukraine's defense industry, which can make weapons and ammunition more quickly and cheaply than its European counterparts.

The leaders said the bloc "remains steadfast in its support for Ukraine's path towards EU membership." That message comes a day after NATO leaders refrained from putting a reference to Ukraine's hopes of joining the military organization in

their summit statement, due in large part to U.S. resistance.

The EU is working on yet another raft of sanctions against Russia, but the leaders made little headway. A key aim is to make further progress in blocking Russia's "shadow fleet" of oil tankers and their operators from earning more revenue for Moscow's war effort.

The EU has slapped several rounds of sanctions on Russia since President Vladimir Putin ordered his troops into Ukraine in 2022. More than 2,400 officials and entities have been hit.

# Military zone on Texas border expanded

Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — The Department of Defense is expanding a militarized zone along the southern U.S. border where troops are authorized to detain people who enter illegally for possible federal prosecution on charges of trespassing in a national defense area.

The Air Force announced Wednesday the annexation of a serpentine 250-mile stretch of the border in Texas amid a buildup of military forces under President Donald Trump's declaration of a national emergency at the border.

A Defense Department official said Thursday that the Navy

also has been instructed to establish a new national defense area at the border. The official didn't provide further details.

The newly designated national defense area on land and water along the Rio Grande spans two Texas counties and runs alongside cities including Brownsville and McAllen. It will be treated as an extension of Joint Base San Antonio. The Air Force said it's prepared to install warning signs immediately against entry to the area.

The military strategy was pioneered in April along a 170-mile stretch of the border in New Mexico and expanded to a swath of western Texas in May.

Hunters, hikers and humanitarian aid groups fear that they will no longer have access.

In the newest national defense area, military responsibilities include "enhanced detection and monitoring" and "temporarily detaining trespassers until they are transferred to the appropriate law enforcement authorities," the Air Force said in a statement.

At least three people have been directly detained by troops in New Mexico for processing by Border Patrol. More than 1,400 immigrants have been charged with incursions into the national defense areas, a criminal misdemeanor punishable by

up to 18 months in prison.

Court challenges to the charges have been met with mixed results.

The militarized border zone is a counterpoint to the deployment of roughly 4,000 National Guard troops and 700 Marines to Los Angeles following protests over Trump's stepped-up enforcement of immigration laws. The troop deployments are testing the limits of the Posse Comitatus Act, which prohibits the military from conducting civilian law enforcement on U.S. soil.

Arrests at the border for illegal entry have decreased dramatically this year.

## High court upholds Texas law aimed at blocking kids from seeing pornography

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Friday upheld a Texas law aimed at blocking children under 18 from seeing online pornography.

Nearly half all states have passed similar age verification laws as smartphones and other devices make it easier to access online porn, including hardcore obscene material.

The 6-3 ruling comes after an adult-entertainment industry trade group called the Free Speech Coalition challenged the Texas law.

The court split along ideological lines.

The group said the law puts an unfair free-speech burden on adults by requiring them to submit personal information that could be vulnerable to hacking or tracking.

It agreed, though, that children under 18 shouldn't be seeing porn.

A leading adult-content website, Pornhub, has stopped operating in several states, citing

the technical and privacy hurdles in complying with the laws.

The Supreme Court has confronted the issue before. In 1996, it struck down parts of a law banning explicit material viewable by kids online.

A divided court also ruled against a different federal law aimed at stopping kids from being exposed to porn in 2004 but said less restrictive measures like content filtering are constitutional.

Texas argues that technology has improved significantly in the last 20 years, allowing online platforms to easily check users' ages with a quick picture. Those requirements are more like ID checks at brick-and-mortar adult stores that were upheld by the Supreme Court in the 1960s, the state said.

District courts initially blocked laws in Indiana and Tennessee as well as Texas, but appeals courts reversed the decisions and let the laws take effect.

## Court rules parents can bar kids from LGBTQ stories

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled on Friday that Maryland parents who have religious objections can pull their children from public school lessons using LGBTQ storybooks.

