

Israeli military cuts off northern Gaza

Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip — The Israeli army severed northern Gaza from the rest of the besieged territory and pounded it with airstrikes Monday, preparing for an expected push by ground forces into the dense confines of Gaza City and an even bloodier phase of the month-old war.

The Palestinian death toll has already passed 10,000 people, the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said Monday. The ministry does not distinguish between fighters and civilians. Some 1,400 Israelis have died, mostly civilians killed in the Oct. 7 incursion by Hamas that started the war.

The war has quickly become the deadliest Israeli-Palestinian violence since Israel's establishment 75 years ago.

Casualties are likely to rise sharply as the war turns to close urban combat. Troops are expected to enter Gaza City soon, Israeli media reported, and Palestinian militants who have had

years to prepare are likely to fight street by street, launching ambushes from a vast network of tunnels.

"We're closing in on them," said Lt. Col. Richard Hecht, an Israeli military spokesman. "We've completed our encirclement, separating Hamas strongholds in the north from the south." The military said it struck 450 targets overnight and ground troops took over a Hamas compound.

Several hundred thousand people are believed to remain in the north in the assault's path. The military says a one-way corridor for residents of Gaza City and surrounding areas to flee south remains available. But many are afraid to use the route, part of which is held by Israeli troops.

In recent days, airstrikes have hit U.N. facilities where thousands are sheltering, as well as hospitals, which have been overwhelmed by wounded and running low on power and supplies.

A strike early Monday hit the roof of Gaza City's Shifa Hospital, killing a number of displaced people sheltering on its top floor and destroying solar panels, said Mohamed Zaqout, general manager of all hospitals in Gaza. The panels have been helping keep power on in the facility, which has been reduced to using one generator because of lack of fuel.

Heavy Israeli bombardment overnight hit the Shati refugee camp, a densely built-up district on the Mediterranean coast adjacent to central Gaza City, Palestinians who fled south Monday reported. They said houses in the district were reduced to rubble with unknown numbers of people trapped underneath.

Ghassan Abu Sitta, a surgeon at Shifa Hospital, told The Associated Press the hospital buildings shook all night from the bombardment "and we started getting the bodies and the wounded. It was horrendous."

Around 70% of Gaza's 2.3 million residents have fled their

homes since the war began. Food, medicine, fuel and water are running low, and U.N.-run schools-turned-shelters are beyond capacity. Many people are sleeping on the streets outside.

Mobile phone and internet service went down overnight, the third such outage since the start of the war, but was gradually restored on Monday.

Israel has so far rejected U.S. suggestions for a pause in fighting to facilitate humanitarian aid deliveries and the release of some of the estimated 240 hostages seized by Hamas in its raid. Israel has also dismissed calls for a broader cease-fire from Arab countries.

After days of intense diplomacy around the Middle East, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken wrapped up his tour of the region Monday. He said efforts to secure a humanitarian pause, negotiate the hostages' release and plan for a post-Hamas Gaza were still "a work in progress" without pointing to any concrete achievements.

Rare announcement reveals Ohio-class sub in Mideast

By DAVID CHOI

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. military revealed Sunday that an Ohio-class submarine has deployed to U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility, which includes the Middle East.

It's rare for the Defense Department to publicize its submarines' movements. The short announcement, made via X, formerly known as Twitter, provided few details, including the name of the vessel and whether it is carrying cruise

missiles or nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles.

The notice comes two days after the Navy announced that two carrier strike groups — the Gerald R. Ford and Dwight D. Eisenhower — launched aircraft and practiced missile defense during a three-day exercise in the Mediterranean Sea.

The show of strength coincides with high-level diplomacy aimed at preventing a wider war in the Middle East.

Secretary of State Antony

Blinken traveled to the Middle East on Sunday for diplomatic talks with regional leaders, including Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank and Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani in Baghdad.

Blinken stressed the United States "supports Israel's right to defense against Hamas" but noted that how it accomplishes that goal "matters."

"Israel must take every possible measure to prevent civilian casualties," Blinken said

during a joint press conference with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi at Amman on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Eisenhower, along with the cruiser USS Philippine Sea and the destroyer USS Mason, transited the Suez Canal and entered the Red Sea on Saturday, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet said in a statement the same day.

The group joins the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group.

DODEA to trim special education

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

Defense Department schools are moving students with learning disabilities into general education classrooms for some subjects, a spokeswoman for the Department of Defense Education Activity — Pacific confirmed Friday.

Special education students will be transitioned out of dedicated classes in areas like math and English language arts and into general education, Miranda Ferguson wrote in an emailed statement Friday. DODEA administers schools for eligible children on U.S. military bases worldwide.

The students will continue to have access to “differentiated, direct instruction” from a special education teacher who will co-teach and collaborate with general education staff, she said.

Ferguson, who declined further comment Friday, did not provide a timeline for the transition or specify whether the change will impact DODEA special education students worldwide. She said further questions could be discussed this week.

Some parents of special education students have been told by teachers that the transition will take place next school year.

