

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Virus has military on defensive in S. Korea

By KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — The rapidly spreading new coronavirus has put the U.S. military on defense against a new enemy in South Korea as it struggles to keep troops ready to fight the old one.

The virus has infected more than 100,000 people after spreading to more than 60 countries, including the United States. Uncertainty surrounding the pneumonia-like illness has caused stock markets to plunge as people increasingly stay home.

In many ways, the military is uniquely poised to keep the virus at bay by sharply restricting access to fortress-like bases and ordering service members to stay inside the perimeter as

much as possible.

Soldiers armed with questionnaires and thermometers have been deployed to access gates to check everybody trying to enter posts for possible exposure to the virus and signs of a fever.

So far, only seven people affiliated with U.S. Forces Korea, including an American soldier and his wife, have been infected, a tiny fraction of the more than 7,300 confirmed cases nationwide.

But the possibility of a prolonged outbreak has raised concerns about the military's ability to maintain fighting capabilities against the growing nuclear threat from North Korea while preoccupied with keeping its forces from getting sick.

"You have to strike a balance

between maintaining your readiness and trying to prevent the spread of the virus," said Thomas Spoehr, a retired Army lieutenant general. "But in the end, you have to keep training, unless it really gets to be a real crisis situation."

The U.S. and South Korea have canceled a computer-simulated joint command post exercise that had been planned for this month, citing coronavirus fears.

CNN has quoted several anonymous defense officials as warning that overall U.S. military readiness may start degrading by the end of March if countries continue to close their borders and put restrictions on travel.

In a reminder that the threats remain, North Korea conducted a short-range ballistic missile

test on March 2, as experts said that it was likely aimed at projecting strength after the U.S. and South Korea postponed their training drill.

Commanders on the ground have faced difficult decisions while insisting that their No. 1 priority is protecting the force.

The Fort Riley, Kan.-based 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, known as the Dagger Brigade, completed its transfer of authority from the previous rotational brigade in a ceremony Wednesday.

"It's all about maintaining combat readiness," Maj. Gen. Patrick Donahoe, the Eighth Army's deputy commander for operations, said. "We've got to maintain the strength of those units."

## US military restricts South Korea and Italy moves

By KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — The Army has halted moves to new assignments for troops stationed in South Korea through May in a bid to slow the spread of the new coronavirus, officials said Sunday.

The decision, which was announced a day after the Army unveiled the same measures for troops based in Italy, also affects travel for professional military education in the United States.

Both U.S. allies are in the midst of major outbreaks of the virus, with more than 7,300 confirmed cases in South Korea and nearly 6,000 in Italy.

The Army has ordered a stop for "all Army soldiers and family members moving to or from South Korea or soldiers scheduled to attend professional military education in the United States due to COVID-19 concerns," U.S. Forces Korea said in a statement.

"USFK is analyzing the impacts this decision will have on those affected," it said, adding that it only applies to Eighth Army soldiers on permanent change of station orders or attending the education courses.

"The Army's order is in effect immediately through May 6, 2020, or until further notice," USFK said, advising those affected to contact their chain of command for further instructions.

Seven people affiliated with USFK, including an American soldier and his wife, have tested positive for the respiratory virus despite precautionary measures, including a ban on nonessential travel or outside social activities for service members.

The military has also restricted access to bases and implemented health screening at gates, including a questionnaire asking about possible exposure and temperature checks.

The news caused much confusion among military families, with some commenting on Facebook that they had flights sched-

uled within hours.

Others worried about being stranded because they already had moved out of their apartment and sold their car.

Camp Humphreys, the main U.S. base in South Korea, planned a Facebook live update to discuss the issue, but delayed it several times before announcing it would be postponed until Monday.

USFK promised to help reduce the negative impact on soldiers and families who have already had their household goods packed and shipped.

"The health and welfare of our service members and their families continues to be our top priority," it said.

Those who were to attend professional military education in the U.S. will not be able to unless the course is for six months or longer, the message said. In those cases, participants will travel to the U.S. two weeks early and be quarantined before attending the school.

# Northern Italy issued lock down amid virus concerns

Associated Press

ROME — Italy took a page from China's playbook Sunday, locking down around 16 million people — more than a quarter of its population — for nearly a month to halt the relentless march of the new coronavirus across Europe.

Weddings, museums, shopping malls, and even restaurants are all hit by the new restrictions, which focus on a swath of northern Italy but are disrupting daily life around the country.

From Venice to Milan, confusion reigned as residents and tourists tried to figure out when and how the new measures were coming into effect. Travelers crammed aboard standing-room only trains, tucking their faces into scarves and sharing sanitizing gel.

After Italy saw its biggest one-day jump in infections, Italian Premier Giuseppe

Conte signed a quarantine decree overnight for the country's prosperous north. Areas under lockdown include Milan, Italy's financial hub and the main city in Lombardy, and Venice, the main city in the neighboring Veneto region. The extraordinary measures will be in place until April 3.

The fate of foreign visitors stuck in Italy's new quarantine zones is still unclear.

