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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

4 GIs wounded in deadly Kabul bombing

By J.P. LAWRENCE

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide car bomb that targeted U.S. troops in Afghanistan's capital Friday morning killed four civilians and wounded several other people, including four American servicemembers.

It was the second deadly blast to rock Kabul in as many days. The four Americans suffered minor injuries from the blast, which hit a convoy of armored SUVs at about 8:30 a.m., said Bob Purtiman, a U.S. military spokesman in Kabul. He declined to comment on the convoy's mission.

The four killed were civilian bystanders, said Nasrat Rahimi, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry. At least three other civilians were wounded.

The Taliban quickly claimed responsibility for the bombing in a statement online, saying it

killed 10 U.S. troops. The group frequently embellishes or exaggerates its claims.

The suicide bomber targeted the convoy as it was passing through the Yakatot neighborhood in eastern Kabul, a mostly residential area near U.S., NATO and Afghan military compounds.

The powerful explosion shattered windows and busted doors nearby, a witness said.

After hearing the loud blast and seeing people running into his butcher shop just a few hundred yards from the bombing, Haji Aman rushed toward the site of the attack and found three armored SUVs and several other cars on the road damaged by the explosion, he said in a phone interview.

The area — normally crowded at the time of the blast with people going to nearby offices, including a nearby television station — was relatively empty,

Aman said. Friday is the weekly day off.

"Thank God the roads were empty so it didn't harm so many people," he said.

On Thursday, several miles away, a suicide bomber on foot blew himself up outside the country's military academy, killing six cadets and wounding 16 other people. An observant soldier prevented the attacker from entering the academy, likely saving lives, the Interior Ministry had said.

Both the Taliban and an Islamic State affiliate have carried out deadly, high-profile bombings in the capital in the past.

Suicide bombings in Afghanistan have been relatively rare so far this year, leading to a decrease in civilian casualties in the first three months of 2019. It was the lowest number of noncombatant deaths in the first quarter of any year since

2013, the United Nations mission reported in April.

Militants continue to attack Afghanistan's embattled security forces nearly daily, despite ongoing peace talks with American diplomats aimed at bringing an end to the 18-year conflict. Over the winter, Afghan forces suffered nearly one-third more casualties in a three-month period beginning in December 2018 than they did in the same period a year earlier, U.S. military officials have said.

This week's deadly attacks came as Taliban officials met with Afghan politicians for talks in Moscow. The insurgents have repeatedly rebuffed U.S. demands that they hold direct talks with the Kabul government, which the militants view as a U.S. puppet regime, but the Taliban have agreed to meet with Afghan officials as private citizens.

Lawyers for freed Navy SEAL want war crime case dismissed

Associated Press

SANDIEGO — Attorneys for a decorated Navy SEAL facing a murder trial in the death of an Islamic State prisoner were trying again Friday to have the case dismissed after their client was unexpectedly freed from custody.

A military judge released Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher from custody on Thursday, which drew gasps in a San Diego courtroom.

The judge, Capt. Aaron Rugh, said releasing Gallagher was a remedy for prosecutors interfering with his Sixth Amendment right to counsel.

Gallagher's lawyers have condemned the prosecution for launching an unusual effort to find the source of news

leaks in the politically charged case by embedding tracking code in emails sent to defense attorneys and a Navy Times journalist.

Defense attorney Tim Parlatore had accused prosecutors of a "rogue, relentless, and unlawful cyber campaign" that may have violated attorney-client privilege and hurt his client's ability to get a fair trial.

Gallagher's wife, Andrea, who has led a campaign to free her husband, put her hands to her face and burst into tears.

"I feel like it's a small victory on the way to the larger victory," she said outside the court while her husband stood quietly by her side in his Navy whites.

He declined to comment.

A spokesman for the Navy prosecutors also wouldn't comment on Gallagher's freedom or developments at the hearing, which continued on Friday.

Gallagher has pleaded not guilty to murder in the death of an injured teenage militant in Iraq in 2017 and attempted murder for allegedly picking off civilians from a sniper's perch.

His platoon supervisor, Lt. Jacob Portier, is fighting charges of conduct unbecoming an officer for allegedly conducting Gallagher's reenlistment ceremony next to the militant's corpse.

Efforts to get the case thrown out come as President Donald Trump considers pardoning several servicemem-

bers accused of war crimes, including Gallagher, who faces trial June 10.

Evidence at the hearing showed prosecutors enlisted a Naval Criminal Investigative Service intelligence specialist to conduct criminal background checks on three civilian lawyers, including Parlatore, and a journalist with the Navy Times who has broken several stories based on leaked documents.

On Thursday, Rugh said investigators told him privately that they planned to embed code in what he believed to be a court document to help them find the source of leaks but the judge said he didn't have the power to authorize it and wasn't told they planned to target emails sent to the defense lawyers or a journalist.

Report: Black, Hispanic GIs tried more often

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Black and Hispanic servicemembers are more likely to face criminal investigations and be brought to trial than their white counterparts, though they are no more likely to be convicted, according to a government watchdog investigation report.