The justices reversed lower-court rulings in favor of the Montgomery County school system in suburban Washington. The high court ruled that the schools likely could not require elementary school children to sit through lessons involving the books if parents expressed religious objections to the material.

The decision was not a final ruling in the case, but the justices strongly suggested that the parents will win in the end.

The court ruled that policies like the one at issue in the case are subjected to the strictest level of review, nearly always dooming them.

The school district introduced the storybooks, including "Prince & Knight" and "Uncle Bobby's Wedding," in 2022 as part of an effort to better reflect

the district's diversity. In "Uncle Bobby's Wedding," a girl worries that her uncle won't have as much time for her after he gets married to a man.

The justices have repeatedly endorsed claims of religious discrimination in recent years and the case is among several religious-rights cases at the court this term. The decision also comes amid increases in books being banned from public school and public libraries.

Many of the removals were organized by Moms for Liberty and other conservative organizations that advocate for more parental input over what books are available to students. Soon after President Donald Trump, a Republican, took office in January, the Education Department called the book bans a "hoax" and dismissed 11 complaints that had been filed under Trump's predecessor, President Joe Biden.

Parents initially had been allowed to opt their children out of the lessons for religious and other reasons, but the school board reversed course a year later.



# Trump: US, China have signed deal on trade, rare elements

Associated Press

BANGKOK — The U.S. and China have signed an agreement on trade, President Donald Trump said, adding he expects to soon have a deal with India.

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick told Bloomberg TV that the deal was signed earlier this week. Neither Lutnick nor Trump provided any details about the agreement.

"We just signed with China the other day," Trump said late Thursday.

Lutnick said the deal was "signed and sealed" two days earlier.

It was unclear if the latest agreement was different from the one Trump announced two weeks earlier that he said would make it easier for American industries to obtain much-needed magnets and rare earth minerals.

That pact cleared the way for the trade talks to continue, while the U.S. agreed to stop trying to revoke visas of Chinese

nationals on U.S. college campuses.

China's Commerce Ministry said Friday that the two sides had "further confirmed the details of the framework." But its statement did not explicitly mention U.S. access to rare earths, minerals used in high-tech applications that have been at the center of the negotiations.

"China will approve the export applications of controlled items that meet the conditions in accordance with the law. The United States will cancel a series of restrictive measures taken against China accordingly. It is hoped that the United States and China will meet each other halfway," it said.

The agreement follows initial talks in Geneva in early May that led both sides to postpone massive tariff hikes that were threatening to freeze much trade between the two countries.

Later talks in London set a framework for negotiations and the deal mentioned by Trump

appeared to formalize that agreement.

China has not announced any new agreements, but it announced earlier this week that it was speeding up approvals of exports of rare earths, materials used in high-tech products such as electric vehicles.

Beijing's limits on exports of rare earths have been a key point of contention.

The Chinese Commerce Ministry said Thursday that Beijing was accelerating review of export license applications for rare earths and had approved "a certain number of compliant applications."

Export controls of the minerals apparently eclipsed tariffs in the latest round of trade negotiations between Beijing and Washington after China imposed permitting requirements on seven rare earth elements in April, threatening to disrupt production of cars, robots, wind turbines and other high-tech products in the U.S. and around the world.

# Inflation up as US cuts back on spending

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A key inflation gauge moved higher in May in the latest sign that prices remain stubbornly elevated while Americans cut back on their spending.

Prices rose 2.3% in May compared with a year ago, up from just 2.1% in April, the Commerce Department said Friday.

Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, core prices rose 2.7% from a year earlier, an increase from 2.5% the previous month.

Both figures are modestly above the Federal Reserve's 2% target.

At the same time, Americans cut back on spending for the first time since January, as overall spending fell 0.1%.

The inflation figures suggest that President Donald Trump's broad-based tariffs are still having only a modest effect on prices.

The costs of some goods, such as toys and sporting goods, have risen, but those increases have been partly offset by falling prices for new cars, airline fares and apartment rentals, among other items.