The World Health Organization has said China's move helped the rest of the world prepare for the virus to arrive, and WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus tweeted his support Sunday for Italians and their "bold, courageous steps aimed at slowing the speed of the coronavirus."

China has suffered about three-fourths of the world's 106,000 coronavirus infections and most of its nearly 3,600 deaths. New infections in China

have leveled off dramatically, however, and most of those infected, in China and globally, have already recovered.

Lombardy's governor, who is in quarantine himself, sought to calm the public, discouraging hoarding and insisting "we're not going to war."

Chaos erupted in the hours before Conte signed the decree, as word leaked about the planned quarantine. Italy is up to 5,883 cases as of Saturday, and the death toll rose to 233.

By Sunday afternoon, residents of northern Italy remained confused.

Factory worker Luca Codazzi was set to come out of a two-week quarantine at midnight Sunday — but instead was facing new limits on his freedom.

The government decree "was badly written, there are very many interpretations," he said.

"In theory, the cordon should go down at midnight," Codazzi said.

## Airman's girlfriend convicted for his death

BY SETH ROBSON  
AND HANA KUSUMOTO  
*Stars and Stripes*

TACHIKAWA, Japan — A Tokyo court on Friday sentenced a Japanese woman to 15 years in prison with hard labor for stabbing her American airman boyfriend to death at his off-base home in western Tokyo.

Aria Saito, 28, of Tokyo, was convicted of murder in the death of Air Force Master Sgt. Nicholas Vollweiler, 35, who served as the security forces squadron's chief of standards and evaluation at Yokota Air Base. She was also found guilty of violating Japan's Swords and Firearms Control Law.

Presiding Judge Yu Takeshita said that Saito, in breaking into Vollweiler's home on the evening of Nov. 9, 2018, with two knives and stabbing him with one blow that caused a fatal, 1½-inch wound on his neck, showed her strong intent to kill.

The judge said he believed Saito was furious after finding out that Vollweiler was married and wanted to end his relationship with Saito. She ignored police warnings to stay away from his home after breaking his possessions Nov. 3 and returned the day of the murder, Takeshita said.

However, Takeshita said he believed Saito did not plan the murder but became emotionally cornered and acted after Vollweiler's supervisor gave her five minutes to leave the house.

There is strong evidence that Saito has attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and an inability to control her emotions, Takeshita said. He said those factors contributed to the crime but did not cause it. Saito appears remorseful and has shown willingness to seek help, he added.

## Women worry their rights will be bartering tool at talks with Taliban

BY J.P. LAWRENCE  
*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan women fear that their hard-won rights could be bargained away when government negotiators meet with the Taliban to map out the future of the country, female students at an American-backed university said Sunday.

Many of those gathered at the American University of Afghanistan to celebrate International Women's Day were too young to have experienced the terror inflicted on women by the Taliban when they ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. They knew, however, that

they wanted to keep the rights women have gained since the Taliban was ousted by the U.S.-led coalition more than 18 years ago.

"(The Taliban) have to deal with the fact that women today are not the women they dealt with during the 1990s," 18-year-old Kamila Azizi said in English. "They will have to make an adjustment."

Azizi exemplifies the gains that Afghan women have made since the Taliban were forced from power. When she begins business studies at a local college, she will be one of more than 100,000 Afghan women who attend university — something denied them under the

Taliban.

Today, women hold 28% of seats in Afghanistan's parliament, a higher percentage of female representation than in the U.S. Congress, New York-based Human Rights Watch said. More than 85,000 women work as teachers, professors, judges, doctors and in other professions, U.S. officials have said.

The Taliban insist they have become more tolerant in the nearly two decades since they were forced from power, and that they support women's rights, provided they fall within the "framework of Islamic values."



# SpaceX launches supplies and nails its 50th rocket landing

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — SpaceX successfully launched another load of station supplies for NASA late Friday night and nailed its 50th rocket landing.

The Falcon rocket blasted off with 4,300 pounds of equipment and experiments for the International Space Station. Just minutes later, the spent first-stage booster made a dramatic midnight landing back at Cape Canaveral, its return accompanied by sonic booms.

“And the Falcon has landed for the 50th time in SpaceX history!” SpaceX engineer Jessica Anderson announced amid cheers at Mission Control. “What an amazing live view all the way to touchdown.”

The Dragon capsule, meanwhile, hurtled toward a Monday rendezvous with the space station.

It’s the 20th station delivery for SpaceX, which has launched nearly 100,000 pounds of goods to the orbiting outpost and returned nearly that much back to Earth since it began shipments in 2012. Northrop Grumman is NASA’s other commercial shipper.

SpaceX founder and chief executive Elon Musk

said that it was the windiest conditions ever — 25 mph to 30 mph — for a booster landing at Cape Canaveral, but he wanted to push the envelope. The landing was the 50th successful touchdown of a SpaceX booster following liftoff, either on land or at sea.

“Envelope expanded,” Musk tweeted following touchdown.

The company’s first booster landing was in 2015, intended as a cost-saving, rocket-recycling move. Both the latest booster and Dragon capsule were recycled from previous flights.