The Defense Department “has not comprehensively evaluated the causes of racial or gender disparities in the military justice system,” the Government Accountability Office

said in a report released Thursday. “Doing so would better position DOD to identify actions to address disparities and help ensure the military justice system is fair and just.”

The report also found that the services don’t record race and ethnic data in the same way, making it difficult to compare disparities among the military branches. Still, the report concluded racial disparities exist.

The GAO recommended that the Defense Department and its military branches, as well as the Coast Guard, establish a

uniform way for recording race and ethnic information into all military justice databases.

The Pentagon also was urged to identify the causes of any disparities in the military justice system and address them. The GAO said the Defense Department and Coast Guard largely concurred with the report’s findings.

The GAO’s analysis centered on the period from 2013-2017 and found that in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force, black, Hispanic, and male servicemembers were

more likely than white and female servicemembers to be investigated. They were also more likely to be tried in general and special courts-martial. General courts-martial include more serious offenses and typically carry greater potential punishments than special courts-martial.

During that time, more than 258,000 active duty servicemembers were disciplined for a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, out of more than 2.3 million active duty servicemembers who served.

Shanahan to call out China over South China Sea

Associated Press

U.S. Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said he will call out China in a speech in Singapore on Saturday over its militarization of manmade islands in the South China Sea and broader use of coercion to advance its national interests.

He said his broader message to the Shangri-La Dialogue security conference will emphasize what the U.S. has done to expand its commitment to the Indo-Pacific region, against the backdrop of China’s growing influence and massive military buildup.

Speaking to reporters just before he stepped into a meeting Friday with Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe, Shanahan said he wants to foster a better military relationship with Beijing, but can’t ignore the

communist giant’s military development on the manmade outposts.

“They argue that it’s defensive, it looks like it’s a bit overkill,” said Shanahan. “Surface-to-air missiles, long runways, I mean, seems excessive.”

His remarks underscore America’s frayed relations with China, as the Trump administration wages a trade war with Beijing, imposes sanctions on Chinese tech giant Huawei and approves a weapons sale to Taiwan, the self-ruled island the Communist mainland claims as its own territory. And they reflect America’s new national defense strategy that declared great power competition with China and Russia as the nation’s top priorities.

Shanahan’s speech on Saturday — his first major address on the international stage — will set the tone for U.S. military

cooperation and influence in the Indo-Pacific. And listening closely will be nervous allies and partners in the region who are worried about the economic impact of the U.S.-China trade dispute and the political blowback of America’s complaints about Beijing’s rapid progress in hypersonic weapons, nuclear technology and space launches.

He also will likely face fierce questions from Chinese leaders in the audience, as many U.S. defense chiefs have seen during this annual forum. On Friday, Chinese defense ministry spokesman Wu Qian was both conciliatory and challenging.

Speaking to reporters after Wei’s meeting with Shanahan, Wu noted that the U.S. has recently “had a series of negative words and deeds” on Taiwan issues.

Reports of North Korean purge met with caution

Associated press

SEOUL, South Korea — A South Korean newspaper reported Friday that North Korea executed a senior envoy involved in nuclear negotiations with the U.S. as well as four other high-level officials. But with North Korea, a country that closely guards its secrets, there are reasons to be cautious about the purported purge.

While North Korea hasn’t

used its propaganda services to comment, the report in the conservative Chosun Ilbo daily could be true. North Korea has previously executed scapegoats to atone for high-profile political flops, and the most recent summit between leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump ended in failure, leaving Kim embarrassed.

But it’s important to note that South Korean media and the government in Seoul have

a history of reporting scoops about the inner workings of North Korea that turn out to be wrong.

Friday’s report is based on a single, unidentified “source who knows about North Korea” — with no details about where that source got their information. The report so far hasn’t been matched by any major media in Seoul or confirmed by government officials, even anonymously.

The newspaper’s source said that senior envoy Kim Hyok Chol was executed at the Mirim airfield with four other officials from the North’s Foreign Ministry for betraying Kim Jong Un after being won over by the U.S. Kim Hyok Chol led working-level negotiations as North Korea’s special representative for U.S. affairs ahead of February’s summit between the U.S. and North Korean leaders in Hanoi.

Trump ties Mexican tariffs to immigration

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a surprise announcement that could derail a major trade deal, President Donald Trump has announced that he is placing a 5% tariff on all Mexican imports, effective June 10, to pressure the country to do more to crack down on the surge of Central American migrants trying to cross the U.S. border.

He said the percentage will gradually increase — up to 25% — “until the Illegal Immigration problem is remedied.”

The decision showed the administration going to new lengths, and looking for new levers, to pressure Mexico to take action — even if those risk upending other policy priorities, like the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, a trade deal that is the cornerstone of Trump’s legislative agenda

and seen as beneficial to his reelection effort. It also risks further damaging the already strained relationship between the U.S. and Mexico, two countries whose economics are deeply intertwined.

Trump made the announcement by tweet after telling reporters earlier Thursday that he was planning “a major statement” that would be his “biggest” so far on the border.

