

US, Iran ceasefire holds despite attacks

By LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. and Iran remained in a fragile ceasefire Tuesday after an outbreak of hostilities and renewed threats rattled efforts to secure a broader peace agreement.

U.S. forces conducted “self-defense strikes” in southern Iran late Monday, targeting missile launch sites and Iranian boats that were attempting to place mines, according to a spokesman for U.S. Central Command.

But the spokesman, Capt. Tim Hawkins, told Stars and Stripes that the U.S. military has continued “using restraint during the ongoing ceasefire,” which has faced repeated flare-ups since it was reached nearly seven weeks ago.

According to The Wall Street Journal, Iran responded to the latest U.S. strikes by launching surface-to-air missiles at U.S. planes. That prompted additional American attacks on mis-

sile launchers near Bandar Abbas, home to a large Iranian naval base near the Strait of Hormuz, the report said.

Meanwhile, Iran’s supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, who has not appeared publicly since the start of the war, issued fresh threats against the U.S. on Tuesday. According to statements carried by Iranian state media, Khamenei warned that the U.S. would no longer have “a safe haven for its mischief and for establishing military bases” in the Middle East and urged Muslim countries to stop serving as “shields for U.S. bases.”

President Donald Trump on Monday said U.S.-Iran negotiations were “proceeding nicely,” even as he warned fighting would resume if no deal was reached.

Iranian negotiators traveled to Qatar for peace talks Monday. U.S. officials have said that a final agreement may take a few more days.

According to multiple re-

ports, the talks aim to secure an interim deal that would extend the ceasefire and lead to the resumption of commercial shipping while negotiations continue on more difficult issues.

The U.S. and Iran appear to disagree in many areas, including the future of Iran’s uranium stockpile and control of the Strait of Hormuz — a vital maritime trade route that typically accounts for nearly a fifth of the global oil supply.

Iran has severely restricted commercial shipping through the strait since the war began in late February, driving up global fuel prices. Tehran argues that it has the right to charge fees for passing vessels, though such a system would likely violate international maritime law.

Speaking to reporters on a trip to India, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Washington will not accept such an arrangement.

“There’s no country in the world that’s in favor of a tolling

system except the regime in Iran. So that’s not acceptable; that cannot happen. The straits need to be open, unimpeded, without tolls,” he said Tuesday.

Ebrahim Azizi, chairman of the Iranian Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, said the U.S. needs to take “confidence-building” measures for the talks to proceed, according to the semi-official Mehr News Agency.

Those demands include an end to fighting, particularly in Lebanon — where Israel recently intensified attacks on Hezbollah — along with guarantees against another war, the lifting of the U.S. naval blockade, relief from oil sanctions and the release of frozen Iranian assets. Iran also wants acceptance of its terms for the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump has insisted Iran must never obtain a nuclear weapon and has suggested that the U.S. take control of Iran’s enriched uranium as part of a final deal.

Russia tells US to evacuate its diplomats from Kyiv

Bloomberg News

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov advised U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio to evacuate U.S. citizens and diplomats from Kyiv as the Kremlin plans to continue heavy strikes on the Ukrainian capital, the Foreign Ministry in Moscow said.

Lavrov called his U.S. counterpart at the request of President Vladimir Putin to tell him that Russia is launching systematic and consistent strikes against facilities in Kyiv as well as relevant “decision-making centers,” according to the state-

ment published late Monday.

The State Department said the two men spoke at Lavrov’s request. “The parties exchanged views on the Russia-Ukraine war, bilateral relations, and the situation in Iran,” department spokesman Tommy Pigott said.

In an earlier statement on Monday, the Kremlin urged all foreign nationals, including staff of diplomatic missions and representatives of international organizations, to leave Kyiv as soon as possible and advised residents of the Ukrainian capital to stay away from military

and administrative infrastructure.

European Union ambassador to Kyiv Katarina Mathernova dismissed Russia’s warning as “a sign of desperation” and said western diplomats were not planning to relocate. “The E.U. is not going anywhere. We are staying in Kyiv,” she wrote in a Facebook post.

Russia has bombed Ukrainian cities including Kyiv regularly since Putin ordered the February 2022 full-scale invasion. On Sunday, Ukraine came under a massive Russian drone and missile barrage that includ-

ed an Oreshnik ballistic missile, in what Moscow framed as retaliation for a Ukrainian drone attack on a college in the Russia-occupied Luhansk region that killed 21 students.

Ukraine’s General Staff said its forces hit the headquarters of a Russian drone unit operating in Starobilsk and it rejected Putin’s allegation that civilian facilities were hit.

Russia’s threats to Kyiv aren’t anything new given the constant strikes against the capital throughout the war, Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Heorhiy Tykhyi said on X.

China, Taiwan ships clash in disputed waters

By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

China's coast guard, with a record of run-ins with Philippine vessels since 1999, sparred with its Taiwanese counterpart in the South China Sea over the weekend.

Vessels from both coast guards stood off near the Taiwan-administered island of Dongsha, according to Taiwanese officials.

The 5,500-ton Chinese coast guard patrol vessel CCG-3501 was spotted heading for Dongsha on Saturday morning, Taiwan's coast guard said in a Sunday news release.