“In order to ensure our students with disabilities receive the same access to rigorous courses as non-disabled students, we are transitioning away from stand-alone special education classes,” Ferguson wrote. “At DoDEA, we strive to provide excellence in education for every student, every day, everywhere.”

The move follows an Indiana

University study released in May in the *Journal of Special Education* that found students with disabilities spending 80% more time in inclusive classrooms fare better in reading and math than peers in special education classrooms.

The research indicates these students are “more prepared” for successful post-secondary education and employment, according to an abstract on a Department of Education website.

Special education policy was set in the United States in 1975 with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which ensures “a free appropriate public education” to eligible children with disabilities and “special education and related services.”

Defense Department policy on special education was codified in June 2015.

DODEA defines special education as “specially designed instruction, support, and services” provided to students, ages 3 through 21, with a disability that requires “an individually designed instructional program to meet their unique learning needs,” according to the department’s website.

DODEA strives to provide special services to students in the “least restrictive environment” that is appropriate, the site states.

The department provides consultations between special and general education staff, co-teaching in general education classrooms and supplementary aids and support.

The type of services and placement is based “upon a student’s individual need,” according to the website.

Canada navy: Helicopter harassed by Chinese jets

By JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

Canada’s armed forces have reported a dangerously close call one of its helicopters had with Chinese fighter jets early last week in the South China Sea.

Two twin-engine, air superiority J-11 fighters buzzed a multirole Canadian CH-148 Cyclone during a drill on Oct. 29, according to a Friday news release from Canada’s Department of National Defence. The Cyclone was operating from the frigate HMCS Ottawa.

“Though the initial encounter was safe, two subsequent encounters were deemed unsafe,” the release said.

One jet eventually made a pass over the Cyclone “with little separation,” prompting the helicopter pilot to take action to fly safely in the jet’s wake turbulence, according to the release.

“Later the same day, during a second sortie, the same helicopter was once again inter-

cepted by another J-11 fighter aircraft, which launched flares directly in front of the helicopter,” the release said. The pilot maneuvered to avoid ingesting the flares into the helicopter’s rotor and intakes.

“This encounter was also deemed unsafe,” the release said.

A spokesman for China’s military disputed the Canadian version of events that he said took place near the Paracel Islands, a disputed island group off the Vietnamese coast.

The Canadian frigate launched two helicopter sorties that approached the Paracels, which China calls the Xisha Islands, “with unknown intentions,” spokesman Senior Col. Zhang Xiaogang was quoted as saying Saturday by the official China Military website.

The incident took place in international waters, according to the Canadian Defence Department. The release did not specify the site.

US shoots another drone targeting troops in Syria

Staff and wire reports

U.S. forces shot down another one-way attack drone Sunday that was targeting American and coalition troops near a base in neighboring Syria, a U.S. official told the Associated Press.

Sunday’s attack by drone against a U.S. site in Syria was at least the 32nd on U.S. and coalition military facilities in Iraq and Syria since Oct. 17, AP reported.

To date there have been at least 17 attacks in Iraq and 15 in Syria. At least 21 service members have been injured by the attacks but all have returned to

duty, the Pentagon said.

The Pentagon has said Iran bears the ultimate responsibility for the attacks because they’re being carried out by Iranian proxy groups.

The U.S. has deep concerns that Iran and its proxies, including several militia groups in Iraq, may take advantage of the situation in Gaza to further destabilize the Middle East.

Already Iranian-backed militias have intensified rocket and other attacks on U.S. military facilities in Iraq and Syria, drawing at least one retaliatory strike from American forces.

Trump testifies in civil fraud trial

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The judge presiding over the civil fraud trial of Donald Trump repeatedly admonished him to keep his answers concise Monday, reminding him that “this is not a political rally” as the former president and leading Republican presidential candidate testified in a lawsuit accusing him of dramatically inflating his net worth.

“We don’t have time to waste. We have one day to do this,” an exasperated Supreme Court Judge Arthur Engoron said. At another point, turning to Trump’s attorney, the judge said, “I beseech you to control him if you can. If you can’t, I will.”

The exchanges underscored Trump’s unwillingness to adapt his famously freewheeling rhetorical style to a formal courtroom setting, where clipped and cautious answers from witnesses are the norm.

But while his presence on the stand was a vivid reminder of the legal woes he faces as he vies to reclaim the White House in 2024, it also functioned as a campaign platform to raise anew his claims of political persecution at the hands of govern-

ment lawyers and judges.

“I think this is a political witch hunt and she should be ashamed of herself,” Trump said, referring to New York state Attorney General Letitia James, whose office brought the case. “This is the opposite of fraud. The fraud is her.”

James, who was in the courtroom, stared straight ahead at Trump as he spoke. Outside court, she said, “At the end of the day the only thing that matters are the facts and the numbers, and numbers, my friends, don’t lie.”

The civil trial is one of numerous legal proceedings Trump is confronting, including federal and state charges accusing him of crimes including illegally hoarding classified documents and scheming to overturn the 2020 presidential election.

Yet even though the fraud case doesn’t carry the prospect of prison like the criminal prosecutions do, its allegations of financial improprieties cut to the heart of the brand he spent decades crafting in the real estate industry.

