

US, Iran to resume talks after violence

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. and Iran were set to resume talks Tuesday, U.S. officials said, after a weekend of armed exchanges cast fresh doubt on a ceasefire aimed at ending months of war.

"IRAN HAS REQUESTED A MEETING. IT WILL TAKE PLACE TOMORROW IN DOHA!" President Donald Trump wrote Monday on Truth Social.

The White House also said special envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner would travel to the Qatari capital on Monday for a meeting with Iranian officials Tuesday, according to Axios.

Iran had yet to publicly confirm that an agreement had been reached, but an unidentified U.S. official told several news outlets Sunday that both sides "will stand down for now."

Washington and Tehran will continue technical talks on the 14-point memorandum agreed

to June 17 for reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, the official told Axios, adding that "vessels can move freely" in the waterway.

A second U.S. official said the twosides had decided "to stop all the kinetic activity," a reference to active warfare.

The signing of the U.S.-Iran memorandum this month triggered a 60-day window to negotiate a final agreement to end the conflict.

The war began in late February with U.S.-Israeli airstrikes that killed senior Iranian leaders and devastated the country's military. Iran responded by closing the Strait of Hormuz, a chokepoint through which much of the world's oil and gas transits.

During talks in Switzerland last week, the U.S. delegation, led by Vice President JD Vance, agreed to set up a hotline between the U.S. military and Iran's Islamic Revolutionary

Guard Corps to coordinate traffic in the strait, but it was not in place as of Saturday, Axios reported.

"Deconfliction channels are up and running," an official told CNN on Sunday, after several days of hostilities that reignited late last week.

On Thursday, an Iranian one-way attack drone hit the Singapore-flagged cargo ship M/V Ever Lovely as it transited the strait, U.S. Central Command said.

In response, U.S. aircraft struck Iranian missile and drone storage facilities and coastal radar sites, CENTCOM said.

The following day, Iran struck the Panama-flagged tanker M/T Kiku, which was carrying 2 million barrels of crude oil through the strait, according to the command.

That strike prompted Navy and Air Force fighter jets to hit 10 Iranian sites, CENTCOM said. The targets included mili-

tary surveillance infrastructure, communication systems, air defense sites, drone storage facilities and mine-laying capabilities, the command said in a separate statement.

On Sunday, Iranian state media said Tehran had launched a "large-scale missile and drone operation" targeting eight U.S. military installations in the region.

The back-and-forth tested the durability of the ceasefire, with Trump threatening to "complete the job" that the U.S. had started. Iran said it would walk away from talks if the ceasefire was violated again.

Despite the U.S. repeatedly declaring the strait open to traffic, Iran's foreign minister told reporters Sunday in neighboring Iraq that his country alone would manage the reopening of the vital waterway over the next 30 days before allowing traffic to resume to pre-war levels, state media reported.

US Marines assist rescue operations in Venezuela

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

U.S. Marines continue to dig through the rubble in northern Venezuela, part of a growing international effort to locate survivors after back-to-back earthquakes hit the country last week.

Military personnel are "racing against the clock" to locate people still buried under debris, U.S. Southern Command said in a statement Monday.

"Operating day and night, these crews continue to support international search and rescue operations across the hardest-hit communities," the command said.

In coordination with local

emergency responders, the Marines are working in dangerous terrain as they navigate hazardous debris and collapsed buildings, SOUTHCOM said.

U.S. Air Force C-17s and C-130s have been flying in and out of the area along with U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 Ospreys, which have been transporting personnel.

U.S. Army CH-47 Chinooks were expected to arrive on the scene Sunday. U.S. Navy warships also are docked off Venezuela's coast to support the growing effort.

As of Monday, at least 1,450 people had died as a result of the earthquakes, which hit on

Wednesday in Yaracuy state, west of the capital Caracas. The first had a magnitude of 7.2 and was followed less than a minute later by a magnitude-7.5 quake. On Monday, a strong aftershock struck north of Caraballeda on Venezuela's Caribbean coast, The Associated Press reported. Thousands of people are still missing.

SOUTHCOM, which is leading the U.S. military's portion of the rescue effort, continues to move more resources into the area. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Kevin Jarrard arrived in Venezuela soon after the earthquakes to oversee military efforts on the ground.

The command said its operations are self-sustaining, with personnel on the ground requiring no local resources.

The disaster comes at a time of political upheaval in the country, which has been in a state of economic disarray for decades. In January, U.S. special operations forces launched a daring raid that resulted in the capture of President Nicolas Maduro and his wife.

Since then, an interim government led by Delcy Rodriguez has pursued a more cooperative posture toward Washington.

SOUTHCOM said Venezuela's government had requested U.S. earthquake assistance.

AI helping draft mandatory DOD reports

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

The Defense Department is increasingly using artificial intelligence to handle administrative work, including drafting congressionally mandated reports, as Pentagon officials push to expand the technology's use across the military.

Emil Michael, the Pentagon's chief technology officer, championed the use of AI for writing reports to lawmakers during a Hudson Institute forum in Washington, D.C., on June 12.

"I have to report to Congress every year on this thing," Michael said at the forum. "Let me load all the papers on and have it draft me a congressional report that would otherwise take 200

hours of staffing time and do it in five hours. It's just a matter of trying to catch up to, in this case, what's basic in the commercial world."