Taiwan's 1,000-ton patrol vessel Taichung approached the Chinese ship after it entered waters claimed by Taiwan that extend from 12 to 24 nautical miles

offshore, the release said.

The vessels sent radio warnings in Chinese and English asserting jurisdiction and ordering each other to leave the area during the standoff, which continued through Sunday morning, according to the service.

"The Chinese vessel arrogantly claimed that China has sovereignty and jurisdiction over the Dongsha Islands," the coast guard said of a Chinese radio message.

The Taiwanese vessel broadcast back: "Your actions prove that China's peace is a scam. The international community will not support you. Please do not destroy peace; you should return and fight for democracy."

So far this year, the Taiwanese coast guard has expelled Chinese counterparts from waters

around Dongsha six times, Taiwan's state-run Central News Agency reported Sunday.

The standoff ended after 33 hours, The Taipei Times reported Monday, citing the coast guard.

Dongsha, also known as Pratas, is a coral atoll administered by Taiwan, but claimed by China. The island is about 280 miles southwest of Kaohsiung and garrisoned by about 300 Taiwanese coast guardsmen, according to the agency.

Taiwan also controls Taiping Island, also known as Itu Aba, about 900 miles southwest of Kaohsiung and occupied by another 200 coast guard personnel, the agency reported.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea, putting it at odds with its neighbors. The Chi-

nese have built military facilities in the disputed territory.

Between 2021 and 2024, China's coast guard blocked or disrupted Philippine resupply missions to outposts in the South China Sea, including use of water cannons and at least one close-quarter skirmish, according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative.

The two sides reached a "provisional understanding" in July 2024 that reduced dangerous encounters during Philippine resupply missions to Second Thomas Shoal, according to the initiative.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has vowed to reunify democratic Taiwan with the communist mainland, by force if necessary.

Vets gather in Chicago to protest Iran war, policies

Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — While many veterans marched in hometown parades Monday, others gathered in downtown Chicago to hold a different kind of march — to protest the war in Iran and other actions by the administration of President Donald Trump.

Standing in the heat, next to the Chicago Remembers Vietnam Veterans Memorial off of the Chicago Riverwalk, they sang protest songs. Speakers raged against the war in Iran, changes to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. and Israel's actions in the Middle East.

They then marched through downtown, carrying yellow signs saying "Vets say no more rich man's wars" and signs bearing the name of the group that organized the event, About Face: Veterans Against the War.

"About Face is made up of vet-

erans, active-duty members and allies that understand our experiences do not end when we take the uniform off," Stefanie Macias, an Army veteran in the group, told the crowd. "If anything, they give us responsibility to speak more honestly than most about what pointless, endless wars actually cost."

In response to the march and criticism of the Iran war, White House spokesperson Anna Kelly said in a statement Monday: "For 47 years, American Presidents and countless other world leaders talked about the threat posed by Iran, but no one had the courage to address it, President Trump took decisive action to ensure that Iran could never harm our homeland, our troops, or our allies again. Once Iran's nuclear threat is removed for good, America and the entire world will be safer and more stable."

Massie files paperwork for 2028 House election

Lexington Herald-Leader

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Less than a week after losing his reelection bid to President Donald Trump-endorsed opponent Ed Gallrein, Kentucky's 4th District U.S. Rep. Thomas Massie seems to be laying some groundwork for his 2028 plans.

While many of the longtime congressman's fans might hope he mounts a presidential run, paperwork filed with the Federal Election Commission shows Massie is declaring his candidacy to win back the congressional seat.

Massie said in a post on X the paperwork was not a guarantee he will run for the seat, though.

"This allows me to raise funds to continue my political operations supporting my position as a current office holder and as a potential candidate for federal office," he wrote Monday after-

noon. "I haven't made a final decision about which office to seek, if I run."

Massie has been noncommittal about his aspirations after he vacates his House seat in January 2027. He's previously said he would "be a good governor" when asked if he would run for the commonwealth's highest office.

The Republican primary for Kentucky governor is likely to feature Massie's colleague Jamie Comer, who represents Kentucky's 1st Congressional District. Secretary of State Michael Adams has also hinted at entering the race.

In a Sunday interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," Massie said he "will not rule out anything, and right now I'm not going to rule in anything" regarding his political future.

"But I think I will stay engaged in some way or shape," he said.

Risk of chemical blast lowered in Calif.

The Orange County Register
 SANTA ANA, Calif.— Fire officials said late Monday that the risk of a catastrophic blast from an overheated chemical container in a Garden Grove aerospace plant is now low enough that they believe it is safe to lift evacuation orders for more than half of the people who spent Memorial Day weekend out of their homes.

But officials also said the threat of a smaller blast or of a dangerous chemical leak remain, so they're keeping roughly 35% of the original evacuation zone in effect.

An exact timeline for when everybody will be allowed to return hasn't been established, but officials said it wouldn't be until Tuesday at the earliest.

Orange County Health Officer Dr. Regina Chinsio-Kwong

said if there is an explosion or leak at the GKN Aerospace plant, residents and those who haven't heeded the evacuation order will be instructed to shelter in place.