Trump took the suggestion that he is worth less than he’s claimed as a personal insult.

“I’m worth billions of dollars more than the financial statements,” he said at one point, telling a state lawyer, “You go around and try and demean me and try and hurt me, probably for political reasons.”

The courtroom at 60 Centre St. has become a familiar destination for Trump. He has spent hours over the past month voluntarily seated at the defense table, observing the proceedings.

Trump once took the stand — unexpectedly and briefly — after he was accused of violating a partial gag order. He denied violating the rules, but Engoron disagreed and fined him anyway.

Tensions between Engoron and Trump were evident Monday when the ex-president was repeatedly scolded about the length and content of his answers.

“Mr. Kise, can you control your client? This is not a political rally. This is a courtroom,” Engoron told Trump lawyer Christopher Kise, who himself has clashed with the judge. Kise responded that Trump was entitled to latitude as a former president and current candidate taking time away from the

campaign to be on the witness stand.

Engoron, who determined in a ruling earlier that Trump committed fraud for years while building the real estate empire that catapulted him to fame, cautioned at one point that he was prepared to draw “negative inferences” against the former president if he failed to rein in his answers.

“I do not want to hear everything this witness has to say. He has a lot to say that has nothing to do with the case or the questions.”

The questions in the early stages of Monday’s testimony centered on the core of the allegations by the state attorney general: that Trump and his company intentionally inflated property values and deceived banks and insurers in the pursuit of business deals and loans.

Echoing the stance taken by two of his sons, Donald Trump Jr. and Eric, in their testimony, Trump sought to downplay his direct involvement in preparing and assessing the financial statements.

“All I did was authorize and tell people to give whatever is necessary for the accountants to do the statements,” he said.

Father of parade shooting suspect sentenced in gun case

AP/Report for America

WAUKEGAN, Ill. — The father of a man charged in a deadly Fourth of July parade shooting in suburban Chicago pleaded guilty to seven misdemeanors Monday in a case that centered on how his son obtained a gun license.

Robert Crimo Jr. entered the plea as his trial was about to start in Lake County court, in Waukegan, Ill., and was immediately sentenced by Judge George Strickland to 60 days in jail, starting next week.

He had been charged with and pleaded not guilty to seven counts of reckless conduct — one for each person his son, Robert Crimo III, is accused of killing in Highland Park on Independence Day last year.

In 2019, at age 19, Crimo III was too young to apply for his own gun license, but he could apply with the sponsorship of a parent or guardian. His father sponsored his application, even though just months earlier a relative reported to police that Crimo III had a collection of knives and had threatened to “kill everyone.”

Crimo Jr.’s attorney, George Gomez, had called the felony charges, which can carry a prison term of up to three years, “baseless and unprecedented.”

Anti-gun violence advocates say they are encouraged that police and prosecutors are investigating anyone who may have contributed to the attack. But legal experts say criminal liability can be hard to prove

against a shooter’s parent or guardian. More often, they face civil lawsuits where legal standards of proof are less stringent.

There are exceptions. In Michigan, the parents of a teenager who killed four students at Oxford High School are facing involuntary manslaughter charges. James and Jennifer Crumbley are accused of making a gun accessible to Ethan Crumbley and ignoring his mental health needs.

In Illinois, Crimo III faces 21 first-degree murder counts, 48 counts of attempted murder and 48 counts of aggravated battery. Prosecutors say he admitted he was the gunman when he was arrested hours after the shooting in Highland Park. No trial date has been set.

Maine senators press Army for info on killer

Associated Press

LEWISTON, Maine — Two senators from Maine asked the U.S. Army inspector general Monday to provide a full accounting of interactions with a reservist before he killed 18 people and injured 13 others.

U.S. Sens. Susan Collins, a Republican, and Angus King, an independent, told Lt. Gen. Donna W. Martin in a letter that it's important to understand "what occurred, or failed to occur" at the federal level, includ-

ing the Army, before Robert Card opened fire at a bowling alley and bar in Lewiston.

Fellow soldiers expressed concerns about Card's mental health before the Oct. 25 shootings. One of them sent a text message in September saying, "I believe he's going to snap and do a mass shooting," according to law enforcement.

The senators view their federal request as working in tandem with an independent commission that Democratic Gov.

Janet Mills is convening to explore the facts related to the shooting, including the police response.

"As we continue to grieve the needless loss of life that day, we must work to fully understand what happened — and what could have been done differently that might have prevented this tragedy — on the local, state and federal levels," the senators wrote.

The senators posed several questions including under what

circumstances the Army reports personnel to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and when the Army seeks to invoke state laws to temporarily remove firearms from a soldier's possession.

An Army spokesperson confirmed that the letter was received and that the inspector general will "work toward getting a response." The spokesperson had no further comment.

UAW contracts offer look at future vehicles

Associated Press

DETROIT — Stellantis plans to build a new midsize pickup truck, along with battery-run versions of six Jeep, Ram and Dodge vehicles.

Ford envisions at least three new electric vehicles that will preserve jobs at several factories.

General Motors plans to build at least six new electric vehicles, including a full-size SUV.