On a monthly basis, in fact, inflation was mostly tame. Prices rose just 0.1% in May from April, according to the Commerce Department, the same as the previous month.

Core prices climbed 0.2% in May, more than economists expected and above last month's 0.1%.

The weakness in spending in part likely reflects reduced purchases of cars and other manufactured goods after Americans stepped up their spending on those items this spring to get ahead of tariffs.

# Flash flooding again hits W. Va. towns trying to clean up from deadly deluge

Associated Press

WHEELING, W.Va. — A northern West Virginia region still cleaning up from flash flooding less than two weeks ago was hit with torrential rains that sent creeks over their banks again Thursday night.

A flash flood warning was issued for the Wheeling area, about an hour's drive southwest of Pittsburgh.

The National Weather Service said up to 2 inches of rain fell, and more was possible later.

Residents posted video on social media showing streets

turned into rivers. Some said the storms formed quickly and that homes that were hit from the last round of flooding were taking on water again.

Much of the Eastern U.S. suffered through days of dangerous heat this week before the latest storms arrived.

The West Virginia Emergency Management Division posted a photo of a measuring tape in floodwaters with the caption, "From 'dry as a bone to 5 inches' in 45 minutes this evening in the Elm Grove area."

"If you're in a low-lying or flood-prone area, be ready to

move to higher ground," the agency said.

On June 14, nine people died when as much as 4 inches of rain fell in parts of Wheeling and Ohio County within 40 minutes.

Dozens of homes, businesses and roads were impacted by flooding, and at least 75 vehicles were pulled from two area creeks.

Gov. Patrick Morrisey declared a state of emergency in the county.

Seven of the nine victims were from Triadelphia, which has a population of 660.

# 4 arrested in break-in at UK military base

Associated Press

LONDON — British counter-terrorism police said Friday that they have arrested four people in connection with a break-in at a military base last week, during which two planes were vandalized.

Counter Terrorism Policing South East said in a statement that two men, 24 and 36, from London were arrested Thursday along with a 29-year-old woman of no fixed address “on suspicion of the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism.”

A 41-year-old woman, of no fixed address, was also arrested on suspicion of assisting an offender.

The arrests relate to a break-in at the Royal Air Force base in Brize Norton, during which two planes were damaged with red paint. The pro-Palestinian activist group Palestine Action subsequently released video footage appearing to show one of the two activists who entered the base spraying the paint into a jet’s turbine engines.

The group alleged that Britain was continuing to “send

military cargo, fly spy planes over Gaza and refuel U.S./Israeli fighter jets,” and condemned the country as “an active participant in the Gaza genocide and war crimes across the Middle East.”

Earlier this week, the British government said it will ban Palestine Action under anti-terrorism laws. The measure means it will be a criminal offense to belong to or support the group, with a maximum of 14 years in prison.

The group has sought to press its point with high-profile direct

action, perhaps most notably in March when it targeted one of President Donald Trump’s golf resorts in Scotland, painting “Gaza is Not For Sale” on the lawn in response to his proposal to empty the Gaza Strip of its Palestinian population.

The government said a draft order for the ban will be laid in Parliament next week. Lawmakers still need to approve it.

Britain’s government has proscribed about 80 organizations, including Hamas and al-Qaida, and far-right groups such as National Action.

## 6 detained for trying to send rice, Bibles to North Korea

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Six Americans were detained Friday in South Korea for trying to send 1,600 plastic bottles filled with rice, miniature Bibles, \$1 bills and USB sticks toward North Korea by sea, police said.

The Americans were apprehended on Gwanghwa Island before throwing the bottles into the sea so they could float toward North Korean shores on the tides, two Gwanghwa police officers said. They said the Americans are being investigated on allegations they violated the law on the management of safety and disasters.

The officers refused to provide personal details of the Americans in line with privacy rules.

Gwanghwa police said they haven’t found what is on the USB sticks.