The new evacuation zone will reach from Orangewood Avenue to the north, Dale Street to the east, Knott Street to the west and Garden Grove Boulevard to the south, Garden Grove Police Chief Amir El-Farra said.

All on-ramps and exits of the 22 freeway will also remain open.

Officials who spoke at the Monday evening news conference urged residents whose homes remain in the evacuation zone to stay out of the area for their safety and the safety of first responders.

Residents were also told there is no safety risk for people

who are returning to their homes who were removed from the evacuation zone.

News about the new evacuation rules came hours after fire officials said the worst-case scenario — a potential heat-induced explosion — has been averted.

Orange County Fire Authority officials said Monday that a crack detected in the container has allowed the chemical to cool slightly, reversing a trend that they feared could lead to a "boiling liquid expanding vapor explosion," or "BLEVE."

Such a blast could have sent chemical plumes into the air and extend its toxic reach.

"The crack is there," Division Chief Craig Covey added. "We had identified it is there, and the tank has released its pressure."

After days of often dire warn-

ings by fire officials and experts, the announcement was the most optimistic update yet by those working to head off a potential disaster.

A boiling liquid expanding vapor explosion, which would have likely caused massive damage and released a toxic chemical plume into the air, occurs when a sealed, pressurized container holding a liquid chemical ruptures.

The crisis is not fully averted, authorities cautioned.

The possibility of a lesser explosion or a leak remains, and large-scale evacuations are still in place. But the worst possible outcome is not expected to occur.

The temperature inside the tank has also gone down, from at least 100 degrees to 93 degrees, the chief said.

Shooter had been 'idolizing Nazis and mass shooters'

Los Angeles Times

Fifteen months before Caleb Liam Vazquez gunned down three men at the San Diego Islamic Center in Chula Vista, Calif., police got a court order to remove his father's numerous firearms.

Vazquez, 18, was undergoing mental health treatment in the days before the deadly attack May 18, having been previously involuntarily hospitalized by authorities.

His parents, in the aftermath, said he was caught up in a web of online hate, and the tragic events came after repeated voluntary trips to rehabilitation treatment centers.

Vazquez came onto authorities' radar in January 2025, when concerns about his mental health arose. Chula Vista police filed a gun violence emergency protective order against his father, Marco Vazquez, with a police officer writing the teenager

"was involved in suspicious behavior idolizing Nazis and mass shooters."

Police had acted after being alerted to the teenager's writings on social media, using a 2014 law enacted after Elliot Rodger gunned down six people in Isla Vista, Calif. The law allows police, family and friends to get a judge to issue a gun violence restraining order to prevent an individual from getting access to firearms.

According to the San Diego Superior Court records, the officer noted that Caleb Vazquez "was placed on a 5150 hold" — where a person is deemed a danger to themselves or others and involuntarily detained — and that his father, who had 12 registered guns, refused to "allow officers to confirm if firearms were stored properly."

The FBI was alerted to Vazquez's behavior — something that happens regularly.

Hurricane season starting on Sunday

Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — There are 26 letters in the alphabet but only 21 are set aside each year for potential tropical storm and hurricane names in areas tracked by the National Hurricane Center.

The names for the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season are Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gonzalo, Hanna, Isaias, Josephine, Kyle, Leah, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paulette, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky and Wilfred.

There are no names for Q, U, X, Y and Z, and each of the 21 names alternate from female to male.

This year starts with a male name and next year will begin with a female name.

If some of this year's names seem familiar, it's because each year's names are decided six years out by an international

committee of the World Meteorological Organization.

If a storm name isn't retired after a season, it recycles for a future season.

This year, for instance, the WMO Hurricane Committee retired Melissa from its Atlantic basin name list "because of the death and destruction it caused in the Caribbean in October 2025," according to a WMO press release.

It was replaced by Molly — but that name won't be used until 2031.

So a good chunk of the storm names used in 2020 are getting reused this year.

Arthur, for instance, had been used in 2020, 2014, 2008, 2002, 1996, 1990 and 1984.

The only new name in 2026 is Leah, which replaced Laura, a deadly and destructive Category 4 hurricane that struck Louisiana in 2020.

Trump administration plans NDAs for federal employees

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is moving to create a governmentwide nondisclosure agreement for federal workers after a number of high-profile and unauthorized leaks.

The Office of Personnel Management, which serves as the federal government's human resources arm, proposed the standardized NDA form Tuesday and said agencies that use it would administer it to both new hires and current employees.

The proposal specifically mentions leaks related to the American military raid in Venezuela in January and planned enforcement actions by immigration agents in the U.S.

OPM's notice, sent to the Office of the Federal Register on Tuesday, is a proposal, and the agency is seeking public com-

ment on the scope, form and enforcement of any nondisclosure agreements.

It would restrict disclosures of its internal decision-making, "pre-decisional documents and interagency comments exchanged during internal coordination processes."

The draft says violators are subject to disciplinary action "up to and including removal and debarment from future Federal employment or contractor status, and civil and criminal penalties."

Nondisclosure agreements have often been blasted by labor activists, who say they make it harder to speak out about workplace wrongdoing. In his first term, President Donald Trump instituted nondisclosure agreements for White House employees in what First Amendment advocates said was a "a

grave affront to our system of free expression."