Those and other closely held production plans by Detroit's automakers have emerged in details of the tentative contract agreements that ended the six-week strikes by the United Auto Workers union.

Under the new agreements, the three companies will significantly boost pay and benefits and improve job security. But the agreements also provide a blueprint for which cars and trucks they intend to build in the coming years and where they will do so. Many of the plans will continue the manufacture of vehicles that the automakers already build. But the production of some new vehicles over the next few years is being planned, too.

About 146,000 union members will vote on the contracts in

the next two weeks. Workers at 10 Ford facilities who already voted have overwhelmingly favored the agreements, which will be in effect through April 2028.

The UAW's success in gaining commitments from the companies to build new electric vehicles at several factories represented a particular achievement. The expansion of EV production will preserve jobs and could create new ones, depending on how fast the nation transitions from gas engines to batteries.

The automakers have all embraced the transition to electric vehicles as a large-scale and long-term commitment. The companies have set goals of having EVs represent roughly half their U.S. sales by 2030. Adopting the same goal, the Biden administration's 2022 Inflation Reduction Act increased federal tax credits to buyers of new and used EVs.

What's not yet known is whether consumer demand for EVs in the coming years will justify the automakers' plans to accelerate their production. In the meantime, the companies are moving ahead with their ambitious EV production plans.

Ukrainian troops killed during award ceremony

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine confirmed Monday that 19 service members were killed by a Russian missile strike in Zaporizhzhia during a military awards ceremony in what President Volodymyr Zelenskyy lamented was a "tragedy that could've been avoided."

Defense Minister Rustem Umerov has ordered an investigation into why the 128th Separate Mountain-Assault Brigade of Zakarpattia participated in the crowded event Friday honoring troops for Rocket Forces and Artillery Day so close to front lines.

The announcement came as officials said Russian drone and missile strikes in Odesa wounded eight people and damaged an art museum that is part of a UNESCO World Heritage site, and satellite photos showed damage done by a Ukrainian missile strike to a Russian naval ship.

Odesa's National Art Museum said seven exhibitions, most featuring the work of contemporary Ukrainian artists, were damaged by a strike that left a large crater outside the museum celebrating its 124th anniversary.

Photos and video showed shattered windows, doors, and

some paintings lying on the floor amid debris strewn across the galleries.

The attack followed reports by the Russian Defense Ministry that Ukrainian cruise missiles aimed at the Zaliv shipyard in Kerch, a city in the east of the Moscow-held Crimean Peninsula, had struck one of its vessels.

Satellite photos analyzed by The Associated Press showed damage to a Russian navy corvette moored off Kerch. The satellite pictures Sunday from Planet Labs PBC show what appear to be a firefighting vessel, as well as booms in the water to stop oil leaks, from the damaged ship. What appeared to be burn marks can be seen on the vessel, which was still afloat. Those marks were not visible on other satellite images captured of the vessel at port.

The measurements of the vessel and its shape correspond with a Karakurt-class corvette. In Russian, "karakurt" means "Black Widow spider."

Those vessels are designed to carry Kalibr cruise missiles, the same kind of missiles that Moscow has used repeatedly against Ukrainian targets since launching the all-out war on Kyiv in February 2022.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man pleads not guilty to throwing pipe bombs

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A man accused of throwing pipe bombs at police during a car chase pleaded not guilty to a dozen charges and could face up to life in prison if convicted, prosecutors said.

Daniel Richard Garcia, 42, of Concord, entered pleas to six counts of detonating an explosive device with intent to commit murder; three counts of possession of an explosive device in public; one count of possession of an incendiary device and two counts of second-degree robbery and recklessly evading police, the San Francisco District Attorney's Office said in a statement.

According to police, Garcia demanded money from a worshipper during Sunday evening services at the Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church.

"The parishioner continued to pray and ignored him, at which point the suspect then violently assaulted this parishioner, punching them in the head," police said in a statement.

Garcia then drove off and during a chase threw two pipe bombs out of the car window at pursuing officers, narrowly missing them, police alleged.

Police investigating another fire at mosque

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Minneapolis police are investigating another fire at a mosque, and faith leaders want them to look closely at the motive of the fire that destroyed three garages.

The fire at Mercy Mosque caused more than \$100,000

worth of damage. The Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations said in a statement that police should conduct a comprehensive investigation to determine if the mosque was targeted in the fire "in light of the previous attack and increasing community tensions."

Suit: Psychiatric hospital poorly run

MT HELENA — Montana's state psychiatric hospital has been so poorly run for decades that patients are unsafe and not treated with dignity and respect, which combined with a pattern of understaffing, lack of training and neglect has hastened the deaths of two patients, a lawsuit stated.

The families of Lucio DiMauro and David Patzoldt, and patient Lesley Jungers, filed a federal lawsuit in Butte alleging low-income residents with mental health issues are "systematically abused and neglected," at the Montana State Hospital.

DiMauro, who suffered a traumatic brain injury in 2012, was admitted to the Montana State Hospital in September 2020. He was regularly over-medicated, suffered numerous falls that his guardian was not notified about, contracted COVID-19 and on Aug. 5, 2020, was diagnosed with colon cancer, according to the complaint.