Michael brushed off questions about risks and the potential for AI hallucinations.

"I mean, there's risk in everything, and we also offer training," he said.

Pentagon officials draft hundreds of reports per year, and these documents inform lawmakers who generate policy on a variety of national security issues.

The use of AI to draft congressional reports is part of a broader Pentagon effort to incorporate the technology into administrative, intelligence and warfighting functions.

In June, Michael said the number of Defense Department personnel using AI tools had grown from about 80,000 to more than 1.5 million over the past year, a more than 17-fold increase.

The Pentagon began using Google's Gemini for government use on its custom GenAI.mil platform in December. The AI hub has since grown to include xAI's Grok and OpenAI's ChatGPT, according to Department of Defense statements.

Anthropic was also awarded a one-year, \$200 million contract last year to develop AI infrastructure that would address national security challenges in "warfighting and enterprise domains," the contract announcement from July 2025 states.

The growing use of AI for administrative tasks comes as the Pentagon's congressional reporting requirements have expanded.

The number of reports the department submits to Congress increased threefold, from just over 500 in 2000 to nearly 1,500 in 2020, according to a Government Accountability Office report.

Researchers have said that while AI can improve efficiency, it can also provide inaccurate information.

A BBC-led study published in October found that approximately half of the answers generated by major AI platforms about newsworthy events contained at least one significant error.

US commander touts use of autonomous resupply vessels

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Autonomous resupply vessels are the most promising approach to overcoming the Army's dearth of watercraft needed for sustainment operations in the Pacific, the commander of the Hawaii-based 8th Theater Sustainment Command said Friday.

Employing drone vessels, the smallest of which are already being used by the U.S. military, is one of five tactics the command is using to overcome watercraft shortfalls, Maj. Gen. Gavin Gardner told reporters during a conference call while at the Pentagon.

The command is tasked with sustaining the Army and joint operational forces throughout the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's area of responsibility.

"We have a constant demand for Army watercraft time now to deliver equipment and sup-

plies forward in the theater," Gardner said.

The command's "five-prong strategy" for meeting that demand also includes pulling prepositioned watercraft out of storage; using contractor-owned, contractor-operated watercraft to leverage capacity; training Army mariners on contracted vessels; and leveraging vessel capacity in host-nation countries such as Japan and Philippines, he said.

The Army drastically divested its watercraft stock over the past decade, a move that the service is now attempting to reverse.

Its watercraft fleet was trimmed by half over six years ending in May 2024, according to a report issued by the U.S. Government Accountability Office in October 2024.

The Army's fleet by that point had shrunk to 70 vessels from 134 in 2018, the office found.

Replenishment oiler will get Presidential Unit Citation

BY MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

Fleet replenishment oiler USNS Kanawha will receive the military's top award for valor by a unit in battle, for supporting the USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group during Operation Epic Fury, Military Sealift Command announced Friday.

It will be the first Presidential Unit Citation awarded to an MSC ship in the command's 77-year history. In addition to the unit award, 19 civil service mariners will receive individual honors for their performance throughout Kanawha's recent seven-month deployment.

This will be the fourth to receive the Presidential Unit Citation this year.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, who was part of the USS Gerald R. Ford welcoming committee in May, presented the citation to the Ford Carrier Group.

Also in May, the 66th Rescue

Squadron and the 58th Rescue Squadron were awarded the military's highest unit award.

Kanawha, a Henry J. Kaiser-class fleet replenishment oiler, returned to Norfolk, Va., on May 16 after a 204-day deployment.

Operating in the U.S. 4th, 5th and 6th Fleets, the crew delivered more than 17.6 million gallons of fuel and 3,103 pallets of supplies, and it performed 113 replenishments for 29 U.S. and coalition vessels. The ship helped sustain two key missions: Operation Southern Spear, the Pentagon's name for the campaign against drug trafficking in Latin America, and Operation Epic Fury.

The award had been scheduled to be presented Thursday at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., but a subsequent message from Military Sealift Command Atlantic said the event has been postponed. "The ceremony will be rescheduled to a new date in mid-July," the statement said.

Justices split on Trump firings at Federal Reserve Board, FTC

CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled against President Donald Trump's effort to remove Federal Reserve Board member Lisa Cook on Monday, even as the justices expanded presidential power to remove members of the Federal Trade Commission and other independent agencies.

The two decisions written by Chief Justice John Roberts — a 5-4 opinion in favor of Cook and a 6-3 opinion allowing Trump to fire FTC Commissioner Rebecca Slaughter — reshape the bounds of presidential control over the executive branch of government.

The Cook decision backs a law Congress meant to protect members of the Federal Reserve from being fired without cause, but the Slaughter decision effectively cancels out those laws for members of independent boards such as the FTC, Federal Election Commis-

sion and Federal Communications Commission.

Together, the decisions back broad presidential power to remove almost any official in the executive branch at will but drew a line at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

Roberts wrote that Congress had limited the power of presidents to remove Federal Reserve board members "for good reason," a long tradition of monetary policy independent of executive influence made it different from executive agencies.

"Not only the fact of independence but also the appearance of independence is key to the Federal Reserve's design," Roberts wrote.