OPM sought to cast Tuesday's NDA proposal as an effort to restore trust and improve agency operations.

The rule would define confidential government information as "non-public, confidential, or proprietary information" relating to "internal agency operations, personnel matters, procurement processes, or any sensitive, pre-decisional or deliberative material that is not currently publicly available and should not be disclosed under applicable law."

NDAs in the federal government have legal limits.

The Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act allows disclosures to Congress and to agency inspectors general if federal employees have evidence of wrongdoing.

Ebola crisis outpacing response

Bloomberg News

Ebola is spreading faster in Democratic Republic of Congo than responders can contain it, the World Health Organization warned, as suspected deaths climbed above 220 and treatment centers came under attack in the country's conflict-hit east.

Congo has reported 101 confirmed Ebola infections, 930 suspected cases and 221 suspected deaths, according to health ministry data released late Monday. More than 2,200 contacts have now been identified across 11 affected health zones spanning the eastern provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu.

"We are now playing catch-up with a very fast-moving epidemic," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Monday during a virtual briefing of African health ministers. "At the moment, the epidemic is outpacing us."

The outbreak is increasingly exposing the strain on public-health systems in eastern Congo, where armed conflict, mass displacement and distrust of authorities are complicating efforts to isolate patients and trace infections. Health officials have warned that attacks on hospitals and unsafe burials are accelerating transmission.

At least 25 Ebola patients fled treatment facilities in Ituri over the weekend after isolation tents were burned and hospitals were attacked by crowds demanding the release of bodies for burial, Reuters reported, citing local hospital officials. One confirmed Ebola patient remained at large.

Kenya and Angola are among 10 African countries now considered at high risk for outbreaks because of known travel routes and porous border crossings, according to Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Pope Leo: AI should be disarmed to prevent it from dominating humanity

Bloomberg News

Pope Leo XIV said artificial intelligence should be "disarmed" to protect humanity from its dangers, adding his voice to a heated debate over the extent to which governments should regulate a technology that is reshaping the world.

In a landmark address to the Catholic Church, which included a video presentation with images of the Industrial Revolution, World War II and the Berlin Wall falling, the pope called for making AI more "human-friendly."

He said the technology needs to be freed from monopolistic control, shifting away from using it to achieve geopolitical or commercial gains.

"To disarm means discrediting the assumption that technical power automatically confers the right to govern," the pope said Monday in his new encyclical to the faithful. "To disarm does not mean rejecting technology, but preventing it from dominating humanity."

By wading so publicly on the need to protect humans in the age of AI, the first American pope in history has potentially put himself on a collision course with President Donald Trump, who favors deregulation of the rapidly-evolving technology to maintain a competitive edge against China.

The 70-year-old pope is joining a furious debate over how far AI models should be con-

strained amid fears about their potential to wreak havoc on the banking system, to select targets for military attacks and eventually to replace humans in vast swathes of decision making.

The release of the document called *Magnifica humanitas*, which means magnificent humanity in Latin, marks the pontiff's most consequential act since becoming the head of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics a year ago.

Encyclicals, as these letters are known, are a way for popes to provide moral guidance on the biggest challenges of their times, including hot-button issues like climate change and migration.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Scandal-ridden horse races hit with new rules

NV LAS VEGAS — The Nevada Gaming Commission on Thursday overhauled rules that strengthen regulatory oversight of rural county fair horse-racing meets that in 2024 were wracked with doping scandals.

The revised regulations also turn some decisions over to the Nevada Gaming Control Board chair and coordinates policies with those of the Association of Racing Commissioners International.

Specifically, the new rules also require microchipping of horses to better identify participants, place limits on the use of whips and add new safety measures.

The amended Regulation 30, which takes effect June 1, addresses several concerns that were raised last year in the scandal-filled Elko County Fair horse races in August and September 2024 in which horses that were drugged with cocaine and illegal narcotics won races and prize purses.

Avoid foam this summer, health experts warn

MI DETROIT — Michigan's numerous waterways offer plenty of opportunities for outdoor recreation, but as summer draws near, state health experts warned that even touching the foam that sometimes accumulates on those waterways could lead to health problems.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services said in a statement that anyone

who comes in contact with the foam should rinse off as soon as possible to avoid inadvertently ingesting the “forever chemicals” that can build up in the substance.

Foam can form on lakes, rivers, streams and other surface waters and is notorious for containing high levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, which are linked to harmful health effects.

PFAS can enter public waterways when products, industrial waste or firefighting foam containing them are released into the environment and then carried by runoff, groundwater or wastewater discharge into rivers and lakes.

Fire crew salvages family wedding ring

CA LOS ANGELES — Firefighters came to the aid of a family whose home was destroyed by a fast-moving wildfire last week in Simi Valley.

A Los Angeles Fire Department crew sifted through rubble on the property and found a wedding ring, along with other precious belongings, authorities said in a news release.

A video shared on social media showed the firefighters from Engine 85 returning the ring to its owner.

Lawmakers call for state prison director to resign

MI LANSING — State Rep. Laurie Pohutsky and 29 other sitting members of the state Legislature are calling for the resignation of Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Wash-

ington, citing a history of problems at the state prisons under her leadership.