Among the science experiments flying: an analysis of running shoe cushioning in weightlessness by Adidas, 3D models of heart and intestinal tissue, a water droplet study by Delta Faucet Co. striving for better showerhead water conservation and 320 snippets of grape vines by Space Cargo Unlimited, the same Luxembourg startup that sent 12 bottles of red wine to the space station last November for a year of high-altitude aging.

The Dragon also contained treats for the two Americans and one Russian at the space station: grapefruits, oranges, apples, tomatoes, Skittles, Hot Tamales and Reese’s Pieces.

## Sheriff asks for policy review over Bryant photo

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department has asked its civilian oversight panel to review the agency’s policies in the aftermath of the scandal over deputies sharing photos of the helicopter crash that killed Kobe Bryant, his daughter and seven others.

Patti Giggans, the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission chairwoman, said Saturday morning that the panel responded “in the affirmative.”

The Times first reported last week that deputies were sharing crash photos.

The leadership of the sheriff’s department, instead of following the normal investigative protocols, tried to keep a lid on the episode, according to interviews.

# Thousands of Facebook political ads lack key details

The Washington Post

The Facebook ad purchased by a page called “Angry Buckeyes” in December seemed ordinary at first: It cited a news article that claimed President Donald Trump’s tariffs on China could cost Americans.

But the ad actually belonged to an apparent cluster of pages that paid to promote similar messages, didn’t fully disclose their backers and sought to influence voters in key battleground states — deficiencies that have cast fresh doubt on Facebook’s efforts to protect users from manipulation.

The discovery is one of several weaknesses uncovered by experts at New York University’s Tandon School of Engineering, who performed a security audit of Facebook’s online ad archive between May 2018 and June 2019. Their conclusions, spelled out in a new

paper shared with The Washington Post, point to myriad opportunities malicious actors may have had to exploit the platform’s powerful targeting tools while hiding their tracks, misleading users and evading Facebook’s enforcement.

In the years after Russian agents weaponized the social networking platform as part of their sweeping efforts to sway the 2016 presidential election, Facebook developed verification measures designed to prevent foreign actors from purchasing political ads. It also undertook transparency initiatives that placed paid posts in a public archive. But researchers Laura Edelson, Tobias Lauringer and Damon McCoy found a series of defects that could still “enable a malicious advertiser to avoid accurate disclosure of their political ads,” they wrote.

More than 86,000 Facebook pages ran at least one political

ad that was not properly disclosed, according to the report. Facebook later caught and included these ads in its archive, but it remains unclear whether the company ever fully vetted nearly 80% of the pages that paid to promote their messages in the first place.

Roughly 20,000 ads had also been purchased by “likely inauthentic communities,” according to the report, which they defined as clusters of pages that appear to be linked because they promoted the same or similar messages. That included businesses looking to advance their interests without clear fingerprints, for example, and more opaque entities that hawked potentially fraudulent insurance products. These ads touched on political themes, resulting in their being included in Facebook’s archive.

Facebook said that in recent months, it had remedied the

deficiencies that researchers identified in their study. The company, for example, has sought to require more information about Facebook pages — who is behind them and who is paying for their ads.

“Our authorization and transparency measures have meaningfully changed since this research was conducted,” spokesman Joe Osborne said in a statement. “We offer more transparency into political and issue advertising than TV, radio or any other digital ad platform.”

But Edelson, one of the authors of the NYU study, said that some concerns persist — including fears that Facebook isn’t aggressively enforcing its own rules.

“Facebook’s ad platform and their transparency mechanisms were simply not built with security in mind,” Edelson said.

# Women in Mexico plan to protest violence

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Don't go out. Don't shop. Don't go to school. Don't consume. The urging from women's activists is clear, but it remains unclear whether Mexico will really go a day without women on Monday.

After a year of increasingly heated and frequent protests over gender violence in Mexico, the call for women to strike has captured growing interest in recent weeks. It has also generated an intense debate about whether becoming "invisible" for a day will be a political statement, a diluted effort because some bosses have authorized paid time off or an ineffective way to push for change.

The discussion has gone

beyond the usual circles of feminist collectives, public figures and social networks to become a conversation topic in the streets of Mexico, even for those who don't feel empowered to skip work.

Marta Patricia Ramirez, a housewife, said that the national call to strike has inspired her to take action in her own neighborhood. She has organized a Monday event with neighbors to discuss harassment and abuse because one of them is "having a bad time."

Jesica Solis, a dentist, won't open her office. Marta Perez told her husband that she won't lift a single plate Monday and that their 18-year-old daughter will stay off social media.

A Facebook group called "A

Day Without Women" has more than 320,000 Mexican members who debate and inform each other about the possible consequences of not going to the office, hospital or school that day.

A message to the group said that a woman staying indoors Monday is meant to "simulate" her death — to show those close to her what would happen if she were to suddenly disappear or die at the hands of a man, like the thousands who are killed each year in Mexico.

According to government data, 3,825 women met violent deaths last year, 7% more than in 2018. That works out to about 10 women slain each day in Mexico, making it one of the most dangerous countries in

the world for females. Thousands more have gone missing without a trace in recent years.