Accepting the Trump administration's contentions in the case "would allow the President to remove a member of the Federal Reserve at any time, for any reason, without any notice before, and without any judicial check after," Roberts wrote.

"That would turn for-cause protection into little more than at-will employment."

Trump attempted to fire Cook in August, arguing that alleged mortgage records improprieties from before she took office disqualified her. Cook then challenged the firing, and the courts reinstated her while the case progressed.

The Slaughter opinion overturned a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit that reinstated Slaughter, as well as a more than 90-year-old precedent protecting the members of independent boards from arbitrary removal.

Roberts wrote that the structure of those agencies violated the founding principles of the country, which was meant to have a single executive official vested with executive power.

Trump fired Slaughter last March along with fellow FTC Commissioner Alvaro Bedoya.

Appeal of Carroll verdict rejected

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday turned down without comment President Donald Trump's appeal of a \$5-million jury verdict for sexually abusing E. Jean Carroll in the dressing room of a Bergdorf Goodman store in Manhattan nearly 30 years ago.

None of the justices registered a dissent.

When Carroll reported the incident in a book, Trump called it "a hoax and a lie," prompting her to file a second claim for defamation.

Trump and his lawyers argued he was unfairly held liable because the jurors heard from two other women who said Trump groped them. And they listened to Trump's own words on his willingness to abuse women.

"When you're a star ... you can do anything," Trump said on the "Access Hollywood" tape from 2005 that the jurors heard.

Trump defended those comments in a 2022 deposition that was used during the trial.

"Historically, that's true with stars," he said. "If you look over the last million years, I guess that's been largely true. Unfortunately, or fortunately."

Usually, a defendant's prior bad acts are excluded from a jury trial.

But in 1994, Congress amended the federal rules of evidence to make an exception for civil suits involving alleged sexual abuse. Rule 415 says the judge "may admit evidence that the party committed any other sexual assault."

Two women testified that Carroll had told them about the dressing room assault shortly after it happened. And two other women testified Trump had assaulted and groped them.

Court allows late-arriving mail ballots

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday upheld state laws that allow for counting mail ballots that are postmarked by Election Day but arrive later.

The 5-4 decision rejects a Republican challenge to laws in California and 13 other mostly Democratic states which permit the counting of these late-arriving ballots.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett and Chief Justice John Roberts joined with the three liberals to form the majority.

The decision is a mild surprise and should bolster Democrats in the fall election.

While California's seven-day grace period for mail ballots has

contributed to slow tabulations, it has not been shown to trigger fraud or unreliable vote counts.

Election law experts blame slow tallies on the surge in voting by mail combined with the need to carefully match signatures on these ballots.

The court said federal law since 1845 has set Election Day nationwide as the Tuesday after the first Monday in November and voters were required to cast their ballots that day.

Citing that fact, the Republican National Committee and the Trump administration joined a challenge to a Mississippi law adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic that allowed counting ballots that were up to five days late.

President Donald Trump's lawyers said federal law preempted or overrode the state law.

"From the dawn of America, election day has meant the day the ballot box closes — and when election officials must be in receipt of all ballots," wrote Solicitor Gen. D. John Sauer.

Democrats said the Constitution says the "time, place and manner of holding elections" for Congress "shall be prescribed in each state" by its legislature. However, Congress was given the power to override those state rules and set its own regulations for federal elections.

Barrett said the federal Election Day requires only that the voter must decide by then.

Putin open to talks on ending war, but will continue strikes

Bloomberg News

Russian President Vladimir Putin said he's ready to continue talks with U.S. envoys on ending the war in Ukraine, while rejecting a proposal to halt long-range strikes that have proven damaging for both sides.

The Kremlin expects U.S. negotiators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to travel to Moscow to continue talks on ending the war in Ukraine once Washington is less focused on the conflict with Iran, Putin said in an interview with state television late Sunday.

Putin also said there were continued contacts between Kyiv and Moscow, without elaborating, and that he declined proposals to mutually halt strikes deep inside Russia

and Ukraine and to confine fighting to just the four occupied Ukrainian regions.

"Our retaliatory strikes deep into Ukrainian territory are much more powerful, sensitive and, frankly, destructive, leading to truly serious consequences" for Kyiv, Putin said, without naming the source of the proposals. The Russian leader said he rejected the idea to limit the geographic area of combat as it would let Ukrainian forces redeploy troops from other sections of the front.

Putin's refusal to agree to even a limited halt to long-range strikes underscores that Moscow remains unwilling to trade away tools that keep pressure on Ukraine, even if such a deal would blunt Kyiv's growing ability to impose costs

inside Russia. The Russian leader's stance also cast doubt on what renewed talks with the U.S. envoys can accomplish, as the Kremlin continues to press maximalist demands for ending the war, that include Ukraine ceding territory Russian forces don't control.

Kyiv has stepped up attacks on Russian energy infrastructure and military targets this year. Strikes on refineries have slowed processing and caused fuel shortages in Moscow and other regions, impacting ordinary Russians, who face elevated borrowing costs and a worsening gasoline crunch.

Russia has also continued to hit Ukraine with drone and missile attacks on a near daily basis, often with deadly results.