The letter Thursday from the lawmakers notes that in the past month alone, four deaths have occurred at state prisons that attracted public attention: An inmate stabbed to death in his cell, another who fell to his death and two women who died less than a week apart at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility near Ypsilanti.

It has become clear, said Pohutsky, D-Livonia, that “significant policy and culture change” are needed within the department.

“This cannot and will not be achieved with the departure of just one member of MDOC's leadership,” Pohutsky wrote. “However, it has become abundantly clear to each of us that such change cannot and will not occur under your leadership as director.”

Pohutsky's letter was signed by 30 lawmakers — 23 Democrats and seven Republicans — three former Democratic lawmakers and U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich.

DA drops cases over deputy's credibility

CO DENVER — A district attorney on Colorado's Western Slope dismissed more than 30 criminal cases and is reviewing nearly 100 more because of newly discovered credibility issues with the deputy who investigated the alleged crimes.

Sixth Judicial District Attorney Sean Murray is reviewing every case in which Jermal Ball is or was a witness, the prosecutor said Friday.

Ball was, until this month, a

deputy at the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office.

He left the agency after reporting by The Denver Post showed he'd been fired from a previous job with the Durango Police Department for dishonesty after he was pulled over for suspected drunk driving and lied to internal affairs investigators.

The 2022 termination should have triggered a state investigation into Ball and the revocation of his certification to work as a police officer in Colorado, but the Durango Police Department did not report the incident to state disciplinary authorities at the time.

3M sued by state again over PFAS pollution

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota is again suing 3M Co. over contamination from its products containing “forever chemicals,” this time concerning pollution at its Cottage Grove manufacturing facility.

In a lawsuit filed this month in Washington County District Court, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency said per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS, are harming the state's ground and surface waters in violation of permits and state and federal laws.

The state said PFAS exposure is associated with “liver damage, altered cholesterol levels, thyroid disease, immune system impacts, decreased fertility, pregnancy-induced hypertension and reduced birth weight. ... It is essential that (PFAS) releases are identified, controlled, and remediated.”

— From wire reports

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Knicks rout Cavs to finish Eastern sweep

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Karl-Anthony Towns had 19 points and 14 rebounds, OG Anunoby scored 17 and the New York Knicks routed the Cleveland Cavaliers 130-93 Monday night to complete a four-game sweep of the Eastern Conference finals and advance to the NBA Finals for the first time since 1999.

Landry Shamet scored 16 off the bench while Mikal Bridges and Jalen Brunson had 15 apiece for New York, which became the fourth team to have an 11-game winning streak during its postseason run. The last to do that was Golden State, which had a 15-game run en route to its second title in three seasons in 2017.

All but one of the Knicks' wins have been by double digits, with an average margin of victory of 23.7 points.

"I feel like the word 'hope' has been gone from the New York Knicks name for a long time and for me to be part of this team that revives hope is something special," Towns said.

New York pulled its starters with 7:47 remaining and a 35-

point lead as its large contingent of fans loudly chanted "Knicks in four!" New York fans easily outnumbered Cleveland fans as die-hard celebrity fans director Spike Lee, comedian Tracy Morgan and actor Timothée Chalamet and his girlfriend, Kylie Jenner, made the trip.

The Knicks dominated in second-chance points, outscoring the Cavaliers 32-5. They also had a 33-9 advantage in fast break points.

New York will play defending champion Oklahoma City or San Antonio in the Finals. The Western Conference finals was tied at two games apiece going into Game 5 on Tuesday. The Thunder or Spurs will have homecourt advantage when the Finals start on June 3 because of a better regular-season record.

This will be the Knicks' third appearance in the Finals since winning their last title in 1973. They lost in seven games to Houston in 1994 and in five to San Antonio in 1999.

New York legends Walt "Clyde" Frazier and Patrick Ewing presented the Bob Cousy Tro-

phy to the Knicks on the court.

It is the 15th time since the NBA-ABA merger in 1976 that a coach has reached the finals in his first year with a team. The Knicks hired coach Mike Brown after parting ways with Tom Thibodeau after they reached the Eastern Conference finals last year, but lost in six games to Indiana.

It will be Brown's second trip to the finals as a coach. His last trip was with Cleveland in 2007.

New York has won all three of its clinching games during the playoffs by at least 30 points. The Knicks routed the Atlanta Hawks by 51 in Game 6 of the first round (140-89) and then defeated the Philadelphia 76ers by 30 (144-114) in Game 4 of the second round to complete a sweep.

Brunson was named the MVP of the series after averaging 25.5 points and 7.8 assists.

Donovan Mitchell had 31 points for the Cavs, who were swept in a postseason series for the first time since the 2018 NBA Finals against the Warriors. Mitchell scored the Cavaliers' first eight points as they jumped out to an 8-2 lead. They led for most of the first six

minutes before New York took control.

Evan Mobley's putback dunk gave Cleveland a 17-14 advantage before the Knicks scored nine straight points.

A floater by Mitchell got the Cavs within 30-26 with 2:12 remaining in the first quarter when New York went on a 20-0 run over a five-minute span. The Knicks were 8 of 14 from the field, including four 3-pointers. The bench scored 15 points, including a pair of 3-pointers by Shamet. The seventh-year guard was 11-for-12 from beyond the arc in the series.