“On June 10th, the United States will impose a 5% Tariff on all goods coming into our Country from Mexico, until such time as illegal migrants coming through Mexico, and into our Country, STOP,” he wrote. “The Tariff will gradually increase until the Illegal Immigration problem is remedied.”

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador responded in a public letter

late Thursday, telling Trump that “social problems are not solved with duties or coercive measures” and alluded to the United States’ history as a nation of immigrants. “The Statue of Liberty is not an empty symbol,” he wrote. He also said he was dispatching his foreign relations secretary to Washington on Friday to try to negotiate a solution.

In his growing fury over an increase in border crossings that he has likened to an “invasion,” Trump has blamed Mexico for failing to stop the flow of asylum seekers from countries like El Salvador and Honduras who pass through its territory. And he has been itching to take increasingly radical, headline-grabbing action on the issue, which he sees as critical to his 2020 campaign because it energizes his base.

Measles epidemic in US approaches 1,000 cases

Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. health officials on Thursday reported 971 measles cases so far this year, the highest tally in 27 years, and experts say it’s not clear when the wave of illnesses will stop.

Measles, once common in the U.S., became rare after vaccination campaigns that started in the 1960s. A decade ago, there were fewer than 100 cases a year.

The new numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention pushed the U.S. tally higher than the 963 illnesses reported for all of 1994. The nation last saw this many cases in 1992, when more than 2,200 were reported.

Overall vaccination rates have remained fairly high, but outbreaks have been happening in communities where parents have refused recommended shots, U.S. health officials say.

“What’s causing these outbreaks is lack of vaccination,” said Dr. Mark Roberts, chair of health policy and management at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.

Illnesses have been reported in 26 states, but the vast majority are in New York City.

The city’s outbreak, which began last October, is already the largest local measles outbreak in the U.S. in nearly 30 years. It started when some unvaccinated children visited Israel, where a measles outbreak is occurring, and came back to New York.

More than 500 cases have been diagnosed in two Brooklyn neighborhoods — Williamsburg and Borough Park — and mainly among unvaccinated children in Orthodox Jewish communities. Forty-two have been hospitalized, including 12 treated in intensive care units.

More than 25,000 doses of vaccine have been given to children and teenagers in those two neighborhoods since October.

Some have been motivated by a city order issued in April that all children and adults who live in four Brooklyn ZIP codes be vaccinated or face fines up to \$1,000. City officials say 123 people have received summonses for not complying with the order.

Flooding causes breach of levee in western Ark.

Associated Press

DARDANELLE, Ark. — A levee breached Friday along the Arkansas River, prompting a flash flood warning and evacuation of a rural area in western Arkansas.

Officials said the levee breached at Dardanelle, about 60 miles northwest of Little Rock. Yell County officials had anticipated the breach and urged residents in the nearby Holla Bend area to evacuate Thursday.

The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management said crews went door to door to recommend evacuation for about 160 homes.

Yell County Emergency Manager Jeff Gilkey told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette that rapid currents from the river ripped a 40-foot section from the levee. Aerial video posted by the sheriff’s office Friday showed water pouring through the hole.

“There was nothing we could do to stop it,” Gilkey said.

National Weather Service data showed a dip in the water level at Dardanelle, likely due to the breach. A flash flood warning was issued early Friday for

the area, and forecasters said residents should be prepared for rapidly rising water.

The levee breached because of ongoing flooding along the Arkansas River, which began in Oklahoma. Late Thursday night, President Donald Trump approved the state’s request for a disaster declaration in 16 counties affected by the flooding.

Entergy Arkansas said Friday that it does not anticipate any impact to its nuclear plant near the Arkansas River in Russellville.

In Fort Smith, the state’s second-largest city, the river levels held steady at above-record levels Friday. Officials there said they wouldn’t know the extent of the damage until the water receded, which could take days, if not longer.

In northeastern Oklahoma, residents forced from their homes by flooding made plans to return as the river recedes. The National Weather Service said Friday the Arkansas River’s level at Tulsa has dropped almost 4 feet from Wednesday’s crest and will continue to recede through the weekend.

China warns Canada against helping US

Associated Press

BEIJING — China warned Canada on Friday that it needs to be aware of the consequences of aiding the U.S. in a case involving the Chinese tech giant Huawei that is believed to have sparked the detentions of two Canadians in China.

Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang's comments Friday came after U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called for the release of Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor.

Both were arrested on Dec. 10 after Canada detained a Huawei executive wanted by the United States on fraud charges. While China has denied they were taken in retaliation, it has repeatedly implied that there is a strong connection between the cases.

Kovrig, a former diplomat and Asia expert at the International Crisis Group, and Spavor, a businessman, have been accused of colluding to steal state secrets. Canada has repeatedly urged their immediate release, calling their detentions "arbitrary." Neither has been per-

mitted access to lawyers or family members.

"We hope that the Canadian side can have a clear understanding of the consequences of endangering itself for the gains of the U.S. and take immediate actions to correct its mistakes so as to spare itself the suffering from growing damage," Geng said at a daily news briefing.

Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou, the daughter of the company's founder, is accused of lying to banks about the company's dealings with Iran in violation of U.S. trade sanctions. Her attorney has argued that comments by U.S. President Donald Trump suggest the case against her is politically motivated.

Washington has pressured other countries to limit the use of Huawei's technology, warning they could be opening themselves up to surveillance and theft of information.

Another Canadian held in China, Robert Schellenberg, was re-sentenced to death in a drug case following Meng's detention. His case is currently under appeal.

Report says Huawei cut meetings with Americans, sent many US workers home

Associated Press

BEIJING — The Financial Times reported Friday that tech giant Huawei has ordered its employees to cancel technical meetings with American contacts and has sent home numerous U.S. employees working at its Chinese headquarters.

The moves come amid growing U.S.-China tensions over trade and technology in which Huawei has been a main target.

The newspaper quoted Huawei's chief strategy architect, Dang Wenshan, as saying that American citizens working in R&D were repatriated two weeks ago, after the Chinese group and 68 affiliates were placed on the U.S. Commerce Department's "Entity List," which effectively bars American firms from selling technology to Huawei without government approval.

The FT said a workshop underway at Huawei at the time was "hastily disbanded, and American delegates were asked to remove their laptops, isolate their networks and leave the Huawei premises."

It quoted Dang as saying that

Huawei is also limiting interactions between its employees and American citizens.

China's commerce ministry announced Friday that it will establish its own list of foreign enterprises, organizations and individuals it deems to be "unreliable entities" — a possible response to the U.S. blacklist.

Entities are "unreliable" if they "fail to comply with market rules, break from the spirit of contracts and block or stop supplying Chinese enterprise for non-commercial reasons, seriously damaging the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises," ministry spokesman Gao Feng said at a news briefing.

Gao said the specific measures to be taken against the entities will be announced at a later date.

The purpose of the list is to oppose unilateralism and trade protectionism, as well as safeguard China's national security, he said.

National Spelling Bee ends late, with 8 co-champions

Associated Press

OXON HILL, Md. — There were warning signs throughout a marathon day of spelling that this Scripps National Spelling Bee would not conclude like any other in the event's 94-year history.

Rishik Gandhasri, 13, of San Jose, Calif., sensed it as he stepped to the microphone for the ninth round of Thursday night's prime-time finals when he was one of eight spellers remaining onstage.

"Just out of curiosity," Rishik asked pronouncer Jacques Bailly, "do you happen to know what time it is?"

It was 11:18 p.m. Forty-five

minutes later, Rishik was a champion. So were Erin Howard, 14, of Huntsville, Ala.; Saketh Sundar, 13, of Clarksville, Md.; Shruthika Padhy, 13, of Cherry Hill, N.J.; Sohum Sukhantankar, 13, of Dallas; Abhijay Kodali, 12, of Flower Mound, Texas; Christopher Serrao, 13, of Whitehouse Station, N.J., and, finally, Rohan Raja, 13, of Irving, Texas. The eight co-champions closed out the bee by spelling 47 consecutive words correctly.

All eight received the full winner's freight of \$50,000 in cash and a new, custom-designed trophy because Scripps simply could not come up with

words difficult enough to challenge them.

The rules going into this year's bee called for, at most, three co-champions.

"We are closely connected to the difficulty level at the program, so we are quite aware of the rising level of competition. This does not actually surprise us at all," said Paige Kimble, the bee's executive director. "We didn't go into the competition tonight not knowing that this was a possibility and not having a plan."

Bailly, the longtime pronouncer and the beloved public face of the bee, broke the news to a stunned crowd in a conven-

tion center ballroom outside Washington after the eight eventual champs had gone through two consecutive perfect rounds.

"Champion spellers, we are now in uncharted territory," Bailly said. "We do have plenty of words remaining on our list. But we will soon run out of words that will possibly challenge you, the most phenomenal collection of super spellers in the history of this competition."

There would be three rounds, Bailly said, and anyone who got through them would be a champion. No one came close to missing a word.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man who urinated in cereal factory sentenced

TN MEMPHIS — A Tennessee man has been sentenced to 10 months in prison for urinating on a Kellogg's cereal conveyor belt at a Memphis facility.

The U.S. attorney's office in Memphis said Gregory Stanton, 49, was sentenced May 24 in federal court. Stanton had pleaded guilty in November to tampering with consumer products.

An indictment says Stanton was a contract worker at the Kellogg's plant in April 2014 when he recorded a video of himself urinating into a bucket and dumping the contents into the Raisin Bran production line. He also recorded himself urinating into a production line a month later.

Man bitten by rabid bat that was wedged in iPad

NH SOUTH HAMPTON — A New Hampshire man got a big surprise as he went to close up his iPad. A bat was wedged between the back of the device and its cover and bit his finger.

Roy Syvertson, of South Hampton, told WMUR-TV it felt like a bee sting at first. When he realized he was dealing with a bat, he pressed down on the cover to keep it from flying away.

Syvertson, 86, managed to get the bat outside but later found him dead. It turned out that the bat was rabid, so Syvertson went to the hospital for rabies treatments.