Patzoldt, then 75, was admitted to the Montana State Hospital on Oct. 19, 2021, after having behavioral disruptions at a memory care center.

Four months later, Patzoldt died of sepsis, COVID pneumonia and cellulitis — or deep skin

infections. He also had pressure ulcers. A review of his records found his heart medication was not given to him for nearly three weeks in November 2021, the lawsuit states.

Car crashes through gate at nuclear plant

SC SENECA — A driver tried to crash through the exit gates of a South Carolina nuclear plant about an hour after security asked the same car to leave when it tried to enter, authorities said.

A pop-up security barrier stopped the car with an Arkansas license plate at the Oconee Nuclear Station near Seneca, Oconee County Sheriff's spokesman Jimmy Watt said in a statement.

The driver backed up and tried to drive down a dirt road as Duke Energy security tried to block him in. The driver tried to hit the guards, then drove through a fence and off the nuclear plant property, Watt said.

Man to get \$332M in Monsanto cancer suit

CA SAN DIEGO — A California jury has awarded \$332 million to a man who sued chemical giant Monsanto Co. contending that his cancer was related to decades of using its Roundup weedkiller.

A San Diego Superior Court jury awarded damages in a lawsuit filed by Mike Dennis, 57, of Carlsbad. He was diagnosed in 2020 with a rare form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

His lawsuit contended that his illness was related to Roundup's active ingredient, glyphosate.

Dennis was awarded \$7 million in compensatory damages and \$325 million in punitive damages.

Court: Nitrogen gas approved for executions

AL MONTGOMERY — A divided Alabama Supreme Court said the state can execute an inmate with nitrogen gas, a method that has not previously been used carry out a death sentence.

The all-Republican court made its 6-2 decision without comment. The justices granted the state attorney general's request for an execution warrant for Kenneth Eugene Smith, one of two men convicted in the 1988 murder-for-hire slaying of Elizabeth Sennett in northwestern Alabama.

The order did not specify the execution method, but the attorney general indicated in court filings that it intends to use nitrogen to put Smith to death. The date of the execution will be set later by Gov. Kay Ivey.

Education chief calls for \$3K raise for teachers

GA ATLANTA — Georgia state School Superintendent Richard Woods is calling on Gov. Brian Kemp and lawmakers to give teachers a \$3,000 raise next year.

Woods, a Republican elected statewide, made the proposal in an opinion column that he co-authored with 2024 Georgia Teacher of the Year Christy Todd, a music technology teacher at Rising Starr Middle School in suburban Atlanta's Fayette County.

— From Associated Press

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Analysis: Bowles makes biggest gaffe

Associated Press

C.J. Stroud threw a game-winning touchdown pass with 6 seconds remaining on a play the Houston Texans shouldn't have had time to make.

They had an opportunity for another play because Buccaneers coach Todd Bowles elected to use his final timeout instead of allowing a 10-second runoff after Mike Evans recovered a fumble at the Texans 14 with 49 seconds left. Baker Mayfield threw a go-ahead TD pass on the next play to give Tampa Bay a 37-33 lead.

That left Stroud 46 seconds — instead of 36 — to go 75 yards with two timeouts. The sensational rookie quarterback needed every bit of it on Sunday.

After completing two passes to Dalton Schultz for 20 yards and using both timeouts, Stroud hit Noah Brown for a 14-yard

gain and then spiked the ball to stop the clock. He connected with Tank Dell for 26 yards to set Houston up at the Buccaneers 15 with 10 seconds to go.

Stroud then found Dell in the back of the end zone to cap a record-setting day in which he threw for 470 yards and five TDs.

Bowles was not asked why he chose to waste his last timeout instead of burning 10 seconds off the clock before Tampa scored. He blamed the secondary for the loss.

"We didn't play good fundamental (football) or technique and we busted something that's everyday practice, and you can't do that," Bowles said. "If we did what we were supposed to do, we would have been fine playing zone (defense)."

Bowles is the same coach who played for overtime in a loss last

year instead of letting Tom Brady attempt to drive for a win.

His poor decision in Tampa's 39-37 loss to Houston was one of several questionable calls coaches made in Week 9.

The Chiefs faced a third-and-1 at their own 19 with a 21-14 lead over the Dolphins and just 2:42 remaining in the first NFL game ever played in Frankfurt, Germany.

Instead of a run, a "tush push" or any version of a quarterback sneak, Patrick Mahomes dropped back to pass and threw the ball away under pressure. That stopped the clock without forcing the Dolphins to use a timeout.

Miami then started at its 25 after the punt. Raheem Mostert ran 25 yards and 19 yards on consecutive plays to get the Dolphins to the Chiefs 31 with 1:17 and two timeouts left. Miami had

plenty of time to run Mostert again. Instead, coach Mike McDaniels called three straight passes.

Tua Tagovailoa threw three incompletions and fumbled the snap on fourth down to seal Miami's loss.

"There's a lot that falls squarely on my shoulders," McDaniels said about the miscommunication on one of the incomplete passes on the final drive.