Cleveland was 0-for-9 from the field during its drought, including missing all three shots from beyond the arc, and committed four turnovers.

The Knicks' largest lead was 45 points in the fourth quarter.

James Harden, who finished with 12 points but was 2-for-8 from the field, lamented the Cavaliers' missed opportunities. Besides not making open shots throughout the series, they blew a 22-point lead in the fourth quarter in Game 1 before losing 115-104 in overtime.

Svechnikov scores in OT, rallies Canes to Game 3 win

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Andrei Svechnikov scored at 14:06 of overtime and the Carolina Hurricanes defeated the Montreal Canadiens 3-2 on Monday night to take a 2-1 lead in the Eastern Conference Final.

Shayne Gostisbehere and Taylor Hall scored in regulation for Carolina. Frederik Andersen made 11 saves.

"You're seeing that the rust is off," said Hall, whose team had 11 days off following the second round of the playoffs. "We're feeling good about playing hockey again."

Mike Matheson and Lane Hutson scored for Montreal, which got 35 stops from Jakub Dobes.

Game 4 in the best-of-seven

series is Wednesday at the Bell Centre.

After a back-and-forth overtime, Hutson turned the puck over in the neutral zone. The Canadiens had time to recover, but Svechnikov took a pass from Seth Jarvis up high and fired a shot through traffic for the winning goal.

"Can't get it back," Hutson said. "I thought we played a pretty good game. I feel like that stuff can happen and usually you can get through the shift. Unfortunately, we didn't."

Montreal coach Martin St. Louis thought his team could have handled the sequence better in its own zone.

"I didn't love the play, but whatever," he said. "It's what's

next, and we didn't do what's next. We didn't get the job done."

After earning a 3-2 overtime victory at home Saturday that looked a lot more like their relentless style following a discomfuted 6-2 loss in Thursday's opener, the Hurricanes came out flying and took the lead at 8:24 of the first period when the puck popped into the slot for Gostisbehere to fire in off the left post past a diving Dobes.

"He's competing back there every night and giving us a chance," Canadiens forward Cole Caufield said.

Montreal, which topped the Tampa Bay Lightning and Buffalo Sabres in a pair of seven-game matchups to make the conference finals despite a combined

2-4 record at home, tied it at 15:28.

Carolina, the East's top seed coming off sweeps of the Ottawa Senators and Philadelphia Flyers, pushed back less than a minute later when Hall shoveled home his own rebound from in tight past Dobes as the winger was falling to the ice at 16:22.

The Canadiens, who registered just 12 shots on goal in Game 2, evened things up on a power play at 4:43 of the second period.

Hutson has been a focus for the Hurricanes on the physical side through three games.

Montreal lost two in a row for the first time in these playoffs. They now have to quickly turn the page.

3 Astros combine for no-hitter vs. Rangers

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Houston Astros have pitched several combined no-hitters — even one in the World Series. This latest gem, however, might have been the biggest surprise of all.

Japanese right-hander Tatsuya Imai threw six spotless innings after walking three of the first four batters he faced Monday night. Steven Okert then got three outs before Alimber Santa made his major league debut and fired two perfect innings to complete Houston's 17th regular-season no-hitter — four of them combined efforts — in a 9-0 win over the Texas Rangers.

"The first inning, you never thought that this was going to be the outcome of the game," manager Joe Espada said. "Imai, he continued to compete. ... He continued to pound the zone, he fought through it. Six strong innings, and

then the rest is history."

It was the first no-hitter in the major leagues since Shota Imanaga and two Chicago Cubs relievers combined for a 12-0 win over Pittsburgh on Sept. 4, 2024. No pitcher has tossed a complete-game no-hitter since Blake Snell for San Francisco against Cincinnati on Aug. 2, 2024.

The 23-year-old Santa became the first pitcher since 1900 to participate in a no-hitter during his big league debut, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"Yeah, there was some adrenaline," Santa said through a translator. "I was aware of the no-hitter, but I was just trying to calm myself down from the bullpen."

Ronel Blanco tossed the previous no-hitter for the Astros in a 10-0 victory over Toronto on April 1, 2024, which also marked Espada's first win as manager. In fact, Houston has authored three of the

past seven and five of the last 11 major league no-hitters — including one in the 2022 World Series when four pitchers combined against Philadelphia.

Okert worked the seventh after Imai got 16 outs over the last 16 batters he faced. He benefited from a double play in the first, then settled into a groove after issuing his third walk.

"During pregame, our focus was attacking the zone," Imai said through a translator. "But in the first inning, I felt unbalanced, the timing was off. But after that inning, I was able to adjust the timing, all the rhythm and stuff."

Santa entered in the eighth and retired all six batters he faced. His 24th pitch was a called third strike against Brandon Nimmo, ending the game with his first career strikeout. That was confirmed after an ABS challenge by Nimmo of the final pitch.

Texas was held without a hit for the sixth time, and third at home since moving into Globe Life Field in 2020. The previous one was Corey Kluber's no-hitter for the New York Yankees on May 19, 2021, about six weeks after San Diego right-hander Joe Murogrove threw one in Texas for his hometown team April 9.