The U.S. Embassy in South Korea had no immediate public

comment.

For years, activists have sought to float plastic bottles or fly balloons across the border carrying anti-North Korea propaganda leaflets and USB thumb drives carrying South Korean dramas and K-pop songs, a practice that was banned from 2021-2023 over concerns it could inflame tensions with the North.

North Korea has responded to previous balloon campaigns with fiery rhetoric and other shows of anger, and last year the country launched its own balloons across the border, dumping rubbish on various South Korean sites including the presidential compound.

In 2023, South Korea’s Constitutional Court struck down a controversial law that criminalized the sending of leaflets and other items to North Korea, calling it an excessive restriction on free speech.

## ‘Twitter killer’ executed

Associated Press

TOKYO — A man convicted of murder for killing and dismembering nine people in his apartment near Tokyo was executed Friday, Japan’s Justice Ministry said.

Takahiro Shiraishi, known as the “Twitter killer,” was sentenced to death in 2020 for the killings in 2017 of the nine victims, most of whom had posted suicidal thoughts on social media. He was also convicted of sexually abusing female victims.

Police arrested him later that year after finding the bodies of eight teenage girls and women as well as one man in cold-storage cases in his apartment.

Investigators said Shiraishi approached the victims via Twitter, offering to assist them with their suicidal wishes. He killed the three teenage girls and five women after raping them. He also killed the boyfriend of one of the women to silence him.

“The case caused the extremely serious outcomes and dealt a major shockwave and unease to the society,” Justice Minister Keisuke Suzuki told an emergency news conference. He said he signed the execution earlier this week, but did not witness Shiraishi’s hanging.

Shiraishi was hanged at the Tokyo Detention House.

The execution was carried out as calls grow to abolish capital punishment or increase transparency in Japan after the acquittal of the world’s longest-serving death row inmate, Iwao Hakamada, last year.

Suzuki justified the need for the execution in Japan, noting a recent government survey shows an overwhelming majority of the public still supports capital punishment, though opposition has somewhat increased.

“I believe it is not appropriate to abolish execution,” Suzuki said, adding there is growing concern about serious crime.

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# All-Americans Broome, Kalkbrenner picked

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Johni Broome is like most basketball players, dreaming of being drafted as a kid and then working hard enough to make it possible.

So the fact that it didn't happen until the second round and a second day wasn't going to dampen his enthusiasm.

The Auburn All-American was taken by the Philadelphia 76ers with the No. 35 selection on Thursday night, five picks into the second round.

"Being here, this is probably the most exciting moment of my life so far," Broome said. "As a kid you always want to be drafted, hear your name called, put on the hat. So kind of going through the moment, I don't know, it just feels surreal."

The NBA draft resumed Thursday at Barclays Center in Brooklyn — though in a much smaller portion of it than was used Wednesday for the first round — with a trade and the

deals kept coming throughout the second round.

The Phoenix Suns opened it by taking Rasheer Fleming after agreeing to acquire the pick earlier Thursday from the Minnesota Timberwolves.

The Wolves still made the No. 31 selection, but Phoenix and Minnesota had worked out the swap a few hours earlier.

Fleming became aware of the situation shortly before he was selected on his second trip to Barclays Center in two nights after attending the first round on Wednesday.

"It was a long day now that I think about it," Fleming said. "But like everything has happened so fast — like, this was a great experience. Like, it's kind of a crazy feeling. Not even kind of. Crazy feeling."

Fleming, a forward from Saint Joseph's, averaged 14.7 points, 8.5 rebounds and 1.5 blocks last season, ranking in the top four in the Atlantic 10 in rebounds and blocks.

Among the familiar names going early in the second round were Broome, Creighton center Ryan Kalkbrenner, the four-time Big East defensive player of year, who was selected one pick earlier by Charlotte at No. 34, and Marquette All-American Kam Jones, whose rights were acquired by Eastern Conference champion Indiana after he was taken 38th by San Antonio.