"We don't want more simulation, we want action," said Maria de la Luz Estrada, coordinator of the National Citizen's Observatory of Femicide.

Estrada expects more than 20,000 women to march against the violence in Mexico City on Sunday, which is International Women's Day, with smaller marches and demonstrations throughout the country. She also endorses the strike.

Not all women support the action, however.

"I'm not interested in the strike, it won't change anything. Men haven't changed in years," said Maria Isabel Garcia, who works as a cleaner.

## Greek refugee center burns down amid tensions

Associated Press

ATHENS — A fire broke out at a refugee center on the Greek island of Lesbos, Greece's firefighting service said Sunday, causing considerable damage to a warehouse but no injuries.

It was the second fire that occurred at an installation built for migrants after a reception center was burned down by unknown perpetrators last Monday. The warehouse, which contained furniture and

electrical appliances, was completely destroyed, a firefighting spokesman told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, because an investigation into the fire is ongoing.

The blaze at the refugee center came amid a tense standoff between Turkey and the European Union over who is responsible for the millions of migrants and refugees on Turkish territory and the thousands who have recently massed at the

Greek border.

Turkey is accusing Greece of mistreating the migrants. Many migrants have reported crossing into Greece, being beaten by Greek authorities and summarily forced back into Turkey.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will travel to Brussels on Monday to talk with top EU officials about a 2016 Turkey-EU agreement on containing the refugee flow.

## Saudis' arrest of 2 princes seen as warning to royals

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Two senior princes in Saudi Arabia were arrested for not supporting Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who has consolidated control of all major levers of power with the support of his father, King Salman, two people close to the royal family said Saturday.

The arrests on Friday of the king's younger and beloved brother, Prince Ahmed bin Abdelaziz, and the king's nephew and former counterterrorism czar, Prince Mohammed bin

Nayef, came after an accumulation of behavior that was provocative to leadership, one person in Saudi Arabia with knowledge of the arrests said.

Both princes had perviously served in the post of interior minister, overseeing security and surveillance inside the kingdom.

The move came as a surprise, given that Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, 60, was widely known to be under close surveillance since he was shunted out of the line of succession by the king's son in mid-2017, a person close to the royal court said.

The arrest of Prince Ahmed, 78, was also unexpected since he is the king's full younger brother and a senior member of the ruling Al Saud family.

Prince Ahmed, however, has long held unfavorable views of the 34-year-old crown prince, and was one of just a few senior princes to abstain from pledging allegiance to him when the young royal sidelined more senior princes to become first in line to the throne.

The Wall Street Journal first reported the arrests, quoting unidentified sources allied with the royal court as saying

that the princes were plotting a palace coup that would halt the rise of the crown prince. The Journal has since reported that the sweep broadened to include dozens of Interior Ministry officials, senior army officers and others suspected of supporting a coup attempt.

One added that the arrests were a message to all those in the royal family feeling disenfranchised to stop grumbling and toe the line, saying that if Prince Ahmed can be arrested, any prince can and will be.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Parents sue when teens' bodies switched

**FL** FORT LAUDERDALE, — The parents of two teenagers killed in a car crash are suing the Florida Highway Patrol and others, claiming the bodies of their daughters were misidentified and switched.

The lawsuits follow a July 29 crash in the Pensacola area involving four friends. Two of them were killed: Deleighta "Leigha" Gibson, 18, and Samara Cooks, 15.

Despite their age difference and different physical characteristics, according to the lawsuits their identities were switched. One was also an organ donor and the other was not, leading to a mix-up in harvesting organs, according to the lawsuits.

According to the lawsuits, the local medical examiner released the wrong bodies to the wrong funeral homes, which embalmed the wrong bodies without authorization.

## Bells on Leaning Tower replica to get tune up

**IL** NILES — Bells at the top of a half-scale replica of Italy's famed Leaning Tower of Pisa in suburban Chicago will play some new tunes after undergoing renovations.

The tower in Niles, built in 1934 as part of a park for the employees of businessman Robert Ilg's company, was recently named to the National Register of Historic places.

Kim Schafer, founder of Community Bell Advocates, said she arranged a collection of "familiar tunes" for the seven bells at the top of the Niles landmark to play, the Chicago Tribune reported. Schafer said she also created original chime

patterns that will sound at each quarter hour.

## Swiss gruyere named world's best cheese

**WI** MADISON — A gruyere from Switzerland was named the world's best cheese, chosen from a record number of entrants from 26 nations in the World Championship Cheese Contest in Wisconsin.

The cheese from Bern, Switzerland, made its maker, Michael Spycher of Mountain Dairy Fritzenhaus, a two-time winner. Spycher also won in 2008.

The contest is the largest technical cheese, butter and yogurt competition in the world and was held in Madison with a record 3,667 entries.

## 82-year-old bank robber convicted again

**AZ** PHOENIX — An 82-year-old man who spent most of his adult life behind bars for robbing banks was convicted again for carrying out an armed heist at an Arizona credit union as he struggled to adjust to life outside prison.