These Rangers, hitting .232 with 201 runs through 53 games, have two of their best players on the injured list in two-time World Series MVP shortstop Corey Seager (lower back inflammation) and outfielder Wyatt Langford (right forearm strain). Third baseman Josh Jung (.302 batting average) also missed his second game in a row because of left shoulder soreness.

The Rangers struck out only four times, a night after whiffing 16 times in a 2-1 loss to the Los Angeles Angels.

Sabalenka outshines Maeiro at French Open; Gauff advances

Associated Press

PARIS — Aryna Sabalenka's diamonds sparkled in the sun when she won her first-round match at the heat-soaked French Open on Tuesday.

The top-ranked Sabalenka looked light on her feet on Court Philippe-Chatrier, despite wearing two thick necklaces in a 6-4, 6-2 win against Jessica Bouzas Maneiro.

"Diamonds, I don't really feel the heaviness, but I can imagine how it looks from the outside," said Sabalenka, the tournament runner-up last year to Coco Gauff. "So I feel pretty comfortable. For me, it's important to look good."

The four-time major winner was initially going to wear three necklaces but said she thought that might be too much.

"It probably sounds a bit crazy, but when I feel good about what I'm wearing, how I look on court, I tend to perform much better," she said. "I like to bring a little bit of a fashion on the tennis court. I know the dress that I will wear on the Grand Slam, and I just try to come up with something to match the outfit."

Sabalenka said she wasn't worried over her jewelry away from Roland Garros.

"I have my fiancé. He's kind of like my security," she said, smiling. "My physio does

jujitsu, so I feel pretty secure walking around. If I go somewhere, I don't go alone."

Gauff began her title defense with a 6-4, 6-0 victory over fellow American Taylor Townsend, while four-time major winner Naomi Osaka beat Laura Siegemund 6-3, 7-6 (3) on Court Suzanne-Lenglen.

For a third consecutive day, the temperature in Paris was forecast to rise to at least 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

The unusually hot conditions at Roland Garros make net-rushing a viable option because the court is drying out quicker and playing faster.

Medvedev falls early again

Daniil Medvedev usually thrives in such conditions, but he struggled in a five-set loss to 97th-ranked Australian opponent Adam Walton.

Walton, who received a wild card invitation from tournament organizers, beat Medvedev 6-2, 1-6, 6-1, 1-6, 6-4. It was Medvedev's second straight first round exit here and third in four years.

Stefanos Tsitsipas, the 2021 runner-up to Novak Djokovic, was leading 6-2, 3-0 against Alexandre Muller when his French opponent retired. Muller wiped away tears as he left the court and later said he injured his

right calf, three months after injuring his left calf.

Later, top-ranked Jannik Sinner looked to extend his 29-match winning streak when he opened against French wild card Clement Tabur in the night session.

Rising star

French teenager Moïse Kouamé made the perfect start to his French Open career with a 7-6 (4), 6-2, 6-1 win over veteran Marin Cilic.

The 17-year-old Kouamé won one day after 39-year-old Frenchman Gael Monfils made his last appearance at Roland Garros.

The teenager raised his arms in triumph and tilted his head back after defeating the 37-year-old Cilic, who won the 2014 U.S. Open, finished runner-up at two other majors and reached the French Open semifinals in 2022.

The ATP Tour said No. 318-ranked Kouamé became the first man born in 2008 or later to win a Grand Slam match, and the crowd on a sun-baked Court Simonne-Mathieu showed their appreciation by chanting "Moïse! Moïse! Moïse!" and clapping in-between.

In March, he became the youngest winner in Miami Masters history when he beat Zachary Svajda in the first round.

Brewers' Misiorowski throws record heat in win

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Jacob Misiorowski matched a career high with 12 strikeouts and carried a no-hitter into the sixth inning as the Milwaukee Brewers defeated the St. Louis Cardinals 5-1 on Monday.

Christian Yelich hit a two-run homer and Andrew Vaughn went 3 for 4 as Milwaukee extended its NL Central lead over St. Louis to 2½ games.

Misiorowski (5-2) threw 57 pitches of at least 100 mph, which represented the most in a single game since pitch tracking began in 2008. The previous record for 100-mph pitches in a single game was 47 by Cincinnati's Hunter Greene against St. Louis on Sept. 17, 2022.

He reached a top velocity of 103.4 mph while allowing one run, two hits and one walk in seven innings. His ERA improved to 1.83.

"I feel like that's how it should be every day," Misiorowski said. "I feel like that's where I'm at. I feel like that's just my normal."

Misiorowski started the game by walking JJ Wetherholt, but the Cardinals wouldn't get another runner on base until Pedro Pagés hit a bloop single to lead off the sixth. They got a run later in the sixth to end Misiorowski's streak of consecutive scoreless innings at 29%.

Orioles 9, Rays 7 (13): Colton Cowser hit a two-run game-winning homer in the 13th inning — his second walk-off shot in as many days — to give host Baltimore a win over AL East-leading Tampa Bay.