The Mavericks, who selected Cooper Flagg with the No. 1 pick Wednesday, did not have a selection when Round 2 began.

They had the option to try to trade in, and a number of other teams moved around as the draft went on.

The Lakers were one of them, agreeing to acquire the rights to Adou Thiero, the 36th pick from Arkansas.

They will be required after sending out cash in the deal to stay below the second apron next season.

The league began the two-

night format last year, believing the event was ending too late when all 60 picks, along with approving trades, was being done in one night.

Teams like the new way, with the ability to catch their breath and evaluate after the first round, but the players' side doesn't like the potential lengthy wait for those who are on the fringe of the first round but then have to wait another night if they tumble into the second.

Charlotte took Sion James at No. 33 and Cleveland picked Tyrese Proctor at 49, giving Duke all five starters taken after Flagg, Kon Knueppel and Khaman Maluach went in the top 10.

The draft only went to No. 59 this time, with the New York Knicks having been penalized their second-round selection for tampering by negotiating with Jalen Brunson too soon before eventually signing the guard away from Dallas in 2022.

## 84-game season among changes coming to NHL

Associated Press

An 84-game season is coming to the NHL as part of an extension of the collective bargaining agreement, which could be announced as soon as Friday before the first round of the draft.

The league and the NHL Players' Association are on the verge of reaching a deal that two people said Thursday includes adding two games to the regular season, shortening the maximum length of contracts players can sign and implementing a salary cap in the playoffs for the first time.

The NHL and NHLPA began negotiations in earnest this spring after agreeing at the 4 Nations Face-Off in February to jointly hold a World Cup of Hockey in 2028. With revenue breaking records annually and the cap increasing exponential-

ly in the coming years, Commissioner Gary Bettman and union executive director Marty Walsh voiced optimism about reaching an agreement quickly.

There were no disagreements on a host of major issues like in previous bargaining talks.

An extension through 2030 would give the sport extended labor peace since the last lock-out in 2012-13, which shortened that season to 48 games. Here is what is changing:

**Longer season:** Going from 82 to 84 games beginning in 2026-27 — making the season 1,344 total games — is also expected to include a reduction in exhibition play, to four games apiece for the 32 teams.

The additions would be played within divisions, evening out the schedule to ensure four showdowns each season

between rivals like Toronto and Boston, Dallas and Colorado and Washington and Pittsburgh. Currently, there is a rotation that has some division opponents facing off only three times a season.

That imbalance is coming to an end, and this is not the first time the NHL has had an 84-game season. The league experimented with that in 1992-93 and '93-94, when each team added a pair of neutral site games.

**Shorter contracts:** Since 2013, players have been able to re-sign with their own team for up to eight years and sign with another for up to seven years. Under the new CBA, each would be reduced by a year, to seven for re-signing and six for changing teams.

Top players, given the injury

risks in the sport, have preferred the longest contracts possible.

The same goes for general managers, eager to keep talent in the fold as long as possible. Nathan MacKinnon, Sebastian Aho, Leon Draisaitl, Jussi Saros, Travis Konecny, Matthew Barzal and, within the past few months, Mikko Rantanen are all among the top players who have signed mammoth eight-year deals.

But with the salary cap getting its biggest increases season by season over the next three years, the thinking had already begun to change.

Auston Matthews re-signed for only four years with Toronto last summer, and Connor McDavid could also opt for a short-term contract extension with Edmonton.



# Mets beat Braves, lose Canning to injury

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pete Alonso had three hits and an RBI and the New York Mets overcame the loss of starting pitcher Griffin Canning to injury in the third inning Thursday night for a 4-0 victory over the Atlanta Braves and a split of the four-game series.

The Mets, who had lost 10 of 11 games before a 7-3 win over the Braves on Wednesday night, moved back into first place in the NL East, a half-game ahead of the Philadelphia Phillies.

Canning worked 2⅓ scoreless innings before suffering a left ankle injury on a non-contact play while trying to race off the mound. After the game, Mets manager Carlos Mendoza said it “looks like an Achilles injury.” The team said he would undergo imaging to determine the severity of the injury.