When asked how the bat got into his house and iPad case last week, Syvertson had a ready-made response.

He quipped: "My joke of, 'He probably knew my password,' won't last forever."

Superman Building on endangered places list

RI PROVIDENCE — Providence's iconic Superman Building is included on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's annual list of the nation's most endangered historic places.

The 2019 list highlights 11 architectural and cultural sites the private nonprofit deems at risk because of neglect, development or other threats.

The 91-year-old vacant skyscraper is Rhode Island's tallest building at around 430 feet. Formally the Industrial Trust Building, it resembles the Daily Planet headquarters in the old TV show.

Katherine Malone-France, the National Trust's interim chief preservation officer, said few buildings in Providence are as iconic or beloved, but the Superman Building has deferred maintenance needs after six years of vacancy.

Police: Pepper spray at prom an accident

CT GROTON — Police have determined that the discharge of pepper spray at a Connecticut high school prom that sent three students to the hospital was an accident.

Groton police said Wednesday there was no intent to harm anyone at the Stonington High School prom Saturday night at the Mystic Marriott and they do not anticipate filing criminal charges.

They did not release the name of the student responsible.

Police and firefighters responded to the Groton hotel at about 9:45 p.m. after receiving reports of a strange odor making people sick. Three students were taken to the hospital with respiratory distress, were treated and released. The prom ended early.

Elk injures Yellowstone concession employee

MT BILLINGS — Yellowstone National Park officials say a concession employee was injured by a cow elk in the developed part of Mammoth Hot Springs.

The Billings Gazette reported the worker was hurt Wednesday morning and was hospitalized. Details about the interaction and the extent of her injuries haven't been released.

Yellowstone biologists and rangers hazed the elk from the area, which is home to the park's headquarters, a hotel and a visitor center.

Elk are attracted to the area for food and protection from predators, and cow elk often hide their calves near buildings or in sagebrush. They are at the height of their calving season, which can start in mid-May and extend into late June.

Man charged in robbery of relatives' ashes

OH AKRON — An Ohio man who police say assaulted his sister-in-law and robbed her of two vinyl boxes containing the ashes of his mother and brother has been arrested and charged with aggravated robbery.

Police said Jermain Bais, 32, was arrested Tuesday, the day after he and two other men robbed the woman at her Akron home.

Bais is being held on a \$100,000 bond.

A police report says Bais pushed his sister-in-law to the floor and fought with her when she tried to stop him from taking the ashes. The report says one of Bais' companions pointed a handgun at the woman and said he'd shoot her and her adult son if she called police. The ashes haven't been recovered.

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Katherine Malone-France, the National Trust's interim chief preservation officer, said few buildings in Providence are as iconic or beloved, but the Superman Building has deferred maintenance needs after six years of vacancy.

Police sergeant saves girl from path of truck

MI HARRISVILLE — A Michigan State Police sergeant is being credited with saving a 2-year-old girl's life by snatching her from the path of an oncoming dump truck.

Sgt. Joe Richards was on patrol last Friday in northern Michigan's Alcona County when he saw the girl in the roadway. Dashcam video posted on Twitter by state police shows Richards rushing over to the child and scooping her up. Police say the truck driver slammed on the brakes while trying to avoid hitting her.

The girl's mother, who lives nearby, told state police said she had briefly lost sight of her daughter. Richards returned the child unharmed to her mother.

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Siakam, Raptors top Warriors in Game 1

Associated Press

TORONTO — The first NBA Finals game outside the U.S. was a party 24 years in the making.

Then Pascal Siakam and the Raptors really gave Toronto something to celebrate.

Siakam scored a playoff career-high 32 points and the Raptors made a smashing NBA Finals debut, beating the Golden State Warriors 118-109 on Thursday night.

The Raptors didn't look like newcomers to the NBA's biggest stage, controlling the action most of the way against a Golden State team beginning its fifth straight NBA Finals appearance.

"I think we did pretty good job at home," Siakam said. "The fans are amazing, man. I just want to say that. From coming out for warmup to the end of the game, it was just the support and then going crazy. I've never seen anything like that."

Kawhi Leonard added 23 points and Marc Gasol had 20 for the Raptors, who weren't in awe of the setting or their opponents who had played 22 NBA Finals games in the last four years.

"We know that they're human. They're a great basketball team, talented players, high basketball-IQ players," Leonard said. "You just got to go out there and compete, take the challenge."

Stephen Curry scored 34 points and Klay Thompson had 21 for the Warriors, who had won all four Game 1s in the last four years. All those had come at home, but this time Golden State doesn't have home-court — or home country — advantage.

"Our goal was to get one and it's still on the table for us," Thompson said. "So I know we'll respond like the champions we are."

Game 2 is Sunday night in Toronto, which is hosting an NBA Finals game for the first time after the Raptors entered the league as an expansion team in 1995.

The Raptors were perhaps a little jittery at the start, with Kyle Lowry firing a pass well out of bounds on their first possession.

But they quickly settled in afterward, building a 10-point lead by halftime.

