

DOD requests \$80B for Iran war costs

By LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon is seeking \$80 billion to help cover the costs of the Iran war, according to recent news reports that put the price tag far higher than the estimate given to lawmakers last month.

The funding request came during phone calls last week from Deputy Defense Secretary Stephen Feinberg to lawmakers, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth was also making the rounds Monday on Capitol Hill as the administration prepared what could become a contentious funding request, according to *The Associated Press*.

Since the start of the war on Feb. 28, lawmakers have raised concerns about its costs, especially the need to replenish critical munitions stockpiles that might be needed elsewhere in the world.

During congressional testimony last month, Hegseth told lawmakers that the total cost of the war had risen to about \$29 billion.

The majority of that was related to operational costs for deployed forces and did not include the cost to repair or rebuild U.S. military bases damaged during the conflict, U.S. officials said.

The new funding request remains well below the initial \$200 billion estimate laid out by the Pentagon at the start of the war.

The funding request comes as some lawmakers continue to question the legal basis for the war with Iran. Last week, the Senate tried and failed for a ninth time to advance a war powers resolution aiming to halt the conflict.

The U.S. and Iran signed a memorandum last week to end the war and enter into a 60-day period of negotiations on Tehran's nuclear program and

sanctions relief.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., told the AP that he is expecting a supplemental spending request and will work through it when it arrives.

The U.S. needs to make sure it is doing everything it can to restock its munitions supply, Thune said. Defense officials earlier this year warned that they could start running out of money for operations this summer if Congress did not authorize a new wartime spending bill, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Adm. Daryl Caudle, the chief of naval operations, told members of Congress last month that he might have to change training, operations or certification events in response to a cash shortage.

The supplemental proposal must be approved by the White House Office of Management and Budget before it goes to Congress.

The Pentagon's current fiscal year budget is about \$1 trillion, and President Donald Trump has requested a \$1.5 trillion allocation for fiscal year 2027.

Hegseth authored an op-ed in the *New York Post* on Tuesday in which he defended the Pentagon's "fiscal discipline" and said the greatest threat to national security is underinvestment in military spending.

He made no mention of the reported \$80 billion funding request but argued that American defense spending is critical to ensuring economic stability at home.

"When America is unchallenged militarily, economic possibilities abound: We borrow cheaply, transact freely and set the terms of global trade," Hegseth wrote. "Without that military power, all this becomes uncertain — because instability and volatility do vast damage to markets, investments and ultimately American jobs."

Kim says North Korea will expand nuclear arsenal

By JULIE MASSON
AND YOOJIN LEE
Stars and Stripes

North Korea's leader said his country will expand its nuclear arsenal and accelerate development of advanced weapons systems, including a 10,000-ton strategic guided missile cruiser, according to state-run media on Tuesday.

Kim Jong Un ordered his country's defense capabilities strengthened "without pause" with the goal of "overtaking the world," the Korean Central News Agency reported.

The North Korean leader spoke during the plenary meet-

ing Saturday through Monday of the ruling Workers' Party.

Steadily expanding the country's nuclear forces is the most effective way to cope with "unpredictable international military" and political situations, according to KCNA.

Kim specifically said the nation will accelerate its plans to build a 10,000-ton strategic guided missile cruiser, a decision made April 4, according to the report. It provided no additional details about the cruiser.

KCNA framed the nuclear expansion plans as a response to what it called increasingly

aggressive U.S.-South Korean military cooperation.

The report highlighted moves by Washington and Seoul to expand joint exercises, modernize their armed forces and use the Nuclear Consultative Group to prepare for a potential conflict with North Korea.

The group is a bilateral U.S.-South Korea consulting body established in 2023 to strengthen deterrence, coordinate nuclear and strategic planning and address North Korea's nuclear threats.

The group has drawn up "detailed nuclear war scenarios including war mode, sequence of

missions, drills and operation elements," the KCNA report states. "This clearly proves the criminal nature of the body pushing the situation in the Korean Peninsula to the brink of a nuclear war."

KCNA described South Korea's efforts to acquire nuclear submarines as an "undisguised" move toward modernizing its armed forces against the North and "extremely aggravating the situation in the Korean Peninsula."

South Korea's Ministry of National Defense did not respond to a text message request for comment on Tuesday.

Ahead of meeting, Trump blasts NATO

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

President Donald Trump lashed out at NATO ahead of his meeting Wednesday with the alliance's top official, criticizing countries he says failed a key test of alliance loyalty during the Iran war.

"They say, 'No, we'd rather not help,'" Trump said Monday at the White House, referring to European countries he says did not play a big enough role in the conflict. "Stupid thing to say because we can say that to them if we want, and we might."

Trump in particular called Italy and Germany "very bad" and mocked outgoing British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, saying, "This was not Winston Churchill

we're dealing with."

In recent days, Trump has also engaged in a public feud with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who was once seen as one of Trump's closest allies in Europe.

The remarks come at a sensitive moment for Europe, as NATO prepares for a leaders' summit next month and the Trump administration weighs potential changes to the U.S. military presence on the Continent.