Robert Francis Krebs faced a maximum 25 years in prison after a jury found him guilty of armed bank robbery. The January 2018 holdup in Tucson came about seven months after he was released from prison.

Krebs served more than 30 years for a 1981 bank robbery in Florida and was sentenced to three years in prison after a 1966 conviction in Chicago for embezzling \$72,000 from a bank where he worked as a teller.

He also served an additional 17 years for theft and armed robbery convictions from Arizona dating to 1980.

## Raptor Center rescues brain-damaged eagles

**AK** JUNEAU — A Juneau bird rescue organization is caring for two eagles found with neurological damage.

Alaska Department of Transportation workers found the eagles in the Lemon Creek area between downtown Juneau and the Mendenhall Valley and called the Juneau Raptor Center, the Juneau Empire reported.

Workers found a dead eagle with the two injured eagles. The cause of injury to surviving eagles is not known but they could have suffered concussions or eaten toxins, said raptor center general manager Kathy Benner.

## Tape dispenser and shower rod used to kill

**NJ** MANCHESTER — A woman fatally beat her male roommate with a tape dispenser, a shower rod and other items during a dispute inside their southern New Jersey home last month, authorities said.

Mary Carbone, 56, was charged with murder and four weapons offenses, according to the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office.

The charges stem from the death of Frank Stochel, who was found Feb. 24 lying on the floor of his Manchester home. His death was ruled a homicide, but authorities have not disclosed a cause of death.

Prosecutors said the investigation determined that Carbone used several household items to commit the murder, noting that a tape dispenser and a shower rod were recovered at the scene.

## Bear that returned after moved has 3 cubs

**NH** CONCORD — A female bear who journeyed thousands of miles to return home after being saved and relocated by Gov. Chris Sununu is preparing to emerge from her den with three new cubs.

Sununu joined Fish and Game officials to check on "Mink," who was set to be euthanized along with three of her offspring in 2017 after repeated problems with them feeding from trash and bird feeders culminated with two bears entering a home in Hanover. Sununu instead ordered them to be moved to far northern New Hampshire, but by last spring, Mink had found her way back to her preferred home near Dartmouth College.

## State Senate passes porn label measure

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — A slimmed-down version of a measure to require warning labels on pornography in Utah passed the state Senate.

The proposal would mandate a one-sentence warning label for online or print material deemed legally obscene, the Salt Lake Tribune reported. A relatively small slice of porn is considered obscene, but that hardcore material has fewer constitutional protections.

The label would say "exposing minors to obscene material may damage or negatively impact minors."

The porn industry has objected to the plan, saying it could have constitutional problems and open the floodgates for lawsuits.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES

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# Utah State stuns No. 5 Aztecs in final

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Sam Merrill once again lifted Utah State to a Mountain West Tournament title.

Merrill hit a contested three-pointer with 2.5 seconds to play to give the Aggies a 59-56 victory over No. 5 San Diego State and clinch a spot in the NCAA Tournament for the second straight season on Saturday.

The Aztecs (30-2), who led by as many as 16 points in the first half, had a chance to force overtime, but Malachi Flynn's three-point shot from just beyond half court rattled in and out at the buzzer.

The loss was San Diego State's second in its last six games after starting the season 26-0. Meanwhile, Utah State, which entered Saturday's game on the NCAA Tournament bubble, improved to 7-1 in its last eight games. The Aggies (26-8) are back in the Big Dance in consecutive seasons for the first time since a three-year run from

2009-11.

"I know that's easy for me to say being on the victorious side, but that was a whale of a basketball game between two highly competitive, very, very talented teams," said Utah State coach Craig Smith. "It felt like one of those games where whoever is going to have the ball last is going to find a way to win, and then they almost throw in a half-courter. It was a heavyweight fight, and we knew it was going to go 15 rounds. Fortunately for us, we were the last man standing."

Merrill has been shouldering the load for Utah State for most of the last two seasons, so it was hardly a surprise that Smith made sure the ball was in the hands of his senior guard in the waning moments.

After Flynn barely missed a three-pointer from the wing with 25 seconds left that would've given San Diego State a 59-56 lead, Merrill secured the rebound and calmly

dribbled up court. With Aztecs guard KJ Feagin playing tight defense, everyone inside the Thomas & Mack Center knew who would be launching the last-second shot.

With the clock ticking down and Feagin's hand in his face, Merrill left his feet and hit the shot.

"I was just trying to get a good look," Merrill said. "I barely slept last night, partially because the schedule is rough when you play that late-night game Friday night, and it's a quick turnaround. I only got a few hours of sleep, but I was just hoping that I'd get that opportunity. And I had a vision that I was going to. I just threw it up there — well, I mean, I shot it — and it went in."

Feagin said he did all he could do defensively.

"I felt like up until the release of the shot, I was right there on every move," he said. "But props to him for making a good shot."