Siakam then went 6-for-6 in the third quarter to keep Golden State from gaining much ground, and the Raptors kept their lead around double digits for much of the final quarter, countering every attempt the Warriors made to catch up.

"We didn't play very well tonight at all and we still had a chance the entire game," Draymond Green said. "And it was a great atmosphere. This is a team or a city, a country that hasn't seen a finals ever here, so we expected it to be a great atmosphere and it was."

All four of the Warriors' previous finals were against LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers, and they struggled to figure out a new opponent. Toronto shot 50.6 percent from the field and the Warriors never found an answer for Siakam, the finalist for Most Improved Player who has a nice start for an NBA Finals MVP résumé.

The native of Cameroon and nicknamed Spicy P was red hot, shooting 14-for-17

from the field — and he tipped in his own shot on the last of those misses with 54 seconds to play.

There were lengthy lines at the arena entrances hours before the game, with some of the few fans who weren't wearing Raptors red sticking to their original purple uniform with the dinosaur logo.

Rapper and Raptors global ambassador Drake sat in his courtside seat wearing a Curry No. 30 jersey. That's Dell Curry, Stephen's father who finished his career with the Raptors and was introduced along with some other former players after the first quarter, a group that included perennial All-Stars such as Tracy McGrady and Chris Bosh.

But it wasn't until they went out and got Leonard in a trade with San Antonio that Toronto was finally good enough to get to the NBA Finals.

He wasn't the dominant force he was in the first three rounds, when he averaged 31.2 points. But he had eight rebounds and five assists in his first NBA Finals game since winning MVP of the 2014 championship with the Spurs.

DeMarcus Cousins made it back from a torn left quadriceps to come off the bench in his first NBA Finals game, but the Warriors remained without Kevin Durant, the MVP of the last two NBA Finals. He traveled to Toronto but it's unclear if he'll play before the series returns to the Bay Area, with Warriors coach Steve Kerr saying he would have to go through a practice first.

Bruins' top line looks to break out vs. Blues

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Bruce Cassidy figures sometime before the puck drops for Game 3 of the Stanley Cup Final, the Boston Bruins' first line will get together.

Brad Marchand, Patrice Bergeron and David Pastrnak will talk about what hasn't gone right so far in the series against the St. Louis Blues and what they need to do better. Maybe assistant Jay Pandolfo will show them some video clips for good measure.

"They're students of the game where they see an opening," Cassidy said. "These are good players they're playing

against every night, so they've got to find that little edge and I suspect they'll work hard to do that in Game 3."

One of Boston's biggest strengths through the first three rounds of the playoffs has been virtually nonexistent so far against St. Louis. Marchand, Bergeron and Pastrnak have zero even-strength points against the defensively sound Blues and will look to break out on the road in Game 3 on Saturday to try to put the Bruins up again in the best-of-seven series.

"We need to capitalize," Bergeron said in Boston. "For us, it's about being better. We know how we can play."

How they can play is pretty dominant. They were responsible for 23 of the Bruins' 32 goals going into the final and exploited matchups against offensive trios similar to the Blues' top line.

That success hasn't materialized — yet — against the Blues, who have tried to get the shutdown defense pairing of Jay Bouwmeester and Colton Parayko against Marchand, Bergeron and Pastrnak as much as possible.

Cassidy gave St. Louis credit for defending well while also predicting his top line won't be held off the scoresheet 5-on-5 forever.

"Usually if they check well,

get pucks back, they'll get some odd-man rushes against offensive lines," Cassidy said. "If they support the puck close together, they'll get their chances."

In other news:

■ Blues forward Oskar Sundqvist has been suspended for Game 3 of the Stanley Cup Final for delivering an elbow to the head of Bruins defenseman Matt Grzelcyk.

The NHL's department of player safety announced the suspension Thursday after a hearing with Sundqvist, who was assessed only a two-minute minor penalty for boarding for the hit that knocked Grzelcyk out of Wednesday's game.

No. 2 seed Pliskova falls at French Open

Associated Press

PARIS — So dominant this month when she won the Italian Open, Karolina Pliskova looked out of her comfort zone on the red clay of Paris on Friday.

The second-seeded Czech struggled in the longer rallies of a 6-3, 6-3 loss to No. 31 Petra Martic in the third round of the French Open, bending over in exhaustion after extended points on Court Philippe Chatrier.

"The court is pretty slow, so you just have to play some extra shots," Pliskova said. "I was a little bit ... passive, maybe not that fast. My serve wasn't really working. I don't think she did much wrong today. ... I just did too many mistakes."

Pliskova's loss meant that Naomi Osaka will hold onto the No. 1 ranking after the tournament. It was Martic's tour-best 14th win on clay this season. The Croatian has not dropped

a set in her opening three matches.

"The key was to focus on my game and try to dictate instead of letting her dictate, which is her biggest strength," Martic said.

Roger Federer's 400th Grand Slam match was a confident 6-3, 6-1, 7-6 (8) win over Casper Ruud, a player whose father was in the draw when the 20-time major champion made his French Open debut in 1999.