The administration last week launched a force posture review led by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, a process that could have significant implications for where U.S. troops are based in Europe.

On Wednesday, Trump will sit down with NATO Secretary-Gen-

eral Mark Rutte, who is headed to Washington to lay the groundwork for the early July leaders' summit, which Trump is expected to attend.

During Trump's first term, NATO summits served as forums for his grievances with allies on a variety of issues, such as defense spending levels.

In 2018, the gathering was tense, with Trump warning that the United States could walk away from the security bloc that it has helped lead since the early days of the Cold War.

Now, disagreements with key leaders such as German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Meloni are expected to loom over the proceedings in Ankara, Turkey.

Besides disagreements over

Iran, Trump on Monday reiterated past concerns about the amount of money the United States spends to support military operations in Europe, which play a big part in deterring Russian aggression against NATO members.

"The numbers that we spend are so crazy on NATO, and (allies) weren't there for us," he said.

While the U.S. is involved in numerous missions focused on the defense of Europe, such as operations in Poland, other aspects of the American presence on the Continent are about projecting power globally.

Bases in the United Kingdom and Germany have played a role in Middle East operations, for example.

Weapons makers to visit WH amid stockpile worry

Bloomberg News

The White House is set to host a meeting of defense contractors this week to push for more robust munitions production, with stockpiles under strain after nearly four months of war with Iran.

President Donald Trump acknowledged the meeting, which a White House official earlier said would take place Wednesday.

"We're really in a big strong economic push to do the weapons, and some of the car companies, if they have any excess capacity, they're making a deal to build missiles, and the Patriot in particular," Trump told reporters Monday at the White House. "We have quite a few of them, but we want to make sure we have always a lot of them."

RTX is among the companies expected to attend the discussions, according to a person familiar with the matter who asked not to be identified because they

weren't authorized to speak publicly.

Spokespeople for RTX and L3Harris declined to comment. Lockheed Martin referred questions to the White House. A spokesperson for Boeing didn't respond to a request for comment.

General Motors has held discussions with RTX and other defense contractors about helping the weapons makers increase production, with the potential partnerships involving work similar to the automaker's agreement with Lockheed Martin, Bloomberg reported last week.

The administration accelerated efforts to boost production, with Trump last week invoking the Defense Production Act in his order for Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to make "voluntary agreements and plans of action" to address the depleted U.S. defense industrial capacity.

Okinawa memorial day speakers preach peace

By BRIAN McELHINEY

AND KEISHI KOJA

Stars and Stripes

ITOMAN, Okinawa — Thousands gathered at Peace Memorial Park on Tuesday to reflect on the horrors of war during ceremonies marking the 81st anniversary of the end of the Battle of Okinawa.

Approximately 3,200 people endured summer heat and humidity to pay tribute on Irei No Hi — Okinawa's memorial day. They prayed and placed food, incense and other offerings next to the names of loved ones inscribed on the Cornerstone of Peace, which holds the names of more than 240,000 who died during or after the World War II battle.

Prime Minister Sanae Takaiuchi, in her first Irei No Hi speech, offered condolences to "the souls of those who perished" in the battle. She added that her government will "work to consolidate,

reduce and streamline U.S. military facilities and areas in Japan."

"Our nation has progressed as a peace-loving state, guided by a resolute vow never to repeat the horrors of war," she said.

"We pledge to the spirits of those who perished that we will continue our unwavering efforts to realize a society where all Japanese people can live in peace and prosperity."

Air Force Brig. Gen. John Galloway, commander of the 18th Wing at Kadena Air Base, led roughly 50 service members in a separate ceremony earlier that day in front of the American section of the memorial.

He urged the troops present to remember not just the sacrifices of the combatants, but "the civilian populations that are often innocent, who are caught in the crossfire between two military organizations, who sometimes suffer the most."

Judge rejects subpoenas of Walz, others

Star Tribune

Minnesota's chief federal judge blocked a half dozen subpoenas by the U.S. Department of Justice against Gov. Tim Walz, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and other elected officials that were issued as part of an investigation into whether they obstructed immigration enforcement during Operation Metro Surge.

U.S. District Judge Patrick Schiltz ruled the subpoenas were politically motivated, unconstitutional and without merit.

His blistering 29-page opinion, which was unsealed Monday, marks a blow to the Trump administration's use of the U.S. Department of Justice to go after his political foes. The Minne-

sota U.S. Attorney's Office declined to comment Monday.

Attorney General Keith Ellison said Schiltz "took the extremely rare step" of granting Ellison's motion to quash subpoenas issued to him and other Minnesota officials.

The DOJ served subpoenas Jan. 20 — during the surge — to Ellison, Walz, Frey, St. Paul Mayor Kaohly Her and the Hennepin and Ramsey county boards of commissioners. Ellison and the other officials filed a motion to quash the subpoenas shortly afterward.

Calling the DOJ's justification for the subpoenas "risible" — or laughable — Schiltz found that the subpoenas violated the 10th Amendment, which prohibits the federal government

from forcing states to enforce federal laws and from retaliating against state officials for refusing to do so.