In the Cowboys-Eagles battle for first place in the NFC East, both coaches were aggressive on fourth down. Each team was 2-for-2 on fourth down in the first half and the Cowboys finished 3-for-5.

Coaching matters. Aggressive decisions work sometimes, backfire others. Those types of calls are easier to accept. Clock management blunders are inexcusable.

Dobbs leads rally for Vikings days after joining team

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Joshua Dobbs hadn't had time to learn his new Minnesota teammates' names in his five days with the team, much less figure out the playbook.

That didn't stop Dobbs from thriving in what he described as a "learn as you go, hair on fire, hold onto your seat" challenging game.

Dobbs threw two touchdown passes, including a go-ahead 6-yarder to Brandon Powell with 22 seconds remaining, and also ran for a score five days after being acquired in a trade to help rally the Vikings past the Atlanta Falcons 31-28 on Sunday for their fourth straight win.

Minnesota (5-4) overcame the loss of rookie quarterback Jaren Hall to a concussion in the first quarter. Hall had taken all the first-team practice snaps this week as the Vikings adjust-

ed to the loss of veteran Kirk Cousins for the season with a torn Achilles tendon.

Dobbs was acquired from the Arizona Cardinals on Tuesday. The 28-year-old Dobbs started all eight games for the Cardinals. He had his first practice with the Vikings on Wednesday, leaving little preparation time.

Bengals 24, Bills 18: Joe Burrow threw for a season-high 348 yards and had two touchdown passes as host Cincinnati beat Buffalo for its fourth straight victory.

Eagles 28, Cowboys 23: Jalen Hurts braved a direct hit on his injured left knee to throw for 207 yards and two touchdowns, and he ran for another tush push score to lead host Philadelphia past Dallas.

Ravens 37, Seahawks 3: Keaton Mitchell ran for 138 yards and his first NFL touchdown, Odell Beckham Jr. scored for the first time since

the Super Bowl two seasons ago and host Baltimore routed another first-place team.

Texans 39, Buccaneers 37: Rookie C.J. Stroud threw for 470 yards and five touchdowns, and his 15-yard touchdown pass to Tank Dell with 6 seconds remaining lifted host Houston over Tampa Bay in a wild finish.

Commanders 20, Patriots 17: Sam Howell passed for 325 yards and a touchdown and Jartavius Martin had a late interception to help visiting Washington hold on and beat New England.

Browns 27, Cardinals 0: Deshaun Watson threw two touchdown passes — one bouncing off an opponent's helmet — in his second start in five weeks due to a shoulder injury and host Cleveland held Arizona to just 58 yards to earn its first shutout since 2007.

Saints 24, Bears 17: Tay-

som Hill caught a touchdown pass and threw for another, Paulson Adebode intercepted two passes and also forced a fumble that he recovered, and host New Orleans beat Chicago.

Raiders 30, Giants 6: Josh Jacobs rushed for 98 yards and two touchdowns, rookie Aidan O'Connell passed for 209 yards and Antonio Pierce won in his debut as host Las Vegas' interim coach.

Colts 27, Panthers 13: Kenny Moore returned two Bryce Young interceptions for touchdowns, Jonathan Taylor caught a touchdown pass from Gardner Minshew and visiting Indianapolis defeated Carolina to snap a three-game losing streak.

Packers 20, Rams 3: Aaron Jones scored his team's first first-half touchdown since mid-September, and host Green Bay snapped a four-game skid by beating Los Angeles.

Doncic, Mavs rally past Ball, Hornets

Associated Press

DALLAS— Luka Doncic didn't have quite the fourth quarter that LaMelo Ball had.

The Dallas superstar did plenty to lead a bounce-back win for the Mavericks.

Doncic scored 23 points after a rare scoreless first quarter and the Mavericks overcame Ball's first 30-point triple-double in a 124-118 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Sunday night.

Ball scored 23 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter while finishing with 13 assists and 10 rebounds. But the Hornets couldn't hold a 15-point first-half lead a night after rallying in the fourth for a one-point victory at Indiana.

"Just trying to win, really. Trying to do as much as I could," said Ball, who was 8 of 9 from the field and 5 of 6 from 3-point range in the fourth, the highest-scoring quarter of his career. "Didn't really go our way at the end."

Grant Williams added 18 points, including a trio of 3s in the fourth quarter, and rookie Dereck Lively II had 15 points,

14 rebounds and a big fourth-quarter block for the Mavericks, who were coming off their first loss of the season.

The Hornets had a chance to tie after Dallas was called for a shot-clock violation with 8.4 seconds left. But rookie Brandon Miller couldn't get the ball in before a 5-second call, and Ball fouled Kyrie Irving before Dallas inbounded.

Irving's free throw gave the Mavs a 120-116 lead and they kept the ball, then he hit two more free throws with 7.7 seconds to all but seal Dallas' fifth victory in six games.

"I'm not going to say anything about that," Charlotte coach Steve Clifford said about the late inbound play. "I didn't see it. I have nothing to say about that."