Japan to boost economic security

Bloomberg News

Chinese spies stealing Japanese industrial secrets in boardrooms. Chip smugglers ferrying Nvidia's prized artificial intelligence semiconductors via Japan. Drug gangs quietly slipping fentanyl across Japan's borders to a U.S. opioid crisis.

Across a range of industries, Japan's economic-security vulnerabilities have been on display in a slew of recent incidents. The cases show how foreign actors increasingly see Japan as an attractive target — and, in some instances, a convenient gateway — for espionage and other illicit activities.

That's helping drive Japan's most ambitious economic-security push in years under Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, a longtime advocate of stronger safeguards against such threats. Her administration is on the cusp of launching what's been billed as the Japanese equivalent to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., or CFIUS, in an effort to broaden and intensify reviews of overseas funds eyeing local targets.

Like its U.S. counterpart, Japan's CFIUS — which was to launch Monday — will coordinate across government ministries to vet foreign investments for national security risks. The current approach is to have the Finance Ministry and the ministry overseeing the relevant industry handle reviews.

The U.S. CFIUS heavily focuses on threats from China, and Japan's will probably be no different.

But the issue goes beyond China as threats increasingly come through digital channels, as National Police Agency data show.

Comcast to spin off NBCUniversal

Los Angeles Times

Comcast is spinning off its NBCUniversal entertainment and media assets into a separate publicly traded company, the media giant announced Monday.

The plan will put broadcast networks NBC and Telemundo, NBC News, cable network Bravo and streaming service Peacock, the Universal film studios and British TV service Sky into a new free-standing company. The Philadelphia-based Comcast would remain in its core business of distributing pay TV channels and wireless services.

The spinoff would be the second such move by Comcast, which last year completed the move of its cable assets such as CNBC, USA Network and Golf Channel into a new entity called Versant.

"The proposed separation reflects Comcast's track record of

positioning its businesses to compete and win in rapidly changing markets.

"As technological innovation, consumer behavior and competitive dynamics continue to reshape both media and communications, Comcast's Board and management team believe each company will be better positioned to pursue its own strategic priorities, invest for growth and create long-term shareholder value as independent entities," the company said in a statement.

A free-standing NBCUniversal would likely be seen as an acquisition target, as media companies have been consolidating in an effort to get more content and mass distribution for their streaming services. Paramount is on track to close its \$111 billion deal to acquire Warner Bros. Discovery, which will combine such media assets

as HBO Max, CBS, CNN, Paramount Pictures and Warner Bros. Pictures

Comcast would be a free-standing business well-positioned to combine with another cable and internet provider. Comcast is expected to complete the spinoff next year and will retain an 19% stake in the new entity.

Comcast acquired NBCUniversal in 2011. The deal combined the largest distributor of TV channels with a provider of top-rated TV channels and a movie studio.

But consumers have gravitated to streaming platforms which have led consumers to cancel their cable packages.

NBCUniversal has invested heavily in its streaming service Peacock but has been unable to reach the scale necessary for profitability. Comcast stock price has struggled as a result.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Swastika carved into car with Israeli flag on seat

NY NEW YORK — A vandal carved a swastika onto the hood of a woman's Tesla parked on Manhattan's Upper East Side — and police suspect an Israeli flag in the car's back seat prompted the attack.

The victim parked the car on East 85th Street near First Avenue around 10:30 a.m. on June 23, only to return around 9 a.m. the following morning to find the Nazi symbol of hate scratched into the paint, according to law enforcement.

Police said an Israeli flag was visible in the car's back seat when the vandalism occurred.

There have been no arrests.

The Tesla attack follows a vandalism spree in Queens that saw religious centers, homes and vehicles defiled with swastikas and antisemitic slogans last month.

Among the properties damaged was Congregation Machane Chodosh, in Rego Park, where a swastika was spray-painted over a plaque honoring the survivors of Kristallnacht, an antisemitic pogrom that erupted in Nazi Germany.

Hate crimes are up nearly 9% citywide, with 265 incidents this year compared to 244 in 2025, according to the most recent stats, which are current as of May 31.

Of those 265 hate crimes, 152 targeted Jewish victims or were antisemitic in nature.

Wildfires escalate in active week for state

NV LAS VEGAS — Wildfires in eastern Nevada escalated due to high

winds and favorable conditions for fire growth Saturday, leading officials to elevate response efforts.

The Great Basin geographic area — spanning most of Nevada, Utah and southern Idaho — was moved to Preparedness Level 4 on Saturday, the Bureau of Land Management said in a release Sunday.

In Nevada, fire crews battled the Grapevine and Kane Springs fires, 140 miles northeast of Las Vegas, since June 17 before two new fires, the Parsnip Peak and Dry Canyon fires, emerged Friday near Pioche.

The Parsnip Peak Fire is estimated at more than 3,000 acres and is at zero percent containment. The Dry Canyon Fire is estimated at 1,705 acres and is at 10% containment.

The Kane Springs Fire is estimated at 17,042 acres and is 75% contained.

The Grapevine Fire is estimated at 26,433 acres and remains at zero percent containment.