Schiltz concluded the "dominant purpose of the challenged subpoenas is to coerce Minnesota officials into assisting the federal government with enforcing civil immigration law and to harass and retaliate against them for failing to do so."

He also said initiating a criminal investigation "in order to harass political opponents or to coerce them into taking official action — particularly official action that the federal government cannot directly require those political opponents to take — is a blatantly unlawful and unethical

use the grand-jury process."

Schiltz is a George W. Bush appointee who clerked for the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and mentored Justice Amy Coney Barrett, but has criticized the Trump administration's tactics in Minnesota.

The subpoenas sought communication records that would show "possible violations of federal criminal laws" during Operation Metro Surge, a 12-week immigration crackdown Trump launched in Minnesota after the president railed about Somali people being involved in fraud.

The Trump administration backed down in mid-February after Minnesotans came out in droves to oppose ICE; two protesters were killed and a third person was shot and injured.

TMZ: FBI said ransom note about Guthrie was 'real deal'

New York Daily News

TMZ said the FBI confirmed a February ransom it received regarding the disappearance of Nancy Guthrie was "the real deal."

The gossip site also said Monday that rumors the note said the missing woman was dead are inaccurate.

TMZ reported it was sent roughly a dozen emails from someone claiming he knew who abducted the missing mother of

NBC host Savannah Guthrie on Feb. 1 and where she'd been taken.

Days after the 84-year-old mom disappeared from her Tucson, Ariz., home, one of those emails stated "time is of the essence" and reportedly asked for a Bitcoin payment equal to about \$64,000.

An email sent the following day stated "time is no longer of the essence" leading TMZ to conclude Guthrie had died.

It's not clear if the person who sent the ransom note and subsequent emails was the same individual.

TMZ hasn't responded to a request for comment.

The person who sent the emails reportedly insisted he wasn't the kidnapper, but was afraid of being implicated by police.

He also claimed to have feared retribution from people involved in the crime.

TMZ reported that it believed the emails were authentic because a scammer would be unlikely to give up leverage by admitting urgency was no longer an issue.

Savannah Guthrie pleaded with "Today" show viewers Tuesday for information about her mother, saying though she vows to continue endeavoring to "find that joy" daily, she and her family "cannot be in peace" until they have answers.

Senate passes bill limiting investors in housing

Bloomberg News

The Senate passed a sweeping housing bill Monday, bringing Washington one step closer to enacting the most significant housing legislation in a generation.

The package would curb institutional investors' influence in the housing market while streamlining rules to unlock supply.

The House and Senate had

been trading competing versions of the affordability bill for months before a bicameral deal was announced last week. The agreement came as policymakers on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue clamor to show voters they are doing something to tackle cost-of-living concerns ahead of midterm elections.

The measure must still be approved by the House before going to President Donald

Trump's desk. The House returns this week from recess, and the bill will join a host of priorities for the chamber. Given the bipartisan nature of the bill, it's expected that Speaker Mike Johnson will bring the legislation up under suspension of the rules, which requires a two-thirds majority.

The compromise legislation the Senate passed would bar large investors with more than

350 homes from purchasing additional single-family properties, but it exempts build-to-rent projects from those restrictions.

The package includes banking deregulatory measures sought by Republicans in the House and wage requirements important to Democrats in the Senate. It would also prohibit the Federal Reserve from developing a central bank digital currency through 2030.

Burnham poised to become new UK leader

Bloomberg News

Andy Burnham appears set to become the United Kingdom's seventh prime minister in a decade after Keir Starmer laid out a timeline for his own departure and potential rivals backed a quick transition to the popular Manchester politician.

Burnham's path to 10 Downing St., which only months ago seemed remote, suddenly cleared Monday when Starmer announced that he would relent to pressure and step aside as leader of the Labour Party with "good grace." The schedule he set out could see Burnham, 56, installed as prime minister as soon as July 17, if no other challenger surfaces.

"I will put myself forward as part of this process," Burnham wrote on X after Starmer's an-

nouncement. "Our priority must be to work together to get the country back to where we all want it to be."

Moments later, a chief rival for the role, former Health Secretary Wes Streeting, issued his own statement backing Burnham. "We could spend the summer exaggerating small differences, or we can roll up our sleeves and help him deliver the change our party and our country needs," Streeting said. "That is the choice I am making."

While investors showed little reaction to Starmer's well-telegraphed resignation, they were buoyed after Streeting threw his support behind Burnham, reducing the chance of a leadership contest that could have prolonged uncertainty for months.

Burnham's team now don't expect there to be a contest, two people familiar with the matter said. One added that the Makerfield member of Parliament's allies are now in a frantic rush to prepare to take over next month.

"It's inconceivable that any MP would want to take on Andy Burnham. Why would you, when you're going to lose?" Jonathan Tonge, a professor of politics at University of Liverpool said on the BBC. "Power will transfer very quickly."