Doncic, who had just one scoreless first quarter last season, went 8-for-15 after his 0-for-4 start — but was just 1-for-9 from long range — while finishing with 12 rebounds and nine assists.

Suns 120, Pistons 106: Kevin Durant had a season-high 41 points, Eric Gordon scored 21 points and short-handed Phoe-

nix beat host Detroit to snap a three-game losing streak,

Phoenix was without guards Devin Booker (calf) and Bradley Beal (back). Grayson Allen had 14 points and Josh Okogie scored 10 points, taking advantage of more playing time and shots with the standout guards out with injuries.

Cade Cunningham had 26 points, six assists and six turnovers for the Pistons, who have lost four in a row. Detroit coach Monty Williams faced his former team for the first time in the regular season after matching up in the preseason.

Pistons rookie Marcus Sasser scored a season-high 22 points and Ausar Thompson had 14.

Cavaliers 115, Warriors 104: Donovan Mitchell scored 31 points and host Cleveland ended a 16-game losing streak against Golden State.

Darius Garland added 24 points and seven assists, Evan Mobley had 13 points and 16 rebounds and Max Strus scored 15 points for Cleveland, which had lost its first three home games. The Cavaliers beat Golden State for the first time since Dec. 25,

2016, spanning 12 regular-season and four playoff losses.

Stephen Curry scored 28 points and made seven of 11 3-pointers.

Raptors 123, Spurs 116 (OT): Scottie Barnes scored 17 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter and had 11 rebounds and visiting Toronto overcame a 22-point deficit to force overtime and beat San Antonio.

Dennis Schroder and O.G. Anunoby each had 24 points to help Toronto win for the first time on the road this season.

Keldon Johnson had 26 points, Zach Collins added 21 points and 11 rebounds and Victor Wembanyama had 20 points for San Antonio.

Grizzlies, 112, Trail Blazers 100: Desmond Bane had 30 points and visiting Memphis beat Portland for its first victory in the first seven games of the season.

Jerami Grant led Portland with 27 points. The Trail Blazers had won three in a row. Portland beat Memphis 115-113 in overtime Friday night in the first game for both teams in the NBA's In-Season Tournament.

2 veterans win fourth Gold Gloves, 13 win for first time

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Toronto third baseman Matt Chapman and outfielder Kevin Kiermaier won their fourth Gold Gloves, while New York Yankees rookie shortstop Anthony Volpe and Colorado rookie center fielder Brenton Doyle were among 13 first-time winners of the fielding honor.

Toronto, Texas and the Chicago Cubs tied for the high among clubs with three winners each, Rawlings announced Sunday.

Cleveland second baseman Andrés Giménez and left fielder Steven Kwan won their second Gold Gloves, along with Cubs

shortstop Dansby Swanson and left fielder Ian Happ and Arizona first baseman Christian Walker.

First-time AL winners included Texas catcher Jonah Heim, first baseman Nathaniel Lowe and right fielder Adolis García, Toronto pitcher José Berríos, Houston utilityman Mauricio Dubón and Volpe.

In the NL, first-time winners included San Diego right fielder Fernando Tatis Jr. and utilityman Ha-Seong Kim, Philadelphia pitcher Zack Wheeler, Arizona catcher Gabriel Moreno, Cubs second baseman Nico Hoerner, Pittsburgh third baseman Ke'Bryan Hayes and

Doyle.

Hayes ended the streak of Nolan Arenado of St. Louis, who had won in his first 10 seasons. That matched the high set by Seattle outfielder Ichiro Suzuki from 2001-10.

Mookie Betts of the Los Angeles Dodgers had won six straight Gold Gloves. He was among the finalists in right field and the utility role after a season in which he played 107 games in right, 70 at second and 16 at shortstop.

Repeat winners were Giménez, Kwan, Swanson, Happ and Walker.

Volpe became the second rookie to win at shortstop. Hous-

ton's Jeremy Peña was the first last year, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Berríos, Chapman, Giménez, Kiermaier and Wheeler earned \$50,000 bonuses in their contracts, while Hayes earned \$25,000.

Voting was conducted among managers and up to six coaches from each team, who can't select players on their own club. Since 2013, voting has been factored with a Society for American Baseball Research defensive index, which comprises about 25% of the total.

The utility category is based on a SABR formula and additional defensive statistics.

Blaney earns first NASCAR Cup championship

Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Ryan Blaney only had to beat Kyle Larson and William Byron to win his first NASCAR championship.

He needlessly added Ross Chastain to his list, too, racing him pointlessly hard in an attempt to win the race Sunday at Phoenix Raceway. When he couldn't pass Chastain, Blaney angrily ran into the back of his car.

It was a side of Blaney his team and competitors know very well.

The public? Not so much.

The soft-spoken third generation racer from Ohio used a pugnacious second-place run at Phoenix to win the Cup title in a drive that showcased a fire that apparently blazes inside the typically mild-mannered Blaney.

"You can say his frustration level gets above the boiling point, I'd have to say," said team owner Roger Penske, who won back-to-back Cup titles with Blaney's effort.