Federer became the first man or woman to reach the four-century mark, and improved his career record at the biggest tournaments to 345-55. Wearing an image of the Eiffel Tower on his sneakers, Federer showed the fans in Paris his full arsenal of shots in the concluding tiebreaker.

There was a swinging forehand volley winner, a difficult low volley to set up an easy put-away, one of his trademark

forehand passing shots, a volley winner to save a set point and a sharply angled overhead smash to end it.

Federer, returning to Roland Garros after a four-year absence, will face either Nicolas Mahut or Leonardo Mayer for a spot in the quarterfinals.

Rafael Nadal dropped a rare set against David Goffin before getting back on track for a 6-1, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 victory to reach the fourth round.

Nadal had won all eight sets that he and Goffin had played on clay — including the opening two on Friday — before dropping the third. When Nadal won a record-extending 11th French Open title last year, the only set he lost came against Diego Schwartzman in the quarterfinals.

Nadal will next play Juan Ignacio Londero or French wild card Corentin Moutet.

On Court Suzanne Lenglen,

12th-seeded Anastasija Sevastova saved five match points before rallying to beat No. 20 Elise Mertens 6-7 (3), 6-4, 11-9.

Also, Madison Keys, a semi-finalist last year, beat Pricilla Hon of Australia 7-5, 5-7, 6-3 in a second-round match carried over from Thursday, and 19-year-old Marketa Vondrousova eliminated 28th-seeded Carla Suarez Navarro 6-4, 6-4 to reach the fourth round of a Grand Slam tournament for the second time.

In a men's match extended from Thursday, Martin Klizan beat 22nd-seeded Lucas Pouille 7-6 (4), 2-6, 6-3, 3-6, 9-7.

Kei Nishikori needed nearly 4½ hours to beat Laslo Djere 6-4, 6-7 (8), 6-3, 4-6, 8-6 and reach the fourth round.

Also, 2016 champion Garbine Muguruza improved to 6-0 in third-round matches at Roland Garros after beating ninth-seeded Elina Svitolina 6-3 6-3.

Sports briefs

NHL closes review of now-deleted Kuznetsov video

Wire reports

WASHINGTON — The NHL has closed its review of Washington Capitals star Evgeny Kuznetsov and a now-deleted video on social media.

The video, which shows Kuznetsov talking to someone while lines of white powder are visible on a table, carried a message saying it was why Russia lost the recent world hockey championship.

Kuznetsov says the video is from 2018 in Las Vegas after the Capitals won the Stanley Cup. He says he went to a friend's hotel room, saw drugs, called a friend and left.

NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly says the league found no basis to question his explanation.

Pippen sues child

The legal battle over a trashed mansion between NBA

Hall of Famer Scottie Pippen and lawyer-turned-stand-up-comic Lindsay Glazer Woloshin isn't over yet.

Earlier this month, Pippen amended his lawsuit to accuse an unexpected person of vandalizing his Fort Lauderdale mansion: Glazer Woloshin's 5-year-old daughter. The amended lawsuit says the girl defaced his property with crayons and markers and that her vandalizing ways show Glazer Woloshin and Jacob Woloshin failed as parents.

Pippen is suing for \$109,317.62 for the damages done to the six-bedroom mansion.

Mendenhall extended

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Virginia has given football coach Bronco Mendenhall a two-year contract extension.

Athletic director Carla Williams made the announce-

ment Thursday. The extension will keep Mendenhall under contract with the Cavaliers through the 2024 season.

Mendenhall is entering his fourth season at Virginia and has a 16-22 overall record. The Cavaliers won two games his first season, six the next and eight last season. For his career, he's 115-65 and has guided his team to a bowl game in 13 of his 14 seasons.

Hauser transferring

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Marquette star Sam Hauser is transferring to national champion Virginia.

Coach Tony Bennett made the announcement Friday. Hauser will practice with the Cavaliers in the coming year, but won't use his final year of eligibility until the 2020-21 season.

The 6-foot-8 Hauser averaged

14.9 points and 7.2 rebounds and was named to the All-Big East second team last season. He shot 45.9% overall, 40.2% from three-point range and led the conference by converting 92.4% of his free throws.

Haney suspended

NEW YORK — Swing coach Hank Haney has been suspended from the SiriusXM PGA Tour Radio channel because of saying on his show that a Korean would probably win the U.S. Women's Open and that he couldn't name six players on the LPGA Tour.

He then said he would go with "Lee" and if he didn't have to mention a first name, "I'd get a bunch of them right."

Haney, who coached Tiger Woods for six of his majors from 2004 to 2010, apologized on Twitter.

Rays stretch winning streak to 6 games

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Charlie Morton has fit right in with the surging Tampa Bay Rays.

The veteran right-hander remained unbeaten with his new team Thursday night, benefiting from its biggest offensive outburst of the season in a 14-3 victory over the major league-best Minnesota Twins.

Every player in Tampa Bay's lineup had at least one hit. Austin Meadows paced the barrage with four RBIs, including the big blow in a six-run third inning against starter Martin Perez (7-2) — a three-run double down the right-field line.

The young outfielder, who is batting .361, also singled home a run in the fourth, when the Rays scored five more times to make it 11-0.