Burnham will face big decisions in the coming months if he becomes prime minister, including who he will name as his Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether to call a general election and whether to stick to the party's existing manifesto. He'll

have to grapple with tight public finances, a fickle bond market and a Western alliance shaken by U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. In his victory speech in Makerfield last week, Burnham cast his win as a victory over "a path towards greater darkness and division" as seen in the United States under Trump. "We will not let that happen here."

Starmer's emotional speech outside 10 Downing St. on Monday capped a dramatic fall for a man who led Labour to a landslide general election win in 2024. The premier was beset by record-low favorability ratings, unpopular benefit cuts and tax hikes, and his appointment of Peter Mandelson as ambassador to the U.S.

Right-wing populist wins Colombia presidential vote

Miami Herald

Car horns were still beeping in Bogota on Monday morning in celebration of Abelardo de la Espriella's win in Colombia's presidential election.

The right-wing populist's professionally polished campaign, with social media and AI prowess wrapped around hardline security rhetoric and an unapologetically pro-business agenda, helped him clinch victory in an at times nail-biting count Sunday.

The eventual result in the preliminary count — results remain subject to official verification — revealed a less than 1% margin between the two candidates. Iván Cepeda got 48.70% but de la Espriella managed to surpass him with 49.66%.

"The country is completely divided down the middle. What each candidate was proposing were completely different models of governance — and very different positions on security and economic issues," Sandra Borda,

an associate professor of political science at Los Andes University in Bogota, told The Miami Herald.

While supporters and Abelardo himself are still celebrating their victory, attention is already shifting to the challenge of turning campaign promises into action when he takes office Aug. 7.

Many voters wanted continuity with the left-wing government. President Gustavo Petro's wide-ranging social and labor agenda — including a 23% hike to the minimum wage — had helped some voters, and they wanted Cepeda to win.

But others held a far more negative view of Petro's administration, rejecting negotiations with armed groups and opposing what they saw as anti-business policies under a government led by a former M-19 guerrilla. De la Espriella's outsider image — he's never held public office — and policy agenda promised to change this.

Rubio in Mideast to visit nations that host troops

BY LARA KORTE

Stars and Stripes

Secretary of State Marco Rubio is in the Middle East this week to visit three Persian Gulf nations that host U.S. forces and are critical to American power in the region.

The trip to the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Kuwait comes as Arab leaders consider the future of the region's security infrastructure in the wake of the U.S.-Iran war and last week's agreement meant to end it.

For years, the countries Rubio will visit have allowed the United States to maintain a military presence with the idea that it would deter attacks from Iran. But analysts have said the war shattered that assumption.

A number of U.S. bases in the Middle East served as critical hubs during the war with Iran. They include Al Dhafra Air Base in the UAE, Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait and Naval Support Activity Bahrain, which is home to

U.S. Naval Forces Central Command.

In response to the deadly American and Israeli strikes Feb. 28 that launched the war, Iran fired tens of thousands of missiles and drones into neighboring countries, causing extensive damage to the U.S. bases as well as civilian infrastructure.

Gulf nations also suffered acutely from Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which they rely on to export oil and gas products.

The agreement that ended the war, however, poses new challenges for some Gulf leaders. The memorandum, which launched a 60-day period of negotiations on a broader agreement, has prompted fears the talks could normalize relations with Iran and strengthen their adversary.

According to the U.S. State Department, Rubio plans to discuss the Iran deal, the Strait of Hormuz and other regional priorities during his trip, which started Tuesday and ends Thursday.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Teen arrested in liquid attack on pedestrians

FL MIAMI — Sheriff's deputies have arrested a 19-year-old following an investigation into an alleged hate crime in northeast Miami-Dade County, officers say.

Amir Ayesha will be charged with two felonies, according to a Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office news release.

According to the sheriff's office, on May 9, two victims alleged that an individual in a black vehicle sprayed them with an "unknown liquid" in a quiet section of North Miami Beach's Uleta neighborhood, which has a high concentration of Jewish people.

Distributor who hid drugs in storage unit sentenced

CT HARTFORD — A "large-scale" cocaine distributor in Connecticut has been sentenced to 10 years in federal prison.

Luis Oliver-Garcia, also known as "Bebo," 36, of New London, was handed down the lengthy prison term, which will be followed by four years of supervised release, during a hearing on June 17 in federal court in Hartford, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut.

Federal officials said the Drug Enforcement Administration's Hartford Task Force identified Oliver-Garcia as a large-scale distributor of cocaine and learned that he rented a storage unit at a facility on Cross Road in Waterford to store narcotics and other items.

On June 21, 2024, Oliver-Garcia arrived at the storage facility

shortly before investigators were about to carry out a search warrant, officials said. He was arrested after authorities searched the unit and reported finding more than three kilograms of cocaine, about \$30,000 and a 9 mm firearm.

Concertgoer dies at Madison Square Garden

NY NEW YORK — A concertgoer fell to his death inside Madison Square Garden at a show by the jam band Goose, police said Sunday.