Son-in-law of Sinaloa cartel boss pleads guilty

CA SAN DIEGO — Juan Carlos Félix Gastelum, a son-in-law of the infamous Sinaloa cartel co-founder Ismael “El Mayo” Zambada, pleaded guilty Friday in San Diego federal court to four counts related to drug trafficking and money laundering conspiracies.

Also known as “El Chavo Félix,” the 43-year-old admitted in his plea agreement that he led a drug-trafficking organization associated with the Sinaloa cartel and was “a principal operator of the Sinaloa Cartel’s clandestine methamphetamine

manufacturing laboratories” in the mountainous Mexican states of Sinaloa and Durango.

He also admitted that he sold the methamphetamine produced in his labs to other leaders in the cartel in loads ranging from “several hundred pounds to several thousand pounds,” and that he worked with co-conspirators to import “thousands of kilograms of methamphetamine” and large quantities of cocaine into the United States.

According to the Department of Justice, Félix is married to a daughter of Zambada, who once led the Sinaloa cartel alongside Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán.

Tornado spotted, 2nd possible, amid storms

CO DENVER — At least one tornado touched down in southeast Colorado on Friday night, capping off a week of severe thunderstorms, flooding, high winds and hail on the Front Range and Eastern Plains.

A storm chaser confirmed a “very brief” tornado near Fort Lyon in Bent County at 6:52 p.m., said Eric Petersen, meteorologist with the National Weather Service’s Pueblo office. The agency probably won’t send out a crew to do a damage survey because the tornado was so short-lived and appeared to throw some debris and trees around, he said.

A second possible tornado was reported east of Eads in Kiowa County at 7:36 p.m., which the weather service is still working to confirm, Petersen said.

Friday night’s storm was the latest in a spate of severe weather that hit metro Denver and communities east of the Inter-

state 25 corridor last week, causing flooding in the foothills; tornadoes in Weld and Logan counties; and apple-sized hail.

Coloradans can expect a break from the severe storms in the coming days as weather patterns shift to hot, dry and windy, causing high fire danger across the mountains, Petersen said.

Drone nearly strikes jet landing at Newark

NY NEW YORK — A high-flying drone nearly struck a United Airlines jet landing at Newark Liberty International Airport on Friday, authorities said.

The circular-shaped drone, which was about three feet wide, came within 100 feet of the descending Boeing 737 as it made its final approach to the New Jersey airport at around 5:30 p.m., according to radio transmissions between United Flight 1513 and the Newark airport tower.

“We almost hit a drone right there. About 100 feet below us,” the pilot said in his report to the tower.

“Right where you are now?” a tower operator asked.

“Exactly,” the pilot said.

A second pilot flying a GoJet Airlines plane into Newark at roughly the same time also reported seeing a drone at about 2,000 feet above the airport, according to radio transmissions.

A spokesman for United Airlines said that Flight 1513, which was flying in from Key West, Fla., and had 106 passengers and five crew members aboard, landed safely.

It’s illegal to fly a drone in controlled airspace like airports.

— From wire reports

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Sinner opens Wimbledon with 5-set victory

Associated Press

LONDON — Defending champion Jannik Sinner had to come back from a set down twice and regain his composure following a worrisome tumble to the grass in a five-set victory over 50th-ranked Miomir Kecmanovic in the first round of Wimbledon on Monday.

A month after his French Open meltdown, the top-ranked Sinner produced a 4-6, 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-2, 6-3 win that lasted 3 hours and 30 minutes in the honorary opening match on Centre Court reserved for the past year's men's singles champion.

Sinner said he was "a little tight in the beginning," noting that it was his first grass-court match of the season.

"I'm happy that I turned it around," Sinner said.

Lleyton Hewitt, the 2002 champion, remains the only Wimbledon men's winner in the professional era (since 1968) to have lost in the first round the following year. The Australian was defeated by Ivo Karlovic in 2003.

Sinner hadn't played an official match since he struggled with dizziness during a heat wave at Roland Garros, where after being within one game of concluding his second-round match in straight sets, he was beaten by Juan Manuel Cerundolo in five.

The match with Kecmanovic was played in ideal conditions, with sunny skies and the temperature 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

Sinner is a big favorite to repeat as Wimbledon champion since Carlos Alcaraz, his main rival who he beat in last year's fi-

nal, is missing the tournament due to a right wrist injury.

Sinner felt the pressure from the honors reserved for the defending champion.

"It was a very, very different feeling," he said. "There's a lot of nerves when you go down the stairs behind the court. Also mentally knowing it's such a prestige court and such a historical court."

Early in the third set, Sinner drew a loud applause when he executed a sliced stop-volley drop shot that was so good Kecmanovic didn't even run for it. But in the same game, Sinner then fell hard to the grass when he lost his footing trying to change directions. He went down on his knees and fell backwards grimacing in pain as he grasped what appeared to be his

left hip area. But he quickly got up and resumed playing.

Kecmanovic saved a set point in the third-set tiebreaker with a wild point that ended with Sinner down on the ground again after he first retrieved a short ball and then retreated to run down a ball over his shoulder into the corner. It evened the tiebreaker at 6-6 and Sinner and Kecmanovic slapped hands on the ensuing change of ends as the players appeared to appreciate each other's effort.

Two points later, a backhand from Sinner sailed long and Kecmanovic had a two-sets-to-one lead.