Cowser's 425-foot blast off Jesse Scholtens (5-3) was just his third homer of the season and punctuated a wild victory in which the Orioles rallied three times in extra innings.

Pete Alonso and Jeremiah Jackson each singled in a run to tie it at 4-all in the 11th. Cowser scored the game-tying run to make it 5-all in the 12th on Gun-

nar Henderson's grounder to first, a sequence originally called an out by plate umpire Ryan Additon before a replay challenge showed the sliding Cowser snuck an arm under Nick Fortes' tag.

Dodgers 5, Rockies 3: Freddie Freeman doubled in the go-ahead run in a four-run seventh inning, and host Los Angeles rallied to beat Colorado in the series opener.

With the bases loaded in the seventh, Shohei Ohtani grounded into a force out, scoring Will Smith to trail 3-2 after the Dodgers successfully challenged the out call on Ohtani at first that would have been a double play. Mookie Betts followed with a tying sacrifice fly to left that scored Hyeseong Kim.

Ohtani scored on Freeman's double to right for a 4-3 lead, the Dodgers' first since Kiké Hernández's RBI double in the third in his season debut.

Mariners 9, Athletics 2: Luke Raley and Dominic Canzone each hit a two-run homer in a six-run third inning that sent visiting Seattle to a victory over the Athletics.

Randy Arozarena had an RBI double in the third and a two-run homer in the ninth. J.P. Crawford also went deep for the Mariners, who moved within 1½ games of the first-place A's in the AL West.

Athletics slugger Nick Kurtz walked in the third to extend his on-base streak to 48 games, equaling the single-season club record Mark McGwire set in 1995. McGwire stretched the mark to 62 when he reached base safely in the first 14 games the following season.

Pirates 2, Cubs 1: Henry Davis hit a go-ahead solo home run in the seventh inning, and host Pittsburgh sent Chicago to its ninth straight loss with a victory.

Davis turned on a 91 mph cutter from Cubs reliever Trent Thornton (2-1) and sent it well

over the right-field fence for his fourth home run of the season.

The Pirates' bullpen made it stand up. Wilber Dotel (1-0) tossed three scoreless innings in relief to pick up the victory. Gregory Soto worked a perfect ninth for his sixth save as Pittsburgh beat Chicago for the third time in four tries so far this season.

White Sox 3, Twins 1: Mune-taka Murakami homered, Anthony Kay pitched six sparkling innings and host Chicago stopped Minnesota's four-game win streak with a victory.

Drew Romo also connected for the White Sox in the opener of a seven-game homestand. Rikuu Nishida singled in the fourth for his first hit in a successful big league debut.

Chicago has won seven in a row against the Twins for the first time since an eight-game streak in 1995. The opener of the four-game series was the first meeting of the AL Central teams this season.

Yankees 4, Royals 3: Anthony Volpe answered Bobby Witt Jr.'s go-ahead homer in the eighth with a two-run single in the ninth for visiting New York, sending the Yankees over Kansas City and extending their winning streak to 12 in the series.

Tim Hill (2-2) earn the win after Will Warren gave up three hits and two runs in six innings.

Reds 7, Mets 2: Nick Lodolo (1-1) won for the first time in four starts since returning from a blister, JJ Bleday and Tyler Stephenson homered and visiting Cincinnati extended New York's losing streak to four with a 7-2 victory Monday.

The Mets have scored four runs and struck out 41 times during their latest skid, dropping to 22-32 at the one-third mark — one shy of their season low of 11 games under .500 at 10-21. A big league-best 45-24 at the start of play on June 13 last year, they are 60-87 since.

Diamondbacks 6, Giants 2:

Ketel Marte had four hits, including a tying double in the fifth inning and a two-run single in the sixth, and Merrill Kelly (5-3) pitched seven innings of two-run ball to win his fourth straight start as surging Arizona beat host San Francisco.

After Marte's double in the fifth, Geraldo Perdomo singled one out later to put the Diamondbacks ahead 3-2. Adrian Del Castillo added an RBI single for Arizona, which won its third straight, ninth in 11 games and improved to 12-4 since May 9.

Nationals 10, Guardians 2: Curtis Mead went deep twice for his first multi-homer game, Luis García Jr. finished a triple shy of hitting for the cycle and visiting Washington hit six homers in a win over Cleveland.

James Wood, Jacob Young, and CJ Abrams joined García and Mead with long balls as the Nationals matched their highest homer output of the season, first set in a 10-4 victory over Cincinnati on May 12.

Phillies 3, Padres 0: Kyle Schwarber hit his major league-leading 21st home run to send Jesús Luzardo and visiting Philadelphia to a win against San Diego.

Brandon Marsh added a two-run homer for the Phillies, who had just three hits as they opened a six-game trip through San Diego and Los Angeles. Luzardo (4-4) allowed four hits, struck out six and walked two in six innings.

Marlins 8, Blue Jays 2: Janson Junk (3-5) pitched five innings of one-run ball and won for the first time since April 28, Kyle Stowers and Javier Sanoja each had two doubles and two RBIs, and visiting Miami extended its winning streak to four games by beating Toronto.

Canadian outfielder Owen Caissie went 2-for-4 and drove in a pair as the Marlins improved to 14-5 all-time at Rogers Centre.