After Canning left, four relievers limited the Braves to two hits the rest of the way. Austin Warren (1-0) replaced Canning and threw 2⅓ one-hit innings.

Tyrone Taylor lofted a sacrifice fly against Grant Holmes (4-7) in the fourth, and Alonso doubled the lead with a run-scoring hit in the fifth. Jeff McNeil added a two-run single in the seventh.

Holmes allowed two runs and six hits while walking three and striking out six over five innings.

**Tigers 8, Athletics 0:** Dietrich Enns pitched five scoreless innings in his return to the majors as Detroit beat the Athletics.

Enns (1-0) gave up a single and two walks in his first game since he threw two scoreless innings for the Tampa Bay Rays against the Miami Marlins on Sept. 24, 2021.

The 34-year-old pitched for the Seibu Lions in Japan from 2022-23 before going 13-6 last season for the LG Twins in South Korea.

Jeffrey Springs (5-6) allowed three runs on five hits and two

walks in five innings.

Spencer Torkelson and Gleyber Torres homered for the Tigers while Zach McKinstry had three hits, including a double and a triple.

**Rays 4, Royals 0:** Shane Baz allowed three hits over a career-best eight innings, Brandon Lowe and Junior Caminero hit back-to-back homers in the sixth, and Tampa Bay beat Kansas City for a three-game sweep.

Baz (8-3) struck out nine and walked one. Jacob Lowe had three hits for the Rays, and Jake Mangum hit a run-scoring triple.

Tampa Bay has won five of six to move a season-high 11 games above .500 (46-35) and a half-game behind the AL East-leading New York Yankees, who were off Thursday.

Paul Gervase gave up singles to Jonathan India and Vinnie Pasquantino before Pete Fairbanks came on with one out in the ninth and got Maikel Garcia to ground into a 6-4-3 double play for his 15th save.

Tampa Bay starters have thrown 22⅓ consecutive scoreless innings.

The Royals were also shut out on Wednesday and scored one run in their three losses to the Rays. Kansas City has gone 14-27 (.341) — third worst in the majors over that span — since starting the season 24-16 (.600).

**Cubs 3, Cardinals 0:** Shota Imanaga returned from the injured list to throw five innings of one-hit ball, lifting Chicago to a victory over St. Louis for a split of a four-game series.

Michael Busch homered and singled and Carson Kelly also had two hits for the NL Central-leading Cubs.

St. Louis was shut out in back-to-back games for the first time this season. Five Chicago pitchers combined on a three-hitter.

A left hamstring strain cost Imanaga (4-2) nearly two months. In his Busch Stadium debut, Imanaga gave up a first-inning single to Masyn Winn

and then retired 10 batters before issuing his lone walk.

Imanaga, an All-Star last season as a rookie, lowered his ERA to 2.54.

Daniel Palencia allowed the first to batters to reach before striking out the side in the ninth for his eighth save in nine opportunities.

Busch hit a 3-2 fastball from Andre Pallante (5-4) over the wall in right field in the second inning. He scored again in the fourth when Ian Happ drew a four-pitch, bases-loaded walk.

In the eighth, Pete Crow-Armstrong scored from third when Dansby Swanson was caught trying to steal second.

**Astros 2, Phillies 1:** Cam Smith hit an RBI single in the eighth inning to give Houston a win over Philadelphia.

The rookie's second hit of the game came off Orion Kerker (5-3) and gave the Astros their fourth straight win.

Brandon Marsh tied the game on a sacrifice fly in the top of the inning to end the Phillies' 26-inning scoreless streak.

The Astros took a 1-0 lead on Yainer Diaz's RBI single in the second inning. They only managed three more hits off Phillies starter Christopher Sanchez, who struck out 11 with zero walks over six innings. Sanchez has not issued a walk in three straight starts.

Hunter Brown lowered his league-best ERA to 1.74 by scattering three singles over seven shutout innings, with nine strikeouts. He did not allow a runner to reach second base.