"The third set," Sinner said, "was a very tough one to swallow."

But Sinner cleaned up his game in the final two sets.

Hovland wins in playoff when Scheffler misses short putt

Associated Press

CROMWELL, Conn. — Viktor Hovland got all the validation he needed Monday that his game was on track again, and a whole lot more.

He beat Scottie Scheffler in a playoff at the Travelers Championship, had both parents from Norway watch him win for the first time and even did the "row" with the Norwegian soccer fans who cheered him all the way to the surprising end.

Hovland capped off a gritty rally when he made a 7-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole and won the Travelers when Scheffler missed a 4-foot birdie putt.

"Winning in the playoff against Scottie — best player in the world — that was pretty satisfying," said Hovland, who won for the first time since the Valspar Championship in March 2025.

The surprise was Scheffler going from a big advantage — an 8-iron to 4 feet on the 18th on the first playoff hole — to missing a hard-sliding putt on the high side that made Hovland a winner.

"Maybe I hit it a little firmer than I intended to," said Scheffler, whose putt caught the left edge and rolled out some 7 feet by the hole. "It looked like it got pretty far by the hole and I was playing it outside the hole, so I hit it down my line, just maybe

the speed was a touch off."

It was a big disappointment for Scheffler, who made Monday possible by making an 8-foot par putt on the 72nd hole in near darkness to force the playoff.

He was first to hit from the 18th fairway and some 3,000 fans on the hillside around the green erupted in cheers. Hovland responded, just like the 28-year-old Norwegian had done on the back nine Sunday when he rallied from a two-shot deficit.

Hovland's birdie putt was snapping off to the right when it curled in the right side and he let out a big fist pump.

"It's one of those putts that if I make mine, his gets significantly tougher, and if I miss, he probably will make his," Hovland said. "Yeah, it was definitely no gimmies there, so to put the pressure on him was awesome."

It was the first Monday finish on the PGA Tour since The Players Championship in 2025, which involved a three-hole aggregate playoff won by Rory McIlroy. This turned out to be one hole and 15 minutes, but it did not lack for drama, or atmosphere.

There was lively banter for the playoff. A group of Norwegian fans, who had been in Boston for the World Cup, wore their soccer jerseys and chanted, "Hov-land!" as he

approached his golf ball in the fairway. The Americans began the "Scot-tie Scheff-ler!" chants to drown them out.

The Norwegians also brought the "row," which has gone viral in the stadium and subway stations and wherever else they go. They sit shoulder to shoulder, arms out and then forcefully pull them in. Hovland had never seen it in person until Saturday.

When it was over, he sat with his people and they showed him how it's done.

"You definitely get adrenaline from it," he said.

Hovland had plenty of that Sunday afternoon when he returned from a 90-minute rain delay and made three straight birdies to catch up to Scheffler and eventually get into the playoff. He closed with a 69, while Scheffler had a 68. They finished at 21-under 259.

Hovland is rarely satisfied with a swing that has given him a reputation for making solid contact. He felt it gaining momentum with a third-place finish in Canada, and even in the U.S. Open despite missing the cut. There was always one bad swing that allowed doubts to creep in.

Those were gone at the TPC River Highlands, particularly at the end. He was first to hit in the playoff and drilled it down the middle, just as he had done all week.

Canada tops S. Africa in knockout debut

Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Right after Canada finished its first knockout match victory in a World Cup, coach Jesse Marsch huddled his players on the grass of a stadium still in pandemonium and spoke from his heart — shouted, actually.

“You guys are Canadian heroes today!” Marsch declared. “Canadian heroes for the future children of this country who play this sport. The sport has a big future because of you guys. You should be so proud of who you are. You should be so proud of this game. You never lost belief. You went after it, point after point, moment after moment. You are Canadian heroes!”

Stephen Eustáquio’s dramatic late goal had inspired Marsch to

Ted Lasso levels of earnestness, and he didn’t care who knew it.

Soccer has never been the main event on Canada’s busy sports calendar, and Les Rouges are playing in only their third World Cup this summer. But Marsch realized this landmark 1-0 win over South Africa on Sunday is the type of achievement that can seize an entire nation’s attention for a generation.

“We could have made life a little easier on ourselves if we would have made a play earlier when we had some big chances,” Marsch said. “But obviously the timing of the goal means that the win is incredibly dramatic, and I think the effect that it will have in Canada, and the inspiring of people, will be immense.”

After 90-plus minutes of frus-

tration and failure to break down cagey South Africa at SoFi Stadium, Canada made history in an instant when Alistair Johnston’s long pass into the box was cleared directly into the path of Eustáquio.

The midfielder who plays professionally at nearby Los Angeles FC coolly chested it down and blasted it off the bounce into the bottom corner of Ronwen Williams’ net before sprinting away to celebrate with Canada’s bench in the second minute of second-half stoppage time.

“We worked for it,” Eustáquio said. “We have a special group. We feel like we are brothers. When we fight for each other, when we play for each other, special things like this can happen. I am over the moon, but at the same

time I don’t want to say that the job is finished.”

Canada, which sits 30th in the most recent FIFA world rankings, will face the Netherlands or Morocco in Houston on Saturday.