"That was big, to set the tone like that and get those three runs on the board early," Meadows said. "I was definitely excited. It was a lot of fun to be a part of."

In addition to multiple hits in five consecutive games, Meadows has three doubles, three homers and 11 RBIs during a season-best six-game winning streak that has the second-place Rays within a half-game of the New York Yankees in the AL East.

Tampa Bay's winning streak is its longest since the team won eight straight in August last year.

Morton (6-0) limited the Twins, who rank among the big league leaders in numerous offensive categories, to two hits before Luis Arraez doubled and scored on Ehire Adrian-

za's two-out single in the fifth. The 35-year-old Morton, who won 15 games for Houston last season after helping the Astros win the 2017 World Series, has allowed two or fewer runs in 10 of his 12 starts for Tampa Bay.

The Twins top the majors in homers, runs and slugging percentage, but had little success against Morton, who struck out six and didn't issue a walk while yielding two runs and four hits in a season-high seven innings.

"I felt pretty good. I thought I had all my pitches working," he said. "The guys swung the bat awesome. They played awesome defense behind me. It was a great game all around."

Morton improved to 9-0 over his last 19 starts with the Astros and Rays, who signed him to a \$30 million, two-year contract

as a free agent in December.

It's the longest unbeaten stretch of his career, as well as the second-longest active streak in the majors behind Clayton Kershaw (11-0 in 20 starts) of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"He was outstanding," Rays manager Kevin Cash said, adding that pitching with a big lead is not as easy as Morton made it look.

"Charlie has been around long enough to know that you still have to get outs, and the last thing you want to do is tax the bullpen," Cash explained. "I was really impressed with his performance."

Brandon Lowe had three RBIs, Ji-Man Choi hit a two-run homer and Christian Arroyo, Willy Adames, Travis d'Arnaud and Avisail Garcia also drove in runs for the Rays.

MLB roundup

Giants rally past Marlins to end seven-game skid

Associated Press

MIAMI — The Marlins were ahead on the scoreboard and closing fast in the standings when the Giants finally came up with a couple of big hits to end a skid.

Brandon Crawford delivered a tiebreaking two-run double in the eighth inning, and San Francisco broke a seven-game losing streak by rallying past Miami 3-1 Thursday.

"You go through these things, and there's no question a win does a lot for a club," San Francisco manager Bruce Bochy said.

The Giants averted a series sweep against the team with the National League's worst record, and left town 2½ games ahead of Miami.

"That was the goal coming into today — break the streak," Crawford said. "It will be a happy flight."

San Francisco's Tyler Beede, recalled before the game from Triple-A Sacramento, allowed

one run in six innings to lower his ERA in four appearances to 7.82.

"What a great start," Bochy said. "We needed it in the worst way."

Beede earned another start next week at the Mets, Bochy said. Three relievers completed a seven-hitter.

"We won a game we needed to win to get over that hump," Beede said.

The Giants, who won with six hits, trailed 1-0 in the seventh when Crawford doubled and scored on a single by Mike Yastrzemski, who earned his first career RBI.

With the score 1-all, Adam Conley (1-5) walked pinch hitter Buster Posey in the eighth. Brandon Belt followed with a broken-bat single, and Evan Longoria walked to load the bases. Crawford greeted Wei-Yin Chen with a ground-rule double for a 3-1 lead.

It was a heady moment for the Giants, who were outscored 62-

20 during their losing streak.

"We're sputtering a little bit, and it was good to see Craw deliver," Bochy said. "That's what we're used to."

Crawford hiked his average to .215.

Reyes Moronta (2-4) worked a scoreless seventh, and Will Smith pitched a perfect ninth for his 13th save.

Sandy Alcantara pitched six innings, singled home the Marlins' lone run and departed with a 1-0 lead. He worked around two hits, five walks and a hit batter.

"I feel good, but also feel bad," he said. "The bases on balls were a problem."

Dodgers 2, Mets 0: Hyun-Jin Ryu (8-1) pitched four-hit ball into the eighth inning, leading host Los Angeles over New York.

Angels 9, Mariners 3: Kole Calhoun and Cesar Puello homered, Mike Trout had three RBIs and visiting Los Angeles battered Yusei Kikuchi (3-3)

for six early runs in a win over Seattle.

Cardinals 5, Phillies 3: Dakota Hudson (4-3) tossed six effective innings, Jedd Gyorko hit a two-run homer and visiting St. Louis beat Philadelphia.

Rockies 11, Diamondbacks 10 (10): Daniel Murphy hit an RBI single in the 10th inning to lead host Colorado to a victory over Arizona.

Brewers 11, Pirates 5: Mike Moustakas had two homers among his four hits and visiting Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh.

Royals 4, Rangers 2: Jorge Soler and Adalberto Mondesi homered and Jakob Junis (4-5) allowed two runs in six innings as visiting Kansas City snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over Texas.

White Sox 10, Indians 4: Yonder Alonso and Jose Abreu each hit a two-run homer, and host Chicago beat Cleveland for its season-high fourth straight victory.