The 51-year-old victim suffered injuries "indicative of falling from an elevated condition" around about 9:50 p.m. Saturday inside the world-famous Manhattan arena, police said.

Medics rushed him to Bellevue Hospital but he could not be saved.

The victim's name was not immediately released. Police do not believe he is the victim of a crime.

2 dead after plane crashes onto farm, coroner says

KY LEXINGTON — Two people have died in a plane crash outside Nicholasville, Ky., the Jessamine County coroner said Saturday.

The small plane crashed on a farm off state Route 169, between U.S. 27 and U.S. 68, Jessamine County Sheriff Kevin Grimes said in a Facebook post.

The crash was reported at 8:46 a.m.

Jessamine County Coroner Michael Hughes said the two people who died had not been identified as of about 2 p.m. Saturday.

Hughes said that the bodies were still inside of the plane, and local officials were waiting for FAA and NTSB representatives to arrive.

At least 12 wounded in mass shooting

IL CHICAGO — At least 12 people were wounded Friday night when two gunmen opened fire from an SUV into a large crowd gathered on the Far South Side, Chicago police said.

Shortly after 11 p.m., officers responded to a call of someone shot in the 200 block of West 95th Street and discovered a red SUV had pulled alongside a large crowd. Two occupants had opened fire before fleeing the scene, police said.

At least 12 victims were wounded, including a 26-year-old man who suffered multiple gunshot wounds and was listed in critical condition at UChicago Medicine.

The other injured people who went to various area hospitals for treatment were all listed in good condition after suffering gunshot wounds.

Detectives are investigating the circumstances leading up to the mass shooting, and no one was in custody.

Evacuation warning issued for radius around wildfire

CO DENVER — Douglas County officials issued a preevacuation warning for a wildfire burning about 15 miles southwest of Castle Rock near the Devils Head Recreation Area on Saturday evening.

Sheriff's officials sent out an evacuation warning for a 3-mile radius around the fire and said

anyone who may need extra time to evacuate and people with pets or livestock should consider leaving now.

Firefighters are working to contain the fire and the county's firefighting helicopter is dropping water on it, the sheriff's office said.

No bail for fireworks explosion murder suspect

CA SACRAMENTO — A Yolo County judge on Thursday denied bail to one defendant charged in the deadly Esparto fireworks explosion and ruled one of his seven co-defendants must hire his own attorney after determining he inherited more than \$1 million in property.

Jack Lee, the longtime operations manager for Devastating Pyrotechnics, the fireworks company at the center of the Esparto case, faces 17 felony charges, including seven counts of murder. Lee was initially found indigent and unable to afford an attorney, so the court assigned the county's conflicts panel to represent him. But the court later determined Lee inherited property from his father worth more than \$1 million, making him ineligible for indigent defense.

Yolo County, which faces a long-term budget deficit, recently set aside \$1 million for legal fees for the two Esparto defendants previously deemed indigent. The county spent about \$1.35 million on the investigation and cleanup, and the District Attorney's Office requested another \$600,000 for the trials. Most of that spending will not be reimbursed, according to the county counsel.

— From wire reports

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Heat get Giannis from Bucks in blockbuster

Associated Press

Giannis Antetokounmpo wants more championships. So does Miami.

Their interests are officially aligned — and the Heat finally have another superstar.

Ending a marathon watch for the next great Miami get, the Heat landed Antetokounmpo — a two-time NBA MVP and 10-time All-Star — from the Milwaukee Bucks on Monday night in exchange for a massive haul of players and draft picks.

The terms, according to a person who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the move had yet to receive the required league approval: Antetokounmpo and Bobby Portis are heading to Miami for Wisconsin native Tyler Herro, Jaime Jaquez Jr., Kel'el Ware and Kasparas Jakucionis.

Milwaukee also gets the No. 13 selection that will be made in Tuesday night's NBA draft, along with a first-round pick swap in 2030, first-round picks in 2031 and 2033 and a second-round pick in 2033, the person said.

It ends a wild back-and-forth in the final days of the saga, with the Bucks considering offers from both the Heat and Boston Celtics for Antetokounmpo — who led Milwaukee to the 2021 NBA title, was on the NBA's 75th anniversary list of its greatest players ever, is a nine-time All-NBA selection and is coming off an injury-shortened season in which he averaged 27.6 points per game.

Heat go star hunting

There has been no secret that this is what Miami has sought, because this is what the franchise usually seeks. The Heat pulled off similar moves by landing Shaquille O'Neal in 2004 (helping lead to the 2006 NBA title) and by getting LeBron James and Chris Bosh to play alongside Dwyane Wade in 2010 (leading to four NBA Finals runs in four seasons together, along with the 2012 and 2013 NBA titles).

At 31, Miami clearly believes Antetokounmpo still has many good years left.

He was a perennial MVP candidate with the Bucks, getting

votes for that award in nine consecutive seasons before 2025-26 when too many missed games left him ineligible.

He has averaged 24.1 points and 9.9 rebounds per game in his career, with 10 consecutive seasons of averaging at least 22.9 points.