After playing its first three group matches in Toronto and Vancouver, Canada missed the chance to also make this bit of history at home when it lost 2-1 to Switzerland on Wednesday and got sent on the road for the knockout rounds. But Marsch’s plucky team responded by winning this tournament’s first round of 32 match and reaching the round of 16 for the first time in its three trips to the World Cup.

“We never stopped believing,” Eustáquio said. “And I think the goal is really something that we deserved.”

Van Gisbergen claims 2nd NASCAR win at Sonoma race

Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. — Shane van Gisbergen continued his remarkable run on the twistiest tracks in NASCAR, but this was no easy Sunday drive.

The Trackhouse Racing driver became the winningest active Cup Series driver on road and street courses with his second consecutive victory at Sonoma Raceway. Though he led 74 of the final 83 laps after starting sixth on the 1.99-mile road course north of San Francisco, van Gisbergen had to fend off a charge by runner-up Chase Briscoe with a No. 97 Chevrolet that hadn’t been entirely to his liking since practice a day earlier.

“We were really bad yesterday, and these guys did an amazing job turning this car into a winner,” said van Gisbergen, who celebrated with a massive burnout for the grandstands. “(Briscoe) was coming. He was really, really good, and I ran out at the end. Yeah, a couple more laps, we would have had some problems.”

Finishing second to van Gisbergen at Sonoma for the second consecutive year, Briscoe came up 0.357 seconds short and was left lamenting a mistake in getting his No. 19 Toyota into Turn 1 with four laps remaining.

“Not very many people get that close to him at the end of one of these road course races,” Briscoe said. “Just frustrated with

myself. I felt like I definitely had the better car. I didn’t do as good of a job as he did driving. I was having to push so hard, and that was where I would make up my ground. It was just such a razor’s edge, and I about crashed. If I don’t make that mistake, I’m probably ahead of him at the end.”

Van Gisbergen notched the eighth victory of his career on the tracks that require left and right turns, breaking a tie with 2020 Cup champion Chase Elliott.

With his second win this season, van Gisbergen improved three spots to 14th in the points standings, moving back into a provisional spot in the Chase. But there are no road or street courses remaining over the final 18 races of the season, so the New Zealand native will need to diversify his skillset after entering NASCAR three years ago with no experience on ovals.

Pole-sitter Ty Gibbs finished third, and Kyle Larson and Christopher Bell rounded out the top five.

In-Season Challenge upset

For the second year in a row, the top seed was knocked off in the opening race of the In-Season Challenge, the bracket-style tournament that pits 32 drivers head to head with the top finisher advancing.

Tyler Reddick finished four laps down in 36th because of a power steering problem. That turned his first-round matchup into a

walkover for 10th-place finisher Alex Bowman, who nabbed the 32nd and final seed in the In-Season Challenge despite missing four races with vertigo.

“It’s just a very odd issue,” Reddick said. “Everything seemed fine when we left the pit stall, and then the steering just really got notchy with the power steering going in and out. It was just really really hard to make any kind of lap time with it.”

The 23XI Racing driver salvaged a point by setting the race’s fastest lap after the team made repairs. After leading the Chase standings since winning the Daytona 500 season opener, Reddick fell one point behind Denny Hamlin with eight races remaining in the regular season.

Hamlin vs. Dillon

Second-seeded Hamlin advanced despite a 26th-place finish, avenging a first-round upset by Ty Dillon last year.

In a rematch, Dillon was ahead of Hamlin for most of Sunday’s race until he lost power steering with 15 laps remaining and fell to 35th. Hamlin rebounded from being spun from seventh by Carson Hocevar on a restart with 46 laps remaining.

“Once we got spun, it just lost all the downforce, and we struggled,” Hamlin said.

Hocevar, who was also involved in a separate incident with Bell, apologized for the contact with Hamlin.

Red Sox walk off Yankees in 10 for sweep

Associated Press

BOSTON — Jarren Duran singled home the winning run to cap a three-run rally in the 10th inning after Boston blew a two-run lead in the ninth, and the Red Sox finished a four-game sweep of the rival New York Yankees with a 5-4 victory Sunday night.

Boston starter Sonny Gray took a no-hitter into the eighth against his former team before Amed Rosario singled with one out. That ended a brilliant outing for Gray, who had nine strikeouts to reach 2,000 for his career.

But New York scored twice in the ninth off All-Star closer Aroldis Chapman to tie it 2-all, aided by a throwing error from two-time Gold Glove right fielder Wilner Abreu.

The Yankees scratched across two more runs in the 10th, taking advantage of another throwing error by Abreu after Rosario's sinking liner squirted out of his glove for an RBI single. But right-hander Fernando Cruz (4-3) was unable to hold the lead, giving up an RBI single to Anthony Seigler and a sac fly to Tsung-Che Cheng before Duran stepped up.

Boston's first four-game sweep of the Yankees since 2018 marked the first four-game winning streak this season for the last-place Red Sox.

"They're at the top of our division right now. They are where we hope to be. So yeah, it was a good series and it was a pretty sick finish to the series for us," Gray said.

Nationals 6, Orioles 4: Luis García Jr. homered twice and drove in five runs to lead visiting Washington over Baltimore.