Bryan Abreu (3-3) struck out Trea Turner to end the eighth, and then struck out Kyle Schwarber, Alec Bohm and Nick Castellanos in the ninth.

Rafael Marchán had two of the Phillies' four hits. Bryson Stott reached base twice and scored the Phillies' lone run.

**Blue Jays 6, Guardians 0:** Kevin Gausman threw eight innings of two-hit ball, Alejandro Kirk and Nathan Lukes drove in

two runs apiece and Toronto beat Cleveland to win the three-game series.

Blue Jays slugger Vladimir Guerrero Jr. left the game in the third inning after being hit by a 96 mph fastball from Guardians starter Tanner Bibee. X-rays came back negative, and the team said Guerrero suffered a forearm contusion.

Gausman (6-6) gave up one walk on 104 pitches with six strikeouts and reliever Chad Green finished the Guardians' fifth shutout of the season.

Addison Barger led off the ninth with a single, Ernie Clement and Jonatan Clase each drew a walk to load the bases with one out and pinch-hitter Kirk's single scored Barger and Clement. Clase scored on a throwing error by left fielder Steven Kwan, one of four by Cleveland.

Kwan hit in a double in the first for the Guardians, whose only other hit was single by Kyle Manzardo in the fourth.

Bibee (4-8) gave up three hits and two runs in six innings.

**Dodgers 3, Rockies 1:** Clayton Kershaw struck out five to inch closer to 3,000, Shohei Ohtani hit his 28th home run and Los Angeles beat Colorado.

Kershaw (4-0) struck out five in six innings for his fourth straight win and has 2,997 strikeouts over his 18-year career — three short of becoming the 20th major leaguer and the third active pitcher to reach 3,000.

Ohtani's 419-foot homer to right-center gave the Dodgers a 3-1 lead in the seventh.

Mookie Betts had two hits and an RBI and Freddie Freeman had an RBI single for the Dodgers, who have won 10 in a row against the Rockies — six this season.

The Dodgers, who trailed 1-0 after Brenton Doyle homered off Kershaw in the second, had their major league-high 31st comeback victory.

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# Judge, Ohtani to start in All-Star Game

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Los Angeles Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani and the New York Yankees' Aaron Judge were the first players picked for the July 15 All-Star Game at Atlanta's Truist Park, elected as starters by fans on Thursday.

Judge led the major leagues with 4,012,983 votes in the first round of fan balloting and the outfielder was picked for his seventh American League start in eight All-Star Games, though he missed the 2023 game because of a sprained right big toe. He also was the leading vote-getter during the first phase in

2022 and last year.

Ohtani topped the NL and was second in the big leagues with 3,967,668 votes, becoming the first designated hitter to start in five straight All-Star Games.

The pair were selected under rules that began in 2022 and give starting spots to the top vote-getter in each league in the first phase of online voting, which began June 4 and ended Thursday.

Two finalists at every other position advanced to the second phase, which runs from noon EDT on Monday to noon EDT on July 2. Votes from the first phase do not carry over.

An individual can vote once per 24-hour period.

Remaining starters will be announced on July 2. Pitchers and reserves will be revealed on July 6.

Seven players from the World Series champion Dodgers advanced to the second phase along with three each from the Chicago Cubs, Detroit Tigers and New York Mets, and two apiece from the Cleveland Guardians, New York Yankees and Toronto Blue Jays.

AL finalists — catcher: Alejandro Kirk, Cal Raleigh; first base: Paul Goldschmidt, Vladimir Guerrero Jr.; second base:

Jackson Holliday, Gleyber Torres; third base: Alex Bregman, José Ramírez; shortstop: Jacob Wilson, Bobby Witt Jr.; designated hitter: Ryan O'Hearn, Ben Rice; outfield: Javier Báez, Riley Greene, Steven Kwan, Mike Trout.