Trade seemed inevitable

Antetokounmpo had been mentioned in trade talks countless times in recent years, with Milwaukee always insisting that it had no interest in trading its best player and one of the best players in the history of the franchise.

But this time, it seemed different.

The Bucks, who fired Doc Rivers as coach after the season, don't have a roster that would be considered a championship contender. By trading Antetokounmpo, they can essentially start over with four players (and the Heat were high on all of them) along with draft capital.

"I just think before the draft is a natural time, right, because if Giannis does play somewhere else we're going to get a lot of as-

sets. ... You've got to get it right," Milwaukee co-owner Jimmy Haslam said in May, when the team introduced new coach Taylor Jenkins — who was told that Antetokounmpo may or may not be with the franchise when next season starts.

Jenkins and the rest of the NBA now have the answer: Antetokounmpo won't be there.

Partly about legacy

Antetokounmpo said coming into the 2025-26 season that he is at a point in his career where he thinks about his legacy, and how more championships are important to him. Told he is already considered an all-time great, he bristled at the notion.

"I'm not there yet," Antetokounmpo said that day at Milwaukee training camp.

That's hard to believe, considering his résumé. He's won a championship. He's been an MVP. He's been an NBA Finals MVP. He's a perennial All-Star and All-NBA pick. He's one of only seven players born somewhere other than the United States to have reached the 20,000-point mark.

Oilers hire Babcock as coach after NHL investigation

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — The Edmonton Oilers hired Mike Babcock on Tuesday, clearing the way for the polarizing taskmaster to coach his first NHL game in more than six years after the league cleared him following an investigation into his aborted 2023 stint in Columbus.

Babcock is now in charge of trying to get Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl a Stanley Cup championship after two of the best hockey players in the league have fallen short over the past decade.

D.J. Smith, who was most recently the interim replacement in Los Angeles after Jim Hiller was fired and ran the bench in Ottawa

from 2019-23, was named an associate coach. Smith was an assistant under Babcock in Toronto.

Babcock has not coached a game in the league since being fired by the Maple Leafs 23 games into the 2019-20 season.

Babcock, 63, has championship experience from coaching Detroit to the Cup in 2008. He made two other trips to the Final, with Anaheim in '03 and when the Red Wings went again in '09 and lost to Pittsburgh. He also guided Canada to back-to-back Olympic goal medals in 2010 and '14.

Babcock also brings baggage.

He stepped down from the Blue Jackets job before training camp in September 2023 after taking the job July 1. At the time, Bab-

cock's requests for personal photos from players in an attempt to get to know them drew criticism as an invasion of privacy.

When word emerged that Edmonton was interested in hiring Babcock, the NHL Players' Association asked the league to review what happened three years ago. The NHL in a statement said it found nothing to prevent him from being employed by a team.

Former players have spoken out about Babcock's old-school tendencies that some have said can be considered bullying.

A report surfaced after Toronto fired Babcock that he had asked Mitch Marner to share his ranking of teammates from hardest-to-least-hardest working, and then

shared that with the rest of the group. Former Detroit player Johan Franzen told a Swedish outlet that Babcock was the worst person he had ever met and said at one point he was terrified to go to the rink.

Retired defenseman Mike Commodore, who played for Babcock briefly in 2011 with the Red Wings, spoke out this spring.

"I don't want to hear another word about how important mental health is for us when you literally just paved the way, cleared the way for Mike Babcock to get another opportunity in the NHL and put him in another position of power where he can abuse people," Commodore said on the "Clearing the Crease" podcast.

Messi becomes top scorer in World Cup history

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Scoring goals and breaking records is what Lionel Messi does, and he is already doing that again in his sixth World Cup.

The Argentina captain has the World Cup scoring record all to himself after another standout performance, one that began with frustration after missing a penalty kick and ended in pure elation with another victory.

Messi, who many consider the greatest player of all time, scored both goals in his team's 2-0 victory over Austria on Monday. That gave him 18, six days after his first-ever hat trick in the tournament had matched Germany striker Miroslav Klose's previous record for World Cup goals. Later Monday, Kylian Mbappé matched Klose's mark of 16 with two goals in France's 3-0 win over Iraq.

"Beyond anything I'm so happy for the win," Messi said. "It was huge, tough and difficult. It would allow us to be relaxed to what's ahead. All matches in

this World Cup are very even, very intense. I'm enjoying this moment and craving to enjoy with my teammates."

The first goal against Austria came in the 38th minute and two days before his 39th birthday, and amid the concern of an ailing father back at home. It was the sixth consecutive World Cup game in which Messi has scored — joining France striker Just Fontaine and Brazil great Jairzinho as only players to do so.

That was about a half-hour after he missed a penalty kick with a chance to match the record.

"There were moments when I was really angry about missing the penalty, but I was able to make up for it," said Messi, who has won a record eight Ballon d'Or awards as the best player in Europe.

Argentina advanced to the knockout round by winning its first two Group J games. Messi also scored all the goals in a 3-0 win over Algeria in Kansas City.