## Roundup

# No. 1 Jayhawks top Red Raiders, take Big 12 title

Associated Press

LUBBOCK, Texas — No. 1 Kansas wrapped up its outright Big 12 regular-season title Saturday, beating Texas Tech 66-62 behind Udoka Azubuike's 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Devon Dotson had 17 points and Ochai Agbaji had 12 for the Jayhawks (28-3, 17-1), the Big 12's first champion in a decade with only one loss in league play. Kansas was 15-1 in 2009-10, two seasons before the Big 12 expanded to an 18-game schedule.

The Red Raiders (18-13, 9-9 Big 12), last year's national runner-ups after sharing the Big 12 title with Kansas State, had a chance to tie the game with 2.8 seconds left. But Davide Moretti, who made a three-pointer only seconds earlier, missed from long range. Texas Tech guard fell to floor after contact with Marcus Garrett but was no foul called.

**No. 3 Dayton 76, George Washington 51:** Obi Toppin had 27 points and the host Flyers rolled past George Washington to finish the regular

season with their school-record 29th victory.

Dayton (29-2, 18-0 Atlantic 10 Conference) won its 20th consecutive game to tie a record set by the 1951-52 team. The Flyers went unbeaten at home and in true road games. Their only losses were at neutral sites.

**West Virginia 76, No. 4 Baylor 64:** Emmitt Matthews scored a season-high 18 points and freshman Oscar Tshiebwe had 16 points and 12 rebounds as the host Mountaineers used a big second-half run to deny the Bears the chance to earn a tie for the Big 12 regular-season championship.

**No. 6 Kentucky 71, Florida 70:** Nick Richards scored 17 of his 19 points in the second half as the visiting Wildcats rallied from 18 points down.

**No. 7 Florida State 80, Boston College 62:** Balsa Koprivica scored 15 points, and the host Seminoles won their first Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title in school history.

**No. 13 Oregon 80, Stanford 67:** Payton Pritchard led the Ducks (24-7, 13-5) with 29

points and fellow senior Anthony Mathis added 14 as Oregon finished 17-0 at home this season. Will Richardson added 12 points for the Ducks, who shot 56.9% from the field. Oregon made 10 of 19 three-pointers, four each by Pritchard and Mathis.

**No. 11 Creighton 77, No. 8 Seton Hall 60:** Marcus Zegarowski made all five of his three-pointers and finished with 23 points as the host Bluejays earned a share of the Big East Conference regular-season title.

**No. 12 Duke 89, North Carolina 76:** Vernon Carey Jr. had 25 points and 10 rebounds, while graduate reserve Justin Robinson offered a huge spark for 12th-ranked Duke.

**No. 14 Villanova 70, Georgetown 69:** Jermaine Samuels had a three-point play with 5.6 seconds left as the visiting Wildcats survived a late scare to clinch a share of the Big East regular-season title.

**No. 17 Auburn 85, Tennessee 63:** Samir Doughty made 8 of 13 three-pointers and finished with 32 points as the Ti-

gers won on the road to snap a two-game skid.

**Northwestern 80, No. 20 Penn State 69:** Miller Kopp scored 21 points to lead the host Wildcats as the Nittany Lions lost for the fifth time in six games.

**No. 22 Virginia 57, No. 10 Louisville 54:** Kihei Clark scored 18 points, including a three-pointer with 28 seconds left, and No. 22 Virginia recovered after blowing a 14-point second half lead to beat No. 10 Louisville 57-54 on Saturday.

**No. 24 Wisconsin 60, Indiana 56:** Nate Reuvers scored 17 points and the visiting Badgers held the Hoosiers to just one basket over the final 10 minutes to clinch at least a share of the Big Ten regular-season title.

### Ohio Valley tournament

**Belmont 76, Murray State 75:** Tyler Scanlon scored 17 points, including a layup with three seconds remaining to lift top-seeded Belmont over second-seeded Murray State in the championship game of the Ohio Valley Conference tournament.



# Virus causes canceled events, empty stadiums

Associated Press

DUSSELDORF, Germany — The escalating virus outbreak brought more disruption to the sporting world on Saturday, with games canceled or played without spectators and news of possible quarantine for some athletes.

Saturday's game between Strasbourg and Paris Saint-Germain in the French soccer league was postponed the day before, while players from Liverpool and Bournemouth were the first in the English Premier League to go without pre-game handshakes.

The Barcelona marathon was postponed from March 15 to Oct. 25. Organizers offered the estimated 17,000 runners,

about half of them from abroad, the choice of running the rescheduled race or reserving a place for March 2021.

British sporting events could soon be held without spectators, with a meeting between sports bodies, broadcasters and the government set to take place on Monday. A full slate of Serie A soccer games in Italy, which has Europe's largest number of virus cases, will be played Sunday in empty stadiums.

Some fans wore face masks to Liverpool's game, and to Barcelona's win over Real Sociedad in Spain. In Germany, the substitutes' benches were disinfected ahead of Wolfsburg's Bundesliga game against Leipzig. Time is running out to

decide whether African Cup of Nations qualifiers will go ahead as planned this month.

In the world of cricket, England's squad was handed "immunity packs" including hand sanitizer, sterilizing wipes and nasal sprays during its tour of Sri Lanka. Fist bumps replaced handshakes at a warm-up match. Australian player Marcus Labuschagne used hand sanitizer as his team lost to South Africa in a one-day international on Saturday.