NL finalists — catcher: Carson Kelly, Will Smith; first base: Pete Alonso, Freddie Freeman; second base: Tommy Edman, Ketel Marte; third base: Manny Machado, Max Muncy; shortstop: Mookie Betts, Francisco Lindor; outfield: Ronald Acuña Jr., Pete Crow-Armstrong, Teoscar Hernández, Andy Pages, Juan Soto, Kyle Tucker.

## Tampa Bay Rays' Franco convicted in child sex case

Associated Press

PUERTO PLATA, Dominican Republic — Suspended Tampa Bay Rays shortstop Wander Franco was convicted of sexually abusing a child and handed a two-year suspended sentence Thursday.

Franco was arrested last year after being accused of having a four-month relationship with a girl who was 14 at the time, and of transferring thousands of dollars to her mother to consent to the illegal relationship.

Franco, now 24, was found not guilty of charges of sexual and commercial exploitation against a minor and human trafficking.

Judge Jakayra Veras García said Franco made a bad decision as she addressed him during the ruling.

"Look at us, Wander," she said. "Do not approach minors for sexual purposes. If you don't like people very close to your age, you have to wait your time."

Prosecutors had requested a five-year prison sentence against Franco and a 10-year sentence against the girl's mother, who was found guilty

and will serve the full term.

"Apparently she was the one who thought she was handling the bat in the big leagues," Veras said of the mother and her request that Franco pay for her daughter's schooling and other expenses.

Franco's attorney, Irina Ventura, said she would appeal the judge's ruling: "Evidently, justice was not done."

Franco, who was once the team's star shortstop, had signed a \$182 million, 11-year contract through 2032 in November 2021 but saw his career abruptly halted in August 2023 after authorities in the Dominican Republic announced they were investigating him for an alleged relationship with a minor. Franco was 22 at the time.

In January 2024, authorities arrested Franco in the Dominican Republic. Six months later, Tampa Bay placed him on the restricted list, which cut off the pay he had been receiving while on administrative leave.

He was placed on that list because he has not been able to report to the team and would need a new U.S. visa to do so.

## MLB: Marlins sweep Giants

FROM PAGE 7

**Marlins 12, Giants 5:** Kyle Stowers and Agustín Ramírez each homered and Miami beat San Francisco to complete a three-game series sweep.

Xavier Edwards had a two-run double for Miami, which has won four straight overall, five of six, and six straight on the road.

Rafael Devers had three hits including a homer and a double for San Francisco, which has lost eight of its last 11.

Devers' homer was his 17th and his second in nine games since being acquired by San Francisco last week.

The Marlins broke a 5-5 tie in the fifth on Eric Wagan's two-run double in a three-run inning.

Stowers hit a three-run homer in the first and Ramírez hit a two-run shot in the third — both off Giants starter Hayden Birdsong — to give Miami a 5-0 lead.

Devers hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the third, and the Giants tied it in the fourth when June Hoo Lee's leadoff triple keyed a three-run inning.

Birdsong (3-2) allowed seven runs and four hits with four

walks in four-plus innings.

**Twins 10, Mariners 1:** Trevor Larnach homered with three RBIs after Simeon Woods Richardson started with five scoreless innings, and Minnesota beat Seattle after a rain delay of 4 hours and 22 minutes.

Brooks Lee led off an eight-run sixth against reliever Zach Pop with a home run.

Then came RBI doubles from Byron Buxton and Willi Castro, a two-run single by Carlos Correa and a two-run homer from Matt Wallner.

Woods Richardson (3-4) produced a superb follow-up to the six scoreless innings Joe Ryan threw in a 2-0 victory on Wednesday, helping the Twins (39-42) win consecutive games for the first time since taking three straight from June 3-5. They lost 15 of 18 after that.

Emerson Hancock (3-4) started with four scoreless innings for the Mariners before Larnach's two-run shot in the fifth.

Mariners catcher Mitch Garver left in the fifth inning when Wallner fouled a ball off his mask, forcing star Cal Raleigh to finish behind the plate in forfeiture of the designated hitter.