Messi added his 18th World Cup goal in the waning seconds

of stoppage time when he shot one through several defenders after his first attempt was turned away by goalkeeper Alexander Schlager.

"I knew it wasn't going to be easy," Messi said in translated remarks. "The way things are going in the World Cup, the way it's being played, it's a very even game. No one is giving away anything."

The goal record became Messi's alone in the first half when he caught Schlager leaning the wrong way after Thiago Almada let Facundo Medina's pass go by him and directly onto Messi's left foot from about 20 yards.

"I have no more words to talk about Leo," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said through an interpreter.

As the ball went into the net on the record 17th goal, Messi ran toward a corner and thrust his right arm into the air to celebrate the mark with the decidedly pro-Argentina crowd among the 70,649 fans in the sold-out home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys.

"Someone who is 39 years old and can score two goals, and five goals overall at the beginning of the World Cup, well, that makes a difference," Austria coach Ralf Rangnick said through an interpreter. "We knew that he is on a level of his own, and Lionel Messi showed us today that he's one of the best, and he is the best."

There had been a gasp from those same fans when Messi missed the penalty in the ninth minute.

His left-footed attempt went just wide of the right post. He is now 4 of 7 on penalty kicks in regulation play at the World Cup, with misses in three consecutive tournaments.

The penalty kick came after Lautaro Martinez was running free in the box and was tackled from behind by Xaver Schlager and Stefan Posch, the defender playing with a broken jaw.

Play continued for more than a minute with Martinez still on the ground near the goal. When the game was stopped for him, officials reviewed the play and called the penalty.

Mbappé gets 2 goals in victory, keeps pace on all-time list

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Mbappé is coming for Messi.

Kylian Mbappé of France scored two goals Monday to reach 16 for his World Cup career, moving into a tie for second-most in tournament history as he tries to keep pace with new record holder Lionel Messi.

"If I want to keep up with what Leo is doing," Mbappé said after France beat Iraq 3-0 to reach the knockout stage, "I'll have to do even more."

France is counting on it as Mbappé tries to lead Les Bleus to their second World Cup title in the last three tournaments. Mbappé would consider it a bonus if he could win it all and pass Messi for the World Cup goals record.

The 27-year-old Mbappé is 11 years younger than Messi and should have at least two or three more World Cups to secure the record — at least until the next young superstar comes around to challenge him.

"He's here to score goals and that's something he's been doing," France coach Didier Deschamps said. "He's somebody that has a worldwide aura."

Playing in his third World Cup, Mbappé scored in the 14th minute against Iraq, giving Les Bleus a 1-0 lead in his 100th international game. After a weather delay that extended the halftime break to more than two hours, Mbappé found the net again in the 54th minute to move into a tie with Miroslav Klose of Germany, who had the goals record before this high-scoring World Cup began.

Messi scored twice for Argentina earlier Monday to set the tournament record at 18. He had equaled Klose with his first World Cup hat trick in Argentina's 3-0 win over Algeria last Tuesday night in Kansas City, Mo.

"Leo always scores," Mbappé said.

Mbappé sent a left-footed strike from about 20 yards out past Iraq goalkeeper Ahmed Basil, who got his first start in the

tournament after captain Jalal Hassan allowed all four goals in Iraq's 4-1 loss to Norway.

For his second goal, Mbappé took advantage of a poor pass to the goalkeeper by Iraq defender Zaid Tahseen. France's Ousmane Dembele controlled the loose ball and passed to Mbappé, who tapped it in with his right foot.

The Real Madrid forward had a chance at the hat trick on a late breakaway, but missed before he was subbed out at the 90-minute mark. Mbappé is one of two men with a hat trick in a World Cup final.

"I've seen enough criticism on his egotistical side," Deschamps said. "But that's not who he is. I reiterate, he's the team captain. And he's a bright example for the rest of the group."

Dembélé also scored in the second half to complete a dominant performance for France.

Scoreless through 9, Brewers top Reds in 10

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Brandon Woodruff took a perfect game into the sixth inning in his return and Joey Ortiz's sacrifice fly in the 10th drove home the go-ahead run as the first-place Milwaukee Brewers beat the Cincinnati Reds 2-1 on Monday night.

In the 10th, Garrett Mitchell walked then Sal Frelick bunted Mitchell and designated runner Jake Bauers into scoring position. Ortiz's sacrifice fly drove home Bauers with the game's first run and Mitchell scored on a wild pitch by Tony Santillan (1-4) to make the score 2-0.

Joel Kuhnel allowed one run in the 10th on a groundout but notched his fifth save. Trevor McGill (2-2) got the win for Milwaukee.

Woodruff, who was making his first start since April 30, allowed one hit with no walks and 10 strikeouts. He retired the first 16 batters before Tyler Stephenson singled with one out in the sixth.

"Obviously pitching well is a huge boost to the team," Woodruff said. "I wanted to be back a couple turns early, but that's probably not the best thing for me. Just trying and give yourself the best chance for tonight to go in and pitch, feel strong, feel healthy."