In a rare case of an elite athlete being directly affected by the outbreak, the women's Six Nations rugby game between Scotland and France on Saturday was postponed after a Scottish player was diagnosed with

the virus. The Scotstoun leisure complex in Glasgow, where the game was due to be played, was closed.

The Russian national women's football team is facing quarantine after playing a game in Germany amid the escalating COVID-19 outbreak.

Team doctor Eduard Bezuglov told Russian news agency RIA Novosti on Friday that the players' clubs had been given recommendations based on a decree from Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyanin.

The city has ordered anyone returning from countries with virus outbreaks, including Germany, to isolate themselves for 14 days.

## NHL roundup

# Capitals strike early, thrash Penguins

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Nic Dowd scored twice for the first career multigoal game, Braden Holtby stopped 26 shots and the Washington Capitals beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 5-2 on Saturday.

Nicklas Backstrom, Richard Panik and TJ Oshie also scored for the Capitals, who created a little breathing room over their longtime rivals in the scramble atop the Metropolitan Division. First-place Washington moved five points clear of third-place Pittsburgh with less than a month to go in the regular season.

"I think the win means a lot, but I think the way we played means more," Oshie said. "Obviously, gave up a couple there late. But from the top all the way down, everyone had the same effort tonight."

Sidney Crosby scored for the third straight game for Pittsburgh. The Penguins have lost seven of their last nine to fall a little off the pace in the NHL's most competitive division.

**Flyers 3, Sabres 1:** Claude

Giroux scored two goals and Carter Hart made 38 saves to lead host Philadelphia to its ninth straight victory and remained tied for first place with Washington in the Metropolitan Division.

Philadelphia improved to 25-5-4 at home, where Hart has been nearly unbeatable. The 21-year-old netminder upped his home mark to 20-2-2.

**Lightning 5, Bruins 3:** Anthony Cirelli and Mikhail Sergachev scored short-handed goals just 1:02 apart in the first period and visiting Tampa Bay ended Boston's four-game winning streak.

The teams combined for 36 penalties and 96 penalty minutes in their second meeting in four days. Boston entered the game leading the Eastern Conference with 98 points. The Lightning were tied for second with Washington with 89 points.

**Hurricanes 3, Islanders 2 (OT):** Vincent Trocheck batted a loose puck out of the air and into the net on a power play 1:36 into overtime and visiting Carolina ended a four-game losing streak.

The goal was confirmed after a lengthy review by the officials. The win kept Carolina two points behind the Islanders for the final wild card in the Eastern Conference.

**Predators 1, Stars 0:** Juuse Saros shut out Dallas for the second time in three days, and Ryan Ellis gained a measure of revenge with the only goal to lead visiting Nashville.

**Kings 7, Wild 3:** Dustin Brown had three goals and an assist and host Los Angeles won its fifth straight.

Blake Lizotte and Trevor Moore scored 53 seconds apart in the second period to help the Kings improve to 8-2-1 in their past 11 games.

**Devils 6, Rangers 4:** Travis Zajac and Kyle Palmieri each scored twice and visiting New Jersey used a big second period to beat New York.

Fredrik Claesson and John Hayden also scored, and Damon Severson and Dakota Merkis each had two assists to help the Devils improve to 6-1-2 in their past nine games.

Mika Zibanejad, Tony DeAngelo, Filip Chytil, and Greg

McKegg each scored for the Rangers, who fell three points out of the two wild-card spots in the Eastern Conference.

**Panthers 4, Canadiens 1:** Backup goalie Chris Driedger stopped 33 shots, Mike Hoffman had a goal and an assist, and Florida snapped an eight-game home losing streak.

Lucas Wallmark, MacKenzie Weegar and Jonathan Huberdeau also scored for Florida, which moved within three points of idle Toronto in the Atlantic Division.

**Senators 2, Sharks 1 (OT):** Chris Tierney scored 35 seconds into overtime after missing an earlier chance on a penalty shot, and visiting Ottawa won for the fourth time in five games.

Nick Paul also scored for the Senators in the opener of a five-game road trip, their longest of the season.

**Oilers 4, Blue Jackets 1:** Mikko Koskinen made 45 saves and Alex Chiasson had a goal and an assist as host Edmonton beat Columbus to move into a tie for first place in the Pacific Division with Vegas.

## NBA roundup

# Warriors, minus Curry, beat 76ers, end slump

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Eric Paschall scored 23 points, including a pair of free throws with 51.7 seconds remaining, and the Golden State Warriors beat the Philadelphia 76ers 118-114 on Saturday night to snap a 10-game home losing streak.

Playing once again without Stephen Curry, the Warriors trailed most of the game and were down by eight entering the fourth quarter.

Curry, who returned from a 58-game absence to play Thursday night, was diagnosed with the flu and was held out. Golden State termed it a seasonal flu and said that Curry has begun treatment. The team also said that Curry is not at specific risk for COVID-19 or coronavirus.