The Nationals took the lead with three runs in the third, all with two out. After Kyle Bradish (5-8) walked both Keibert Ruiz and James Wood, García doubled them both home. Then Curtis Mead hit a routine grounder to Coby Mayo at third, and Mayo threw wildly for an error that al-

lowed another run to score.

Pirates 9, Reds 4: Ryan O'Hearn homered twice in a game for the third time in the majors and drove in four runs to help host Pittsburgh avoid a series sweep with a win over Cincinnati.

Mitch Keller (6-5) went six innings for the Pirates, allowing four runs — three earned — and five hits with four strikeouts and a walk.

Rangers 3, Blue Jays 2: Pinch-runner Jarred Kelenic scored the tiebreaking run by racing home from second base on a wild pitch in the ninth inning, and visiting Texas beat Toronto to complete a four-game sweep.

Louis Varland's first pitch to Corey Seager bounced in front of the plate and ricocheted off Alejandro Kirk's mitt. The catcher initially couldn't find the ball, allowing Kelenic to come all the way around with the decisive run.

Astros 7, Tigers 5 (10): Christian Walker's three-run homer highlighted a four-run 10th inning as visiting Houston rallied to beat Detroit.

Spencer Torkelson homered off Enyel De Los Santos with one out in the 10th to get the Tigers within 7-5. Zach McKinstry followed with a single and rookie Ben Malgeri drew a two-out walk to bring the winning run to the plate, but Matt Vierling lined out to the warning track to right to end the game.

Guardians 6, Mariners 5: Rhys Hoskins had a two-run double down the left-field line during a five-run eighth inning and host Cleveland rallied for a victory over Seattle.

The Guardians sent 10 batters to the plate in the eighth. Brayan Rocchio led off the inning with a hit and scored on Daniel Schneemann's single up the middle off Michael Rucker (0-1).

Rays 5, Diamondbacks 1: Junior Caminero homered in a career-best fourth consecutive

game, Drew Rasmussen (7-4) threw six shutout innings and host Tampa Bay finished a sweep of Arizona.

Cedric Mullins and Ben Williamson added solo home runs for the Rays, who have won five consecutive games and went 7-3 on their homestand for their eighth sweep of the season.

Phillies 5, Mets 4: Kyle Schwarber became the first major leaguer to reach 30 homers this season with a two-run shot in the seventh inning that sent visiting Philadelphia to a win over New York.

The Phillies squandered an early 3-0 lead and fell behind 4-3 before Schwarber hit a 408-foot drive to center field off Kodai Senga (0-7), who was making the first regular-season relief appearance of his big league career.

Twins 3, Rockies 2: Connor Prielipp struck out a career-high 10 in six innings, Ryan Kreydler hit a go-ahead home run in the seventh and host Minnesota edged Colorado.

Kody Clemens also homered, Brooks Lee had two singles and Royce Lewis and Trevor Larnach each doubled for the Twins, who had eight hits overall. They only struck out once when Byron Buxton went down looking in the eighth.

Royals 5, White Sox 4: Carter Jensen extended his franchise-record rookie hitting streak to 19 games and five Kansas City relievers held host Chicago scoreless for five innings to end a four-game losing streak with a win.

Jensen went 3 for 5 with two RBIs to extend the longest active streak in MLB, now the longest by an American League rookie since 2014.

Cubs 4, Brewers 3 (10): Seiya Suzuki singled in two runs to key a three-run 10th inning and Jordan Wicks, called up earlier Sunday, got a game-ending double play with the bases loaded to preserve visiting Chicago's victory over Milwaukee in the de-

cider of the three-game series.

Ethan Roberts relieved in the bottom of the 10th, gave up an RBI single to Christian Yelich then loaded the bases with no outs. Wicks came in and walked pinch-hitter Garrett Mitchell to make it 4-3. Jake Bauers flied out in foul territory, and Gary Sanchez bounced to third to start the double play.

Cardinals 2, Marlins 1: Bryan Torres hit a two-run homer to back Kyle Leahy's stingy start as host St. Louis cooled off Miami to snap a four-game skid.

Leahy (6-4) didn't allow a hit until Owen Caissie and Graham Paulie had back-to-back doubles to begin the fifth, cutting it to 2-1. Leahy allowed one run on two hits with three walks in five innings.

Angels 4, Athletics 1: Josh Lowe's first career grand slam was all the offense host Los Angeles needed in a victory over the Athletics.

Angels starter Sam Aldegheri (3-3) allowed one run and five hits in five innings, striking out four. José Fermin threw two scoreless innings and Samy Natera Jr. got four outs for his first major league save.

Giants 3, Braves 2: Robbie Ray (7-6) gave up just four hits and an unearned run in eight innings as host San Francisco beat Atlanta.

The game was scoreless until the sixth, when Rafael Devers and Jung Hoo Lee recorded RBI singles. Luis Arraez added another run in the seventh on a sacrifice fly.

Dodgers 4, Padres 2: Freddie Freeman drew a tiebreaking, bases-loaded walk in the fifth inning and Mookie Betts followed with a two-run single for visiting Los Angeles, which beat San Diego to take two of three.

The two-time defending World Series champion Dodgers, who have baseball's best record at 54-30, extended their lead to 10 games over the Padres in the NL West.