Tigers 5, Yankees 3: Riley Greene homered and Kevin McGonigle drove in two runs as host Detroit beat Gerrit Cole for the first time in 10 years, winning against the Yankees.

Framber Valdez (4-5) out-pitched Cole, giving up one run on four hits and two walks in six innings. The left-hander struck out eight as the Tigers won their fourth straight game.

Nationals 4, Phillies 1: Curtis Mead and Luis Garcia Jr. homered, Foster Griffin pitched 7½ strong innings and host Washington beat Philadelphia in the opener of a four-game series between the division rivals.

Griffin (8-2) gave up a run on four hits and struck out nine without a walk. He has gone five or more innings and allowed one earned run in each of his past four starts.

Rockies 3, Red Sox 2: Jake McCarthy hit a three-run triple down the left-field line in the ninth inning and host Colorado rallied to beat Boston.

The Rockies started the inning with three straight singles off All-Star closer Aroldis Chapman (0-3) before McCarthy sent a liner that hit off the wall and bounded away from left fielder Jarren Duran. The carom allowed Cole Carrigg to slide in headfirst with

the winning run.

Royals 2, Rays 1: Michael Wacha allowed one run over seven strong innings while Lane Thomas and Carter Jensen had RBI hits to push visiting Kansas City past Tampa Bay.

Wacha (5-5) allowed six hits, walked one and struck out five. The ex-Rays pitcher held his former team to 0-for-7 with runners in scoring position and didn't allow a run until Yandy Díaz's two-out double in the fifth plated Richie Palacios from first.

White Sox 6, Guardians 5: Sam Antonacci had a walk-off two-run single in the bottom of the ninth inning after Cleveland scored twice in the top half to take the lead and host Chicago beat the Guardians.

The White Sox (40-37) snapped a three-game losing streak and pulled into a first-place tie with Cleveland (41-38) in the AL Central. The Guardians have lost 11 of their last 16 games.

Dodgers 2, Twins 1: Shohei Ohtani hit a leadoff home run, Freddie Freeman also went deep to break a sixth-inning tie and visiting Los Angeles beat Minnesota.

Freeman's 13th of the season helped them win after losing back-to-back games for the first time since May 11-12.

Padres 1, Braves 0: Manny

Machado homered and Michael King pitched seven strong innings for his first win since May 18 as host San Diego beat NL East-leading Atlanta.

The Braves lost for the eighth time in 11 games and were overtaken by NL West-leading Los Angeles for the best record in the majors.

Cardinals 3, Diamondbacks 2: Rookies JJ Wetherholt and Nathan Church each had two hits, sparking host St. Louis to a victory over Arizona.

Andre Pallante (9-4) allowed six hits and one run in six innings to secure the victory.

Rangers 4, Marlins 3: Brandon Nimmo had three hits and walked once, Alejandro Osuna hit a go-ahead RBI double and visiting Texas beat Miami.

Blue Jays 4, Astros 2: Pinch-hitter Myles Straw drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning with one of host Toronto's three sacrifice flies, and Kazuma Okamoto homered to help the Blue Jays beat Houston.

Orioles 6, Angels 1: Kyle Bradish pitched eight shutout innings, Taylor Ward hit a leadoff home run against his former team and visiting Baltimore extended its winning streak to three games Monday night with a victory over Los Angeles.

Oklahoma tops North Carolina to win third CWS title

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — The way its regular season unfolded, a national championship for Oklahoma would have seemed impossible.

The way the postseason unfolded, well, there was no stopping the Sooners.

Oklahoma completed the improbable run to its first national championship since 1994 with a 13-2 victory over North Carolina in the winner-take-all Game 3 of the College World Series finals Monday night, a performance that featured the prodigious of-

fensive production and clutch pitching the Sooners rode through the NCAA Tournament.

"I think we knew the talent was always in the room," said Jaxon Willits, named the CWS most outstanding player. "We got hot at the right time, and now we're national champions."

Oklahoma (43-23) won the Southeastern Conference's seventh straight title, quite an accomplishment for a team picked 14th in the 16-team conference in the preseason, finished 11th and entered the postseason off losses in seven of nine games.

To get to Omaha, the Sooners beat No. 2 national seed Georgia Tech twice on the road in regionals and swept upstart Kansas on the road in super regionals. To get to the finals, they beat No. 3 Georgia twice in bracket play.

"They got really confident the last month," OU coach Skip Johnson said. "They care about each other. They didn't want to give in. They were selfless."

North Carolina (54-14-1) was runner-up for the third time since 2006 and now has 13 CWS appearances without a title. Only Florida State, with 24, has more

without winning it all.

The Sooners were back in top form offensively after managing only four singles in a 6-2 loss in Game 2 and handed the Tar Heels their most lopsided loss of the season.

When Jackson Cleveland struck out Jake Schaffner to end the game, he and catcher Deiten Lachance embraced and then headed to the dogpile that formed near third base. Players waving national championship towels rushed back toward their dugout to salute the celebrating Oklahoma faithful on the first-base line.