"I know his young son was sick for a couple days so probably got it from his son," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "Our doctors checked him out and it is the basic flu."

The 76ers were missing stars Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons, while Golden State also was without Draymond Green.

Damion Lee's three-point play put the Warriors ahead 113-111. Tobias Harris answered with a go-ahead three-pointer, but was called for a three-second violation on Philadelphia's next possession following Lee's missed three-pointer.

After Paschall made his two free throws, the Sixers missed three consecutive shots, including a 32-foot jumper by Shake Milton. Mychal Mulder then made two free throws and the 76ers got the ball back, but Furkan Korkmaz stepped out-of-bounds.

"It took until the fourth quarter to really get much traction defensively," Kerr said.

"Philadelphia did a good job beating us inside for the first three quarters, but our guys hung in there and kept the game close. And then fourth quarter really turned up the defense and we got a lot of great individual performances, too."

**Hornets 108, Rockets 99:** Terry Rozier scored 24 points and fast-starting Charlotte beat visiting Houston.

The Hornets roared ahead 20-0 in the first 6½ minutes. The Rockets had eight turnovers and missed five three-pointers on their first 12 possessions.

Houston twice closed within three in the second quarter and within five in the third quarter. The Rockets have lost three straight after winning six straight and 10 of 12.

James Harden had 30 points, 10 rebounds and 14 assists for his 46th career triple-double and fourth this season. He also had 10 of Houston's 21 turnovers.

Robert Covington added 25 points for the Rockets, and Jeff Green had 20.

Rozier scored 12 of his points in the third quarter to help Charlotte snap a three-game losing streak.

Devonte' Graham added 23 points, P.J. Washington 22, Cody Zeller 13 and Miles Bridges 10.

**Jazz 111, Pistons 105:** Bojan Bogdanovic scored 32 points and visiting Utah withstood two big Detroit rallies for its fifth straight victory.

The Jazz led by 22 points in the second quarter, but the Pistons came all the way back to tie it early in the fourth. Detroit then went on an 18-2 run, but that big lead nearly slipped away as well. It was a one-possession game before Utah's Rudy Gob-

ert made two free throws with 18.5 seconds left to make it 107-102.

The Jazz moved 1½ games ahead of the Houston Rockets for the No. 4 spot in the Western Conference.

Donovan Mitchell scored 25 points for Utah. Christian Wood scored a career-high 30 points for Detroit. The Pistons lost for the 17th time in 21 games.

**Cavaliers 104, Nuggets 102:** Kevin Love scored 27 points, hitting the go-ahead basket with four minutes remaining, and short-handed Cleveland surprised visiting Denver for the second time this season.

Collin Sexton added 25 points and Matthew Dellavedova had a career-high 14 assists to help the Cavaliers end a four-game losing streak.

Will Barton led the Nuggets with 22 points. Gary Harris had 18.

**Grizzlies 118, Hawks 101:** Jonas Valanciunas had 27 points and 17 rebounds, rookie Ja Morant added 24 points and host Memphis beat Atlanta to keep its hold on the final Western Conference playoff spot.

Josh Jackson had 17 points, Dillon Brooks and De'Anthony Melton added 13 each and Memphis won its fourth in the last five. Valanciunas was 10 of 13 from the field and had three blocks.

John Collins led the Hawks with 27 points.

**Kings 123, Trail Blazers 111:** Bogdan Bogdanovic had 27 points and eight assists, Buddy Hield added 22 points and Sacramento won at Portland for its fourth victory in five games.

The Kings shot 21-for-39 on three-pointers, tying a franchise record for made threes.

# Zhang, Adesanya retain titles at UFC 248

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Zhang Weili and Joanna Jedrzejczyk were left bloody, bruised and swollen after the strawweights staged one of the most spectacular title fights in recent mixed martial arts history.

And though the main event of UFC 248 couldn't measure up to that penultimate scrap, both champions are leaving Las Vegas with their belts.

Zhang defended her UFC 115-pound championship belt

with a brutal split-decision victory over former champion Jedrzejczyk at UFC 248 on Saturday night.

Israel Adesanya then defended his middleweight title with an anti-climactic unanimous decision over Yoel Romero at T-Mobile Arena in the UFC's hometown.

After Zhang and Jedrzejczyk put on one of the most viscerally entertaining bouts in recent UFC history, Romero and Adesanya staged a snoozer that

had fans booing and chanting obscenities. The contrast was stark, but the strawweights' brawl will be remembered a whole lot longer than the faults of the main event.

"That was a tough act to follow," UFC President Dana White said. "I'd have to say the best women's fight I've ever seen, and one of the best fights I've ever seen."

Zhang (21-1) and Jedrzejczyk (16-4) traded brutal punches and kicks throughout five tech-

nically fascinating rounds, badly damaging each other's faces. After the last of several standing ovations from the Las Vegas crowd, Zhang won the fight 48-47 on two judges' cards, while Jedrzejczyk won 48-47 on the third.

"I had a long way to get here," said Zhang, who had to move her training camp out of China due to the coronavirus outbreak. "It was very serious, but we made it."