The clash with Chastain followed an earlier deliberate collision by Blaney with Martin Truex Jr. Blaney also raced Larson extremely hard and he'd had it with Chastain, the leader and eventual race winner, with 53 laps remaining when Blaney ran into the back of Chastain.

"Not surprised by it because it's him and he does that," said Chastain, who believes Blaney

also flashed him the middle finger. "Anger. He gets angry. It's OK. I've known him for a decade. I could see him moving around in the car. The car's going straight. I could see his colorful suit and gloves. When I checked the camera, I was like, 'Oh, he is angry.'"

Larson was watching and waiting to pounce in case Blaney made a mistake. The championship was guaranteed to the highest-finishing driver between Blaney, Larson, Byron and Christopher Bell, but Bell broke a brake rotor early and was eliminated with a last-place finish.

"He's a quiet guy, but I feel like he races really hard and he gets extremely fired up, too. I'm curious what his radio sounded like," Larson said. "He was mad at (Truex) at the end of the second stage, he ran into the back of him in a caution. He ran into the back of Ross. He earned it. He worked really hard."

Blaney became the first Ohio-born driver to win the Cup title and followed teammate Joey Logano, who won for Penske a year ago. It was an amazing finish for Ford Performance, which struggled most of the season but came on late with Blaney, who won two of the final six playoff races.

The title was the fourth in the Cup Series for Penske, but the first time "The Captain" has consecutive Cups. His IndyCar program won back-to-back cham-

pionships in 2016 and 2017 with Simon Pagenaud and Josef Newgarden and Penske has 44 total championships across motorsports.

Blaney noted how important it was to win for Penske; the 86-year-old was recently hospitalized with shingles and missed Blaney's win at Martinsville Speedway last Sunday. Penske was in Phoenix and calmly watched the race from a suite, but made his way to the frontstretch to congratulate his 29-year-old driver.

"I thought the captain had to stay cool. He's the coolest guy on the ship," Penske said of watching the race with a headset he used frequently to calm Blaney over the radio. "I would say I probably was cool, but inside I was turning over. I told him before the race, 'Win, lose or draw, you're a champion.'"

Blaney for sure needed it on Sunday, and admitted he deliberately ran into Chastain.

"Yes I hit him on purpose. He blocked me on purpose 10 times," Blaney said. "So, yeah, I hit him on purpose. He backed me up to the other championship guy (Larson) and I gotta go."

Team Penske has won three Cup titles in the past six seasons, and Blaney has driven for Penske since 2013, when he was 19 years old. He said it was a goal this entire week to add consecu-

tive NASCAR titles to Penske's legacy.

"It was definitely on my mind to give him consecutive titles, I mean, because he's done everything in motorsports and we had a chance to go back-to-back on the Cup side with him," Blaney said. "I mean, we couldn't pass up that opportunity. So everyone worked really hard to make it happen and I'm so proud of the effort."

Blaney is the son of former Cup driver Dave Blaney, who made 473 Cup starts over 17 seasons. Dave Blaney was a World of Outlaws champion, his brother, Dale, was a sprint car champion, and their father, Lou, was credited with multiple Midwest titles.

"Obviously I come from a family of racers, my grandfather, dad and uncle," Blaney said. "Dad is obviously who I grew up watching and admiring, wanted to be like. To be able to do what he did, 'cause as a kid I just wanted to do what dad did, so to be able to race and let alone compete for wins and championships, still have my parents around, people that you look up to that are still around, it makes it even more special."

Larson and Byron finished third and fourth for Hendrick Motorsports, while Bell of Joe Gibbs Racing didn't finish and was scored 36th.

Ducks hand Golden Knights first regulation loss this season

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Mason McTavish scored the go-ahead goal with 3:40 to play, Sam Carrick had two late goals and the Anaheim Ducks rallied from two goals down in the third period to hand the Vegas Golden Knights their first regulation loss of the season with a 4-2 victory on Sunday night.

Carrick got the tying goal with 9:05 left and added an empty-netter for the upstart Ducks, winners of six straight for the first time in nearly two years.

Adam Henrique got the first of Anaheim's four goals on five shots in an impressive final period against the defending Stanley Cup

champion Golden Knights, who had started the season 11-0-1.

"Going down 2-0 to the Stanley Cup champions, best team in the league, in my opinion ... and to show resiliency and to come back, and we've done it a bunch of times against a bunch of teams, it's pretty impressive to see that kind of resiliency in this group, especially such a young group," forward Alex Kilorn said after making his Ducks debut.

Vegas' 12-game point streak to start the season was the longest by a defending champ in NHL history. The Knights had also earned a point in 20 straight regular-season games, the second-longest such streak in the

last 40 years.

The Ducks' six-game winning streak has included five third-period comebacks.

Devils 4, Blackhawks 2: Dawson Mercer and Max Willman scored in the first period and visiting New Jersey went on to get its sixth win in eight games.

Curtis Lazar and Michael McLeod also scored for the Devils. Vitek Vanecsek stopped 32 shots for his sixth win in eight starts.

Taylor Hall and Ryan Donato scored for Chicago, which lost for the fifth time in seven games. Arvid Soderblom finished with 36 saves.